

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - SOFTBALL RULES

- **All bats must comply with ASA guidelines.** http://www.asasoftball.com/about/certified_equipment.asp

An umpire may remove ANY bat that he/she suspects has been altered in any way.

The bat shall not be more than 34 inches long, 2 ¼ inches wide and weighing more than 38 ounces.

Any player that uses an illegal bat will automatically be called out during their at bat. If the batter uses an illegal bat and reaches base before the umpire notices, as long as the umpire catches the illegal bat use before the next batter is up, the umpire can still call a “time out”, and call the said batter out and all runners return to their previous starting point before the at bat. If your team has been caught using an illegal bat in a previous game and use the same/another illegal bat in a later game, the current game will be forfeited and the player using the bat will be suspended for a minimum of one game.

- No player can be added after the 5th game unless you’re replacing someone who has been called into the service, reserve training, or is seriously injured, and this roster move must be approved by the Adult Sports Coordinator.
- Bare Feet and Metal Cleats are not permitted.
- You may use one courtesy runner per inning, and a courtesy runner may be used for the same regular runner each time said regular runner is on base in the same inning. An injured or ejected player leaving the game can be substituted for, or if no substitute is available, can have a courtesy runner (even if one had already been used). The player leaving the game shall not return to the game.
- The ball pitched must arc higher than the batter’s head, and no more than 12 feet above the ground.
- The black mat behind home plate is considered part of home plate, and may be used when touching home plate or when forcing a runner out.
- When a defensive player fakes a tag when he/she does not have the ball, obstruction will be called. The runner will be awarded an extra base after the play has ended. Repeated violations will result in ejection.
- A \$25 fee is charged to teams who forfeit, and the \$25 is credited to the team that was forfeited on.
- A homerun at Santa Rosa consists of a ball over the right field fence, a ball that rolls into the third base dugouts of the youth field, and a ball the hits or rolls into the parking lot in center field.

SPECIFIC COED RULES:

- Minimum players to start a coed game: 8 players (4 male/4 female). The distribution of males to females can never exceed one more male over the # of females, and a max of 5 males is allowed at any time. There is no minimum number of males needed to start a coed game.
- Teams are allowed one male and one female courtesy runner each inning.
- A minimum of 3 fielders must be behind the outfield restriction line (you can have one outfield rover in front of it).
- A male batter walked on 4 consecutive balls without any strikes is awarded 2nd base.

PROTESTING A GAME:

- **The notification of the intent to protest must be made immediately before the next pitch.**
 - The captain of the protesting team should immediately notify the umpire that the game is being continued under protest.
 - After the game, a protest form must be filled out with the scorekeeper, and a letter must be delivered to the Sports Coordinator within 48 hours.
 - Protests can be made for
 1. A misinterpretation of a playing rule
 2. Failure of an umpire to apply the correct rule to a given situation
 3. Failure to impose the correct penalty for a given violation.