

Southwestern Intramural & Recreational Activities

Softball Rules

ASA RULES WILL GOVERN WHAT SOUTHWESTERN INTRAMURAL RULES DO NOT COVER.

1. Type of Game.

- During the preliminary rounds, all games will be limited to either 6 innings or 50 minutes.
- During finals and semi-finals, all games will be 6 innings long without a time limit.

2. Pitching and Batting

- To keep the game flowing, each team will supply a pitcher to pitch to their own team. Each batter will be allowed three pitches and if the ball is not put into play within those three pitches, the batter is out. The defensive team is allowed to have a defensive player at the mound in addition to the pitcher for the other team. The pitcher shall not interfere with the fielding of a ball put into play.

3. Ten Run-Rule

- The 10 run rule will be enforced after 3 & 1/2 (or 4) innings. The losing team must have at least 4 turns at bat. If at this time the team is still losing by 10 or more runs (i.e., 12-2), the game shall be declared decided.

4. Number of Players.

- Ten (10) players constitute a slow pitch team. A team may play with eight players and any less than eight players at game time will constitute a forfeit.
- Players arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order at the beginning of any new inning.
- Teams may bat 11 players if they wish except in Co-Rec where only 10 players may bat.

5. Equipment.

- Game balls will be provided.
- Women's, Men's, & Co-Rec leagues will play with a regulation softball.
- Bats will be available from the supervisor on the field. All bats must be taped 10-15 inches from the handle.
- Closed toe shoes must be worn. Cleats are allowed, provided they are not metal. **NO METAL SPIKES.**
- Only first basemen and catchers may wear specialized mitts. (i.e., 1st basemen glove)
- Masks will be provided for catchers to wear. **All catchers must wear the masks that are provided. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

6. Scorekeeping

- SIRA will provide a scorekeeper
- Both teams must supply written line-ups with players correct names listed in correct batting order.

7. Pitching

- All pitches must be made in one continuous motion underhand. No sidearm or overhead pitching is allowed.

8. Rain-outs.

- The Intramural Sports Specialist has the final authority on whether an activity will take place in inclement weather. The Intramural Supervisor shall be “next in line” to make the decision on postponing contests. Canceled tournament games will be rescheduled and the new times and days will be posted the following morning, or at the discretion of the Intramural Sports Specialist. It is the responsibility of the Intramural Captain to check the schedules posted in the Robertson center and the website for new times and dates.

9. Miscellaneous Game Rules

- Bunting or "chopping " down on the ball is a penalty (constituting a dead ball), and the batter is out.
- Base runners may not leave until the ball crosses the plate. Penalty: Dead ball, no pitch and the runner is out.
- A coin flip shall decide which is the home team.
- Appeals must be made to the umpire prior to the next pitch. An umpire will not call a base runner out for missing a base unless it is appealed by the defensive team by tagging the base in question while in possession of the ball before the next pitch.
- Five warm-up pitches are permitted at the beginning of the game only for each pitcher. No warm-ups or infield will be allowed between innings.
*Substitute pitchers will be allowed 3 pitches or one minute.
- If a defensive player has the ball and is waiting to apply a tag at a base, the base runner shall not force contact on the defensive player. If the runner makes no attempt to slide and minimize contact then he/she is out regardless of the outcome of the play. This is known as the slide or die rule. If the runner does not slide and runs into the defensive player, they are out. The ball is dead and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of the collision. NOTE: If the act is deemed flagrant by the umpire, the player will be ejected.
- A batter who steps on the plate or out of the batter’s box while hitting the ball will be called out.

10. Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed at each batting position. However, any sub who re-enters the game must re-enter in the same batting position as he or she started (i.e., a starter can only re-enter for the person who came in for him or her)

11. Eligibility

- A player may play on both a single sex and a coed team. Individuals may not play for more than one men's or women's team. All players must be Southwestern students, faculty, staff or spouses. No varsity baseball players are eligible to participate.

- Ejection from a game for any reason will result in an automatic suspension of play for the remainder of the tournament.

Coed Modifications for Softball

ASA rules and Southwestern Intramural rules will govern the coed games with the following exceptions.

1. Number of Players.

- A maximum of 10 players are allowed on the field at one time. Five (5) men and five (5) women comprise a team.
- A minimum of 8 players is needed to play, 4 men and 4 women
- If a team has nine players, they can play 5 men and 4 women or 4 men and five women.

2. Batting Order.

- The line-up must alternate man-woman or woman-man throughout the game. If there are more women than men or vice versa, then at some point two or more will bat back to back.

3. Substitutions.

- When substituting, you may replace a man for a man and a woman for a woman only! No man may pinch hit or sub run for a woman and vice-versa. Otherwise, unlimited substitutions are allowed at each batting position. However, any sub who re-enters the game must re-enter in the same batting position as he or she started (i.e., a starter can only re-enter for the person who came in for him or her)

4. Defensive Positions

- No restrictions are placed on defensive positions of males and females. A team must have a catcher.