



## SOFTBALL STUDY GUIDE



### History

- \*Softball originated in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day, **1887**. A group of about twenty young men had gathered in the gymnasium of the Farragut Boat Club in order to hear the outcome of the Harvard-Yale football game. After Yale's victory was announced, a man picked up a stray boxing glove and threw it at someone, who hit it with a pole.
- \*George Hancock was the inventor. He tied the boxing glove so that it resembled a ball, chalked out a diamond on the floor (smaller dimensions those of a baseball field in order to fit the gym), and broke off a broom handle to serve as a bat. He shouted "Let's play ball!"
- \*Softball was played with a larger ball, indoors, and was known as "indoor baseball". It was intended as a sort of substitute for baseball, a way of keeping in shape during the winter months. Nicknames for softball include: Kitten ball, army ball, mush ball, indoor-outdoor, recreation ball, and playground ball.
- \*In the spring of 1888, Hancock's game moved outdoors. It was played on a small diamond and called indoor-outdoor. Due to the sport's mass appeal, Hancock published his first set of indoor-outdoor rules in 1889.
- \*While Chicago was definitely softball's birthplace, the game saw some modifications in Minneapolis.
- \* In 1933 during the depression the world championships were held. Governed by the Amateur Softball Association of America, the first champions for both the women and the men were from Chicago.

### Field Responsibilities

- 1-Catcher-catching the ball thrown by the pitcher to home plate area
- 2-Pitcher-throwing ball underhand to batters, fielding the ball hit in the area of the diamond between home plate, covering 1<sup>st</sup> base when the baseman must field a ball, and back up the 1<sup>st</sup> baseman on an overthrow
- 3-First Basemen-covers the area around 1 base and halfway to 2<sup>nd</sup> base
- 4-Second Basemen-covers the area around 2<sup>nd</sup> base and halfway to 1<sup>st</sup> base and also acts as the cutoff man for rt. field
- 5-Third Basemen-Covers the area around third base and halfway to 2<sup>nd</sup> base
- 6-\*Shortstop-covers the mid area between 2<sup>nd</sup> base and 3<sup>rd</sup> base and acts as the cutoff man for left field
- 7-Short Center- Covers the area behind 2<sup>nd</sup> base also may cover 2<sup>nd</sup> base
- 8-Left Field- Covers the outfield from the third base foul line to 2<sup>nd</sup> base
- 9-Center Field- Covers the mid outfield section and also backs up right/left fielders
- 10-Right Fielder- Covers the outfield from the 1<sup>st</sup> base foul line to 2<sup>nd</sup> base

### Terminology:

**Batting order-** order in which players on a team must bat

**Count-** number of balls and strikes on the batter

**Fair Ball-** a batted ball that hits first or third base line, is touched by a fielder within the baselines, or bounces within the baseline past first or third

**Force Out-** when a fielder has possession of the ball at a base where the base runner was forced to run- no empty bases behind runner(s) -- do not need to tag the runner

**Foul Ball-** a ball that first touches an object or player outside of the foul line. It is considered a strike on the batter, if the batter has less than a two strike count.

**Lead-off Batter-** first batter in an inning

**Line Drive-** a hard hit ball that travels with little arc, parallel to the ground

**Single-** a hit that permits the batter to reach first base

**Double-** a hit that permits the batter to reach second base

**Triple-** a hit that permits the batter to reach third base

**Base on Balls- (a walk)-** four pitches thrown out of the strike zone

**Inning -** that portion of the game within which the teams alternate in the field and at bat. Each team gets three outs only!

**Double Play-** two offensive players are put out in one play

**Stealing-** act of base runner attempting to advance to the next base during a pitch- not allowed in slow pitch.

**Strike Zone-** that space over any part of home plate between the batters arm pits and the top of the knees

**Strike Mat-** a strip of carpet that when the pitched ball hits is called "STRIKE"

**Error-** a mistake by the defensive team

**Grand Slam-** a homerun with bases loaded

**One run shall be scored every time a base runner touches each base and home plate before three players are out**

## **SPECIAL RULES PE GAME**

**\*\*\*Start with one ball and one strike**

**\*\*\*Automatic strike if ball hits mat, ball doesn't hit mat it is a ball**

**\*\*\* Second foul ball with two strikes is an out**

**\*\*\*No bunting or Stealing bases**

### **Playing the Game**

- An official team consists of **10** players – may be different in PE class.
- 6 infielders: first basemen, second basemen, third basemen, shortstop, pitcher, and catcher.
- 4 outfielders: left fielder, right fielder, center fielder, and short center.
- The home team takes the field first and the visiting team bats first.
- The ball is put into play by the pitcher, play stops when the pitcher has the ball on the pitching rubber.
- A regulation game is 7 innings in length – Different in PE.
- An inning consist of a turn a bat (3 outs) for each team and a turn playing the field.

### **Strike (May occur in any of the following)**

- **\*\*\* Ball hits the mat (PE GAME ONLY)\*\*\***
- Batter swings at the pitched balls and misses.
- A foul ball and is not caught (except on the third strike).
- Foul tip that remains lower than batter's head and is caught by the catcher.
- Strike is called: A pitched ball is delivered over home plate between the knees and shoulders of the batter (not PE).

### **Ball**

- Pitched ball that lands on the home plate or does not land on the "Strike Mat".
- Four balls entitle batter to become a base runner.
- Pitched ball not over the plate between batter's knees and shoulders and the batter does not swing.

### **Fair Hit Ball: Legally batted ball that:**

- Lands and remains in the infield between home and first or home and third.
- Touches or goes over the first or third base.
- Lands in outfield in fair territory between extended lines from home to first and home to third.

### **Foul Ball: Batted ball which:**

- Lands fair and rolls foul in the infield and is touch by a fielder.
- Hits foul in the outfield.

### **Overthrow**

- When the ball is thrown over the first or third bases into foul territory-players get to advance one base, assuming that the ball went beyond the playable area or touches any obstruction. (one base only in PE, not automatic).
- If the ball is not touched by a person not in the game and does not touch any obstruction the runners may advance as far as they can make it (does not apply to PE game).

### **When a Batter is OUT:**

- Swings at and misses the third strike, pitched ball is called strike 3 (ball hit the mat).
- Is tagged with the ball before reaching a base.
- Second foul ball of a third strike.
- Fair or foul fly is caught.
- Reaches first base after the ball is caught by the baseman.
- Interferes with the catcher.
- If the batter is hit by her own batted ball in fair territory before it has been played by a fielder.

### **When the Base runner is OUT:**

- Leaves the base before ball leaves the pitcher's hand (class rule before the ball goes over home plate).
- Is tagged off the base.
- Fails to return to the base after the ball is caught on a fly ball..
- Interferes with a fielder trying to field the ball.
- Is forced out at base (runner doesn't have any empty bases behind them).
- Passes a Base runner.
- Is hit by a fair batted ball.
- Runs outside the legal three feet from direct base line.