

IMS LEAGUE COED SOFTBALL RULES

Baserunner Interference

Baserunners may not interfere with a defensive player making a play, except when sliding into a base. Baserunners interfering with a defensive player will be called out.

Bats

Composite barrel bats are **banned** as well as any bat not approved by the ASA.

Any equipment in question should be brought to the attention of the umpire. The umpire and/or Commissioner will make all final decisions regarding equipment discrepancies.

Batter's Count

All at-bats begin with a one ball, one strike count. A batter is allowed one foul ball after his/her second strike has been called. The batter is out on strikes upon his/her second foul ball following his/her second strike.

Batting Order

A team may bat as many players as it wishes, in any order it wishes. However, there must be at 3 females that bat in any given rotation. If a team does not have enough females, one or more females must bat twice in the batting order.

Commissioner

The Commissioner of the League holds the right to override any and all League rules if he/she deems it necessary to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of League participants and the League itself.

Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners are permitted for injured baserunners, but must be approved by the opposing team and umpire. The umpire's decision is final.

Game Length

All games are seven innings or one hour 15 minutes in length (whichever one comes first). The last inning will be called within 10 minutes of the scheduled end time. The umpire is instructed to keep all games on time in fairness to all teams participating.

Gender Equity

If a male batter is issued a walk and is followed in the batting order by a female player, the female player has the option of taking a base-on-balls as well, unless the

bases are already loaded when the male batter steps to the plate.

Ground Rules

The umpire and both team captains prior to the start of each game will agree upon ground rules. All ground rules calls made by the umpire are final.

Intentional Walks

Intentional walks are permitted. However, if a female player follows a male player in the batting order, the female player has the option of taking a base-on-balls if the male player is walked intentionally or unintentionally. This rule does not apply if the male batter draws a walk with the bases loaded.

Leading

Leading off bases and stealing bases is not permitted. Runners may leave the base once a pitched ball crosses the plane of the plate or is hit by the batter. If a runner leaves early, the umpire may call the ball dead and the runner is declared out. If the called out is the third of the inning, the batter will be the first batter to the plate the following inning.

Line-up/Male:Female Ratio

A maximum of 10-players, no more than seven males, may play in the field at one time. A minimum of 8-players must be in the field to play an official game. There are NO position requirements. If a team does not have enough players to begin a game within 15 minutes following the scheduled game time, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.

Mercy Rule

The Mercy Rule will be enforced. A team will be awarded a victory if it leads by 10 or more runs after the completion of five full innings.

No more than seven runs may be scored per inning within the first four innings. If the offensive team scores seven runs in an inning before three outs are recorded - the inning ends and the teams switch sides.

The offensive team may score as many runs as it can per inning after the fourth inning.

Pitch Height Requirements

A legal pitch must have an arc of 6' - 12'. Any pitch that is not deemed legal by the umpire will be called an automatic ball. An illegal pitch may be hit at the batter's peril.

Player Eligibility

Teams will be comprised of males and females, 18-years old and older. There is no limit to the number of players on a team's roster.

Playoff Tournament

All teams are eligible for the playoff tournament. The higher seeded team is the home team for all playoff games.

Playoff Tournament Eligibility

A player must be on a team's roster and must have played at least three games for his/her team during the regular season to be eligible to play in the playoff tournament.

Run Limit

An inning rule limit applies to all games. There will be a 7-run limit per inning for innings 1-4, unless one of the innings is declared the final inning. An unlimited number of runs may be scored after the fourth inning.

Schedule

There will be nine regular-season games and a playoff tournament at the end of the season. All teams are eligible to play in the playoff tournament.

Shoes

No Metal Spikes Permitted.

Sliding

Sliding is permitted. However, contact between baserunners and defensive players will be closely watched. Any excessive contact or unnecessary collision, as deemed by the umpire, will result in the baserunner being called out and/or ejected from the game