

FORFEIT PENALTY POLICY

In place since Nov 2022, Updated 4/15/2026 2:26 PM in yellow

Don't Forfeit! Forfeits are not fun for anyone. Everyone wants to play. No one wants to miss out on a game & everyone has paid to play. Do everything you can to find players so both teams can play.

To avoid a forfeit there is a minimum number of players needed (3 for 5v5, 4 for 6v6, 5 for 7v7, 6 for 8v8, 8 for 10v10, 8 for 11v11) to be on the field during the game.

Rosters can be added to throughout the regular season, so find whomever you can to play. In addition, all leagues have a policy which allows you to pick up players from within your league, as long as you have a minimum number of players. (See "Picking up Players Policy" for your specific league for more information.) Even if you cannot pick up players, showing up with half a team and mixing up teams with your opponent to play a scrimmage is much better than not getting to play at all. However, if you absolutely must forfeit, the following terms apply:

Type of Forfeit	Penalty Fee
Greater than 24 hours before game time for Monday thru Friday games OR before 2pm Friday for games scheduled for Sat/Sun or Monday Holiday games	No financial penalties. Your Opponent will receive a Win & your team will receive a Forfeit Loss. Your team will also lose 1 point in the standings* & automatically seeds your team lower in any tie breaker situation for playoffs
Less than 24 hours before game time but before 2pm on game day for Monday thru Friday games (does not apply for any Sat/Sun or Monday Holiday games, see below)	Both teams' ref fees. Your Opponent will receive a Win & your team will receive a Forfeit Loss. Your team will also lose 1 point in the standings* & automatically seeds your team lower in any tie breaker situation for playoffs
After 2pm on the day of your game (if Monday thru Friday game) OR after 2pm Friday for games scheduled for Sat/Sun, and Monday Holidays	\$50 late notice forfeit fee which is given to your opponent for late notice + both teams' ref fees. Your Opponent will receive a Win & your team will receive a Forfeit Loss. Your team will also lose 1 point in the standings* & automatically seeds your team lower in any tie breaker situation for playoffs
At the field or court without enough players for a real game, but still able to scrimmage	Both teams' ref fees. Your Opponent will receive a Win & your team will receive a Loss, but it will not be recorded as a Forfeit
Within 2 hours of your game time OR No Show without any notice	\$50 late notice forfeit fee which is given to your opponent for late notice + both teams' ref fees. Your Opponent will receive a Win AND your team will be INELIGIBLE for Playoffs

*(for volleyball, teams will receive 0-8 record for the night with any forfeit

How to contact BSSC if you must Forfeit

- DO NOT SEND AN EMAIL. During business hours (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm), call 617-789-4070. If you can't reach the Program Manager, press *0. To call in a forfeit outside of business hours (after 4pm weekdays or anytime over the weekend), you must call the After Hours Sports Phone at 617-462-8844.
- Calling BSSC and leaving a message is NOT acceptable notice; you must speak to someone. If you leave a message or send email, it is NOT considered notification unless you receive a reply. Keep Trying.
- The forfeit fees collected are provided to 1) the team that received the forfeit as compensation for the late notice and inconvenience; 2) the official(s) assigned to that game.
- Forfeit fees will be charged to the credit card on file for the team on the next business day. Your team will not be allowed to play again until the fee has been paid. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- In addition, 1 forfeit automatically seeds your team lower in any tie breaker situation for playoffs. With 2 or more forfeits, your team may no longer be eligible for playoffs, and you may be removed from the league.

PICKING UP PLAYERS POLICY

Updated 11/28/2022

This policy helps prevent you from forfeiting if you can't find enough rostered players to play. Nobody likes to be involved in a forfeit, whether your team is the one forfeiting or the team receiving the forfeit. To minimize the number of forfeits, BSSC has developed this policy to allow short-handed teams to pick up players from other teams. Rosters are open throughout the season, so find players that are not already on other teams to add to your roster, even if just for one game. However, you can also pick up players from other teams within the league if you have a minimum number of players from your roster. Here are details on picking up players, also see the grid below for specific league requirements.

- If a team is shorthanded but meets a minimum number of rostered players requirement (and at least one female player in coed leagues), they are eligible to pick up players from other teams within the league.
- You may pick up enough players to get you to the league format (i.e. 5v5, 6v6, etc.) PLUS 1 sub of each gender.
- If/when one of your own players arrives late, one of the picked up players must stop playing IF this gives you more than 1 sub per gender over league format
- Picking up players is ONLY ALLOWED IN REGULAR SEASON GAMES, not in the Playoffs. In Playoffs, all players must be on your roster and have played minimum # of games per league rules
- If a team has fewer than the required number of players present from its own team roster, they may still pick up players, but cannot record a win for the game. The game will be considered a scrimmage, with the short-handed team receiving a loss, but it will NOT be recorded as a forfeit.
- Protesting: If your team thinks that the opposing team picked-up too many players, you must bring it to the attention of the referee or league coordinator IMMEDIATELY. The referee or league coordinator will note the protest, talk to the opposing team captain, informing them of the protest, and give the captain the option of continuing with player(s) or deciding not to use the player(s). Continuing with the player(s) could result in a forfeit. If the referee or league coordinator has definite knowledge that a team is in violation, they have the authority to forbid the picked up player(s) to play. If the referee or league coordinator does not have definite knowledge, the referee or league coordinator will NOT make a decision on the protest, but will gather information and forward to the BSSC Program Manager, so they can decide the appropriate action later.

	Minimum # of Players needed on the field/court to avoid forfeit	# of Rostered Players that must be present to be able to pick up players (coed leagues must include 1 female player)	Maximum # of Players a team can pick up	Minimum # of Female Players to avoid forfeit (coed leagues only)	Maximum # of Male Players allowed on the field/court (coed leagues only, includes goalie)
4 vs 4*	3	3	3	1	3
5 vs 5	3	3	4	1	4
6 vs 6*	4	4	4	1	4
7 vs 7	5	4	5	1	5
8 vs 8	6	5	5	1	6
10 vs 10 Softball	8	6	6	1	7
10 vs 10 Kickball	8	6	6	1	6
11 vs 11	8	7	6	1	7
*Policy does not apply to Volleyball leagues, see below & refer to league rules:					
Volleyball	Teams may pick up players from other teams in the league in order to avoid a forfeit or to bring the team to full strength or avoid point penalties. Must have 4 rostered players present to avoid forfeit for 6 v 6 or 2 players present for 4 v 4.				