



# Recesstime Sports Leagues Mushball Rules

As an adult Recesstime Sports League participant, it is your personal responsibility to never allow yourself or your teammates to cross that line between fun competition and unsportsmanlike behavior.

### **PLAYER'S CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

1. Players must treat their fellow players, umpires and spectators with respect and courtesy. Personal and malicious remarks directed at anybody in the Recesstime Sports Leagues community, obscene or otherwise, at any time during game play, have no place in our game.
2. Players must respect the authority of the umpires to regulate the game and abide by their decisions. Umpires' decisions are final.
3. Team Captains must be the only players that address concerns to umpires and League Officials. They are expected to do so in a courteous and respectful manner.
4. Players must refrain from any action that might arouse fellow players or spectators to unsportsmanlike behavior.
5. Players are expected to comply wholeheartedly with the intent and spirit of the rules. Deliberately attempting to violate the rules is indefensible.
6. Players must remember that this is a recreational game. If you act like a jerk, you will look like one.

### **THE GAME**

**All games are governed by the official softball rulebook published by the Amateur Softball Association, with local exceptions as defined by this rule sheet.**

**Games will be 7 innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first. A new inning may not begin after 50 minutes has passed in the game.**

### **TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

All players must be at least 21 years of age prior to participating in any game and must be registered and in good standing with Recesstime Sports leagues (herein: the "League"), which is operated by Recesstime LLC.

If a team uses player(s) not registered and in good standing with the League, they will forfeit that game.

Teams shall consist of between 10 and 15 rostered players, including at least four members of each gender.

Each team may defensively field a maximum of 10 players at a time

Each team must defensively field at least 4 men and 4 women at a time (the "4/4 Rule").

If a team has only THREE members of a gender available, they must defend with no more than seven players of the other gender at a time AND must take ONE penalty out each time through their lineup, after the last batter in their lineup has completed his/her plate appearance.

## **Game Play**

Teams may bat as many batters as they want as long as they do not bat more than two males in a row at any point of the batting order. This includes the wrap around from the bottom to the top of the order. Teams may move players in and out of any fielding position as long as they remain in the same spot in the batting order.

All outfielders must remain behind the dirt infield/"outfield line" when a batter is up to hit. There cannot be more than 7 players on the infield OR 4 in the outfield at any one time. Once contact has been made, the outfielders may cross the line. If an outfielder crosses the line before contact has been made, the batter will be awarded first base. Defensive teams must field a catcher and a defensive "pitcher".

### Mercy Rule:

No more than 6 runs can be scored by either team in one inning. If there is a 20 run differential after four innings, the game will be declared over. This is also the case for 15 run differential after five innings and 6 run differential after six innings.

### Overthrows:

On overthrows out of play, the runner is granted the base he/she is going to (at the point of the throw) plus one more base. Note: he/she must make a clearly aggressive turn towards second base to be granted 2nd and 3rd in overthrow situations. Overthrows are defined as:

The ball is thrown over the fence

The ball is thrown beyond the fence.

No bunting, the batter must make a full swing at the ball. No bunts or half swings are allowed. A bunt or a half swing will cause the batter to be called out. Throwing the bat after the swing is an automatic out.

### Pinch runner

An injured base runner may receive a pinch runner of the same gender. The pinch-runner must be the first available player of the same gender. To be first available means the player closest to the player being pinch ran for on the lineup from bottom to top that is not currently on base. A batter does not become a base runner for the purposes of this rule until the play is called dead. **Pinch runners may only be used by each team once an inning.**

### Home Runs:

The home run limit is two per game

"One-up Rule," once both teams have reached their respective home run limits, either team may hit an additional home run; however, no team may go up more than one home run on the other team.

No stealing/lead offs:

Base runners may not lead off. The base runner must remain on the base until the ball crosses the plane of the plate OR the ball is hit by the batter. No base stealing is allowed. A base runner found to be leading off will be called out. If this is the third out of the inning, the batter will be first up in the next inning with a clear count.

Infield Fly Rule:

On an infield fly (any ball within the infield with significant arc and deemed an "easy catch") with less than two outs and runners on 1st and 2nd or 1st, 2nd and 3rd, the batter is automatically out and **runners may advance, BUT at their own risk.**

Pitching:

Teams will pitch to themselves (they provide the pitcher when they are batting). The pitcher will not play the field for the defensive team. The defensive team must position a player near the offensive pitcher. Each batter will receive three pitches. If a ball is not put into play by the third pitch, the batter will be called out (strike out).

Legal Pitches:

A pitch must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach of a height of at least six feet from the ground while not exceeding a height of 14 feet from the ground.

Pitcher interference:

If the pitcher interferes with the batted ball, the batter will be called out, but if the pitcher is unavoidably hit with the ball, the batter will be called back and a re-pitch will be administered.

## **EQUIPMENT**

All baseball bats and metal cleats are illegal and will not be allowed. Teams found to be using either one, will forfeit their game.

Game Balls

One game ball will be issued per game, only this ball may be used throughout the entire game.

Shoes

Players must wear closed-toe shoes.

Gloves:

Men are not allowed to wear gloves. Women may choose to wear gloves if they wish.