

Blacktown PSSA

SOFTBALL RULES

MISINTERPRETATIONS

THERE IS NO RULE THAT STATES

- * If a base runner is halfway he/she must go back
- * There is no limit on foul hits

DIAMOND SIZE

Bases: 15.3m (approx 15 steps)

Pitching: 9.0m (approx. 9 steps)

GAMES

- * Games are for 40 mins or 4 innings (whichever comes first)
- * 11.15am - 11.55am , 12.00 pm - 12.40 pm

GENERAL

- * Game ball is 11" circumference composed of leather
- * Once the ball has left the pitcher's hand, base runners can steal bases on strikes, balls, and overthrows
- * On an overthrow into foul territory the base runners are entitled to the base they are running to, plus one.
- * When the third player is **out on a force play**, no run can be scored on that play, even if the base runner is home before the batter is out.
- * A batter is given safe at first base, if in the umpires opinion the first base player blocked his/her run to base
- * Fielders must not block the runners' path unless they have the ball
- * Base runners must not interfere with players fielding the ball.
- * All unforced runners must be tagged
- * If a base runner has to return to a base they must return in reverse order.
- * Batting innings will conclude when 6th scoring run crosses home plate, or three batters are out.

STRIKES

- * A strike is called if the ball passes over any part of the plate at a height measured at the knee to the top of the sternum of the batter. (Struck at or not)
- * A strike is called for any ball struck at
- * A strike is called for the first two fouls (except when it is strike three)

BALLS

- * Any pitched ball that doesn't meet with the strike requirements
- * Any illegal pitch (see pitching rules)
- * A batter is entitled to 1st base after receiving 4 balls, or if struck by a pitched ball.

PITCHING RULES

- * The ball must be pitched underarm in a slingshot or windmill motion.
- * Pitcher must commence with both feet in contact with the plate and both hands on the ball. The second foot may come off the plate in the pitching action as long as it doesn't touch the ground before the ball is released.
- * A pitcher must release the ball once the pitching motion has commenced.

FOULS

- Foul tip - is when the ball touches the bat, then goes above the batter's head before being caught by the catcher.
- Foul - is when the ball settles or is touched by a fielder outside the field of play
- It lands inside 1st or 3rd base before settling in foul territory
- A ball is **not** foul:
- If touched in the diamond before settling in foul territory
- Base runners can advance bases on a foul catch once tagged up on base.

A PLAYER IS OUT IF

- Strike three is called on the batter (dropped or caught)
- Foul tip, is taken on the full by catcher or
- Foul hit is taken on the full by fielder.

A BASE RUNNER IS OUT WHEN:

- the ball reaches and is held on 1st base before the runner
- tagged before reaching 1st base
- tagged while not on a base. Exception a batter baserunner cannot be tagged out after overrunning or oversliding 1st base. If the runner turns and begins to go towards 2nd base, then a tag can be made.
- struck by the batted ball when base running
- he/she leaves a base before the ball is out of the pitchers hand (after receiving an initial warning from the umpire)
- he/she leaves a base before a fly ball is caught and fails to return to that base before the ball is held by a player in contact with the base.
- he/she is **forced out** (A force out where the base-runner must leave their base by the batter becoming a base runner) **NO TAG REQUIRED IN THIS PLAY.**
- he/she passes a preceding baserunner before that runner has been put out.
- he/she fails to touch a base, and does not return to touch that base before, touching home plate
- he/she runs more than 1m from the line drawn between bases in order to avoid the tag, unless avoiding interfering with a fielder attempting to field the ball.
- he/she leaves the base before a fly ball has been caught, provided the ball is returned to a fielder and held on that base or the runner is tagged before the baserunner returns to her base.
- he/she is hit by a batted ball whilst running between bases.
- if the runner intentionally removes the batting helmet while running or while the ball is in play.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN SOFTBALL TEAMS

- You may bring 11 players in each of the teams.
- If you wish you may include all 11 of your players in the batting line up **BUT** only **NINE** players may bat in any innings (i.e. Your first innings bats 1-9 second innings 10,11,1 -7 provided there are not 3 outs)
- You can only have 9 players fielding at any time, **BUT** you may have unlimited substitution.

Alternatively, you may wish to only have nine batters in your line up and sub at "half time" Either of these methods are acceptable.

Incomplete Innings

The scores will usually revert back to equal innings except when the following rule comes into play.

The team second at bat must have had the opportunity to equal or better the score of the team first at bat. If this occurs then the score will not revert.