

RULES IN BRIEF

This is an informal league—safety and camaraderie are more important than winning.

Basic Softball rules apply such as:

- No leading-off.
- No stealing bases.
- Games are 7 innings
- On a force-out, the fielder is only required to touch the base; on a non-force-out the fielder needs to tag the runner.
- When final out is a force out at any base, a run cannot score.
- Metal cleats are not allowed in this league.
- Infield Fly Rule is when there are fewer than two outs and there are runners at first and second base or the bases are loaded. Anyone can call Infield Fly Rule if these conditions exist.
- A foul tip must go over the batter's head to be an out.

Sliding is not allowed in this league.

A runner who slides is out.

Overrunning every base is allowed

without a turn toward the next base.

Automatic Force (ONLY) at Home.

Runner reaching halfway point commits (no pickle allowed).

One Extra Base on Overthrow.

If ball remains in playable territory (by a fence, for example), the ball is in play.

Start Time: Permits begin at 6:30. Respect permittees on field until 6:30.

7 Run Limit per inning except in the last inning.

Last Inning starts 15 minutes after sunset.

Women Players and Batting Order:

At least two women in the field at all times and evenly distributed in the lineup—no more than 5 men between women batters. One woman=9 fielders and woman bats twice in lineup. No women=forfeit. Stay true to batting order.

Outfielder Positions: Outfielders (including rovers) are to remain 30 feet behind the first-to-second and second-to-third bases until the ball is hit.

Fair/Foul Call: The catcher calls fair or foul balls. Captain must explain fair/foul rules to catcher; catcher must make fair/foul call loudly and quickly.

Safe/Out Call: First Base Coach declares plays at first and home safe or out; Third Base Coach declares plays at third and second safe or out.

Courtesy Runner: Team is allowed courtesy runner for two batters (see full guidelines).

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Pitching and Batting: Pitchers need to be experienced and capable of throwing strikes and reacting to line drives in order to adequately protect themselves. Strike mat is to be placed behind home plate. Batters are expected to swing at reasonable pitches rather than waiting for a perfect pitch. The following guidelines can be invoked after two complete innings if the game is not progressing at a reasonable speed:

- A batter who swings 5 times without making contact is out.
- Captains count pitches in each at-bat. If, in 10 pitches, the ball does not hit the strike zone mat at least 3 times, the batter walks and the pitcher is replaced. If, in 10 pitches, the ball hits the strike zone mat at least 3 times without being batted, the batter is out.
- Captains can agree that each team will pitch to itself. If this option is invoked, the pitcher is not allowed to field a ball—if the batted ball comes into contact with the pitcher, the batter is out.

Regulation Softballs: Use ASA-approved 12-inch .44cor softballs.

Regulation Bats: Men must use **wood softball** bats (see guidelines—use of metal bat is an automatic out). Women must use bats approved by SF Softball League (see guidelines). All bats to have grip tape on handle.

Bases: Bring heavy flat rubber bases or carpet samples with rubber backing to game. Bases that easily move around are not encouraged.

Players' Risk

This is an informal softball league for professionals in the Architecture, Engineering, and Contracting industry. As such, it is not a formal entity and assumes no liability for any player injury or property damage resulting from the softball games it organizes. Individual participants are expected to be covered by health and liability insurance policies.