

Updated: 9/22/2010

Georgia Northwestern Technical College Intramurals

Softball Rules

Pre-Game:

1. All players must be a current GNTC student or faculty/staff member to be eligible to play.
2. Teams must arrive ready to play 10 minutes before the scheduled game time.

Team Size:

1. 10 players can be on the field at one time. Teams may start or finish with a minimum of 8 players however, if injury or ejection occurs and the team is put below 8 players the game will be defaulted. A maximum of 12 players are allowed on a roster. All players are eligible to hit. Players do not have to play in the field to hit. Once a player leaves the batting order, he/she cannot re-enter the game.
2. Teams can field 8, 9 or 10 players, gender split as follows: At least 3 women must be on the field at all times unless you are playing with 8 then only 2 are required.
3. Batting order will be decided at the beginning of the game on the score sheet and must be followed, batters batting out of order will be counted out. Players entering a game late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

Substitution:

1. Substitutions can be made at any time, but 6 outs (1 inning) must occur before the player can return to the game.
2. Only men can substitute for men and women for women.

Length of the Game:

1. 6 innings or 1 hour whichever one comes first for regular season games. No inning will start after the 50th minute.
2. 3 innings will constitute a complete game called due to darkness or weather conditions.
3. Playoffs will be 7 innings.
4. Playoff games: 4 innings will constitute a complete game called to darkness or weather conditions.
5. Mercy Rule: In regular season and playoff games, if the home team is ahead by 15 runs any time after 3 ½ innings, or the away team is ahead by 15 runs after 4 innings, the game is over, and that team is declared the winner. Each team is allowed only 8 runs per inning.
6. If a game is tied at the end of the time limit or after 6 innings, teams will start with a runner on second base.

Equipment:

1. The GNTC Intramural Office will provide all equipment at the field with the exception of gloves. (A limited number of gloves will be available for use)
2. No metal cleats will be allowed.
3. Baseball bats are not permitted

Playing Field/Ground Rules:

1. The pitcher must have at least one foot on the pitcher's mound when pitching. After the pitch is made the pitcher may step back away from the batter's box.
2. Pitchers must pitch underhand, palm up, with the ball traveling a height between (6ft-12ft) for the pitch to be legal.
3. Before the start of the game a GNTC official will explain the ground rules for the various fields for the first week of the season.
4. A captain must be designated for each team. They alone may discuss any issues with the officials. Remember, We will have "zero tolerance" for talking to officials and complaining about calls. Clear up any problems prior to the start of each game particularly questions concerning eligibility of player. *Also use of foul language or any sort of taunting will be grounds for ejection. Also if a player carelessly throws a bat they will be subject to ejection.*

Special Intramural Rules:

1. Stealing a base is not allowed. The runner will not be allowed to leave the base until the ball is hit.
2. There will be no sliding. All bases that slide away from the spot are still considered to be on the spot. If a runner was safe and the base slides away, the runner cannot be tagged out. If a runner approaches a base that has been moved due to a previous play, that runner does not need to go out of his/her way to find the base. Runners only need to go into the area where the base would have been. This is a judgement call and cannot be appealed.
3. Batters must take a full swing. Bunts will be considered outs. Batters throwing the bat will be subject to ejection. Umpire judgment shall prevail
4. The batting order must follow an alternating pattern; man, woman, man so that two women do not bat back to back.
5. Each batter begins his/her at bat with a 1 Ball 1 Strike count. Which means that after 2 strikes the batter is out or after three balls a walk will be issued. If a male is walked, he automatically gets second base and the next female has the option of walking or hitting.
6. A team cannot protest an umpire's decision on balls and strikes or called outs.
7. Contact between players on opposite teams will not be permitted at any time during the game. If there is intentional contact made, the first offense will result in suspension from one game. The second offense will result in permanent removal from the intramural sport.
8. The ball is dead when it is thrown out of play. When a ball is overthrown the base runner is permitted one additional base (ie. if a runner is on first base they proceed to second. If a runner is on the way to second they proceed to third) umpires will rule on this.
9. Amateur Softball Association (ASA) www.softball.org/ Softball rules will be in effect with the exception of the ground rules stated above.

***Alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated. Players listed on the score sheet who are detected of having consumed alcohol prior to or during an intramural game will be ejected and suspended from intramural play.**

****Only the captain or designated captain can approach officials or activity supervisors during or after the game.**

***** Rules are subject to change at the discretion of the Intramural sports coordinator.**

**Georgia Northwestern Intramural Softball
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