



# POPS Softball Newsletter



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## POPS Softball Newsletter

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## Letter From the Editor

As you will see in this (fabulous) newsletter, POPS is once again expanding and improving as a league. POPS also changes each year due to the influx of new players. Guys of all ages - some who just turned 40 and have been waiting to join, as well as some who decided to lace up after some time away from the game. And that is one of the best parts of POPS - having a mix of guys of all ages, from all walks of life, with varying skill levels. So, please welcome all new players - whether with a handshake, a nod, or a (manly) hug.

The weather (as well as my performance on the field) has been less than ideal so far this season, but that is sure to improve. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the fields. And please remember to enjoy the 2012 season - get some exercise, compete, and above all, have fun!

Thank you.

Andy Eisner, Director of Fun & Publicity, Editor-in-Chief  
POPS Softball Newsletter



by...  
**Keith "Commish"  
Pastuch**



Welcome to the 14th year of POPS softball. We boast over 650 players enjoying their spring/summer just like little kids all over again.

Fall Ball is also growing. Last year we had 12 teams with over 150 players. I am already being asked by POPS Players and Outsiders how to bring a new team in for this year.

POPS has become more than just softball. It is a venue for new friendships, camaraderie, after game gatherings, and socializing with wives. It's a great night out filled with competitive, fun softball. Businesses have grown due to connections and networking within the POPS family. A new

Rick Holle  
Mike Wexler

Director of Photography  
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## POPS Website Links

[POPS Homepage](#)  
[Schedules](#)

[Standings](#)

POPS Business Network is being formed to help in this endeavor. Helping out the communities we play in, from Scholarships to graduating High School seniors to helping families in need during the holidays, is essential in securing the great fields we play on and is a wonderful way to help out others.

We are now playing on some of the best fields on Long Island 5 nights a week. We have become the envy of most leagues and one of the reasons we have a waiting list each year.

I implore each of you to maintain dignity, act as a roll model for the young adults, wives and kids who come to watch and cheer you on. Have fun, play hard, but remember you are 40, 50 or 60 something. This is softball. We count on our players to behave appropriately and cannot let anyone spoil that reputation for POPS. It is our demeanor and maturity and concern for our players' well-being that sets us apart from other leagues. It is because we do not tolerate players acting-out that POPS attracts new teams each year.

I want to take this time to thank so many of you who make this league run so smoothly each year. It all starts with the Board, who meet all year to decide how to run this league more efficiently, the directors, who are the eyes and ears of this league making sure all the games run smoothly, to the managers, who help get the teams formed and then put the extra effort in to make sure all of you have leadership and direction, and to all of you... the players.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the fields in 2012.

Commish

## POPSOFTBALL.COM



The POPS website ([www.popsoftball.com](http://www.popsoftball.com)) is full of useful information on our league. You will find rules, schedules, standings, approved bat lists, rainout information, etc. Please visit the site often for the latest information.

The site is maintained by POPS director Juan Tocabens.

## 2 Leagues, 5 Divisions

POPS consists of 2 leagues - 40 & Over and 50 & Over. In order to ensure a competitive environment for all, each league is comprised of divisions - 3 for the 40 & Over league, and 2 for the 50 & Over league. The breakdown of these leagues and divisions, by team, is as follows -

### 40 & Over League

American Division		
Calagna	S. Cohen	Intrabartola
Carra	Gubelli	Zimmerman

National Division		
Arm	Gallub	Rothwell
Arnone	Heiman	Toor
Callahan	Pomerantz	
H. Cohen	Realmuto	

Central Division		
Bogatz	Esposito	Longo
Epstein	Lashinsky	Schilero

**50 & Over League**

American Division		
Ferrante	Maley	Spataro
Landau	Sklar	Pastuch

National Division		
Barnofsky	Goldsheid	Troiano
Ciccione	Meyers	Wexler
Coy	Miller	
Dowd	Smith	

## NEW! Charity Game



As you know, POPS gives back to our communities in a number of ways, including by donating to local charities and giving to needy families for the December holidays. This year, long-time POPS player Mike Callahan offered to organize a charity softball event with ALL proceeds going to needy families in our communities.

The POPS Board approved Mike's idea, and so there will be up to 3 games played on **Friday, June 29 at Oceanside HS**. The idea is simple - POPS players are welcome to play in exchange for a \$20 donation (i.e., \$20 per player per game played). Full POPS teams can play or individuals can sign up and POPS will make up teams.

Players wanting to take part in this very worthwhile event should contact their manager or Mike Callahan by email ([mcallahan123@gmail.com](mailto:mcallahan123@gmail.com)) or phone (516-526-7833) ASAP.

