

ACTIVITY RULEBOOK

Softball

Softball is a non-contact activity, however contact and injuries are a possibility. Rec Sports assumes no responsibility for injuries and all participants must electronically acknowledge/consent to the online waiver in IMLeagues prior to participating. By agreeing to the online waiver, each participant agrees to rules and policies outlined in this and all other documents provided by Rec Sports.

UWL Rec Sports welcomes all students and faculty/staff members meeting eligibility guidelines. Participants may compete in the gender league with which they identify.

Section 1: Starting the Contest

Start (Game) Time

Game time is forfeit time. It is recommended teams arrive at the contest site 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start.

Facility and Contest Set Up

a. **Playing Location**

Softball is played on the grass fields in the Veterans Memorial Sports Complex and at the North Campus Fields. For directions to the North Campus Fields, please view the [campus map](#).

b. **Field**

Fields are lined and set up by Rec Sports staff. All playing equipment is property of the Recreational Sports Department.

c. **Officiating**

All contests will be officiated by 1 umpire and 1 scorekeeper. All decisions made by umpires and scorekeepers are final, except for those eligible for protests.

Rec Sports is always looking for officials and would love to have you join our team! To learn more about officiating, visit our ["Become an Official" website](#).

d. **Captain's Meeting**

Captains are to meet with the contest staff prior to each contest to review rules, eligibility, legal equipment and to determine possession/team sides. Teams will also review/submit their lineup cards at this time.

Equipment

- Participants should provide their own fielding gloves. Rec Sports has limited supply of gloves available for check out.
- Game balls, warm up balls, and bats will be provided.
- To ensure player safety, all participants must use provided bats. Bats will be replaced when the umpire determines the bat is no longer safe for competition.
- Tennis shoes or plastic cleats are allowed. Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

Participation

- Teams will consist of 10 fielding players and 10 batting players.
- Teams can have 11 players in the batting order.
- If a team begins with 11 hitters, the batting order must remain the same for the entire game.
- A game may start with as few as 7 players.
- If agreed upon, the other team may provide a catcher. They will not make a play at home.
- When playing with 8 players, teams must supply their own catcher.
- If a team is reduced to 6 players, the game will be forfeited.
- Any player that arrives late to the contest should present their ID to the scorekeeper upon arrival. The player can enter the game as a substitute only or at the end of the batting order.
- An 11th hitter cannot be added once the umpire has said, "play ball."
- All players may withdraw and re-enter the game once in the same spot in the batting order.
- Notify the scorekeeper when making substitutions.
- Once a substitute enters the game and is removed from the game, they may not re-enter for the rest of the game.

Eligibility

a. **Intercollegiate Athlete**

- Current UWL Softball and Baseball players may not participate in Intramural Softball during the current academic year.
- Only 1 former collegiate player (including transfer students from other institutions) may play on an intramural roster.
 - An intramural roster may not have 1 former baseball player and 1 former softball player on a co-rec roster

b. **Sport Club Athlete**

- Intramural softball rosters are limited to 2 current/former sport club athletes

Rec Sports will search and filter athletic athlete eligibility. It is not guaranteed that all roster violations will be noticed. Teams, players, officials and additional staff members are allowed to protest team rosters. When in-doubt about your roster or eligibility, please ask early. Contests (including playoffs) may be forfeited retroactively if ineligible rosters are discovered mid-season.

Section 2: Playing the Contest

General Game Play

Games will consist of 7 innings or 50 minutes, whichever comes first.

A new inning will not be started with 5 minutes left in game (45 minutes after start time).

- For tied games in the league play, one extra inning will be played. If still tied, the game will end tied.
- For tied games in playoffs, extra innings will be played until a winner is declared.

Lineup cards will be provided by Rec Sports and are to be filled out by the team captain AND examined by the umpire(s) prior to contest commencement. Any team and/or individual batting out of order will be called out by the umpire.

Game Fields – please be advised specific fields have certain ground rules not included in this rule book. Ground rules will be available at the site of competition and reviewed by umpires before contests begin.

