



Boys Softball

(Updated 2012)

1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 These rules are to be read in conjunction with the Official Rules of Softball. Available from the Australain Softball Federation and adopted by the NSW Softball Association Inc.
- 1.2 The rules of Softball have been modified to provide children with an introduction to the skills of Softball in a friendly game situation suited to their size and ability.
- 1.3 The emphasis should be on PARTICIPATION, FUN and PLAY.

2. The Game

- 2.1 In 1997 the Sports Convenors of IPSHA (N.S.W. Branch) adopted the Official Rules of Softball for both Boys and Girls Schools.
- 2.2 Softball was introduced as an Olympic Sport in Atlanta in 1996.

3. Playing Conditions

3.1 Size of Field

- 3.11 * Diamond 16.7m x 16.7m
- 3.12 * Pitching Distance – 10.6m

3.2 Number of Players

- 3.21 9 - 12 Batters.
- 3.22 Up to 9 Fielders.

3.3 Duration of Game

- 3.31 Girls - 5 innings or 1 hour.
- 3.32 Boys - 7 innings or 1 1/2 hours

3.4 Size / Type of Ball

- 3.41 11" Leather stitched softball.

3.5 Teams should be warmed up and ready to start on time.

4. Laws and Modifications

4.1 DURATION OF THE GAME

- 4.11 The result is determined on both sides having batted an even number of innings. This should be taken into account if the time limit has nearly lapsed (ie a new batting innings should not be started if it seems more than likely that both teams batting would prolong the game considerably beyond the time limit.).
- 4.12 Girls - If after 5 innings or 1 hour , a team has already won the game but still has one batting innings left, that innings should not be taken to increase the winning margin.

4.2 NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 4.21 Batters are not rostered out of an innings; the full number brought to the game must bat in their turn throughout.
- 4.22 Fielders may be rostered out of innings during the game. Only 9 fielders may take the field at any one time. Infield players may be in the diamond.

4.3 PITCHING

- 4.31 The pitcher must stand with both feet on the pitcher's plate and the ball in contact with the glove, and may not begin to pitch before the batter, catcher and umpire are in position.



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- 4.32 When delivery is made, the pitcher may take ONE STEP only towards the batter. If she/he takes more than 1 step it is deemed an illegal pitch. Windmill pitches **will** be permitted.
- 4.33 The pitch must be delivered underarm.
- 4.4 BATTING**
- 4.41 Must be in the order they are placed in at the beginning of the game. If there are three outs before a batter has completed her/his turn, then she/he becomes the first batter in the next innings.
- 4.42 The BATTER must run to first base when:
- the ball is hit into fair territory.
 - Four 'balls' have been called. (the batter proceeds to first base without penalty).
 - The ball hits the batter when she/he has taken her/his correct batting stance and she/he has tried to avoid it.
 - On the third strike the ball is not caught behind by the catcher. (except in the case of loaded bases, see 4.43 vii)
- 4.43 The BATTER is OUT when:
- On the third strike, the ball is caught behind by the catcher. If the catcher does not catch the ball, the batter may run to first base.
 - A fair hit is caught on the full by a fielder.
 - After hitting a fair ground ball, the ball is caught and held by a fielder with any part of the body (usually her/his foot) touching first base, before the runner reaches that base.
 - When a bunted ball goes foul on the third strike.
 - Any foul hit is caught on the full by any fielder.
 - The bat is thrown. **No warning** will be given.
 - On the third strike when bases are loaded.
- 4.44 A 'STRIKE' occurs when:
- A pitched ball passes over the home plate and between, or level with, the batter's armpits and knees (in normal stance not crouched) and the batter does not attempt to hit it.
 - The batter attempts to hit any pitched ball and misses.
 - The batter hits the ball into foul ground on the first or second strike. A ball hit into foul ground after the second strike does not count as a strike. There is no limit to the number of fouls (except a bunted ball as mentioned above).
- 4.45 A 'BALL' occurs when:
- A pitched ball passes wide of the home plate or passes above the batter's armpits or below his knees and is not struck at by the batsman.
 - An illegally pitched ball is delivered. (eg. more than one step; a baulk, if glove and ball have not been in contact before the pitch).
- 4.46 A FAIR HIT is made when:
- A batted ball settles, or is touched by a fielder on fair ground.
 - A batted ball touches first, third or home base.
 - A batted ball lands first on, or is touched while over, fair ground beyond first or third bases, even if it then bounces into foul ground.
- 4.47 A 'FOUL BALL' is called when:
- A batted ball lands and settles on foul ground.
 - A batted ball lands first in fair ground within the diamond, then rolls into foul, untouched by a fielder.
- 4.48 A 'Foul Tip'
- Is a batted ball, which goes directly from the bat to catcher's hands, and is no higher than batter's head.
 - Batter is NOT out.
 - A 'Foul Tip' is a Strike.



