

## Softball Study Guide

### The Game

For slow pitch softball, there will be 10 players on the field (sometimes our games had 8 or 9 players on the field due to lower number of students in class). A regulation game is 7 innings, unless tied after 7 innings and then extra innings are played. One team is "at bat" and the other team is "in the field." The team that is batting first will play the field in the bottom half of the inning.

### Difference Between "Slow Pitch" and "Fast Pitch" Softball

Slow pitch: 3 balls = a walk; 2 strikes = out (foul ball on second strike = out)

Fast pitch: 4 balls = a walk; 3 strikes = out (foul ball on 3<sup>rd</sup> strike batter remains at bat)

### Defensive Play

The player closest to the ball should attempt to field it. Players should communicate on their intentions to make a play on the ball. A player must be sure to know where the force out will be if a runner is on base. Try to force the lead runner out. If there is no player on base, then throw the ball to first base on a grounder. On any force play, you can tag the base. On any play other than a force out, you must tag the base runner. If you tag the base runner and the ball falls out of your glove or hand, the base runner will be safe.

### Offensive Play

#### Batting

1. If the batter swings and misses the ball or hits a foul ball, a strike is called.
2. A foul ball is called if a ball is hit and goes off a batter's body while still in the batter's box.
3. A ball is fair if it:
  - a. Settles in the infield on or inside the foul line
  - b. Lands fair in the outfield or hits the wall on a fly
  - c. Hits first or third base
4. The batter is out if a fair or foul ball is caught.

#### Baserunning

1. After hitting a fair ball, every hit should be run out at full speed.
2. When you run to first base only, run past it at full speed (do not slow down or stop)
3. Both second and third base cannot be over run – the runner must be standing on the base.
4. On an extra base hit – the runner should watch the ball and advance to the next base at their own risk.
5. On a caught fly ball, the base runners already on base must tag up and may advance to the next base at their own risk.

#### Baserunner Is Out:

1. When tagged by a fielder with the ball
2. If the base runner does not tag up on a fly ball
3. \If the base runner does not touch the base

4. If the base runner passes another base runner
5. If two teammates stand on the same base at the same time – one runner is out

### **Terminology**

**Single:** a one base hit

**Double:** a two base hit

**Triple:** a three base hit

**Double Play:** a play by the defense in which two base runners are put out on the same play

**Error:** an at committed by a field that permits a batter to reach base or a runner to advance

**Fair Ball:** a batted ball that settles or lands or is touched by a fielder in fair territory

**Force Out:** a play in which the runner lose his/her right to a base

**Homerun:** a hit that allows the batter to make it around all four bases and score a run

**Inning:** one of seven divisions of the game (each team is in the field and batting)

**Strike:** a pitched ball that a batter either swings and misses or fouls it off or is called a strike

**Tagging Up:** where a base runner must remain on base or return to the base if a fly ball is caught and then advance to the next base at their own risk