Each field will have a designated player's bench, coaching boxes, and spectator section.

All equipment, participants, and spectators must remain in these sections during play.

The ball is considered in-play at all times unless it goes under the bleachers or over any fence.

NOTE: On Soccer Turf-Field 1, we will treat the concrete along the first base line or the third base line as a wall. If a foul ball is hit high and through the "wall", it will be called a foul ball and the play is dead. Defense may not catch this ball to get an out (if it is the second foul ball for this hitter, it will be an out).

Once a team reaches its limit of home runs permissible by rule, ground rule doubles shall be awarded (for home runs hit over a pre-determined fencing area only; runners who could hit an "inside the park" home run must stop at third base, including plays in which errors occur (overthrows or ball-out-of-play instances excluded))

Pitching

Pitchers will pitch to the opposing team starting with a 1 ball, 1 strike count.

Pitching arcs must be between 6 and 12 feet. If not in that range, the umpire will call "illegal pitch" while the ball is in flight.

If an "illegal pitch" is called, the pitch is considered a ball no matter where it lands with relation to the strike mat. If the batter decides to swing anyways, the result of the swing (miss, foul ball, or ball in play) will override the "illegal pitch" call and play will continue normally.

Any pitch that falls within the legal pitch arc range and lands on the plate or the strike mat is a strike.

Batting

The official score sheet must list the batting order of the team, with first and last names, and be turned into the scorekeeper prior to the game.

Batters must bat in this order, unless a substitute enters the game. All players in the field must bat.

If a player hits a foul ball with a 2-strike count, that player will be out.

Any foul ball hit into a parking lot or on to a street will be an automatic out.

There is NO bunting or chopping the ball downward, the batter must have a full swing to be a legal hit. Bunting or chopping the ball will result in an automatic out.

If noticed before the first pitch of the next batter, batting out of order is an out. If not noticed after the first pitch of the next batter, it is a non-correctable error and the batter is legal.

Infield Fly Rule will be in effect if there is a runner on first and second, or bases loaded with less than two outs.

If the batter hits a routine fly ball in fair territory in the infield, the umpire will yell "Infield Fly". The batter is out and all runners are safe at the base they started at. Any runner that leaves their base does so at their own risk.

Baserunning

A runner may not leave the base until the ball has been hit. Rules on “tagging up” will apply.

- Leaving the base early (prior to a ball being hit) will result in the play being ruled dead and an out will be called on that runner.
- Runners can tag when a ball is legally touched by a defender; the ball does not necessarily need to be caught (i.e. a ball being “bobbled”).

There is no stealing.

There is no sliding or diving into any base. The runner will automatically be called out.

Teams may use a courtesy runner for an injury once the batter safely reaches base. The person of the same gender who made the last out will be used.

- If needed, the last out of the previous inning will be used.
- If no outs have been recorded in the game, the last person of that gender in the batting order will be used.

A home plate force out will be utilized when the runner passes the 2/3rds mark on the 3rd baseline.

- The runner is assumed committed to home plate once they pass that line.
- If the defensive player (catcher) has control of the ball and is touching home plate before the runner touches the black strike mat, the runner is called out.

Malicious contact is the judgment of the umpire.

- If a fielder is holding the ball and waiting for the runner, the runner is to give themselves up or change direction. If the runner causes contact and/or illegally alters the actions of the fielder the runner is called out.
- If a defensive player has the ball, or is about to catch a thrown ball, and the runner crashes into the defensive player, and the contact is determined malicious, the offender shall be ejected from the contest.

An appeal for leaving a base early or missing a base may be made by the defense after the ball is declared dead by the umpire and before the next legal pitch. The appeal must be announced to the umpire, and then the base in question must be touched by a defensive player in possession of the ball. The umpire’s decision on an appeal is final.

- On an overthrow, runners advance at their own risk. If the ball goes into trees or over a fence, the runner then is awarded two bases. No matter who threw the ball two bases are awarded from the last base touched when the ball left the hand of the thrower.
- There are NO errors recorded for missed catches, or other actions by the defense. Any batter who eventually ends up scoring before the next batter bats, will be considered a homerun.

