

SOFTBALL Study Sheet

Object of Game:

The team scoring the most runs is the winner.

Basic Rules of Play:

1. A team consists of no more than 10 players.
2. A game consists of 7 innings.
3. If a team has “last bats” and is ahead after 6½ innings, the remaining ½ inning does not need to be played and tie game is over.
4. If a game is tied after 7 innings, play is continued for as many full _____ innings as needed for one team to score more runs.
5. A run is scored each time a base runner legally touches all three bases and home plate, in proper sequence before the final out of the inning. A run does not score if it occurs at the same time the third out of the inning is made.
6. Each team is allowed 3 outs per inning.
7. A player at bat is allowed 3 called balls, and 2 strikes.



Pitching Rules:

1. The pitcher must “present the ball” (hold the ball and glove in front of him/her) before delivery.
2. The ball must be pitched in an underhand motion.
3. The pitcher may take only one step forward before and during the release of the ball.

Batting Rules:

1. The batting order must stay the same throughout the entire game.
2. The batter must remain in the batter’s box; if he leaves the box in an attempt to hit the ball he is automatically out.
3. The batter is out if:
 - A. 2 strikes have been made or called.
 - B. any fair or foul ball is caught.
 - C. He/She is hit by his/her own-batted ball in fair territory before it is played by fielder.
4. The batter becomes a base runner when:
 - A. a fair hit is made.
 - B. 3 balls have been called.

Base Running Rules:

1. A base runner may overrun 1st base only. If he/she overruns 2nd or 3rd base, a fielder may tag him/her for an out.
2. A base runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit. If he/she leaves the base on a swinging strike, he/she is automatically out.
3. In the event of a fly ball, fair or foul, a base runner must “tag up” on the base after the ball is caught if he/she wished to advance to the next base.
4. A base runner must stay within 3 feet of the baseline, or he/she will be called out.
5. A base runner is safe if tagged (the player or the base) by a ball which is fumbled immediately afterwards. A base runner must be tagged with the hand or glove, which is holding the ball.
6. A base runner must be tagged while advancing to 2nd, 3rd or home plate unless the situation is a force out.
7. If the ball is overthrown into foul territory, base runners are allowed to take one extra base but if the ball is overthrown in fair territory, base runners may advance to any number of bases at their own risk.

SOFTBALL TERMS:

Ball.....	A legally pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone.
Batter's Box.....	The area surrounding home plate, in which the batter is restricted while at bat.
Batting Order.....	The official list of offensive players in the order in which they must come to bat.
Clean-up Hitter	The 4 th batter, or usually the strongest hitter.
Dead Ball	A ball not in play
Defensive Team	The team in the field.
Double Play.....	A play by the defense in which two offensive players are consecutively put out.
Fair Ball.....	A batted ball that is hit into fair territory, or that passes over fair territory and out of the playing area.
Fly Ball	A legally batted ball that is hit high in the air.
Force Out.....	Occurs when the base runner is forced to advance by reason of the batter hitting a fair ball.
Foul Ball	Any batted ball that <u>settles</u> on foul territory.
Ground Ball	A ball that is batted directly onto the ground of the playing field.
Infield	The "diamond" or portion of the field that is formed by the baselines.
Inning	That portion of the game in which each team gets a turn at bat.
Interference	Action that hinders a batter from hitting or a fielder from fielding.
Line Drive.....	A ball that is batted sharply and directly onto the playing field.
Offensive Team.....	The team at bat.
Outfield.....	That portion of the field beyond the bases which is outside the diamond, and within the foul lines and boundaries of the grounds.
Overthrow	A play in which a ball thrown from one fielder to another goes into foul territory.
"Play Ball".....	a term used by the plate umpire to indicate that the play shall begin or be resumed.
Pop-up	A fly ball usually to an infield player.
Run down.....	A defensive maneuver whereby a base runner is caught between two bases and the attempt is to tag him out before he/she returns to a base or reaches the next base.
Strike.....	A legally pitched ball that is struck at and missed, or one that passes over home plate in the strike zone.
Strike Zone.....	The area over home plate between the batter's knees and armpits.
Walk.....	Awarded to a batter by the umpire when three pitches are judged to be balls.

Key:

C	=	Catcher
P	=	Pitcher
1B	=	1 st Base
2B	=	2 nd Base
3B	=	3 rd Base
SS	=	Shortstop
LF	=	Left Field
LCF	=	Left Center Field
RCF	=	Right Center Field
RF	=	Right Field

