

Intramural Softball Rules and Information Sheet
Manchester University
Department of Intramural Sports

Eligibility:

1. In order to be eligible to participate all players must be a current MU student, faculty or staff member.
2. Players must be listed on the team roster form prior to the rules meeting.
3. All players must sign the roster form indicating that he/she has read and assumes the risks for any injury that may occur during sports competition.

General Regulations:

1. Each Roster must consist of at least 10 players, with no more than 12. Co-Rec teams must have equal numbers of men and women on the playing field and alternate genders when batting.
2. Teams will consist of 10 players in the field (including rover). The minimum number of players required to begin and finish the game is eight. Players arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order, unless that team has batted through their order.
3. Substitutions may be made following standard softball/baseball regulations. There will be no designated hitter.
4. The choice of Home Team and Visiting Team will be determined by a coin flip unless noted on the schedule.
5. **“In-Season” intercollegiate athletes are restricted from participating in their current sport. “Off-Season” athletes are allowed to participate with no more than two (2) intercollegiate athletes per roster in that sport. In the case of co-recreational leagues, no more than two (2) intercollegiate athletes are allowed on a roster in that sport. A student is considered an intercollegiate athlete in a sport if he/she is on the sport’s official roster after the start of intercollegiate competition for the season.**

Equipment:

1. Players need to supply their own gloves. Balls and Bats will be provided by the IM Department.
2. Metal cleats are prohibited. They may not be worn under any circumstances.
3. All cleats should be molded rubber, soft sole or turf.

The Game:

1. A regulation game will consist of 7 innings or one hour whichever comes first. If time expires before the home team has had a chance to bat in the bottom of the inning, the inning can be finished. No new innings can start after the allotted time expires.
2. Teams reporting to the contest more than 5 minutes after the posted starting time will forfeit that game.
3. A Mercy Rule will apply. If, after the 5th inning one team has a 10 run or more lead they will be declared the winner.
4. In the event of a tie at the end of 7 innings of regulation play, extra innings will be played using International tie-breaker rules (start player with the last out of the previous inning on second base), play complete innings until an inning ends with no tie.
5. Bunting is not allowed.
6. Runners are not allowed to lead off or steal bases. Runners are not allowed to leave the base until the ball is contacted by the batter.
7. Runners are responsible for avoiding all collisions with fielders anytime a fielder is making a play on the ball. If the runner does not avoid the collision, they are liable to ejection.
8. If the runner makes contact with the base and the base “slides or moves”, the runner is “safe” if it occurred before the tag or putout.
9. If a ball is thrown out of play, it will result in the runner being awarded two bases from the beginning of the play. For example if a fielder throws the ball out of play to get the batter/runner out while running to first, the batter/runner will be awarded second base.
10. If a pitcher walks a male batter (intentionally or not) he automatically advances to second base. The next batter, a female, has her choice of walking or hitting. She may choose until the time she steps into the batter’s box (At that point, she must hit).
11. During an at-bat, two (2) fouls will constitute a strike out.

12. Slow-pitch softball pitch rules apply. The pitch must cross the batter between the knees and the chest to be called a strike. If the ball hits the plate it is a ball. All ball/strike and safe/out decisions are final.

Appeals and Protests:

1. An appeal occurs when a player/team requests a ruling on whether or not a runner touched a base etc. At that time the umpire will make a decision.
2. The appeal must be made before the next pitch.
3. Only protests which concern rules interpretation and player eligibility will be considered.

Inclement Weather:

1. The Director of Intramurals will decide when weather/field conditions justify postponement or cancellation of games. Effort will be made to give all teams advance warning of postponed games or cancellations.
2. The IM Director will attempt to reschedule all postponed games if possible. Rescheduled dates will be sent to each team's captain and posted on the IM website.

Player Conduct and Safety:

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct of any sort will not be tolerated. All game umpires and the Intramural Student Director on duty may at any time remove a player from a game as they feel necessary and file a report with the IM Director.
2. Anyone removed from the game will receive an automatic one game suspension and will need to meet with the Director of Intramurals before being reinstated.
3. Any player who is bleeding must be substituted for until the bleeding stops. Any IM Staff member has the authority to remove the player.
4. Any accident or injury must be reported immediately to the Intramural Supervisor on duty.

Reporting of Scores:

1. An official scorebook will be used for all games. Line-ups must be submitted prior to the start of the game.