

Softball Rules

Updated: 4/19/19



A. Teams

- All players must sign-up and sign a waiver through the website
- Rosters are a max of 18 people
 - Rosters with less than 15 people may be asked to include a free agent(s)
- Rosters must be finalized by week 3 of the season
- Only players on the roster can play in a game
- Players must be on the roster to be eligible for the playoffs

B. Equipment

- Bats used by teams must have an ASA stamp and not be listed on the "Non-Approved Bat List" found here:
<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball>
 - No altering of bats is allowed
 - Opposing teams can request the umpire to review a bat for its legality
 - If an illegal bat is found to have been used, the person using the bat will be ejected from the game and a 2-run penalty will be enforced
 - If an illegal bat is found prior to the game start, the bat will be removed from the dugout. No additional penalty.
- No metal cleats allowed
- Teams must wear similar team shirts with numbers on the back.
Teams can make their own or purchase from Boondock Sports.

C. Game Format

- Each game will run 7 innings or 1 hour and 10 minutes, whichever occurs first
 - Should there be an event preventing the conclusion of a full game (i.e. inclement weather), a game is considered official after 4 innings.

- If a game is tied after 7 innings and the allotted time hasn't expired, extra innings is permitted. If time doesn't allow, game will end in a tie
- No new inning will begin within 5 minutes of the next game's start time
 - If it's the last game, no new inning will begin beyond 1 hour and 10 minutes of play
- Mercy Rule:
 - No team can score more than 8 runs in an inning
 - If a team is down 15 runs or more after the 5th inning, the losing team can decide if they want to enact a mercy rule and end the game or continue playing
 - No mercy rule in the final inning for the losing team (they can score as many runs as they need)

D. Defense

- Number of players on the field
 - 10 players on the field (4 in the outfield), 3 women must be on the field at all times
 - If a team only has 9 players on the field, 3 women must be on the field
 - If a team only has 8 players on the field, they can play with 2 women and use a non-defensive catcher from the other team (once ball is in play, the catcher removes him/herself from the play)
 - At the beginning of the game, if a team has less than 8 players present, they are automatically the Visiting team and bat first. If by the end of their at-bat, they still have less than 8 players, then it is a forfeit.
 - Male players can't replace the female spots in the field. The team will have to play down that number of players in the field.

- There will be a safety base in use at 1st base, and a safety plate in use at home. Defense uses the “in-play” base/plate, while the baserunner uses the safety base/plate.
- There cannot be 5 infielders at any point. For female batters, all outfielders must remain at least 10 feet outside of the infield dirt until the ball is batted in play
 - Violation of this rule will result in the batter deciding to either take the results of the play or replay the pitch
- No blocking a base

E. Pitching

- Count Starts At 1-1
 - Batter is out after 2 fouls after the 2nd strike
- Pitcher is allowed no more than 3 warm up pitches in between innings
- Pitching arc is between 6' - 12' from the ground
- Pitchers may pitch up to 6' behind the rubber to one step in front of the pitching rubber. Pitchers are not required to make contact with the rubber during the pitch.

F. Batting

- If 4+ women in the batting order, a maximum of 14 men may bat (the roster maximum)
- If 3 women in the batting order, a maximum of 10 men may bat
- A minimum of 3 women must be in the batting order. For every women missing from the minimum, that number of outs will be charged to the team at the bottom of the batting order.
- There can be no more than 2 males in a row in a lineup until 3 females in the batting order have batted. Once 3 females have batted, there are no restrictions to the batting order.

- There will be a safety base in use at 1st base, and a safety plate in use at home. Defense uses the “in-play” base/plate, while the baserunner uses the safety base/plate.
- Count Starts At 1-1
 - Batter is out after 2 fouls after the 2nd strike
- If a male is walked without receiving a strike “2” right before a female is due up, the male goes to 2nd base
- A batter may ask for a pinch runner once they have successfully reached a base in their at-bat. You CANNOT ask for a pinch runner after the next batter starts their at-bat, unless there is an injury.
 - A pinch runner is the last player to have batted and is not currently on base (a male for male and a female for female)
- All batters must play at least 2 innings in the field
- No tossing of the bat
- No bunting
- No stealing or leading off a base
- No take-out slides
- No interference by base coaches or other players

G. General Information

- Boondock Sports provides each team with a set of game balls at the beginning of the season
 - Designated home team provides 2 game balls to the umpire at the beginning of the game
- Boondock Sports provides each team with a score book
- Top 4 teams make the playoffs
 - Tiebreaker: Run Differential first, then Runs Scored
- Captains are required to send in the final score by the next day to **brian@boondocksports.com** win or lose
- For any issues with the field, please call **508-498-6801**. This includes:

- Another group on the field - we always have the proper permits for field use
- Umpire not present - game may need to begin without one, but we will make every effort to secure another umpire

H. Facility Rules

- No alcohol or drugs in the facility or on the campus
- Must wear proper clothing and footwear
- No food, drink, gum, candy, seeds, or coffee on the field. Only water.
- No profanity or arguing
- No defacing or striking the facility
- Pick up your trash

I. Boondock Sports' Code of Conduct

All tournaments, leagues, and events hosted by Boondock Sports are meant to be both enjoyable and safe for all of its participants. Therefore, participants in Boondock Sports' tournaments, leagues, and events must follow a code of conduct. By participating, you are agreeing to:

- Be respectful of your teammates, opponents, referees, Boondock Sports' directors and officials, and any facility or field personnel
- Be honest during the game to enable a fair experience for all involved
- Exhibit sportsmanship towards your opponent
- Refrain from verbal or physical threats or harassment
- Avoid inappropriate, disruptive, disorderly, or illegal behavior or conduct
- Follow the rules of the specific facility or field being used
- Avoid drinking alcohol or showing up intoxicated at the event

Boondock Sports LLC reserves the right to exclude anyone violating the above code of conduct for any portion of a tournament, event, or league without refund of money. In some cases, excessive violations of one or all of the code of conduct may result in banning from future activities as well.

RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE