

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**SOFTBALL RULES**

**\*\*\*All players must bring their UGA Card to every game! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Official ASA slow pitch softball rules will govern play with the following exceptions:

A. UNIFORMS

Like dress is not required.

1. All players must wear athletic, closed-toed shoes.
2. Shoes with metal spikes CANNOT be worn.
3. Caps are not required, but may be worn.
4. Numbers are not required on shirts.
5. Catchers must wear a mask that will be provided by the intramural staff.

B. PLAYERS

A game can be started and completed with eight players.

1. If a team begins with nine players and a tenth player comes late, that player must be put in the tenth place of the batting order. A player shall not be listed in the starting lineup if they are not present with their valid ID, and ready to play when the game begins.
2. If a team starts with ten players and due to an injury a player cannot continue, the place occupied in the batting order by the injured player will be eliminated and the batting order will be continued as follows:
  - a. If the team has a substitute(s) the injured player shall be replaced with a substitute.
  - b. If a substitute is not available the batting order will change by moving all batters below the injured player up one place.
  - c. If the tenth batter is injured, the batting order will not change. The tenth place will be eliminated.
  - d. This rule is to protect a team with an injured player. It does not include a player leaving the game early. A player leaving early does not eliminate a place in the batting order and if he/she cannot be replaced an out will be recorded each time the missing batter's turn at bat comes up.

C. GAME

1. A COMPLETE GAME shall consist of:
  - a. Seven (7) innings and not ending in a tie, or
  - b. Six and one-half (6 1/2) innings with the home team ahead on runs scored, or
  - c. The fifty-five (55) minute time limit expires.
  - d. The official start time will be recorded on the score sheet by the umpires.
    - (1) A new inning will begin as soon as the last out is made in the bottom half of the preceding inning.
    - (2) A tie game could be recorded as a result of the fifty-five (55) minute time limit enforcement.
    - (3) The official time will be stopped to aid severely injured players.
    - (4) In case of a game suspension, the time at the end of the game will be recorded.
  - e. In tournament play, the fifty-five (55) minute time limit will be waived in case of a tie to determine the winner.
  - f. For quarterfinal and semifinal games, the time limit will be extended to 1 hour and 10 minutes.
  - g. Championship games will not have a time limit, but the run rule will be enforced.
2. In the first three innings the maximum number of runs that can be scored in one-half (1/2) inning is seven (7). After the third inning an unlimited number of runs may be scored per half inning.
  - a. A half (1/2) inning will terminate when three (3) outs or seven (7) runs before the 4th inning are recorded.
  - b. All games will use the 15 run lead after four (4) innings.
  - c. All games will use the ten-runs-after-five rule.

All of the following criteria must be met for the game to be considered complete:

- 1) One team is behind by ten, 15 or more runs.
- 2) Four (or more) full innings have been completed.
- 3) Both teams have batted in the inning.

3. Games stopped because of inclement weather, before four full innings have been completed, will continue from the point the game was suspended, if time and fields are available. The umpire should record the time the game was suspended.

4. Failure of a team to field at least eight (8) players at or within five (5) minutes of the scheduled starting time will result in a default. If no players are present for a team, it will be a forfeit.

The official starting time will be:

- a. A five (5) minute time extension is granted if a team cannot field a team with a minimum of eight (8) players at game time. If eight (8) are present the game will start on time.
- b. **If a previous game extends more than five (5) minutes beyond the next game's scheduled starting time, a minimum of eight (8) players must be ready to play when the previous game ends. There will not be a five (5) minute time extension in this circumstance.**

D. SCORING

Field Supervisors will keep the score.

E. SLIDING

Sliding is permitted. **THE RECREATIONAL SPORTS OFFICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA "STRONGLY" DISCOURAGES THIS PRACTICE.**

1. The ASA rule concerning sliding will govern sliding with the following exception:
  - a. Malicious contact (intentionally rough contact while on your feet) by a base runner with a fielder will be penalized by being called out and ejected from the game.
  - b. If runner has scored, ejection will be the penalty.
  - c. Such contact will change obstruction to interference with the runner being out (unless they have already scored) and ejected.

