

TOWSON UNIVERSITY
INTRAMURAL SPORTS
2009-2010 SOFTBALL RULES

SOFTBALL IS A CONTACT SPORT, AND INJURIES ARE A POSSIBILITY. THE INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAM ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR INJURIES; HOWEVER, BASIC FIRST AID WILL BE AVAILABLE.

ALL RULE CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN GRAY.

THE GAME WILL BE PLAYED ACCORDING TO THE AMATEUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL RULES WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:

MEN AND WOMEN

STARTING THE GAME

1. **START TIME:** Teams are to be at the field and signed in before the official game time. If any team is not at the field and ready to play at the scheduled game time, the game will be declared a forfeit. It is recommended that teams arrive at the game site fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
2. **IDENTIFICATION:** All participants must bring their current valid Towson University identification card to the field area in order to be checked in and ruled eligible to participate prior to the beginning of each game. Late arriving players must sign in with a scorekeeper before entering the game.
3. **SCORING:** An Intramural Scorekeeper will keep the official score for each game.
4. **TEAMS:** Ten (10) players constitute a team; a game may be started with no less than eight (8) players per team. A team will forfeit if they do not have eight (8) players at any point in the game. *Clarification: a team will not receive an out for an unfilled ninth or tenth spot in the lineup.*
5. **EXTRA HITTERS:** Teams are permitted (but not required) to have extra hitters in the lineup. An extra hitter is considered a spot in the lineup, but the player(s) does not play in the field. An extra hitter may switch positions with a field player. The only stipulation is that the batting order may not change. A substitute may enter the game into an extra hitter's position. That player is now considered an extra hitter. The extra hitter may bat anywhere in the line-up. A team may use up to four (4) extra hitters, but the total number of places in a lineup may not change once the game begins unless due to injury or ejection.
6. **GAME TIME:** No new inning may be started after the Intramural Supervisor has made the announcement that the fifty (50) minute time limit has expired. According to ASA rules, a new inning has started immediately when the third out of the previous inning has been called.
7. **GAME EQUIPMENT:** Team's must use the ball provided by Towson University Intramural Sports. Teams may use their own bats, provided they are legal slow pitch softball bats. All catchers are required to wear the mask provided by Intramural Sports.
8. **GROUND RULES:** Special ground rules may be implemented by the Intramural Supervisor if special conditions exist that would warrant an alteration of ground rules already in place.

PLAYING THE GAME

9. **INNINGS:** Six (6) innings will constitute a game. Four (4) completed innings are necessary for an official game that is ended early due to inclement weather.

10. TIE GAMES: All games ending in a tie score during the regular season will be recorded as a tie in the win/loss record. During the playoffs, extra innings as described in the ASA rules shall be used to determine a winner.
11. SUBSTITUTES: All starters and substitutes will be permitted unlimited re-entries, provided they return to the same spot in the batting order.
12. BATTING: Batters must use an approved softball bat. Bunting and chop-swings are prohibited. Batters may not leave the batter's box to swing at a ball. The result will be a dead ball out, and all runners will have to return to their previous base.
13. BATTER'S COUNT: Batters will begin each at-bat with a one (1) ball, one (1) strike count. All legal pitches that the umpire calls a strike, missed swings, and foul balls will be counted as a strike. All pitches that are illegal or are not called a strike will be counted as a ball. Each batter may receive one courtesy foul ball when there is a 2-strike count, but a second foul ball after the second strike will be considered a strike-out.
14. BASE RUNNING: Stealing and leading off are prohibited. Sliding is permitted, but not required. A base runner is NEVER required to slide. However, a player who initiates malicious contact will be called out and ejected from the game. Designated hitters are not permitted. Batter/runners may not advance to first base on a dropped third strike.
15. PITCHING: The pitcher must have at least one (1) foot on the pitching rubber from the time the pitching motion begins until the ball is released.
16. PITCH ARC: Pitches must have a perceptible arc of between six (6) and twelve (12) feet. If not, the umpire will call "illegal pitch" while the ball is in flight. If the batter takes the pitch, it will be called a ball, regardless of where the pitch lands. However, the batter may swing at the pitch. If so, the result of the swing (miss, foul ball, or ball in play) will override the "illegal pitch" call and a ball in play will be considered a live ball.
17. STRIKE ZONE: Any pitch within the legal pitch arc range that crosses the plate between the batter's front shoulder and back knee is a strike. *NOTE: If the ball hits plate it is not a strike.*
18. BALLS OUT OF PLAY: The umpire will call time-out anytime a ball crosses the out of play line. If a batted ball travels out of play in the air, it will be considered a foul ball. If a live ball is thrown out of play, runners shall advance two (2) bases from the point when the ball was thrown. If a defensive player carries a live ball out of play, runners shall advance one base from the time the defensive player crosses the out of play line.
19. APPEAL PLAYS: An appeal for leaving a base early or missing a base may be made by the defense after the ball is declared dead by the umpire and before the next legal pitch. The appeal must be announced to the umpire, and then a defensive player in possession of the ball must touch the base in question. The umpire's decision on an appeal is not subject to protest.
20. RUN LIMIT RULE: No team may score more than ten (10) runs in an inning. Once the tenth run crosses the plate, that team's inning will end, regardless of the number of outs recorded.
21. MERCY RULE: Games shall end if one team is ahead by twenty-one (21) runs after the fourth inning or eleven (11) runs after the fifth inning, providing the team behind has had its turn to bat that inning.

