

ASHE ESWP ASCE WTS

Softball Tournament Rules

SUMMARY

- Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Umpires have the right to end a game if the overall sportsmanship is out of line.
- Umpires will only discuss calls, etc. with team captains.
- No designated hitters. All players must bat and play in field.
- If a team does not have enough players to start the match by 10 minutes after the scheduled start time, they will forfeit the first game.
- A team can start play with a minimum of 8 players but needs 9 players by the 2nd inning.
- Games are 5 innings but could go to 7 innings if time allows. The Championship game will be 7 innings regardless of time.
- A new inning will not start if there is less than 15 minutes until the next match.
- A Mercy Rule will be used after 10 runs after 5 innings. 15 runs for the championship game.
- No extra innings past the 7th inning.
- Runners and fielders must touch home plate (not the strike mat) for their run or out to count.
- All teams must submit a lineup to Umpires before the game to make sure the lineup isn't weighted heavily in the male players favor. Umpires can reject the lineup if they don't agree.
- Each batter starts with a 1-1 count. If the batter has 2 strikes against and hits a foul ball, that foul will not be counted as strike 3. If the batter hits a 2nd foul ball, that foul will be counted as strike 3.
- Players needing a pinch runner must let the umpire know before their first at bat.
- Base runners may not leave their base until the ball is hit or they will be called out.
- No fielder may block a base or baseline, including home plate, unless he/she has possession of the ball or is in the act of fielding the ball.
- No outfielder may step into the infield when a female player is up to bat until she makes contact with the ball.
- A player is called out when:
 - Their batted fair or foul fly ball is caught by a fielder in the field of play.
 - The umpire calls a third strike on a batter.
 - A batter hits a foul ball after using their courtesy foul.
 - A fairly hit ball touches the batter before touching a fielder.
 - A runner or base is tagged before the runner reaches the base they are advancing to.
 - A runner does not slide or surrender.
 - A runner goes outside of the baseline by more than three (3) feet.