

INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL RULES

1. TEAM

- a. **MEN'S** and **WOMEN'S** teams will consist of 10 players. You may play a game with only 8 players and not be subject to forfeit.
- b. **COED** teams will consist of 10 players (5 men and 5 women). A team may start the game with 8 players provided that at least 4 men and 4 women are on the field.

Any loss of players due to injury or ejection that leaves a team with less than 8 players will be a default. A substituted player CANNOT re-enter the game.

COED defensive positioning shall be:

- 2 women and 2 men in the outfield - including short fielder
- 2 women and 2 men in the infield - any position
- 1 woman and 1 man in the pitcher/catcher combination

2. GAME

- a. A game consists of 7 innings. However, if after 70 minutes of play the game is not completed, the inning in progress will be the final inning. If the score is tied play will continue until a winner is determined.

Games called because of inclement weather - if 5 innings are not completed (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead) the entire game will be replayed. If 5 innings or more have been completed, then it will be considered a complete game.

- b. 10-run rule - Any team ahead by 10 or more runs after 5 innings will be declared the winner. ANY QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE SUPERVISOR ON DUTY.
- c. Choice of batting or fielding first shall be decided by the toss of a coin.
- d. The infield fly rule is in effect.

3. EQUIPMENT

- a. A game ball, bats and a catcher's mask will be provided. Individuals must provide their own gloves.
- b. NO METAL SPIKES OR REPLACEABLE CLEAT SHOES are to be worn. Molded rubber shoes are acceptable.

4. PITCHING

- a. The ball must be delivered underhand at a moderate speed from below the hip, and with a perceptible arc that reaches 6 feet from the ground but not exceeding 12 feet. The speed of the pitch is left entirely to the judgement of the umpire.
- b. The ball may be released with the palm on top of the ball and with the ball facing the ground.
- c. The strike zone will be shown as a mat located on the ground, from inches in front of the plate to approximately a couple of feet behind the plate. A pitched ball, with proper arc, landing anywhere on the mat or on the plate is a strike.
- d. Pitchers are limited to 3 warm-up pitches at the start of the game and before each inning.
- e. Pitching plates will not be used. The umpire shall step off 46 feet and mark it, if necessary. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the marked area until the pitched ball leaves the hand.

5. BATTING

- a. The batter shall not have his entire foot touching the ground completely outside the batter's box area, which is determined by the umpire.
- b. The batter shall not step on or across the plate.
- c. Bunting or chopping down on the ball will be an automatic out.
- d. The batting order must be followed. Substitutes will bat in the position of the player they replaced. COED MUST ALTERNATE MALE - FEMALE IN THE BATTING LINEUP.
- e. A batter is called out on a foul ball that is hit after 2 strikes. If the foul ball is not caught, baserunners may not advance. However, if it is caught, baserunners may advance at their own risk.
- f. Only official softball bats are legal.

6. BASERUNNING

- a. A runner may slide past the base after making contact with it, and not be liable to be put out. However, they will be liable to be put out if they merely run over the base.
- b. If, during a play, the base has moves from its original spot, the runner need only touch the original base area. This area will be a judgement call.
- c. Base Sliding must be performed with discretion. If undue contact occurs, the baserunner may be subject to ejection.
- d. Under no condition is a runner permitted to steal a base. If a player does steal, or attempt to, they are automatically out. If a runner leaves the base after a batter swings and misses the pitch, the runner WILL NOT be called out.
- e. Batter and baserunners may not advance if a third strike is dropped.
- f. On overthrows, the runner is allowed 2 bases if the ball goes out of play. Bases are awarded according to the position of the runners when the ball is thrown.

7. FIELDING

- a. A team may throw the ball around the infield in the first inning only. Infield practice will not be permitted between outs or innings for the rest of the game.
- b. The person covering the base must keep half of the base available for the advancing runner.
- c. Catchers are encouraged to wear the masks provided for their own protection.

8. DEFINITIONS

INTERFERENCE - An offensive player may not impede, hinder or confuse a defensive player attempting to execute a play.

OBSTRUCTION - A fielder may not remain in the base path without the ball in an attempt to impede the progress of a runner.

ELIGIBILITY - Men and women may play for only one team in their respective leagues and one team in the coed league. Only 2 varsity or ex-varsity baseball/softball players are allowed per team. An ex-varsity player is considered to be one who participated the previous year.

PROTESTS - Only those protests regarding player eligibility will be considered by the IM Office. These must be submitted in writing by 4:00 pm the next working day.

Questions which arise on the field concerning rule interpretations, officiating procedures, etc...will be decided immediately by the Intramural Supervisor on duty. The decision of the Intramural Supervisor is final.

If a team captain has a protest they should IMMEDIATELY request that a Supervisor be consulted. The protest must be made known before anything else occurs. If another pitch has been thrown the protest becomes invalid. DO IT AT THE TIME THE SITUATION OCCURS.

RAINOUTS - Will be decided by 3:00 pm of the day in question. Captains may consult the IM board or call ext. 6280 to find out when the games are rescheduled. Friday and Sunday nights will be used as rain days.