SPORTSMANSHIP

22. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT: Any unsportsmanlike conduct including, but not limited to, arguments with officials by any player, coach, manager, or spectator, flagrant fouling, fighting, etc. will result in expulsion of that individual and/or team from further participation in that scheduled game. Officials/supervisors have the authority to impose penalties for teams behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner.
23. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT FOUL LIMIT: If two (2) players from the same team are ejected from a game, that game will be ended and that team will receive a loss and a 0 sportsmanship rating, regardless of the score and the time remaining.

24. **BENCH CONDUCT:** All substitutes, coaches, and spectators must adhere to Intramural Sports and Burdick Field rules, and are subject to the authority of the Intramural Sports Supervisor and all sportsmanship-related rules and policies.
25. **DRUG, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO POLICY:** Teams and fans are not permitted to bring alcohol and/or drugs, or come under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Teams and fans are also not permitted to use any tobacco products on Burdick Field. Violators may be removed from the facilities with possible forfeiture of the game, at the discretion of the Supervisor.
26. **INTRAMURAL POLICIES:** Team captains are responsible for making sure that all members of their team are aware of all Intramural Sports policies and rules. Captains are responsible for their teams' sportsmanship, and may be held accountable for the actions of individuals on their team.

CO-RECREATION

All of the above rules apply with the following exceptions:

27. **TEAMS:** Five (5) men and five (5) women constitute a team. A team may start a game with as few as eight (8) players. If only nine (9) players are available, the male/female ration may be 5:4 or 4:5.
28. **BATTING ORDER:** Team members must bat in alternating order (i.e., woman, man, woman, or man, woman, man, etc.). If a team is playing with nine players (see rule #27), ten (10) spots must be made in the lineup and the last spot will be counted as an out whenever it appears in the batting order. If a tenth player arrives late, he/she may take the vacant spot without penalty.
29. **EXTRA HITTERS:** Teams are permitted (but not required) to have extra hitters in the lineup. An extra hitter is considered a spot in the lineup, but the player does not play in the field. An extra hitter may switch positions with a field player. The only stipulation is that the batting order may not change. A substitute may enter the game into an extra hitter's position. That player is now considered an extra hitter. The extra hitter(s) may bat anywhere in the lineup. A team may use two (2) or four (4) extra hitters, so that the batting order rule (#28) is followed. The total number of places in a lineup may not change once the game begins unless due to injury or ejection.
30. **WALKING A MALE:** If a male batter is walked with two (2) outs, the female that follows may choose to walk or bat. *NOTE: walked male batters will not be awarded 2nd base unless the following female walks.*
31. **FIELD PLAYERS:** Players may play any position on the field.
32. **SUBSTITUTIONS:** Males must substitute for males, and females must substitute for females.