

2014 Softball Pro Rules

All rule changes are in bold

The Field

- Bases will be 60 feet.
- Pitch mound will be 43 feet.
- Each team can field 10 players, 6 infielders and 4 outfielders.
- **All players should play at least 3 innings on the field.**
- If a ball is thrown into dead ball territory from the infield the runners are awarded the next base. If the throw comes from the outfield it will be 2 bases.
- There is NO infield fly rule
- No hanging jewelry will be allowed. It is up to the umpire to enforce.
- Arguing with umpires, coaches or other players will not be tolerated. The umpire will eject a player or coach they feel is being abusive. Ejected members must leave the field of play but may stay in the stands. If the umpire feels the ejected member is still being disruptive or attempting to coach from the stands they may remove them from the field entirely.

Gameplay

- The game will be 7 innings with a 2 hour time limit. An inning cannot start 15 minutes before the time limit.
- **ALL PLAYERS MUST BE IN UNIFORM (JERSEY AND PANTS) TO PLAY.**
- If a team is ahead by 15 runs or more after both teams have had 4 at bats, the game will end.
- **A team must be able to field a minimum of 8 players. If the opposing team has enough players they may give the other team players to help them reach the 8 player mark. A list of players will be supplied by the**

Commissioner from which a coach can call the players. It will be the coach's responsibility to know whether they will be short on a date. There will be no exceptions on the list provided. **Borrowed players must bat last and cannot pitch.** A team must have a minimum of 6 players from their roster to be eligible to borrow. A forfeit will be called if a team cannot field 8 players 15 minutes after the game's scheduled start time.

Borrowing players is not allowed in the Playoffs and championship games.

- **Once both teams have at least 8 players each the game must start.**
- An official game is one where 4 complete innings are played.
- Runners may not attempt to Barrel over the catcher. They either need to slide or give themselves up. Failure to slide or give up may result in ejection.

Dropped Third Strike rule

A batter may run to first on a dropped third strike when:

- There are less than 2 outs and first base has no runner.
- Anytime with 2 outs.
- If a runner on first base breaks for second on a dropped third strike with less than 2 outs it is considered a steal attempt. The batter is still out because the base was occupied when the pitch was thrown. The fielders have the option to throw out the runner stealing.

Pitching

- **19 year olds are not allowed to pitch.**
- Pitchers may pitch Windmill or modified.
- Once a pitcher starts to pitch one technique to a batter they must use that technique for the entire at bat.

Batting

- Bunting is allowed

- **Throwing the bat will not be tolerated. It will be up to the Umpire if a batter should be called out for throwing the bat except if thrown bat hits a catcher or umpire. Then the player will be automatically out. If a bat is violently throw hitting the fence or bouncing and then hitting the fence this is for safety reasons for the first 4 games a player will receive a warning. However if a player receives a warning during a game within the 1st four games and the player does it a second time they will be called out. There is only one warning for a player within the four game grace period.**

Base Running

- Base runners may lead or steal after the pitch is released.
- A runner may attempt to steal at any time if the pitcher is not in the Pitching circle and time has not been called.
- On a walk the runner has the option to try to advance the next base. The runner must make a decision within a reasonable amount of time. If a walked batter rounds first base and stops, the umpire will advise the runner to make a choice and then he will count to 5. He will NOT count out loud. If the runner has not made a move to either base after the count of 5, they will be called out.

Ground Rules

- **There is no smoking on the field or in the spectator area.**
- **There are no pets allowed anywhere within ICYP.**
- **Violations to either of these rules can result in ejection from the field.**
- **For safety reasons please do not cross the field before or after each game. There are games being played on every field.**