



Coed Slow-Pitch Softball Rules

Rules Subject to Change, updated 7.21.08

Game Time

Games start on time. We recommend coming 15 minutes prior to game time.

Bats

Each team must supply their own bats. Bats must be ASA certified (stamp will appear on the bat with a year) and not appear on the list found here:

http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp

Approved bats:

<http://www.cuttingedgesports.net/misc/asa.certified.bats.pdf>

Umpires have the final call on all bats.

Any bat deemed illegal is not allowed. If the bat is found to be used in the game, the game is subject to forfeit.

Please have a bat that is certified by ASA later than 2002 for slow-pitch softball. The stamp will appear on the bat. Make sure it is not for fast-pitch or baseball.

Equipment

Teams are responsible for bringing their own bats, gloves, batting gloves, helmets to their liking and any other special equipment they might prefer. Cleats are recommended, but not mandatory. No metal cleats allowed. Balls will be provided.

Field Dimensions

Bases are approximately 60 feet apart and the pitching mound 45 feet out from home plate. Dimensions can change slightly and no games will result in a forfeit for such an adjustment. Umpire has final call on any decisions regarding field dimensions.

Trash

Please clean up your trash, food, etc after the game. Please bring a trash bag to make pick up easier. Any team that is not picking up their trash is subject to penalty. No glass bottles ever. Alcohol is not permitted at the field. If you decide to bring alcohol, you do so at your own risk. We encourage the use of plastic cups to make pickup easier.

Helmets

Helmets are optional, but recommended. We will have one helmet available, but may not fit all participants.

Players

A full team consists of 10 players. There must be at least three players in the outfield at all times. One rover is allowed in the outfield, but may not appear on the infield until the ball is hit. There must be three women on the field and in the batting order at all times except when playing short (see "Playing Short").

Clarification-A full team consists of 7 male players and 3 female players.

Playing Short

If you do not have a full team ready to play at start time you may play with a minimum of 8 players. You must always have a catcher. You must have a minimum of 2 female players. If you decide to play with 8 players and only have two female players, girls alternate for the missing spots in the batting order.

If you do not have at least the minimum you must forfeit. You may also have players from another team within the league substitute, but with the consent of the opposing team. Without this consent, you cannot use non-team members. Anyone who plays must be already registered in the league and have signed a waiver of liability form.

*One thing to keep in mind when deciding to allow another team to play short: You may be in this position at some point, so in the spirit of fun, please strongly consider allowing a team to use substitutes. If a team only has a player or two and the rest are substitutes that is a different scenario because it changes the opponents team. A couple of players really will not.

If a forfeit is called, teams can play by combining teams or practicing.

Attire

A Play Baltimore shirt must be worn unless an umpire or league official has given approval otherwise. Please remove jewelry. No metal cleats. Use common sense here: please respect the safety of others, nothing that might harm another player during accidental contact. An umpire has the final call on what is acceptable.

Sliding/Baserunning

Sliding is not allowed. Any excessive contact or collision will result in an “out” and/or ejection. This includes contact with the catcher or breaking up of double plays. Additionally, any interference with the defensive player, the runner and/or batter will be called out.

No leading. One foot must remain on the base at all times until the ball is hit. If the umpire feels the leading was unintentional, he may issue a warning initially if it did not impact the play. The umpire has the final call.

The use of a safety base will be used for first base. The runner will run to a different base than the first baseman. There is no safety base for home plate, but there is **ABSOLUTELY NO SLIDING** at home plate.

Exception to rule: Sliding is permitted if you overrun second or third bases to get back to the bag only. Sliding into the base is not allowed normally, only to get back to the bag in an overrun situation. Umpire has final call on all plays.

Overthrows

One base for an overthrow in the infield and two bases for overthrows from the OF.

Pinch Runners

Pinch running is not allowed except if a girl is at bat and she is also on base because a team is playing short or there is an injury or the umpire grants permission.

Time Limit

Games are seven innings or 50 minutes. Some games may run longer. No inning will start after 45 minutes and the umpire has the final call. There can be ties. Starting a final inning is up to the discretion of the umpire. There are no run limits in the final inning of the game. Games are official if over 30 minutes, no inning requirement.

Determining Home Team

The home team will be decided at the beginning of each game with a paper, rock and scissors showdown. Best out of 3.

Pitching

The umpire will determine balls and strikes; a legal pitch must have an arc of 6'-12' and be thrown underhand. A "flat" ball is a ball. Our goal is to have people swing the bat, so we will have an aggressive strike zone. This is a slow-pitch league.

Any pitcher thought to be throwing at a player is automatically out for the game and perhaps out for the season. This rule has zero tolerance.

