

SOFTBALL RULES

THE GAME: There are seven (7) innings in a game, and each team is given three outs per inning.

PITCHING:

- 1. The ball must be pitched underhand.**
- 2. The pitcher starts with both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate and takes no more than one step before releasing.**
- 3. Strike zone: between knees and shoulders and over the plate.**

**** IN THE EVENT OF AN ILLEGAL PITCH:** Batter receives a ball. Base runners advance one base.

BATTING AND BASERUNNING:

- 1. No bunting, stealing, or leading off. Pitched ball must leave the pitcher's hand before base runners can start running.**
- 2. A runner may only overrun first base.**
- 3. Runners must return to base and tag-up on a fly ball that is caught. They may then run to the next base, even on a caught foul.**
- 4. A foul ball on the third strike is an out.**

**** FOUL TIP:** A foul ball which goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batter's head and into the catcher's mitt and is held results in a strike. On the third strike it is an out.

WALK:

- 1. Four balls make a walk.**

OUTS OCCUR WHEN:

- 1. Three strikes for the batter.**
- 2. Any fair or foul ball that is caught before hitting the ground.**
- 3. When a foul tip occurs after the second strike.**
- 4. When runner is hit by own ball in fair territory before a fielder plays it.**
- 5. Members of the team at bat interfere with a fielder attempting to make a play on a ball.**

6. When the batter steps out of the batter's box while hitting the ball.
7. When a runner is tagged while off the base.
8. Force out: When the fielder with the ball touches the base where a runner is being forced to run to because other runners are forced to run.
9. If the runner goes more than three feet out of the baseline path to avoid being tagged.
10. The ball is thrown to the base before the runner gets back to tag up after a caught fly ball.
11. The ball is thrown to a base which the runner failed to touch.
12. The runner interferes with a fielder trying to field the ball.
13. The batter interferes with a play being made at home.

BATTER IS SAFE WHEN:

1. The fielder drops or juggles the ball while attempting to tag a runner.
2. The fielder blocks a runner's path without having possession of the ball or attempting to field a ball.

OVERTHROW: Only one base is allowed on an overthrow. The runner may continue past the base he is running toward and continue to the next base only.