Please come out and support this POPS charitable event. Bring your wife or girlfriend (but not both), your kids, your pets, your ex-con uncle - the more the merrier!

## What to Watch For...



There are lots more POPS happenings to watch for during this 2012 season. Here are some upcoming things to watch for - details will be provided in future newsletters.

- All Star Game. This annual event will be held mid-season in 2012, instead of at year-end.

- Scholarships/Charitable Donations. Our POPS annual scholarship night will be held Monday, June 18 at 7:00pm at the Merrick Public Library. If you have a graduating high school student and would like them considered for a POPS Scholarship, contact the Commish at: [commish@popsoftball.com](mailto:commish@popsoftball.com). All are welcome to attend the ceremony.
- Father-Son League. POPS will be organizing a Father-Son league to be played one night per week in the fall. It will not interfere with Fall Ball and will be played a different night. Details to follow.
- L.I. 50+ Tournament. One of POPS own, Allan Finchley, will be running a 50 and Over tournament on Long Island in July. If you are interested in playing contact Allan at: [alan@newyorkseniorsoftball.com](mailto:alan@newyorkseniorsoftball.com).
- Facebook. POPS is going social!
- POPS Business Network. A network of goods and services by and for POPS players. Deal with people you trust and keep your business in the family.

## Timing of Games



Due to our agreement with the ASA umpires, all games must be completed within **1 hour, 15 minutes** in order to not become subject to additional fees. Therefore, to maximize the time available for each game -

- Get to games early, warm up, and be ready to go.
- If possible, start the 1st game early.
- Move quickly between innings - know fielding positions, take only 2-3 warm-up pitches, etc.
- Second games should start immediately after the 1st game - but must be within 10 minutes.
- Be considerate to other teams - when the first game is over, immediately clear the dugouts.



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## Rules Highlights

all know that POPS has certain rules that differ from traditional (young man's) softball. These special rules have been put in place for safety reasons - remember, the principle philosophies of POPS are to compete, have fun, and get hurt.

The official [POPS Rule Book](#) is posted on the [POPS website](#).

Only one rule changed from 2011 to 2012 -

- Foot-On-The-Ground. In POPS, safe/out calls for runners (other than at first base) are based on a "cross the finish line" approach. For 2012, we have clarified that in order for a runner to be safe, his foot must touch the ground on or over the appropriate line before the fielder gets the ball while making contact with the base. (Reminder: Tag plays are permitted at any base other than home plate.)

A reminder of the forfeit and substitute player rules for the regular season -

- Forfeits. A team must have at least 8 players for each game, including as many fill-in players (i.e., registered POPS players who play for a team other than the opponent) as needed. A team that has 7 or fewer players/fill-in players for a game, forfeits that game,

and will be penalized as follows - (i) they will play their first playoff game with 1 out in the 2nd and 4th innings, and (ii) they will pay a \$100 team fine to POPSOFTEBALL.

- Penalties for using fill-in/borrowed players. A team that uses 1 fill-in player or borrows 1 player from the opposing team will begin the 2nd and 4th innings with 1 out. A team that uses 2 or more fill-in players or borrows 2 players from the opposing team (or borrows 3 players for a 50 & Over game) will begin the 2nd, 4th and 6th innings with 1 out.

Any questions on the rules should be directed to POPS Director of Rules, Keith Davidoff ([keithdavidoff@aol.com](mailto:keithdavidoff@aol.com)).

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## **Bats**

The following is the rule for bats that are permitted to be used during POPS games. All of the ASA umpires that work our games have been informed of our permitted-bat rule, and all POPS managers have been asked to bring the rule to games.

### POPS Bat Rule

The following bats are considered ILLEGAL (i.e., not permitted) - all other bats with an ASA stamp are permitted.

- "Double Wall" bats, **OR**
- Bats on the ASA Non-approved bat list - click this link to see the list:[http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build\\_batlist\\_one\\_page.asp](http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build_batlist_one_page.asp)

Any questions on this should be directed to POPS director of rules, Keith Davidoff.

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## **Old-Time Rule: Walk Off Home Runs**

Until 1920, in the last of the ninth inning or in the bottom of an extra inning, home runs that drove in the winning run ahead of them were scored only as singles, doubles, or triples, according to how many bases the baserunner needed to advance to score the winning run. For example, if the batter hit a home run in the bottom of the ninth inning with a teammate on third base and the score tied, the batter was credited with only a single. Under current rules, the batter would be credited with a "walk-off" home run and the home team would win by two runs.