

# INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL RULES 2009

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. \*Change from 2008- No players on the current varsity baseball roster may participate. Teams may include a maximum of 2 individuals who were on the varsity roster during the 08-09 academic year
2. Each team will establish a batting order prior to the start of the game. The batting order consists of 10 persons. If a team has the minimum requirement of 9 players, it is permissible to have a nine person batting order. Once the 9 person batting order is established it may not be changed to 10 upon the arrival of additional players.
3. That order shall be announced to the opposing team and entered on the game result sheet. Substitutions are to be written on the same sheet and announced to the opposing team. The score sheet will be handed in with the equipment.
4. A fielding player may re-enter the game once their substitution has batted. This rule does not apply to the pitcher. There is one re-entry rule in effect. The player must re-enter only in their original position in the batting order.
5. All games will be played with a one-hour time limit and/or a maximum of seven innings which ever comes first. However, a game may not extend into the time period of the next scheduled game, i.e. if one or both teams are late in arriving and the contest begins past the scheduled time, the contest will end at the scheduled time. In the event that an inning is not completed, the game shall revert to the last completed inning.
6. All games will be played on the assigned field. Field site may change only when dictated by intramural officials. Any games contested at sites other than that designated will be recorded as losses for both participating teams.
7. In cases of inclement weather, decisions to postpone games will be made by one hour before scheduled contest(s). This information will be available on the Rec Hotline (x1561-item#3)

## SOFTBALL RULES OF PLAY

1. Each team shall have nine players on the field to begin a game. The team may play with less than nine players, but may not start the game with less than nine. Nine (9) defensive players are in the field so there are actually 10 individuals on the field including the pitcher, who is not a defensive player

The batting team will supply a pitcher who will pitch to his/her own team.

- a. Each batter will be presented a maximum of three pitches.
- b. The 3-pitch limit/batter applies to pitches, which hit the ground before reaching the batter. The pitch counts against the 3-pitch limit, but may not be hit. For example, if the third pitch hits the ground, you are out.
- c. Should a batter fail to put a ball in play within the third pitch, he/she will be called out.

- d. The pitcher will bat his/her turn. Any of his/her teammates may pitch to him/her. He/she will return to the mound after his/ her base-running responsibilities have been fulfilled.
  - e. A pitcher should avoid fielding the ball. Only in the interest of safety should a pitcher touch the ball for any purpose other than presenting it to the batter. Intentional interference will result in the batter being called out.
  - f. A ball striking the pitcher shall be ruled a dead ball and the pitch shall be replayed.
2. Runners are not permitted to steal a base. A runner not in contact with the base until a legally pitched ball has reached home plate results in a dead ball. A no pitch is declared, and the runner is ruled out. Base runners may not slide into any base. Any slide will result in the base runner being automatically out. Base runners may over run any base and not be exposed to a tag out if, in the opinion of the base umpire, no effort was made to advance to the next base. It is the defensive players responsibility to allow an over run path to the base runner. If obstructed, the base runner is awarded an additional base.
3. A foul ball caught by the catcher does not result in a put out unless the arc of the ball is above the batter's head.
4. The pitch must be released in an underhand motion from the 50' pitcher's plate. The wrist may be no farther from the pitcher's body than the elbow. The pitch must arc at least 3 feet from the pitcher's point of release prior to crossing the plate. The home plate umpire shall immediately call a no pitch when the height criterion is not satisfied.
5. The pitcher must start his/her motion with both feet in contact with the pitching rubber.
6. Any player deemed by the officials to have slid into a player or made physical contact for the purpose of breaking up a play, or inflicting injuries, will be expelled from that contest at the discretion of the umpire.
7. All certified softball bats are permitted, while baseball bats are prohibited. Any bat used other than a certified softball bat will result in a forfeit.
8. The Intramural Department will be providing all game balls for play. Any game played with any other ball will result in a loss for offending teams.
9. There are out-of-play lines outside of foul lines. No fielder should pursue a fly ball outside those lines. A caught fly ball will be an out provided the fielder is not on or outside the out-of-play line. Infield overthrows going out of play may advance runners one base. Outfield overthrows going out of play may advance runner/s two bases.
10. A ball hit under the bleachers will be a ground rule double.
11. Metal spikes are prohibited and will result in automatic ejection.
12. A hit ball striking the wires above field 1 is a dead ball and doesn't count as a pitch to the batter. Thrown balls striking the wires are in play.
13. Any ball put in play by a full swing is legal regardless of the distance that it travels. Any ball hit with an effort other than a full swing (e.g. Half swing, check swing, bunt) will be a countable pitch and dead ball.

15. If IM staff determines that the umpires are not fulfilling their responsibilities they will indicate it on the score sheet and that team will receive a penalty for failure to officiate.
16. Batting/fielding practice may not take place between games. Pitcher is limited to three warm-ups per inning.
17. At the home plate umpires discretion, a team determined to be delaying the game for a competitive advantage may be assessed a forfeit. Warning is suggested, but is optional.
18. Umpire may discuss rules interpretation. Judgment calls are final.
19. No batting practice or infield/outfield practice should be taken before games. Pitchers entering in the middle of an inning must pitch to the batter cold.

## **OFFICIATING INFORMATION**

1. No student umpire should officiate any game in which his or her parent organization is participating.
2. Student umpires have complete control of contest at all times. If a player shows unsportsmanlike conduct, one warning will be made to the player and his or her parent organization. If the player continues their unsportsmanlike conduct, he or she will be ejected from the game, and the official may request the Director of Intramurals to permanently expel the player from that sport
3. If a spectator shows unsportsmanlike conduct, the official will issue one warning. If the unsportsmanlike conduct continues, the official may stop the game until the person leaves the area. If the ejected spectator is a member of any team participating in intramurals, the parent organization may be assessed a forfeit.
4. Responsibilities-
  - a. Home plate Umpire:
    - i. Identify illegal pitch
    - ii. Inspection of bat and ball
    - iii. Inspect for metal spikes
    - iv. Outs recorded by catcher
    - v. Plays at home
    - vi. Fair vs. foul
    - vii. Enforces one hour time limit
  - b. Base Umpires:
    - i. In play vs. out-of-play
    - ii. Plays at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> including slide determination, defensive interference, and effort to advance.
    - iii. Ground rules
  - c. Scorekeeper:
    - i. In conjunction with captains properly completes score sheet.

The first team listed on the game assignments is responsible to pick up equipment at the Rec Shed. This requires leaving an ID until equipment is returned. Softball equipment includes balls and clipboard with score sheet. Bat(s) may be requested but in most cases we have found teams have their own bat(s).