

**Softball Rules**  
**Intramural Sports**  
**Recreation and Wellness Services**  
**University of Akron**

Participation in any and all activities within this facility and/or sponsored by The University of Akron is voluntary. All participants understand and agree that use of this facility and/or participation in an activity sponsored by the university is at their own risk and that the university is not responsible for any incidents, injuries or loss of property that may occur.

**General Information:**

- All students, faculty or staff can participate provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the Intramural Sports Participants Handbook. All participants must present their valid U of Akron ID.
- This is an open league, with 9 players making up a team. A minimum of 7 players is needed to start a game. A team may have substitutes on the roster.
- Teams may be comprised of any combination of male and female players.
- Each captain is responsible for turning in a lineup no later than 5 minutes before the game is to start.

**Equipment:**

- Metal, boots, sandals, removable, or hard cleats are **illegal**. Only molded rubber or soccer style cleat shoes are allowed. Players cannot play barefoot.
- Teams may use their own bats as long as they are A.S.A. official softball bats.
- Individuals will be expected to provide their own mitt.
- Catchers are recommended to wear a protective mask.

**Game Information:**

- A coin toss shall determine which team shall be first at bat. The winner of the toss has the choice.
- Each game will be 7 innings or 50 minutes in length. No new inning shall begin after the 50 minutes, but any inning in progress when time expires shall be completed.
- Regular season games can end in a tie due to time constraints, tournament games will be played to their conclusion.
- The mercy rule will be in effect if after 5 innings a team is leading by 10 runs or more. Only 4½ innings will be required if the home team is leading by 10 runs.

- Each batter is started out with a 1-1 count. This means that each batter is allowed only 3 balls and 2 strikes. If a foul ball is hit on the third strike it is an out, no courtesy foul.
- The same lineup or batting order must be used throughout the entire game.
- A courtesy runner can be used once that batter has reached first base. The runner must be the last person to make an out of the same sex.
- Once the batting lineup is turned into the umpire it cannot be revised or have a player added. If a player is going to be late you must add them before the game starts and take an out in that position until the player arrives or they can be used as a substitute.

### **Rules:**

- Each pitch must be pitched underhand with the arc being a minimum of 6ft. and a maximum of 12ft. Any pitch that is too high or too low will be called as a "ball", unless the batter swings at or hits the pitch.
- No bunting. A batter will be called out if s/he bunts or intentionally chops at the ball.
- No base stealing. A runner is not permitted to leave the base until the ball is released by the pitcher. Any batter/base runner leaving prior to the pitch release will be called out.
- Sliding is not permitted.
- An infield fly rule will be applied. An infield fly is a fair ball (not including a line drive), which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied before two are out.
- One base per runner is awarded on overthrows, if ball goes out of play.
- Home Run hitter rule is in effect. (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> player to hit a home run is the only player allowed to hit a home run for the rest of the game. All other players who hit a home run during the game are automatically out).
- If the home run hitter is substituted for the player in that slot becomes the new home run hitter.
- All decisions made by the umpire are final at the time of the call. Protests will only be heard concerning the eligibility of a player.