

SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL RULES

Teams:

Consist of 10 players: catcher, pitcher, 1st baseman, 2nd baseman, 3rd baseman, shortstop, left fielder, center fielder, right fielder, and rover (short center).

Game:

Consists officially of 7 innings. Each team remains at bat until 3 outs have been made. When each team has been at bat until 3 outs are called, one complete inning has been played. Bases are 60 feet apart.

Pitching:

- a. The pitcher must have both feet on the pitcher's plate and shall take in no more than one step delivering the ball to the batter.
- b. The ball must be thrown with an underarm swing.
- c. The pitcher shall make no motion to pitch without completing that pitch.
- d. If she/he does make a motion, and does not make the pitch, a re-pitch is called.
- e. Strike zone is between batter's shoulder and knees when in a neutral batting stance.
- f. Distance between the pitcher's plate and home plate is 46 ft. for men & women.
- g. Arc of ball pitched must be between 6 - 12 feet above the ground.

Batting:

Batter is out if:

- a. 2 strikes are made or called.
- b. Any batted fair or foul fly ball is caught.
- c. She/he is hit by their own batted ball in fair territory before it is played on by a fielder.
- d. Infield fly rule.
- e. Bunts or chopped downward stroke.
- f. 2 foul balls are hit.
- g. A foul tip higher than the batter's shoulders is caught by the catcher.

Batter is a baserunner if:

- a. She/he makes a fair hit.
- b. 3 balls have been called on her/him.
- c. She/he is hit by a pitched ball (batter must make an effort to dodge the pitched ball.)

Baserunning:

- a. The baserunner shall touch each base as she advances around the diamond.
- b. A runner may over-run first base only, without being put out. If she/he over-runs any other base she/he may be tagged and be called out.
- c. A runner who is off base when a fly ball is caught must return and touch base. Then she/he may run to the next base, at the risk of being put out.
- d. A runner must stay 3 ft. within the baseline while running the bases. She/he may leave this line to go around a fielder playing the ball. If she/he fails to stay in this running line, the runner is out.
- e. A baserunner cannot pass a runner in advancing bases. If she/he does she/he is out.
- f. No stealing.

Baserunners are out when:

- a. She/he is tagged by the ball before she/he reaches the base. Exceptions being at first base where the tag is not necessary and on a force out.
- b. She/he leads off base before the ball has crossed home plate.
- c. When she/he leaves her base and fails to go back and touch base on a caught fly ball.
- d. If 2 are on a base at the same time, last runner on can be tagged out.
- e. Hit by a fair ball when baserunner is off base, before ball passes a fielder.

Runs:

- a. A run may be scored on anything except a foul ball.
- b. A run coming in to score on the third out shall not count.

1. Pitcher
2. Catcher
3. First Base
4. Second Base
5. Third Base
6. Short Stop
7. Left Field
8. Center Field
9. Right Field
10. Roving Fielder

Terms:

1. **Batting Average** - number of hits divided by the times at bat.
2. **Grand Slam** - a home run with the bases loaded.
3. **Strike Zone** – area between batter’s knees and shoulders.
4. **Infield-Fly Rule** – batter will declared out when hitting an infield-fly with runners on 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd, or 3rd with less than 2 outs.
5. **Inning** - portion of a game in which a team plays defense and offense.
6. **RBI** - run batted in.
7. **Sacrifice Fly** – a ball hit to the outfield, allowing a baserunner, after tagging up after the ball is caught, to advance.
8. **Tagging Up** – after a fly ball is caught, runner must touch the base they were on when ball was hit before advancing.
9. **Base on Balls (walk)** – batter goes to first base after 3 balls are called.
10. **Double Play** – when 2 players are put out on same play.
11. **Triple Play** – when 3 batters are put out on same play.
12. **Error** – a play that allows runner to be safe or advance on bases.
13. **Force-out**- when a baserunner is forced to advance to the next base, he/she may be put out by the ball touching the base