



MVP Softball Rules

RULE #1: Have Fun (Don't talk about fight club)

RULE #2: No Arguing

This is the 1 thing MVP doesn't joke about. It is important that every player understands that this league is just for fun. No arguing is tolerated. Whether it be with the umpire, the opposing team, or your own teammates, it's unacceptable. We realize our umpires will make a bad call from time-to-time (bad calls happen at the highest levels, they're definitely going to happen in an adult coed social softball league). Rest assured they are trying their absolute best to make the correct calls.

- a. If you're the type that gets salty after a loss, keep it to yourself.

Game Play Rules

1. Using a glove is optional.
2. There is a 2 player gender minimum in the infield which means you must have 2 players from both genders playing the infield.
 - The infield positions are: catcher, pitcher, 3rd base, shortstop, 2nd base, and 1st base (6 positions total).
 - If a team decides to play a rover (behind 2nd base), they must play in the dirt to qualify as an infielder.
3. The defense must have a pitcher and a catcher.
 - There are no substitutes for the catcher in the middle of the ½ inning; catchers may only be changed between innings.
4. The pitcher must pitch behind the white pitchers line. Note: the pitcher does not have to pitch from the mound; he/she must simply release their pitch from behind the white pitchers line.



5. A pitch that touches any part of home plate or the mat behind home plate while achieving an arc between 6'-12' is a strike.
 - The batter will begin with a 1-1 count with a foul to give. For example: If the first pitch is a called strike, you still have 1 foul to give. If your first pitch is a foul, your next foul is a strikeout.
6. A pitch that does not touch home plate or the mat, or doesn't achieve a 6'-12' arc is deemed a ball. 3 balls and the batter will (walk) advance to first base.
7. If a male batter walks with 2 outs and a female batter is up next, she will have the option to walk or hit.
8. The pitcher must throw the ball underhand.
9. The batter must have both feet in the batter's box when hitting. If he/she has a drastic swing outside of the batter's box, that pitch will be deemed a foul.
10. A hit is deemed a foul ball when:
 - The ball lands or is touched in foul territory.
 1. Foul territory is anything outside of the baseline.
 - The ball lands inside the foul line, but rolls outside the foul line before reaching the 1st or 3rd base lines without being touched.
 2. A ball that lands past the 1st or 3rd base lines but rolls into foul territory is fair.
11. Base runners are allowed to run through first base, but must use the safety bag on the foul side.
 - If there isn't a play at first, and the runner intends on advancing to 2nd base, the base runner may touch the inside base. It is the first baseman's job to not impede the runner.
12. Stealing is not allowed. The runner must remain on the base until the ball is hit. If the runner is caught intentionally leaving early he/she will be called out.
13. Sliding is not permitted. This is a safety rule for the runner and defender. If you slide, you are OUT. We get it – many of us played baseball or softball our whole lives, but we have jobs now and everyone wants to go to work tomorrow. 😊



- The defender must allow the runner access to the base by standing behind or beside the base, not on top. If the defender blocks access to the base for the runner, the umpire reserves the right to deem the runner safe.
14. There is no infield fly rule.
15. A batter is out when:
- A fielder catches a fly ball before it touches the ground.
 - Has 2 strikes called.
 - Has 2 foul balls. (fouls are considered strikes)
 - The base is tagged by a defender while holding the ball on a force run.
 - The runner is tagged by the ball while not on a base.
 - The runner is off base when the ball is pitched.
16. A runner is out when:
- He/She is tagged by a ball while not on a base.
 - He/She is being forced to another base by the runner behind him/her and the defense touches the base with the ball in hand before the runner gets there.
 - The runner fails to tag up on a caught fly ball.
 1. To tag up you must leave your base AFTER a fly ball has been touched. In the event you leave your base before the ball is touched the defense can throw the ball to your base for an OUT.
 2. Note: The runner is allowed to tag up as soon as the ball is touched; regardless if it is bobbled.
17. In the event of an overthrow into foul territory, it is the responsibility of the defense to be in position to back it up, the ball is still live.
- The umpires reserve the right to award a runner(s) an additional base due to a ball being deemed unplayable (thrown in the parking lot, dugout, etc...)
18. There is no limit to the amount of pinch runners, but the batter must make it to first base before the pinch runner is awarded.
- This is a rule that is not to be abused.
 - The pinch runner must be the most recent out made by the same gender.



19. Any runner who touches the ball while running the bases is immediately out. The play is called dead, and all runners currently on base must go back to their last touched base.
20. Runners can not intentionally touch, yell at, or severely interfere with a fielder making a catch. Doing this will result in an automatic out.

Team

1. The team ROSTER minimum is 11 players with a gender minimum of 3.
2. The maximum number of players allowed in the field (on defense) is 9 with a gender minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5.
3. When a team has fewer than the required number of players of a specific gender, a player from the opposite gender CANNOT substitute. For example: If a team has 11 total players available at game time, but only 3 are female, the team may only play with 8 in the field (5 male, 3 female).
4. All players attending the game must be placed in the batting lineup unless a particular player has chosen not to play.
5. There is no gender batting lineup requirement. Create your lineup however you like. Just make sure that every player who shows up is in the batting lineup.
6. Substitute players filling in for a specific player who can't make it to the game will be allowed to play during the regular season. However, no substitute players will be allowed to play during the playoffs. It is the responsibility of the captains and team to coordinate their roster accordingly. Note: this is our inaugural season and some teams are thin with females. We will approve an outside of the league sub for the playoffs if you are aware you will be short the gender minimum 3 days before the playoffs. Life happens; we don't want to see a team penalized due to a teammate not being able to make it.
7. Players arriving late may join the game and must be put at the bottom of the lineup.
8. Plastic or rubber (soft) cleats are permitted. NO STEEL CLEATS.
9. Games are 7 innings or 55 minutes. If a game results in a tie after 7 innings and there is time to play an 8th with a runner (last out) placed on 2nd base to start the inning. If there isn't enough time, the game will result in a tie.



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