

Slopitch Rules

EQUIPMENT/ATTIRE It is the responsibility of all intramural participants to ascertain whether their own health conditions make it advisable to participate in a particular sport. Heart of Champions does not assume ANY RESPONSIBILITY. Appropriate shoes (NO METAL OR HARD PLASTIC CLEATS/SPIKES!) and apparel for baseball must be worn at all times. NO JEWELRY IS PERMITTED FOR ANY GAMES. Teams must provide their own baseball bats, gloves and any protective gear they wish to use; game balls and bases will be provided. No wooden bats may be used at any time.

TEAM REQUIREMENTS A full team consists of 10 players on the field (minimum 3 females); 7 is the minimum number of players needed to avoid a default.

GAME Format Games will be 7 innings or 90 minutes in length. There is a 7 run mercy rule in effect for each inning except for the last inning, where there is no mercy. Five innings shall constitute a legal game in the event the game is called due to inclement weather, or for any other reason. A 10 run lead after 5 innings will constitute as a mercy

Pitcher Pitchers must have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber at the start of the pitch. Pitches must arc 6' – 12' in the air during the delivery from the pitcher to the plate. A pitch that is thrown outside of this arc, either above or below will be ruled a no pitch, and a subsequent dead ball. A pitch that hits any part of the big plate will be ruled a strike.

Batter Standard count is used with the exception that on a third strike foul, the batter will get another strike. Should the batter foul off another pitch, they will be declared out. Any pitch which is touched by the batter, hits the batter, or comes to rest between the batter's feet, should be declared a dead ball. The batter must initially touch the orange (foul) side of the safety base whenever the defence is trying to make a play on him at first base, or when the first baseman is covering the white (fair) side of the base. The defence may only touch the white side. When violated, the call should be made in favour of the nonoffending player.

A batter is called "OUT" when

HOME RUN RULE-The "PLUS TWO" rule-no team may hit three homeruns consecutively. If after two homeruns the opposing team has not hit a home run, they may not hit a third until their opponents hit one. If the third is hit they will be called OUT on the play. Note: this is progressive>Team A =+2 [when they hit two home runs consecutively] until Team B hits a home run. Team A is now +1 and can hit a home run.

A fly ball is legally caught (the fielder shows control of the ball before it touches the ground, it may be deflected by other players, base runners have to tag up on his base until the ball is caught before they can advance);

At home plate, the ball must cross the top fence post AND be legally caught for the batter to be out.

He hits an infield fly with base runners on first and second or first, second and third (the infield fly rule); An infielder intentionally drops a fly ball or line drive, which could have been caught with an ordinary effort, with less than 2 outs. (The ball is then dead and the respective base runners return to their bases); A foul tip is caught by the catcher on the 3rd pitch or the batter fouls off third strike twice.

Base Runners The batter becomes a base runner when the batter hits a fair ball or the batters attempt at striking the ball is interfered with by the catcher or fielder (the ball is dead and the batter is given a pass to first base). A base runner is any player who has completed his/her at bat until he/she is called out or until the play on which they become a runner ends. The batter must get to first base unassisted.

ABSOLUTELY NO STEALING BASES OR LEADING OFF! If a batter/base runner steals or leads off, they are automatically out. **SLIDING** is legal as long as deliberate interference with the opposing player does not take place. If the ball is stuck, rolls under, or past the fence, it is considered a ground rule double. The base runners must only advance two bases Base runners are entitled to advance with the possibility of

being put out when The ball is batted into fair territory The ball is overthrown into fair or foul territory but remains within play, unless the throw is after the play has stopped and the throw is returning to the pitcher.

Base runners may advance without the possibility of being put out when Batter is obstructed from hitting the ball by the catcher; A fair ball bounds or rolls out of bounds (2 bases); A ball is over thrown, carried, dropped or rolls beyond the boundary lines, the runners are awarded one base beyond the last base touched at the time the ball passed out of bounds; A base runner is obstructed from making a base unless trying to field a ball, has the ball to tag the runner, or is about to receive a thrown ball.

It is the baseman's responsibility at any given base, must clear away from their respective base if there is no close play. Failure to do so will result in an extra base being awarded to the runner.

Base runners must return to their bases without liability when A foul ball is illegally caught and is so declared by the umpire; An illegally batted ball - when one of the batters feet is entirely outside of the box or an illegal bat is used the batter is called out - is declared by the umpire; A batter or base runner is called out for interference (when a player makes an obvious attempt to interfere with a fielders attempt to play the ball, or is struck by a batted ball, unless it is obvious that no infielder had a chance to play the ball); A foul ball is not caught; A pitch is ruled illegal and dead.

The ball becomes dead unless covered under other sections of the rules.

Base runner is "OUT" when while running to any base he/she runs more than 1 metre from the direct line between a base and the next one in regular or reverse order to avoid being touched by a ball in the had of a fielder; While the ball is in play he/she is legally touched with the ball in hand of a fielder while not in contact with a base; When on a force-out a fielder tags him/her with the ball or holds the ball on the base to which the base runner is forced to advance before the runner reaches the base; A base runner physically passes a preceding base runner; the base runner leaves his base to advance to another base before a caught fly ball has touched a fielder, provided the ball is returned to a fielder and legally held on that base, or touches the base runner before the base runner returns to his base; Touches home plate or is forced out at home (discussed below); A base runner fails to touch an intervening base or bases in regular or reverse order and the ball is legally held on that base or the base runner is legally touched while off that base. NOTE: Any appeals at bases must be made before the next pitch or before all defensive players have left fair territory.

Fielder No fielder may stand closer to the batter than an imaginary arc from one foul line to the other passing through the pitching rubber (no closer than 46 feet). No more than 5 fielders, including the catcher, may be inside the base paths when the ball is hit.

Scoring To score a run, the runner must cross a line drawn from the plate to the backstop, parallel to and extending from the first base line. The plate belongs to the catcher; runners who step on the plate, or interfere with any play at the plate, should be called out. (The only exception would be an automatic home run, since this run is officially awarded.) All plays at home plate are deemed forced plays. To make the runner out, a defensive player must touch any part of the big plate while in possession and control of the ball before the runner crosses the line indicated earlier. The runner cannot be tagged after they have crossed the "committal line". The committal line is a line drawn halfway from third to home, perpendicular to the third base line. Once a base runner touches the committal line, they must proceed to home and cannot legally return to third base.

Home Runs Any batted fair ball, which goes over the fence without touching the ground, is an automatic home - run. If it bounces over, rolls or gets stuck under the fence, it is a ground-rule double.

Infield Fly The infield fly rule is to be enforced, which is, if there is a person on 1st and 2nd bases or bases are loaded with less than 2 out the batter is out on an infield fly. Base runners may tag up and advance at their own risk. This rule applies only if the ball can be easily caught.

Foul Ball A foul ball is a batted ball which settles on foul territory between home and first or third base, or one bounds past first or third base on or over foul territory, or touches a person or object in foul territory. A ball striking the front portion of the large plate is a fair ball. A batted ball that does not make it past the pitcher will be ruled foul. **Overthrows and Out-of-Play Balls** An overthrow is still in play if the ball remains in fair or foul territory. Runners advancing at their own risk can be put out. An overthrow is no longer in play if the ball goes into out-of-play territory. The official should award runners one base beyond the last base touched at the time the ball was thrown. The play is dead if the ball is thrown, dropped, carried, or rolls into the out-of-play area. The official should award any runners one base beyond the last base touched at the time the ball left the legal playing field. This includes wild pitches and caught foul balls that are carried out-of-play. The batter is NOT out if a foul hit is caught when the ball has entered the out-of-play area.