



Softball Rules

1. Softball is a 10 v 10 sport with up to two designated hitters. A team can play with a minimum of 9 players. A minimum of 4 females must be on the field at all times.
2. Each game will be seven innings long or 55 minutes. Games called after 5 innings will be considered a completed game.
3. Forfeit rule: five minutes after game time. This decision will ultimately be made up by the on site supervisor.
4. Please follow all posted park and city rules. No alcohol at the fields. Save it for after games at the sponsor bar!
5. No metal spikes allowed!
6. Game mercy rule: 15 runs after four complete innings or 10 runs up after five complete innings.
7. The home team will be decided at the beginning of each game with a coin toss.
8. Equipment:
 - a. Bats: each team must supply their own bats. They must be ASA certified and not appear on the list found here:
http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp
 - b. Helmets: are optional. We do not provide helmets for any of our leagues. Each team may bring their own helmets to use if they feel it is necessary.
 - c. **Please remove jewelry.**
 - d. No metal cleats
9. If you do not have a full team ready to play at start time you can play with a minimum of 9 players (4 females). If you do not have at least the minimum you must forfeit.
10. Sliding is allowed. At home plate, players **MUST** slide or give up. Players must slide or give up when there is a play at the plate. All other scoring runners may simply tag home plate.
11. All outfielders must stay in the outfield when a female is up to bat.
12. 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.
13. Sportsmanship must be practiced at all times. Directors and umpires reserve the right to remove any player from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. If a player is removed from the game, it is the responsibility of the team captain to ensure that player leaves the premises or the team will be forfeited.

14. The umpired will keep track of scored runs. However, teams are encouraged to keep their own score during the game for discrepancies at the end of play.
15. No leadoffs or stealing is allowed runners may leave the base once the ball is hit by the batter. If a runner leaves early, the ball is dead and the runner is declared out. If this is the 3rd out of the inning the batter will be first up in the next inning.
16. **In-Field Fly Rule-** If there is a popup in the in-filed the batter is automatically out. Only if runners are on first and second, or first, second and third- otherwise this rule does not apply.
17. No intentional bunting allowed.
18. **Team batting order (Male/Female) does not matter.**

Tournament

1. The top 4 teams will go to the tournament based on season rankings. The top teams will be determined by record (3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 0 points for a loss).
2. In case there is a two way tie between teams the following tiebreaker system will be used.
 - a. Head to head match up
 - b. If there is still at tie or if they played each other twice and both have a 1-1 record we will move on to Head-to-Head run differential.
 - c. Overall season run differential
 - d. In case the tie STILL persists, a coin flip will determine the winner.
3. If in case of a three-way tie between teams the following tiebreaker system will be used:
 - a. Head-head match up
 - b. If the winner of the head-to-head match up can not be determined (i.e. 2 teams played each other twice or each team has a 1-1 record), then the head-to-head run differential will be used to compare for all 3 teams.
 - c. Overall season differential
 - d. In the case a tie still exists a coin flip will be used to determine the winner.
4. **All other playoff scenarios that occur will be treated on a case-by-case basis by Hermes Sport & Social.**