

# Softball Rules

## Online Registration

If you register as team, register with your team captain name.

All payments are made online using a Debit/Credit card. No practice OR playing allowed until registered, waiver agreement signed, and payment made.

CHAMP staff will make teams once players have registered.

## Players

A maximum of fifteen (15) players and a minimum of twelve (12) players are required to make up a team.

At least two (2) females OR (1) female and (1) senior adult (over 60) must participate on the field during each inning. A maximum of eight (8) men (under 60) may play on the field at any given time. If there are less than 2 females in the batting lineup, all players on that team will start with one (1) ball and two (2) strikes. The only exception to this is when both teams have the same number (one or zero) of women available. Coaches can agree on strike count in this situation.

If a team can only field eight (8) players, the opposing team shall provide a courtesy catcher. However, it is the defensive's team's responsibility to cover home plate on a play. A courtesy catcher will not be required for a team with 9 players.

## Game Time/Duration

Games will consist of seven (7) innings or a one-hour time limit, whichever comes first, for the first game. An inning in the first of two back-to-back games that begins after fifty (50) minutes of play will be the last inning of the game. The second or last game of the night will play seven (7) full innings or as daylight allows. When the game time has expired, the umpire will make an announcement that no new innings may begin. An inning is considered complete once the third out is made against the home team. If only one game is scheduled on the field that night, the time limit will not be affected.

Each game will begin with both teams lining the base lines at home plate with the home team captain opening with prayer. All players from all games will meet at the pitchers mound for the nightly devotion between games. Each game will end with the teams shaking hands and closing in prayer.

## Tie Game

If a game is tied at the end of seven (7) innings before the end of the one-hour time limit, one extra inning will be played. If teams are still tied at the end of that inning, the game will be recorded as a tie.

## Forfeit

If a team has below eight (8) players, the game is automatically forfeited. If both captains agree, games may still be played by adding players from the opposing team. If more players are still needed, other players who are enrolled in the Calvary Adult Coed Softball league may play. However, the game is still considered a forfeit. Note: No spectators or non-registered people can play under any circumstance.

In the event of a forfeit, the winning team shall be awarded a score of 1 to 0.

## Mercy Rule

Only ten (10) runs allowed per half inning except for the last inning of a game. If a play in such a half inning results in an excess of ten (10) runs will be counted to the team. Ex) grand slam is hit when nine (9) runs have already been scored. All four (4) of those runs will be counted.

In the course of a game, if one team is ahead by 10 runs or more after five (5) completed innings of play (or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead), the game shall be considered complete. Teams will be allowed to keep playing if desired but official score and result will be recorded at the institution of the mercy rule.

## Pitching

Each pitch must meet an arc requirement of 6-10 feet from the ground. A pitcher must keep one foot in contact with the pitching rubber throughout the entire pitching motion; there is to be no windup (it is slow pitch!). If a pitch is too high or too low, or the pitcher's foot is not on the rubber, it will be called "illegal" by the umpire and considered a "ball". If a batter swings and misses a pitch deemed illegal, it is counted as a strike. If the batter is not set in the box and the pitch occurs, it will be called a "no pitch" and not counted.

## Batting

All players present will be included in the batting order, regardless of whether they are playing the field. If a player arrives late, he or she will be added to the end of the batting order (make sure to inform the opposing team). All players are to play the field at least three (3) innings.

Each batter will start his at bat with a count of one (1) ball and one (1) strike. If a batter hits a foul ball on a count of two strikes, he will be given one courtesy foul. If that batter hits a second foul ball on two strikes, he will be called out.

If a batter is hit by a pitch, the pitch counts as a ball (not a walk). If a player is leaning into the path of the ball and is hit, the player will be charged a strike (i.e. if unimpeded the ball would have been a strike).

Bunting is not allowed.

Walk Rule - If a male batter is walked and a female or senior is up next, he automatically is awarded two (2) bases. Any runner on base will be forced forward by the batter to the next open base. A runner on first base will advance to third base. A runner on second base will advance to third base. A runner on third base **will not** advance home unless another runner has advanced to third base. If the bases are loaded, two runs will score. If there are two outs, the female or senior batter will have the choice to walk or hit.

## **Strike Zone Mat**

As long as the ball meets the arc of 6 feet minimum and 10 feet maximum, and hits the mat, it is a strike.

The plate is irrelevant to the strike zone and if the ball hits the plate, it is a ball.

## **Running/Fielding**

If the ball goes out-of-play (beyond the fence lines) all base runners advance one (1) base beyond the base to which they were running (i.e. if a runner starts on first base and is running to second when the ball is overthrown, he will advance to third base).

Stand-up collisions are strongly prohibited. Sliding is encouraged, but not required. However, the responsibility of avoiding contact lies with the runner. If, in the umpire's judgment, the runner fails to take the necessary steps to avoid contact or causes contact, he will be called out. The fielder also has the responsibility to avoid obstructing the base lines. If, in the umpire's judgment, a fielder is unnecessarily blocking a base line or hinders a base runner intentionally or unintentionally, the base runner will be given the base they are in pursuit of and awarded an extra base.

There is no base stealing; your foot must keep contact with the bag until batter has made contact with the ball.

Infield Fly Rule – The batter is automatically called out if he hits the ball in the air in the infield when there are runners on first and second base with no outs or bases are loaded with less than two (2) outs.

There will be a line 200 feet from home plate. Three outfielders must stay behind the line before the ball is hit. The fourth outfielder can be in front of the line when the ball is hit.

## **Umpire/Rules**

At all times the umpire has the final say in the game. If there is a dispute over a call, only the captains have the right to discuss it with the umpire. Any incident of over-aggressive or dangerous play will result in a warning from the umpire, but any player may be ejected at any time according to the umpire's discretion. As this is a Christian league, please play with civility and respect.

Foul language of any kind constitutes an immediate ejection from the game.

## **Weather**

In the event of inclement weather or other harmful conditions, four (4) full innings will constitute a full game. Any sightings of lightning will start a 30-minute wait period. If no lightning is observed in that period, play may resume; otherwise, the game will be called at the discretion of the umpire.

**All information regarding weather conditions and field status will be conveyed through the CHAMP Weather Hotline. During the week, the Weather Hotline will be updated by 3 PM. For weather updates call: 704.341.5473 or check the CHAMP website at [www.champsportsinfo.com/weather](http://www.champsportsinfo.com/weather).**