

The Complete FSU IM Softball Rulebook is Available Online at [fsu.campusrec.com/im](http://fsu.campusrec.com/im)

**No Pets, No Tobacco, and No Alcohol** are permitted at the Rec SportsPlex. Violators will be ejected.

## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & TEAM COMPOSITION

Players MUST be valid, fee-paying FSU students, faculty or full-time staff. FAMU and TCC students are NOT eligible for FSU IM sports and events. All players MUST show their current, valid FSUCard prior to each game in order to participate. Check-in takes place at the Rec SportsPlex West Field House.

Players may participate on only one team (open league OR co-rec league) during the fall softball season.

A line-up consists of 8, 9, 10, or 11 players (12 in co-rec). 10 players play in the field with an extra hitter (2 EH in co-rec, one male & one female). Teams must have 8 players to begin a game. For a co-rec game, the following combinations are the only acceptable combinations: 4M / 4F, 5M / 4F, 4M / 5F, 5M / 5F, or 6M / 6F.

In co-rec, the batting order shall alternate male and female batters. In the event that a co-rec team has nine players, that team may select to use all 9 players and take an out in the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order. Thus all 9 players may play defense. Or, the team may play with 8 players, taking NO outs in the batting order, but using only 8 fielders.

Team rosters may include an unlimited number of players. If players have to leave with no available substitute, play will continue as long as 8 legal players are available to play. An out will be recorded when a player who has left the game is scheduled to bat.

Limited free substitution is permitted for all players in the line-up. Once a substitute has entered the line-up, he/she must play 6 consecutive outs (a full inning). Once a player has been replaced in the batting order, he/she may bat again only if he/she returns to the position in the order which he/she vacated. This rule allows for re-entry of both the starter and any subsequent substitutes.

## EQUIPMENT

Wrist and hand jewelry is NOT allowed to be worn by any participant during intramural softball. This jewelry consists of any visible rings (including wedding bands), watches, bracelets, and any other such similar jewelry. Only medical alert bracelets are permitted and must be taped to the wrist. Exposed jewelry which is deemed dangerous by the umpire or other IM staff must be removed and may not be worn for the remainder of the game. A player is subject to ejection for failure to remove any jewelry after the first warning.

All players must wear shoes. Tennis shoes, soft-soled shoes, and one-piece softball shoes are legal. Metal spikes or cleats with metal exposed are not allowed. Any player caught wearing metal spikes will be ejected from the game.

Only regulation softball bats, as determined by ASA, are legal. Softball bats must be stamped with one of the ASA certifying marks shown at the right. Any standard baseball bat is illegal. Any player caught using an illegal bat will be ejected from the game. Use of illegal equipment can also result in forfeiture of game. Visit [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com) for details.



If a player unintentionally throws the bat, the team will be given a warning. Each subsequent offense will result in the batter being called out and all runners returning to the base they occupied at the beginning of the at-bat. Any player intentionally throwing the bat will be called out and ejected from the game.

A 12" size softball will be used for all open league and co-rec games.

All offensive team members at bat, on the basepaths, or in the on-deck circle must wear a batting helmet. Helmets are available at each field. Players who throw helmets in an unsportsmanlike manner are subject to ejection.

A first baseman's mitt may only be used by the player actively playing at the first base position. All other fielders must use regular gloves. Balls, bats, gloves, and catcher's masks are available for checkout at the Rec SportsPlex West Field House.

## GROUND RULES

At the Rec SportsPlex, pre-game warm-up will be limited to designated areas only. Otherwise, warm-up may only occur in the field of play.

All offensive players – except the batter, any baserunners, an on-deck batter, a first base coach & a third base coach – must remain behind the chain-link fencing while in the dugout area. Spectators must watch from behind the chain-link fencing.

Balls hit over the fence in fair territory are home runs. Balls that bounce over or roll under a fence will result in a ground-rule double. The distance from home plate to the fence is 315 feet in all areas.

### **GAME LENGTH**

Game time is forfeit time. Each game has a 50-minute or 7-inning limit. Any inning that is started before the 50-minute time limit will be completed. A new inning begins when the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the previous inning is recorded. No inning will begin after 50 minutes. Regular season games can end in a tie. Extra innings will be played only if they start before the 50-minute time limit. All playoff games will continue until a winner is determined.

10-Run Rule: If one team is ahead by 10 or more runs after 4 complete innings (3½ if the home team is ahead), the game will be called.

### **GAME RULES**

FSU IM Softball is played following NIRSA (National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association) Softball rules with few exceptions.

### **3-PITCH MODIFICATIONS**

Teams pitch to their own batters. Pitchers must be a team member (signed in for the game). Pitchers do not have to be one of the batters in the line-up. A maximum of 2 pitching changes are permitted per inning.

Pitchers receive a maximum of 5 warm-up pitches prior to the first inning and 1 pitch prior to any other inning. No warm-up pitches are allowed for mid-inning pitching changes. Pitchers shall wait until the fielding team is ready before delivering the pitch.

Each batter shall receive a maximum of 3 pitches. There are no walks and no strikeouts. Batters are out if they do not put the ball into play after 3 pitches. There is no bunting. Batters must take a full swing at a pitch.

Pitches must be delivered at a slow to moderate speed within the regulation 6 to 12 foot arc. An illegal pitch may not be hit by the batter. The ball shall be ruled immediately dead and all runners must return to their bases. An illegal pitch counts as 1 of the 3 pitches to that batter.

Offensive pitchers do not play defense and must move out of the way of all defensive plays. Pitchers hit by a batted ball result in the batter being called out and all runners returning to their bases.

Co-rec defensive positioning shall include 2 males and 2 females in the outfield and 2 males and 2 females in the infield. Males and females may be distributed on either side of the field in any way (males at 3B and SS OR males at SS and 1B, etc). Either the pitcher or catcher must be a female, the other a male.

Defensive positioning shall include a maximum of 4 players in the outfield and a maximum of 6 players (including the catcher) in the infield. All teams must supply a catcher as one of the infielders.

When a team is participating with a full defensive squad, one of the 6 infielders must field the defensive pitcher position. When fielding 5 or fewer infielders, this position is optional. When utilizing the defensive pitcher position, the fielder shall be within the diamond, no closer to home plate than the pitching rubber, at least 4 feet and no more than 8 feet from the offensive team's pitcher, and in such a position that does not interfere with the offensive team pitcher's natural motion.

In all 3-pitch games, over-the-fence home run limits will be in effect. Each team may hit up to 3 home runs per game.

A courtesy runner may be used in the event of injury only AND upon agreement with the opposing team's captain. The courtesy runner must be the player who recorded the last out. In co-rec games, the courtesy runner must be a player of the same gender.

### **SEASON FORMAT**

Teams will play 2 or 3 regular season games on their assigned night between October 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup>. Single-elimination playoff action begins Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. Doubleheaders are likely in the postseason. Playoff brackets will be available online at [fsu.campusrec.com/im](http://fsu.campusrec.com/im) by Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.