



### **3-Pitch Softball Regulations & Guidelines**

1. This is a 3-pitch tournament that has been organized to promote networking and team building and welcomes men and women of all skill levels. Have FUN!
2. Each game will be designated 1 hour for their game and 15 minutes prior to warm up. You may play as many innings as possible up to 7.
  - If a team is winning before going to bat last, the game is over at that point.
  - To keep the tournament on track, the final inning should not begin later than 50 minutes from the games designated start time. This will ultimately be determined by the umpire.
3. ALL games should begin at the scheduled start time. If a game starts late, it must still end within the designated time frame to ensure the next game can start on time. If a team does not have the required numbers of players within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, it will forfeit the game.
4. Games will be played in three-pitch.
  - The pitcher will be supplied by the batting team.
  - Each player will have 3 chances to hit the ball.
  - The pitcher should do their best not to obstruct the ball when hit.
  - If the batter hits the pitcher, it will be called a strike. If you hit the pitcher on the third pitch you will be called OUT.
5. The choice of first or last bat in the inning shall be decided by a coin toss prior to the game.
6. Each team must have a minimum of 10 players, no maximum.
  - Everyone on the roster must bat.
  - We encourage male and female players however, there is no requirement.
  - 10 players on the field at one time. (not including the pitcher)
    - Player on each base, back catcher, short stop, rover, 4 outfielders
7. A game sheet will be given to each team in their tournament package. The roster and scores should be tracked and submitted to the tournament organizer at the end of each game.

- 8.** Batting line-ups: Players will rotate in the field, and all players should get equal field time. Players should rotate through the batting line-up as listed on the game sheet.
- 9.** Home run rule: Only 1 “out of park” home run is allowed per inning. Additional home runs will result in an out.
- 10.** In order to cease play on a fairly batted ball, the umpire will call time when the ball is in the infield and the play is over.
- 11.** To keep games competitive, the inning will end after 3 outs or when the maximum runs per inning (5) have been scored. The final inning will have no run maximum.
- 12.** A foul ball hit with two strikes shall be called strike three which shall result in an OUT.
- 13.** Any foul tip caught shall result in the batter being OUT (no height restriction in effect).
- 14.** If the batter hits the pitcher, it will be called a strike. If you hit the pitcher on the third pitch you will be called OUT.
- 15.** No outfielder shall be allowed on the infield until the batter has made contact with the ball.
- 16.** No base stealing.
- 17.** No leading on bases before contact is made by the batter and ball.
- 18.** Bunting is not allowed. No player is allowed to “square up” for a bunt or otherwise intentionally deaden the ball. Result will be an OUT.
- 19.** No sliding or contact at any base – take the out, rather than a collision.
- 20.** Runners shall not touch home plate while attempting to score. Runner only needs to cross the home plate line drawn at the beginning of the game. This is to avoid collisions at home plate.
- 21.** There will be a commitment line, located approx. 21 feet (1/3 distance) from home plate to third base. Once a base runner crosses this line, the runner may not return to third base. If the runner crosses this line and returns to third base then the runner will be called OUT. The defensive team MAY NOT tag a runner between this line and home plate.
- 22.** Where a player is unable to run due to injury, a replacement or courtesy runner, may run for that player.
- 23.** The infield fly rule is in effect. An infield-fly is a fairly batted fly ball (not a line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or when first, second, and third bases are occupied, with less than two outs. When the batter hits a fair

fly ball the umpire must call: "Infield Fly," if fair, the batter is OUT. The batter is automatically out and the play is dead, whether the ball is caught or not. Base runners shall remain on, or freely return, to their original base. This is to avoid an infield player from purposefully missing to engage a double play. Runners may advance to their own discretion but must tag-up. Play will be live if runners tag and once the ball is caught or hits the ground.

**24.** Advance on a caught fly ball "tagging up" is permitted once the fielder has made contact and the base runner tags up (re-touching the time-of-pitch base). A tag of the runner is necessary for an out. You can "tag-up" on every base.

**25.** As per the schedule, winners and losers of each game will move forward accordingly. A forfeited game will result in a win for the team in attendance.

**26.** A game will move forward in the rain but is automatically stopped or cancelled in the case of thunder and lightening. These games will be decided by the score from the previous inning(s), assuming both teams have been up to bat. Alternatively, the winner will be selected by coin toss. This will ensure the tournament stays on time as we break to watch the storm pass.

**All teams are required to provide the following items for their team.**

- Mitt for each player
- Bats, we suggest a minimum of 2 per team
- Balls for warm up
- Catcher mask recommended
- Pitcher mask recommended
- Helmets, optional
- NO metal cleats
- Team uniforms are encouraged, be creative!