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4.5 BASERUNNERS

- 4.51 May return to the base they ran from without penalty when a batted ball is called "foul" (except if the ball is caught on the full).
- 4.52 Are out if they fail to reach a base and a fielder holding the ball touches that base with at least one foot on it when the baserunner -
 - i) is running towards that base and is being 'forced' to run by another baserunner.
 - ii) is running back to a base because a fair, or foul hit has been caught on the full.
- 4.53 Are Out:
 - i) if they overtake a baserunner ahead of them.
 - ii) if they deliberately interfere with a fielder or the ball.
 - iii) if they stand off the base or begin to run before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on a pitch.
 - iv) if more than one base runner occupies a base at a time.
 - v) if hit by a batted ball.
- 4.54 A baserunner must touch each base in order on her/his way around the diamond.
- 4.55 A baserunner may over-run first base and home base.
- 4.56 If a fielder deliberately interferes with a baserunner, the baserunner may proceed to the base to which she/he was running without penalty.
- 4.57 The baserunner must return to the base the baserunner came from when;
 - i) the baserunner has started to run but the batted ball is called foul.
 - ii) a batted ball is caught on the full by a fielder. She/he may then leave that base and proceed according to the rules (ie. overthrows in foul or fair territory)
- 4.58 BASERUNNERS may STEAL bases when;
 - i) the ball leaves the pitcher's hand on a pitch.
 - ii) one base may be taken on each overthrow.

4.6 End of an Innings

- 4.61 Each half is complete when either the third out is made or when the ninth run for the inning is scored.

4.7 Infield Fly Rule

- 4.71 The infield fly rule will not apply.

4.8 Unforced Runner

- 4.81 An unforced runner is a baserunner who chooses to advance to the next base and is not forced by another runner. An unforced runner must be tagged off base for them to be out. The batter is out if she/he dodges more than 1 metre from the tag.
- 4.82 When tagging a runner:
 - i) the fielder must touch the runner with the hand(s) holding the ball.
 - ii) the runner will not be out if the fielder loses control of the ball.

4.9 Forced Runner

- 4.91 A forced runner is a baserunner who must advance to the next base because there is a baserunner behind them.

5. Dress

- 5.1 School sports uniform or softball uniform should be worn.
- 5.2 Students should be instructed to wear appropriate footwear.



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6. Equipment

6.1 Recommended

6.11 It is recommended that all players wear mouthguards.

6.2 Compulsory

6.21 It is compulsory that catchers use a chest plate, helmet / mask / throat protector combination and leggings. Boys must wear a protector.

6.22 Batsmen and base runners must wear helmets.

6.23 It is compulsory that infielders wear shin guards and mouth guards.

6.3 Ball

6.31 The 'home' team will provide the ball. The ball is used by both teams for the entirety of the game (unless damaged or lost).

7. Venues

7.1 Ground Preparation

7.11 The ground surface should be free of obstructions.

7.12 Diamonds

i) Girls and Boys Diamond - Attached

See also 'IPSHA. Venue List'

8. Safety

8.1 Prevention

8.11 Students are to be instructed to use adequate sun protection, e.g. sunscreen and a hat where appropriate.

8.12 Footwear must be inspected prior to the commencement of each game to ensure that 'cleats' do not have sharp edges and confirm to the rules of the game.

8.13 Safety bases will be used on first base. This is a double base with the fielder standing on the inner white base and the baserunner the outside orange / red base.

8.14 Players should be encouraged to warm-up, before they take an active part in the game.

8.2 Injuries

8.21 A well-equipped medical kit must be readily available.

8.22 Where possible ice should be available for the treatment of injuries.

8.3 Fielding

8.31 Non-participating players should be at least 6 metres away from Base / Foul Lines and Pass Ball Lines.

8.4 Blood Bin

8.41 A player who is bleeding leaves the playing area until the bleeding has stopped and the wound securely covered.

9. Officials

9.1 Umpires

9.11 All obstructions that occur shall be called by the umpires. The ball is dead immediately and all runners shall be awarded the base they would have made had the obstruction not occurred.

9.12 If the fielder obstructs the runner, the runner will be awarded that base.

9.13 The umpire shall not call "time" until all possible play has ceased.



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- 9.14 Umpires shall umpire a full innings. Each school should supply one umpire fully conversant with the rules. Badged umpires are recommended.
- 9.15 The batting team should be placed so as not to interfere with play and not directly behind the batters. Umpires should request that players and spectators are seated behind first and third baselines. Play should not proceed until this request is complied with.
- 9.16 Umpires should be aware that the nature of the game is an enjoyable learning experience for all players and should therefore apply the rules with discretion and judgment. Rough or dangerous play should not be tolerated.
- 9.17 The winner shall be the team that scores the most runs after an equal number of innings have elapsed in the specified time.

9.2 Coaches

9.21 Coaches must insist:

- i) on all safety equipment being used.
- ii) that all players on the 'bench' are 6m away from Base / Foul Lines and Pass Ball Lines.

10. Spectators

- 10.1 Must be at least 6 metres away from Base / Foul Lines or Pass Ball Lines.