Pitchers may not use any type of fake, jump or intentional hesitation while pitching.

The umpires are here to help us and have fun too. Please thank them for making our league possible. We have a zero tolerance policy for personal attacks. You will probably see these people again. One warning will be given and after that the player will be ejected from the game and/or league. We do not claim that our refs will be right 100% of the time.

We are here to have fun and we have a zero tolerance policy for personal attacks at our officials or other players.

Batting

Each batter will start with a one ball, one strike count. Once a batter has 2 strikes, the next ball must be fair or the batter is out.

If a male is walked and a female follows him in the batting order the female has the choice to take a walk or bat. The female cannot choose to walk if it would walk in a run with the following exception:

In the last inning of the game, if a male is walked, a female may walk even if it would walk in a run.

You must remain batting from the same side of plate during the entire at bat. If you come up batting left handed you must remain batting left handed the rest of the at bat.

Run limit

Once a team has scored 7 runs in an inning they must take the field and allow the other team an at bat. This rule does not apply in the last inning.

Batting Order

A maximum of 2 male batters may bat in a row at any point in the batting order.

A minimum of 10 players will be in the batter order (unless you are playing short with 8 or 9 players). Teams may bat as many players as they want as long as they do not bat more than 2 males in a row at any point of the batting order. A girl is allowed to bat twice if you are short players. Teams may move players in and out of any fielding position as long as they remain in the same spot in the batting order. You can play first base one inning and catch the next.

Clarification:

If you have eighteen players in your lineup, you can bat an extra girl to make sure all players can play. This allows for everyone to play in case you are short players. Also remember that you can use another female player within the league with the opposing team captain's permission.

For example, say you only have 2 girls, you can bat:
MMF, MMF, MM(girl), MM(girl), MM(girl), MM(girl). Please have the 2 girls bat in the order they originally appear in the lineup, not twice in a row. A pinch runner can be used if the girl is up again. It doesn't matter if the pinch runner is Female or Male since there is no leading at the bases. Please use the person who made the last out of the previous inning as a pinch runner.

Fielding

There are no restrictions on what positions are played by men or women. You will always have a catcher on the field even when playing short.

Scoring

The teams are responsible for keeping track of their score. A flip scoreboard will be on the field and any disputes should be settled before the start of the next inning. The umpire is there to help, not determine the score.

Individual teams are also responsible for any challenges to the opposing team. Any violation of the batting order rule is an automatic out during the next at bat and possible score correction if the play resulted in a run. Umpires have the final call on any disputes.

No player may re-enter the game once he/she has been removed from the batting order.

In-Field Fly Rule

A pop up in the infield with less than 2 outs (0 or 1 out) with runners on 1st or 1st & 2nd, 1st and 3rd or the bases loaded. The ump will call “infield fly” and the batter is automatically out even if the fielder does not catch the ball. The ump makes final decisions on infield flies.

A play is dead on an infield fly rule call and the player cannot tag up.

Bunting

No intentional bunting allowed. Final determination is up to the umpire.

Playoffs

Runs will not matter when determining playoff seeding. This rule is deter teams from running up the score on others. Please respect one another. Playoffs will be based on team record, head-to-head and then coin flip.

Female at Bats/Outfield Cones

An outfield cone will appear for the OF's that they cannot cross until the ball is hit for female at bats. This line will appear approximately 30 feet from the edge of the infield. A female player will be awarded first base, regardless of the inning if an outfielder is found playing too close to the infield and violating the rule.

An outfield can cross this line once the ball is hit. A rover in the OF must also play behind the cone.

Sportmanship

We are here to have fun. We hope that everyone keeps that in mind before playing. Although specific situations may be disputed, we are all here to have fun. With this said, any behavior deemed unacceptable by an umpire or staff may result in ejection from the game or league. If a player is ejected they cannot be replaced and may even cause a forfeit.

Again, please keep in mind that our officials are people that often play in our leagues and are here to have fun too. Please be nice☺ We have a zero tolerance policy for unsportsmanlike conduct and personal attacks to other players or league officials.

Bar Specials

Don't forget the best part! Discounted drinks and food specials! All you need is your Play Baltimore shirt.

The sponsor bar is Silver Spring Mining Company located right in Hunt Valley:

Silver Spring Mining Company-Hunt Valley

(Right on York road across from Valley View Farms)

11100 York Road

Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

410-527-0500

The shirt pickup on Friday July 11th will be at Silver Spring Mining Company between 6PM & 8PM. Everyone is invited.

Bad Weather/Cancellations

Any cancellation will be posted on the website. Makeup games will typically be doubleheaders.