

SBS Southie Softball Rules

Revised 3/27/18

Get ready to play Boston's first (and only) Softball designed for the personality of location where it is played, Southie Softball. Bigger ball, smaller parks, more scoring, bigger attitude a whole lot more fun.

I. NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- a. There is a maximum of 10 players on the field at one time. At least three of those players must be male and three must be female. A minimum of 7 players is required to play.
- b. If a team only has 2 males or 2 females, then the team will play with one less player in the field (9 on the field) and will receive one automatic out at the bottom of the order.
- c. If a team does not have at least 2 of each gender then they will forfeit the game.
- d. A team cannot field more than 7 male players on defense

II. GAMEPLAY

- a. Games are played with a 16 inch softball. The ball is much softer than a normal softball and gloves are optional. This is a very social league!
- b. Men will use wood bats and women can choose to use wood or ASA certified metal bats.
- c. No metal cleats.
- d. Batters will start with a one (1) ball, one (1) strike count.

Each batter is allowed one "free foul" per at bat that does not count against their ball/strike count. After that each foul will count against their strike count, even if there are two (2) strikes. Everyone starts with one strike.

- e. Each team will have three (3) outs per inning.
- f. There are walks, however a batter may refuse a walk once 4 balls have been reached. If a walk is refused they cannot accept the walk later in the at bat, say at a 5th ball.
- g. There is no bunting allowed. A bunt attempt will result in a non-contact strike even if the bunt is put into play.
- h. There will be a strike mat at home plate used to determine balls and strikes. A legal pitch is an underhand arc ranging from 6'-12' in the air and landing on any part of the strike mat including home plate.
- i. The strike mat is part of home plate, so a base-runner may touch it when scoring at home.
- j. Defensive substitutions are allowed between any half innings. If a player subs out, they can sub back in without any penalty.
- k. Everyone bats, even if they didn't play in the field that half inning. Keep the same batting order the entire game. If someone shows up late, they are inserted into the end of the batting order. If you do not meet gender requirements, an "out" must be taken when the missing gender would have batted.
- l. No stealing or leading. Runners may leave the base as soon as the batter makes contact with the ball. If a runner leaves early, the ball is dead and the runner is declared out. If this is the 3rd out of an inning, the batter will be the first up next inning.
- m. At the beginning of the last inning (as announced by the umpire) the team that is losing will bat first in the inning, even if they have been the home team for the game. If the losing team takes the lead in the final inning, then the other team will be allowed to bat as the home team in the bottom of the final inning.**

- n. There is a six run limit in the first 5 innings. Unlimited runs may be scored at the start of the 6th inning. The only exception is if the umpire declares one of the first 4 innings the last of the game. At that point, unlimited number of runs can be scored in any last inning.
- o. Due to differing circumstances in each and every game, some games will finish short of an hour in length, while others might run over the hour mark. Please respect your ump's call in this matter. He/she must keep all games on time in fairness to teams playing later hours and due to facility permit restrictions.
- p. A foul ball over the batter's head can be caught for an out.
- q. Base-runner to defensive player contact is closely watched by the umpire. Any excessive contact will result in an out or ejection, i.e. breaking up a double play. This is a social league, no need for sprained ankles. Railroading the catcher will result in an out and possible ejection. Any intentional interference with a defensive player will result in the runner and batter being called out.
- r. On an infield fly (any fly ball within the infield with significant arc and deemed an "easy catch") with less than 2 outs and runners on 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the batter is automatically out and runners can advance (after the catch), BUT at their own risk.
- s. You may not have more than 7 infielders.

III. **DURATION OF GAMES**

- a. All games last at most six (6) innings or 50 minutes, whichever comes first. The last inning will start 10-15 minutes before the top of the hour.

The umpire will announce the inning is the final inning at the top of the last inning. make this call at the top of the final inning.

- b. If the game is tied at the conclusion of the game (either innings played or time) after seven innings, the game will end in a tie. extra innings will be played only if there is time.

- i. In the playoffs if a game is tied, the teams will play extra innings.

1. In the first extra inning teams will remove one male player from the field and play with nine (9) defensive players. All players will remain in the same batting order.
2. If teams are tied after one (1) extra inning, teams will start with one (1) automatic out.
3. If teams are tied after two (2) extra innings, teams will start with two (2) automatic outs. Teams will play with two (2) automatic outs until the conclusion of the game.

c. Due to differing circumstances in each and every game, some games will finish short of the allotted length an hour in length, while others might run over the hour mark. Please respect your umpire's call in this matter. He/she must keep all games on time in fairness to teams playing later hours and due to facility permit restrictions.

d. There is a mercy rule. If the winning a team is up by 20+ runs after 3 innings or by 10+ runs or more after five completed innings, the game will be over.

- I. If time remains in the game slot, the captains and umpires can agree to play until the start of the next game time.

IV. **OUT OF PLAY**

- a. All over-thrown balls are deemed out of play when:

- b. · The ball is thrown over the fence
- c. · The ball is thrown beyond the fence
- d. · The ball is thrown beyond the imaginary line extending from the end of the backstop (if there is no fence).
- e. · This imaginary line applies to overthrows and caught fly foul balls.
- f. · If the ball is overthrown and hits the fence behind the 1st or 3rd base lines but does not travel out of play, this is NOT considered out of play and the runner may advance, BUT at his/her own risk.
- g. · On overthrows out of play, the runner is granted the base he/she is going to (at the point of the throw) plus one more base. Note: in cases where a base runner runs past first base, he/she must make a clearly aggressive turn towards second base to be granted 2nd and 3rd in overthrow situations.
- h.

V. **FORFEITS**

- i. If your team forfeits a game during the season, the following rules apply:
- j. **First Offense:** Loss of game and warning issued.
- k. **Second Offense:** Loss of game and staff reserves the right to remove team from playoffs.
- l. **Third Offense:** Removal from the league.
- m. If you know in advance that your team is going to forfeit a game, we encourage you to email us so as to help us schedule your opponent a game.
- n. Teams have until ten minutes past the designated start time to field a full squad (minimum numbers of players required to play according to the rules). Anything less than the minimum must be approved by the staff and opposing team.

VI. **LEAGUE CANCELLATION/RAINOUT**

- I. Leagues may be cancelled due to existing weather conditions, dangerous or unplayable field conditions, facility constraints, etc. SBS staff makes every effort to play all scheduled games, thus we will not cancel games until absolutely necessary.
- II. If the game is canceled, SBS staff will change the website immediately. If a game is cancelled on site, SBS staff will attempt to contact those teams still scheduled to play the remainder of the league night. Depending on the time of cancellation, some teams will have to be notified on site. We do our best to schedule make up games. In extreme circumstances, SBS reserves the right to run a shortened season without a refund or schedule games on days other than our regularly scheduled league day/night.