



NCRTA 2012 SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Softball Rules Simplified:

The game of softball is very similar to the game of baseball, hence there are a lot of similarities between softball rules and baseball rules.

THE GAME:

There are 9 players on a softball team.

The playing field is divided into the infield and outfield.

The lines between the bases are 60' apart and when joined they form a "diamond", inside the baseline is known as the infield.

Outside the baseline but inside the playing field is called the outfield.

Any ball going outside the 1st or 3rd base line is a foul ball (runners cannot advance and the batter gets another try unless the ball was caught in the air, which translates to an out).

An official game is 5 innings (an inning is when both teams have had their turn to bat).

The pitcher is required to pitch the ball from the pitcher's mound which is located at the center of the diamond. (inside the infield area)

Sportsmanship: To respect all players, any arguments or body contact with the other team players in the field will not be tolerated and will lead to automatic ejection. Once an individual is ejected, they must leave the field immediately.

Any questions or concerns about the softball rules and regulations will be directed to the Umpires.

PITCHING:

The pitcher must have both feet on the pitcher's rubber and can only take one step forward while pitching.

The ball must be thrown underhand.

Both hands must be on the ball at the start of the pitch.



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BATTING:

Batters must follow the same order throughout the whole game

The batter is out if and when:

- a) Five strikes have been called
- b) a fly ball is caught
- c) the batter does not stand in the batter's box

BASE RUNNING:

Runners must touch each base in order.

Runners may overrun 1st base only, all other bases the runner may be tagged and called out if they are off the base.

Runners cannot lead off a base; they must be on base until the ball has left the pitcher's hand.

After a fly ball has been caught the base runner must tag the occupied base before advancing to the next base.

One base runner cannot pass another base runner that is ahead of them.

Stealing a base is not permitted

A runner is out if:

- a) they are tagged with the ball before reaching a base.
- b) the ball gets to 1st base before the runner.
- c) they run more than 3 feet out of the base line to avoid being tagged.

TERMS:

Ball- a legally pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone (four balls equals a walk)

Grounder- A ball that is hit on the ground.

Force out- when the runner has to advance to the next base to make room for the following base runner.

Strike- term used when a ball is swung at and missed or is called when the ball enters the strike zone and is not swung at all.

Strike zone- the ball passes the batter over the plate between their chest and knees.



1. First Baseman:

The first baseman positions herself to the side of first base. She fields balls down the first-base line. Any ball hit to another infielder is thrown to the first baseman, who steps on first base with the ball in her glove before the runner gets to the base.

2. Second Baseman:

The second baseman is positioned between first and second base. On a ground ball between first and second, the first baseman covers first and the second baseman fields the ball and throws to first. If there is a runner already on first who is running to second base, and the ball is hit toward the shortstop and third baseman's side of the field, the second baseman covers second and either steps on the base with the ball in her glove or tags the runner.

3. Third Baseman:

The third baseman is next to third base. Her job is to field any balls near the third-base line and either step on third with the ball in her glove on force-outs or throw the ball to the appropriate base to get a runner out.

4. Shortstop:

The shortstop is similar to the second baseman. She is positioned between second and third base. Just like when the second baseman covers second if the ball is hit toward the shortstop or third baseman, it is the shortstop's duty to cover second base when the ball is hit to the second or first baseman. The shortstop is usually an agile player, as a majority of balls tend to be hit toward her. A strong arm is necessary to play shortstop.

5. Left Field:

The left fielder is in the outfield grass, behind the shortstop and third baseman. The left fielder's job is to catch fly balls or retrieve balls on extra-base hits and throw the ball back to the infielder. She also positions herself behind the shortstop and third baseman for base hits on the ground and overthrows

6. Right Field:

The right fielder does the same as the left fielder, except from behind the first and second basemen.



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7. Center Field:

The center fielder does the same as the other outfielders, except she does it for the pitcher. She will catch pop flies and field ground balls hit up the middle. A center fielder also can back up the right and left fielders.

Draw Date: Friday, June 15th, 2012; All of the captains or assistants must be present at this time and location -- currently planned to be held at the same place (Barrhaven) at 7 PM.

For any questions and suggestions, you may contact the coordinator.

Team name and name of the captain should be sent before June 11th, 2012. The names (both first and last name) of the rest of the players must be submitted before Friday June 15th, 2011 via email to or phone.

Disclaimer:

In the case where any rules are misinterpreted by any participants, the NCRTA sports coordinators interpretation is the final answer

