



BASL

New York City's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Softball League

Q: Is the Big Apple Softball League (BASL) only open to the LGBT community?

A: No. While the league is marketed predominantly in the LGBT community, anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, is welcome to play in our league. Playing in our league should not be considered an indicator of any particular sexual orientation.

Q: How do I know if my playing ability (or lack thereof) is appropriate for BASL?

A: The Big Apple Softball League offers a place for players of all skill levels to play softball in a friendly and fun environment. The league is currently divided into open (co-ed) divisions and women's divisions. Each division is based on a different skill level and competitive attitude, from the highly competitive to purely recreational. We have a place for everyone.

Q: How much does it cost to play in BASL?

A: Our player membership fee is usually around \$80. This fee covers the cost of field rentals, bases, softballs, first aid kits, and trophies among other league expenses. The cost of uniforms, supplementary insurance and umpire fees are the responsibility of individual teams. Some teams elect to wear basic tee shirts and others wear more elaborate uniforms. Expect to pay about an extra \$100 -\$200 per season usually paid out over the course of the season. Some teams defray this cost by getting sponsors such as local bars, restaurants or small businesses. The more sponsors pay, the less you do! Check out the "League Info" section of our website to see who the most recent team sponsors are. Most teams have bats to share or buy them collectively out of team funds. You are expected to provide your own playing glove and rubber soled cleats at all games.

Q: How long is the BASL playing season?

A: The regular season is from mid April to late July with a playoff following that.

Q: Where are the games played?

A: We play a large percentage of our games on Randall's Island. In Manhattan, we also play in East River Park, Hudson River Park, and occasionally in Central Park. In Brooklyn we play in Prospect Park and Red Hook. We also play a few games in nearby New Jersey. Game locations are listed on our website under "20xx Schedule." This may change as availability does. The league is always looking for good fields that are convenient to all.

Q: When are the games?

A: All games are played during the day on weekends. Most games are on Saturday but some are on Sunday. Playing is usually between 9 A.M. and 7 P.M. Game times are listed on our website under "20XX Schedule."

Q: How many games do teams play each week?

A: Most weekends teams will play two 90 minute games. Games are usually consecutive or with a 90 minute break in between.

Q: Am I required to be at every game?

A: That is certainly ideal but not expected. People have major social events they are expected to attend; illness occurs; emergencies happen and we all make vacation plans. Players are expected to make a concerted effort to be at as many games as possible, regardless of time or location. Your team depends on you and if too many players do not show up, the team may be forced to forfeit the games to the opponent and pay all umpire fees.

Q: How do I know if games are cancelled due to inclement weather?

A: Official announcements are posted on the homepage of our website by 7:30 A.M. on days of questionable weather on the “Game Rainout Status” section on the homepage.

Q: Is this all softball and no socializing?

A: Absolutely not! BASL is a great way to meet people. There are many organized BASL events such as the season opening party; the Follies, which is a league talent show near the end of the season; the awards party/elections held in the fall and a holiday party in December. Individual teams hold fundraisers to help defray their playing costs. Teams frequently go out together after games although there is no alcohol permitted on or near the playing field. BASL also sponsors a tournament Labor Day Weekend which brings in teams from all over the country and several social events are planned around that.

Q: Are there ways to develop leadership skills or opportunities to volunteer?

A: Thanks for asking! Yes, teams elect managers who are usually experienced players and each team can have two Team Representatives who liaison among the team, the manager and the league. Although league meetings are open to all, usually one or more of these folks attend the meeting and report league information back to the team. There are also division representatives and four league executive officers. Volunteers are always needed for league social events and for specific projects. Tell your manager if you are interested in getting involved in league activities.

Q: I don't want to play but I'd like to be involved with a team. Is that an option?

A: Yes, the team has a status called “non-player.” These individuals contribute in ways such as keeping score, coaching a base or serving as cheerleader. These folks pay \$35 non-players membership fees primarily to be covered under the league's insurance.

Q: OK, I'm sold! I want to play! What do I do?

A: Come to one of our drafts. We have two in late March/early April! You have your best chance of getting on a team there. Please check bigapplesoftball.com for the dates, times and locations. If you can't make either of those, please email our Recruiting Chair at join@bigapplesoftball.com and we will do our best to assist you.