



Softball City Game Rules for 2025 League Play

General Information:

- **SPN Rule Book:** The Slo-Pitch National (SPN) Rule Book governs all Softball City leagues unless otherwise specified in these game-specific rules.
- **No Protests:** There are no protests allowed; umpire decisions are final.

Player Regulations:

- **Pickup Players:**
 - A team can pick up a maximum of two (2) players from Softball City registered teams if they don't have enough players.
 - Pickup players must bat last and have their name circled on the lineup card.
 - Pickup players cannot be used in playoff games, and penalties for rule violations include forfeiture of games or player ejection.
 - **Rule:** Teams are not allowed to pick up players for playoff games. This ensures that only registered players participate in these critical matches.
- **Consequences:**
 - **Round Robin Games:** If a team is found to have an illegal player (a pickup player) during a round robin game, the game will be forfeited.
 - **Playoff Games:** If a team is found to have an illegal player during a playoff game:
 - The **player** and **coach** will be ejected.
 - If no legal substitute can replace the illegal player, the game will result in a forfeit for the team that violated the rule.

Game Rules:

- **Game Length:**
 - Regular season games are capped at seven innings or 60 minutes.
 - Playoff games have tiebreakers if necessary, and games called before 5 innings are ruled incomplete and rescheduled.
 - If a game is called after 4.5 innings, the score at the end of the last complete inning is used.
- **Game Start:** There is no grace period; teams must be ready to play at the scheduled time.



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- **Lineup Cards:**
 - Before the start of each game, each team **must submit a lineup card** to both the umpire and the opposing team.
 - The lineup card should include:
 - The **name** of the **head coach** or **manager**.
 - The **first and last names** of all the players on the team.
- **Scorekeeping:**
 - **Umpires** are responsible for keeping the official score of the game and submitting the final scores to **Softball City**.
 - However, **teams are strongly encouraged** to also keep their own score. They should:
 - **Verify** the score with the umpire during and after the game.
 - **Agree on the score** and ensure both teams **initial the umpire's scoresheet** to confirm the score.
 - The umpire's scoresheet will be considered the **official score**.

Equipment Regulations:

- **Pitching Helmets:** Pitchers must wear a helmet or mask that covers the full face and temporal region.
- **Batting Helmets:** Batting helmets became mandatory starting July 23, 2023, for all batters, on deck batters and all base runners.
- **Fielder's Masks:** Recommended for all infield players.

League-Specific Rules:

- **Coed League:**
 - A team must start with seven (7) male and three (3) female players.
 - A team cannot have more than three male batters in a row; if playing 6/4, no more than two male batters in a row; and 5/5 allows only one male batter in a row.
 - There must always be at least three female players in the batting order.



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- Progressive Homerun Rule: A team can hit two more home runs than their opponent; the third is an automatic out.
- Male players hit a 12-inch ball, and female players can choose between a 12-inch or 11-inch ball.

Men's League:

- **Batting Order:**
 - Teams **may start** with a batting order of **nine players**, but **must finish** the game with **nine players**.
- **Injury Rule:**
 - If a player gets **injured during play** and there is no legal substitute available, the team may continue with **nine players**.
 - **No automatic out** will be given for the injured player.
- **Ejection Rule:**
 - If a player is **ejected** from the game and there are no legal substitutes available, the game will **result in a forfeit** for the team with the ejected player.
- **Base Distance:**
 - Bases will be set at **70 feet** apart.
- **Pitching Zone:**
 - The pitching zone will be **24 inches wide**, located between **50 to 60 feet** from the original home plate.
- **Batting Count:**
 - Batters will start with a **1-1 count** (one ball, one strike).
 - There will be **no courtesy foul ball** (meaning a batter is not allowed extra strikes if they foul off a pitch with two strikes).



Softball City Game Rules for 2025 League Play

Elite Teams Rule (Canadian Teams):

- **Elite teams** (presumably the stronger teams, such as Canadian teams) will **spot the lower teams one run per inning**. This is the Equalizer rule
 - These teams are **not required** to take the runs if they choose not to.

Equalizer Rule (amendments):

- In leagues with combined divisions, the lower division team may receive one run per inning, but this is not applicable if the lower division team already hits the maximum runs for that inning.
 - **lower division teams are not allowed to use the extra run** given in the 7th inning to win the game. If you are in a situation where the extra run would give you the win, you must **score that run organically** during play.
- **Courtesy Runners:**
 - Teams are allowed **three courtesy runners per game**, and **a person can only run once**.
 - These runners can come from **any base at any time** during the game.
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 - **Home Run Limit:**
 - Teams are allowed a maximum of **seven home runs per game**.
 - For any home run hit in excess of seven, the batter will be **called out**.

Women's Rules:

- **Batting Order:**
 - Teams may start with a batting order of nine players, but they must finish the game with nine players.
- **Injury Rule:**
 - If a player is injured during play and there is no legal substitute available, the team can continue the game with nine players.
 - There will be no automatic out for the injured player.
- **Ejection Rule:**
 - If a player is ejected from the game and there are no substitutes available, the game will result in a forfeit for the team with the ejected player.
- **Batting Count:**
 - Batters will start with a 1-1 count (one ball, one strike).
 - There will be no courtesy foul ball (meaning no extra strikes if a batter fouls off a pitch with two strikes).



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 - Any home run hit beyond seven will result in the batter being called out.

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These rules are meant to maintain fair play and safety across various divisions within Softball City leagues. Coaches and players should familiarize themselves with these guidelines, especially for specific divisions like Coed, Men's, and Women's leagues.