



## SOFTBALL RULES

### Format:

- 10 players (5 male + 5 female)
  - May play with 9 players (4 male + 4 female min.)
  - May play with a minimum of 8 players (4 male + 4 female)
  - Substitute players are ENCOURAGED.
- Double-Elimination Tournament
- 5 inning games (no new innings after 40-minute time limit)
- **Extra Innings** – If game is tied at the end of 5 innings, or after time expires: A new inning will be started, and the player who recorded the last out in the previous inning will start on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

### Equipment:

- NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED (Rubber or Molded Cleats, or Tennis Shoes ONLY)
- Game ball will be provided.
- Bats – Bring your own. Must be USSSA, ASA, or NSA regulated.
- Glove/Mitt – Bring your own.

### Sport Specific Rules:

- **Batting**
  - The batting order must alternate male/female/male/female
  - 3-Pitch Rule
    - A member of your team will pitch to your batters.
    - You will receive a maximum of 3 pitches per at bat. One of them must be in play (not a foul ball) or you will be declared out.
  - You may only have 10 players in the batting order at a time.
  - The pitcher can be substituted at any time.
  - Base runners must “give up” or slide. MAY NOT run over the fielder.
  - If the ball strikes the pitcher off the bat, the batter is out.
  - Courtesy runners may be used once per inning (must be same sex)
    - If courtesy runner is in batting order, and is still on base for their turn to bat, their at-bat will be declared an out.
  - Bunting is NOT ALLOWED.
- **Fielding**
  - Each team MUST have a catcher. There are no other restrictions to defensive set-up.
  - The runner has a right to the base path. If a fielder disrupts a runners’ path to the base, the runner will automatically be awarded that base.
  - Runner will be awarded one base on an overthrow out of play.



## **SOFTBALL RULES cont.**

- **Other**
  - **Substitutions** – players may substitute during the middle of any inning. Players that substitute must remain in/out for one full inning.
  - In case of inclement weather, tournament will be modified to 3-inning games.
  - **Safety Line:** This is an extended first base line, past the plate toward the back stop.
    - Runners advancing to home, will cross this line instead of touching home plate.
    - Runners that touch home plate will be declared out.
    - Plays made at home will be a force out, using home plate as the base.
  - **HOME RUN RULE (Veterans Memorial Park ONLY)**
    - **Only 3 HR's allowed per game by each team on field #2 and #4. (250' fences)**
  - **Mercy Rule** – A team leading by 10 or more runs after 3 innings will be declared winner
  - **Inning Run Limit** – A team may only score a maximum of 10 runs per inning
    - Exception: Team can score unlimited runs in the Final Inning.
  - **Late Team / Forfeit Rule**
    - A team will receive a 10-minute grace period to take the field for their first game only.

***After your first two rounds, game times are subjected to change. If not present at the start of your game, your game will be forfeited!***

**Cleveland Corporate Challenge staff members and officials reserve the right to settle any disputes, as well as, interpret, modify, and enforce all rules and regulations.**