

RENSELAER INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL RULES

It is the responsibility of each team captain to ensure that all team members are familiar with these rules.

1) TECHNICAL RULES

A) A) For a game to be official, each team must field at least 8 players. The game is forfeited if a team cannot field 8 players by 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time. A team may not field any more than 10 players, although a team may substitute fielders at will from inning to inning.

B) B) A team with 9 players must field a catcher and 8 fielders. A team with 8 players will be provided with a catcher from the opposing team whose sole purpose is to catch the pitch. This person will not play any defense.

C) C) Teams may bat as many players as they want, but the batting order should never change once the game has begun, unless someone has to leave the game permanently. Players that arrive after the game has begun may be added to the end of the batting order.

D) A regulation game will be 7 innings.

- RAIN. If a game is called due to rain it is considered official if at least 4 innings have been played (or 3 1/2 innings if the team at bat is ahead in score). If those conditions are not met, then the game should be continued (not restarted) at a later date.
- 10-RUN RULE. If at the end of 5 innings (or 4 1/2 innings if the team at bat is ahead in score), one team is ahead by 10 runs or more, the game is considered official and is to be terminated. Teams may choose to ignore this rule and continue game and if both teams agree to continue and the game has not passed its allotted time.

E) NO PLAYER MAY WEAR METAL CLEATS. NO EXCEPTIONS. Molded cleats may be worn.

F) All games are to be played with balls and strikes. No "pitch-to-hit games."

G) When a team is at bat, they must provide an umpire to call balls and strikes and officiate the game. The umpire must be able to officiate the game to the satisfaction of the opposing team. In addition, teams must provide 1st and 3rd base coaches who will officiate plays at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd bases. The umpire may over-rule a base coach's call. The umpire officiates plays at the plate.

H) A player may compete with only one team per sport. Once a player has played with a team, he/she may not play for any other team in that sport, regardless of division. Violation can result in suspension of the player and forfeiture of the game in question. See IM General Rules for details.

2) **GROUND RULES**

- A) No stealing.
- B) No leading off until the ball crosses home plate.
- C) No bunting.
- D) No advancing on passed balls or wild pitches.
- E) As judged by the umpire and base coaches, on an overthrow of 1st, 2nd, 3rd or home base into out-of-play territory, or on a throw that touches any spectator or other obstruction, all base runners are awarded the base they were running to on the play plus the next base.
- F) On a batted ball, the ball is in play and runners may continue to advance until:
 - i. The ball is thrown out of play and the umpire then awards all baserunners the appropriate base to which they are entitled.
 - ii. The ball has been returned to the pitcher on the mound.
- G) Players may overrun 1st base, but no others.
- H) Since the bases are not fixed to the ground, a base runner shall not be out if tagged after oversliding. This does not include overrunning the base.
- I) Balls hit over the fence.
 - i. In Upper Renwick Field all hits over the fence are home runs.
 - ii. In Willie Stanton Field hits to the right of the light pole in center field are doubles; to the left they are home runs. If a batted ball hits the centerfield light pole, it is a triple.
 - iii. On Willie Stanton Field, hits that go through the opening in the fence are considered doubles.
- J) If a batted ball rolls through the gate opening in right center of Willie Stanton Field, it is a double.
- K) If a batted ball rolls over the hill past the far left end of the fence Willie Stanton Field, It is a home run.
- L) If a batted ball, that is in play, gets stuck under the fence or is otherwise made difficult to be fielded cleanly, it is a double.
- M) ALL OTHER GROUND RULES not covered here or by standard, official rules of softball must be agreed upon by both teams before the games begin. This includes agreeing on foul lines and out of play areas.

3) **PITCHING**

- A) **NO WINDMILLING.** There is no specific rule concerning the windup style other than it cannot be a windmill style windup. During the windup, the pitcher is allowed to raise his/her hand to any height above the shoulder.
- B) **NO SIDE ARM PITCHING.** The pitcher must throw underhand, not half or three quarters. This means no side arm style pitching. The pitcher's pitching arm, during the pitch, must travel close to his/her hip and leg. The pitching arm cannot be at an angle away from the body.
- C) The pitcher must begin the motion with both feet on the rubber, and must still have one foot in contact with the rubber when the ball is released.
- D) Also, the pitcher must present the ball to the batter at the start of the motion, i.e., the pitcher must show the ball to the batter at the start of the pitching motion.

4) **REPORTING SCORES: Winning team captains must report scores to the Coordinator within 24 hours of the scheduled game. Unreported scores will be recorded as a loss for both teams.**

Please read carefully....

Assumption of Risk and Hold Harmless Agreement

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute does not provide accident insurance coverage for injuries received by Intramural participants. Each participant should make sure that he/she has coverage either through family policies or the student insurance plan. We cannot emphasize this point enough.

By registering a team, team captains assume the responsibility that they shall make their teammates aware of the various risks of participating in this activity. Captain's that do not agree to this responsibility will not be entered into intramural leagues.

Participation in sporting and athletic activities involves certain inherent risks. These include, without limitation, the significant risk of serious personal injury or death and the significant risk of personal property damage or destruction, and hereby assume all risks and consequences associated with or arising in connection with such participation.

Participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State of New York, the Board of Trustees of RPI, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and their employees and students, and all organizations involved in the coordination, hosting, staffing and contribution of equipment and supplies, and their agents, servants and employees from and against any and all claims, damages, actions, liability and expenses in connection with loss of life, personal injury and/or damage to property arising out of my participation in the above-referenced activity.

Updated: September 2003