F. PLAYER EJECTION

Player or manager ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike conduct:

1. Will be ineligible to participate in his/her next scheduled game, and must make an appointment with the coordinator and Assistant Director for Intramural Sports before being eligible to participate in any intramural sports programming.
2. For the second time in a season, he/she will be ineligible for remainder of the season, and potentially longer.
3. Shall leave the premises immediately (out of sight and sound) within 60 seconds.
  - a. The team of the ejected player is expected to comply with the player ejection rule concerning that player leaving the premises.
  - b. Failure of the team to satisfy this rule will result in loss of the game by forfeit. The team may also default their next game if this situation occurs and they are behind in the score.

G. EXTRA PLAYER RULE

A team can elect to use the ASA Extra Player rule with the following provisions:

1. Men's and Women's: If a player leaves the game for any reason other than injury and there is no substitute, an out will be recorded each time the departed player is scheduled to bat. (Remember – A team must finish with at least eight (8) players.)
2. Co-Rec: If a player leaves for any reason, his/her "opposite" player will also be removed from the game if there is no substitute. An out will be recorded when each departed player is scheduled to bat. (Remember - co-ed teams cannot have fewer than eight (8) players.)

- H. BOUNDARIES
1. **All persons must remain outside of the "live ball" area unless they are batting, on deck, or an active member of the defensive team.**
  2. Balls hit foul beyond the designated "out of play" line are considered dead balls. Out-of-play down each foul line shall be determined by a line extending from the end of the backstop or retaining fence. The umpire will determine out-of-play rulings.
  3. A thrown ball that goes through the opening in the fence on fields 2, 3, 4 or 5 will be considered a dead ball; two bases are awarded from the time of the throw.
  4. Any ball going over the backstop of another field, in fair territory will be a home-run. Any ball striking a light-pole ABOVE the padding, or striking a tree in the outfield in the air will also be a home run.
  5. Any ball striking a tree will immediately be a dead ball. If in foul territory, the ball is foul, if in the outfield, a home-run will be awarded.
- I. EQUIPMENT
1. Game balls will be provided. Teams will have to provide their own gloves and bats. A 12-inch softball will be used for men's and co-rec, an 11-inch ball will be used for women's games.
  2. **All equipment must remain behind the fence or out-of-play line. If a live ball touches the opposing teams' batting equipment in fair territory, it is a dead ball, and no bases are awarded. If it touches the fielding team's equipment, two bases will be awarded from the time of the throw.**
  3. No fast-pitch softball bats will be allowed to be used by ANY players.
  4. Any team found using illegal and/or banned equipment will not be permitted to use the equipment anymore, and ASA illegal equipment rules will govern, to determine in game consequences.
- J. BATTER
- Each batter will start his/her bat with a 1-ball and 1-strike count. The batter is allowed to hit one foul ball after they have two strikes. However, a second foul ball hit (with a 2-strike count) is considered an out.
- K. PARKING
- All players, coaches, and fans, must park in legally marked parking spaces. The University of Georgia reserves the right to ticket and/or tow vehicles which are illegally parked at the Rec Sports Complex.
- L. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO
- The use of alcohol and/or tobacco products is strictly prohibited while participating and/or attending any intramural sports programs. Participants, coaches, spectators or fans, using alcohol or tobacco products at the Recreational Sports Complex will be ejected, and must leave the facility. Failure to comply with this rule may result in University Police being involved.
- M. NO PETS
- Absolutely no dogs, cats, or other animals are permitted at the Intramural Sports Fields. All animals must be kept outside of the main fence area (There is very little shade in these areas, so it is advised to keep your animals at home while participating in intramural sports).

## CO-REC SOFTBALL

Official ASA slow pitch softball rules will govern play with the following exceptions:

1. A 12-inch softball will be used for Co-rec
2. A 200 ft. restraining arc will encircle the outfield. When women are batting outfielders must remain behind the line until the ball is hit. Penalty for violation is a double unless the batter runner advances beyond second base.
3. Teams must alternate males and females in the batting order. At no point may two players of the same sex bat in order without an out being recorded.
4. Players:  
Ten players - five (5) male and five (5) female with the following positioning requirements: two males and two females in both the infield and outfield and one female and one male as pitcher and/or catcher. Teams will be permitted to begin and play games with eight (8) players: four (4) men and four (4) women.
  - a. A team fielding eight (8) players will have the option to use a ninth (9) player as the catcher. This catcher will only be permitted to bat on an alternating basis with one of his/her teammates. The alternating hitter must be designated at the start of the game.
  - b. When a team is using nine (9) fielders the pitcher and the catcher may be the same sex.