11. Definitions of Terms

- FORCED RUNNER - A runner who is compelled, by the batter hitting a fair ball, to advance to the next base. A forced runner may be tagged out or played out at the base to which that runner is forced to advance.
- FREE RUNNER - A free runner is not a forced runner. A free runner must be tagged to be put out.
- BUNTED BALL - is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally tapped slowly within the infield. If a bunted ball goes foul on the third strike, batter is out.

12. References

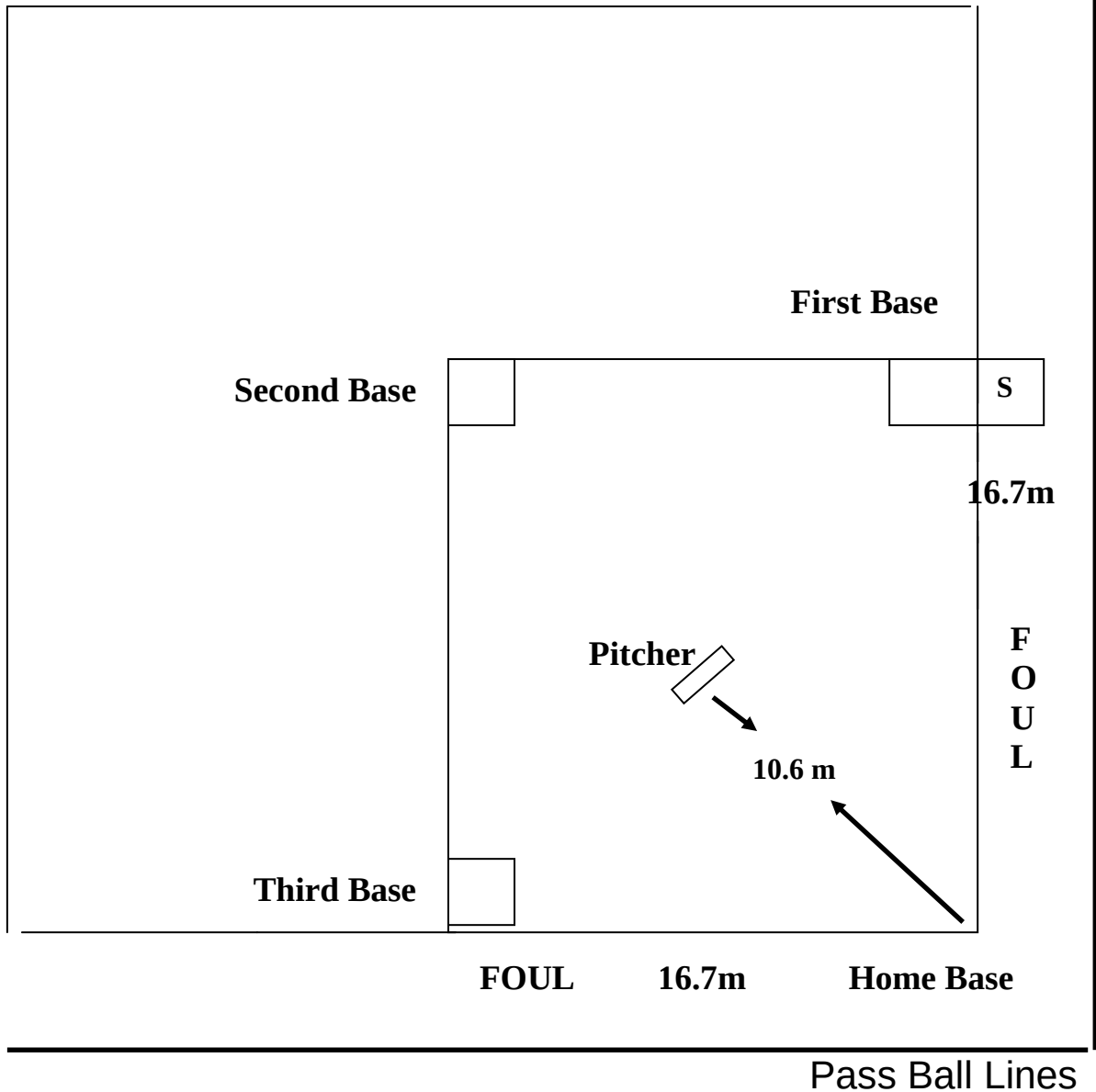
- 12.1 Softball, Official Playing Rules. Softball Australia.
- 12.2 Pamphlets;
 - 12.21 SOFTBALL, TEEBALL, for Girls & Boys Under 10 years.
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 - 12.22 SOFTBALL, MODBALL, for Girls & Boys Under 10 - 12 years.
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 - 12.23 SOFTBALL, SIMPLIFIED.
Printed 1993, Australian Softball Federation, Inc.

13. Parent Body

Softball / Teeball
NSW Softball Association.
14 Telopea Ave Homebush West NSW 2140

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Softball Diamond



Notes:

1. Diamonds should be positioned with safety in mind. Free from obstacles and other matches.
2. Safety bases must be used on First Base. The white end in fair territory and the orange end in foul territory.
5. Distance between Pass Ball Line and Home Base is a minimum of 6m