

AMHERST ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2023 ADULT CO-ED SOFTBALL RULES

General Rules

- **NO METAL CLEATS PERMITTED AT ANY TIME.**
- **NO BASEBALL BATS ARE PERMITTED AT ANY TIME. SOFTBALL BATS MUST BE USED.**
- **NO PROFANITY ALLOWED AT ANY TIME. VIOLATORS MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE.**
- The length of games is 55 minutes or 7 innings. Somewhere around the 50-minute mark, the umpire will announce “last inning” and teams will play this inning as deemed by the scorebook.
- The final score after the 7th inning or “last inning” will constitute the winner or a tie game. No extra innings.
- Females will hit a hard 12” softball. Males will hit a 12” “mush-ball”.
- Pitch heights are 6’ minimum and 12’ maximum from ground level and judged by the umpire. The umpire will state “illegal pitch” while the pitch is still in flight for any pitch that does not meet the height requirements. This pitch is still a live ball pitch, and the batter has the choice of swinging at it or taking it as a registered ball.
- Pitching distance to home plate will be 40 feet. Base paths will be 60 feet in length.
- The HOME team is to use the 3rd base side dugout.
- **THE UMPIRE’S DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

Fielding Rules

- 10 players in the field - maximum 6 men and minimum 4 women. (any position combination)
- A team that cannot field the proper number of players will forfeit the game. It is encouraged for the opposition (or other teams) to lend players if applicable so that a game may still be played. Teams will not lose the \$50 forfeit fee if they are able to find substitute players and play the game.
- Outfielders must START from the outfield grass for all batters until the pitch is hit.

Batting/Running Rules

- A “Strike Zone” mat will be used. Any legal pitch that contacts the mat will be called a strike.
- Batters will begin with a 0-0 count, and NO bunting is allowed.
- The batting order consists of all team members present at the game and must alternate between males and females. Batters of each gender maintain the same order, even if they do not always follow the same batter of the opposite gender. Women may bat back-to-back, but not males.
- Everyone stays in the batting order even in innings when they do not play in the field. However, all batters must play the field at some point in the game.
- A foul ball with two strikes is registered as an out. The umpire will notify the batter that the “Ball must be fair.”
- A walked male batter will go directly to second base, and the following female batter will take her turn at batting.
- Courtesy runners are for injured players only. The courtesy runner must be the player of the same gender who most recently made an out. You are not permitted to choose your courtesy runners.
- NO sliding at home plate. Base runners **MUST** use the back of the strike mat on close plays at the plate. The catcher is entitled to the white plate, and the runner will pass behind, touching the black mat to score.
- Sliding is **NOT** permitted at home plate but **IS** permitted at the other three bases. **Please keep it safe!!**