

Softball Competition Rules in Brief

This information must be read in conjunction with “Sport Entry Forms”, “Sport Information” and “Games Information” available from the website. Details are subject to change. Please contact the Games Office for the most recent information.

Slow Pitch is designed to be a mixed recreational sport, therefore, some of the rules of Fast Pitch have been adapted. The intention of this is to minimise player contact and make the game enjoyable for all.

The interpretation of the rules or amendments are at the sole discretion of the Games.

One team member should be designated to learn the complete set of rules, available from the Games Office. For all other players, the following summary is intended to give a brief overview of the game.

1. Each team has 10 players - 5 males and 5 females and there must be 2 females both in the infield and the outfield.
2. Any substitute coming into the game must play at least 1 complete innings, ie bat and field.
3. There is no sliding or tagging - runners can only be played out by the fielder having the ball at the base before the runner gets there.
4. There are safety zones marked around 2nd and 3rd bases and a semi-circle at 1st base. A runner only needs to be in the safety zone before the ball gets to the base.
5. There are commitment lines marked around 2nd - 3rd bases and 3rd - home. Once a runner crosses the commitment line they cannot return to the base they came from.
6. A team can only score a maximum of 6 runs in each innings - except the last innings, where there is no restriction on the number of runs that can be scored.
7. A batter is out on the 3rd strike whether it is caught by the catcher or not.
8. A batter is out if the 3rd strike is hit foul - whether it is caught or not.
9. A team must bat male/female, alternatively in the order on the softball Score Sheet
10. The ball must be pitched in an arc - a minimum of 6 feet in height and a maximum of 12 feet.
11. If the batter does not swing at a pitch it must land on the strike zone mat to be called a strike.
12. There is a scoring line marked near home plate. The runner must cross this line, not touch home plate. The fielder must play the home plate.
13. A runner is not permitted to leave a base until the ball is hit or reaches home plate. If the ball is not hit the runner must return to the base. There is no stealing bases.
14. If the pitcher pitches 4 'balls', the batter then goes to 1st base.
15. If the batter is hit by a pitched ball, a 'ball' is called on the batter.
16. The batter must stand within the marked batter's box and must be within that batter's box when they hit the ball.
17. A regulation game is seven (7) innings or sixty (60) minutes, whichever occurs first. No innings shall start within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled finishing time, but an innings in progress will continue until completed or until time has elapsed, whichever occurs first.
18. If a game is abandoned due to wet weather, darkness or by the Games for any reason, it will be considered complete if three innings have been completed, or if the game has lasted at least a half hour. The score will be as of the last complete innings.

GOOD LUCK!