Mercy Rule

The game will be called if a team is ahead by 15 runs at the completion of the 4th inning or 10 runs at the completion of the 5th or 6th innings.

Section 3: Co-Rec Specifications

- Teams are encouraged to play with an equal number of males and females. It is recommended teams align themselves defensively with 5 males and 5 females. Teams can play defense with the following approved male-to-female ratios (no other ratio is permitted):
 - 5 males: 5 females
 - 5 males: 4 females
 - 4 males: 5 females
 - 4 males: 4 females
 - 4 males: 3 females
 - 3 males: 4 females
- Teams will consist of 10 fielding players and 12 batting players.
- Teams can have up to 12 players in the lineup, 1 additional male & 1 additional female
- If a team begins a game with extra hitters, the batting order must stay the same for the entire game.
- A game may start with as few as 7 players.
- If agreed upon, the other team may provide a catcher. They will not make a play at home.
- When playing with 8 players, teams must supply their own catcher.
- If a team is reduced to 6 players, the game will be forfeited.
- Any player that arrives late to the contest should present their ID to the scorekeeper upon arrival. The player can enter the game as a substitute only or at the end of the batting order.
- An 11th or 12th hitter cannot be added once the umpire has said, “play ball.”

- When playing with an odd number of players, there can only be 1 additional male or female participating than the other.
- Alternating batting orders must follow allowable male-to-female ratios. Teams with ratios not defined by rule must utilize substitute players and follow substitute guidelines as outlined in the lineup card.
 - A batting order might be F1, M1, F2, M2, F3, M3... etc. or it might be M1, F1, M2, F2, M3, F3... etc.
 - At any time 2 males or 2 females bat back-to-back in a co-rec league, an out will be called.
 - **EXAMPLE:** If a team has 11 players and the 1st and 11th batters are male, an out will be called
 - **EXCEPTION:** Teams are permitted to have subsequent members of the same gender take an “at-bat” as long as those members are a leadoff hitter and a hitter at the very end of the order when the batting lineup does not have more than 9 players.
- Teams are required to play with at least 2 females in the outfield and 2 in the infield.
- A male batter who receives a walk, intentional or not, is awarded first base. The female who follows has the option to walk or bat.
 - If the female chooses to walk, the male advances to 2nd.

Section 4: Weather Issues

- Weather cancellations will be determined by the Rec Sports Staff.
- If the weather is questionable, please contact 608-785-5225 and/or watch for an email from Rec Sports.
 - **DO NOT IGNORE EMAIL MESSAGES FROM IMLEAGUES OR INTRAMURALS@UWLAX.EDU.**
- During regular season, four completed innings or 40 minutes (whichever is less) will constitute a completed game. If less is completed, the game will be rescheduled (if time allows). Incomplete games will start over from the first pitch of the game.
- If the game is called early, the score at the end of the last inning will be used. Unfinished innings will only count if the home team is up to bat and currently winning.
- Games will be made up if time allows. Please check IMLeagues for game makeup dates/times.

Section 5: Winning Specifications

Contest

Teams receive a win in standings by leading after the designated regulation time period or after applicable overtime period(s). Losses and ties are included in standings as well.

Playoffs

All rules apply to playoffs. To qualify, teams must win at least 1 contest and maintain a sportsmanship average of 4.0 during the regular season in addition to following forfeit policies. Other scheduling differences may apply to certain playoff circumstances. Qualification is monitored at the discretion of Rec Sports staff.

Protests

Protesting is permitted. If a team wishes to protest eligibility, rule implementation/interpretation or a perceived scoring error in-game, they shall notify a staff member right away. To file a post-game protest, email the program at intramurals@uwlax.edu or visit the [Online Protest Form](#). Teams may not protest officials' judgment calls (i.e. incomplete vs. complete pass, foul vs. no foul, violation vs. no violation, inbounds vs. out-of-bounds, etc.).

Other than the specifications listed in this rulebook, official WIAA, NFHS and/or NIRSA rules will be followed.