

# SIXTEEN-INCH SOFTBALL

Any softball rules not covered or found in this section will be covered or found in Part I of the current edition of the official NSA Rulebook.

## **RULE 2 THE PLAYING FIELD**

### **SECTION 4**

The official diamond shall have base lines as follows:

- a) Sixteen (16) inch softball base lines will be sixty (60) feet.

### **SECTION 5**

The official diamond shall have pitching distance as follows:

- a) Sixteen (16) inch softball pitching distance will be thirty-eight (38) feet.
- b) There shall be no batters box in the 16" Program

## **RULE 3 EQUIPMENT**

### **SECTION 1 THE OFFICIAL BAT**

- a) The bat shall have a safety grip of cork, tape or any combination of materials.
- b) The grip should not be less than ten (10) inches long and shall not extend more than fifteen (15) inches from the small end of the bat.
- c) The bat can be any ounce and length and does not have to meet the ABI /BPF standards.
- d) The bat can be made of wood, metal or other materials approved by the NSA.

### **SECTION 2 THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL**

- a) The sixteen (16) inch ball shall be between 15 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> and 16 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches in circumference and weigh between 9 and 10 ounces.

### **SECTION 3 GLOVES**

- a) Gloves are optional at the state tournament and above in the Men's 16 Inch Program.
- b) No gloves are allowed in the Chicago land area for men or women. Other states or teams outside the Chicago land area may wear gloves. In the World Series, the teams from the Chicago land area can wear gloves when they play a team from outside the Chicago land area but cannot wear gloves when playing teams from within the Chicago land area. When teams from outside the Chicago land area play against each other, gloves are approved for play.

## **RULE 5 THE GAME**

Softball is a contact sport, played with Composite, Aluminum, Wood and other approved materials in the design of approved bats and softballs. The game of softball can be a dangerous sport to participate in. In playing the game of softball, the player and the parents of the youth players participating in the game of softball assume for themselves and for the youth children participating in the game of softball the risk of serious injury or possible death. By agreeing to be placed on an NSA roster, the participants or parents of participants understand these risks. To reduce the risk of Injury; the National Softball Association HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY PLAYER wear protective equipment!

## CLASSIFICATIONS

Men's Major – Class "A" – Recreational

Women – Class "A"

### **RULE 6 PITCHING REGULATIONS**

#### **SECTION 2**

A legal delivery shall be delivered with an under handed motion.

- a) The pitcher must present the ball to the batter while standing on the pitching rubber.
- b) After presenting the ball for one (1) second, the pitcher may take one (1) step in any direction.
- c) Once a pitcher has taken the step, the ball must be presented again before the ball is delivered.

**NOTE:** *The non-pivot foot may be placed in any direction except in front of the pivot foot.*

- d) The minimum and maximum pitching arcs from the ground are six (6) feet and twelve (12) feet, respectively.
- e) The pitcher shall be allowed two (2) fake delivery motions to either home plate or an occupied base. On the third motion, the ball must be delivered to home plate.
- f) At no time may a pitcher use a windmill motion.

### **RULE 8 BASERUNNING**

#### **SECTION 1**

Base stealing is not permitted

- a) A baserunner is permitted to lead off the base but is subject to being picked off of that base.
- c) If a pick-off delivery is made on a baserunner off first, second, or third base, he/she may advance at his/her own risk to the next base if it is unoccupied.

## **COED SIXTEEN-INCH SOFTBALL**

### **RULE 4 PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS**

*Any non-player who is not yet considered an adult, may not be between the fences or boundaries that are considered the playing field without a NOCSAE approved helmet with a NOCSAE approved face mask properly attached. Any youth division bat boys/bat girls who are the teams official bat boy/bat girl or who are team members serving as bat boy/bat girl must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet with a NOCSAE approved face mask properly attached. The coach/manager or player representing the team is responsible for insuring that the non-player be in compliance with the batting helmet rule or age rule.*

**PENALTY:** The player, non-player, bat boy or bat girl will put the helmet on or be removed from the playing area.

#### **SECTION 1**

A team shall consist of:

- a) 9, 10, or 12 with the extra players. If a team uses the optional EP rule and plays twelve (12) players, six (6) must be male and six (6) must be female. **NOTE:** *It is never permissible to use eleven (11) players.*

- b) If the team uses 10 players, five (5) must be male and five (5) must be female.
- c) A team can start a game with a minimum of Nine (9) players. If a team has only nine (9) players, the 10<sup>th</sup> position in the batting order is scored as an out .

**NOTE:** *When a team is left with a vacant 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the lineup, for any reason, the opposing team may not with two (2) outs intentionally or unintentionally walk the previous batter, in order to get to the “automatic out” created by the vacant spot in the batting order.*

d) There must be one (1) female in the outfield at all times. All other positioning is left up to the individual manager.

- 1) If a female player plays first base, she has the option of wearing a glove.
- 2) Outfielders may not be on the infield surface until the pitch is released.
- 3) Each team must have a male /female pitcher and catcher combination.

### **SECTION 10 COURTESY RUNNER**

A Courtesy Runner of the same sex may be used once per inning for a total of two (2) courtesy runners per inning one (1) male and (1) female. The courtesy runner must be the same sex. A Courtesy Runner (which is not a substitute) may be used once per inning. The Courtesy Runner can be any player on the team roster who is present, eligible and not been ejected and may be used once per inning per team. The courtesy runner will be entered into the game by the Head Coach through the home plate umpire before play resumes. Once play resumes by the umpire declaring play ball; that courtesy runner will be officially entered. If that courtesy runner comes to bat while on base, it is an out. The courtesy runner “MAY NOT” under any circumstances be substituted for. The defensive team “MAY” walk to get to the vacated spot in the line up. Rule 7 Section 3 is not in effect for this rule.