



## Edmonton Junior High Athletics Combined Mixed Slo-Pitch Rules of Play



The following will be used as rules of play for the 2023 season. Where not listed playing rules will be according to the current rules utilized by Alberta Softball (AASA).

### A. EQUIPMENT

1. Helmets are mandatory for all batters and base runners. Helmets must have a chin strap.
2. Catchers and pitchers must wear a mask. Other equipment is optional based on team preferences
3. No metal cleats.
4. Softball bats only.
5. Pitchers may not wear sweatbands, bandages, tape or bracelets or similar items on the fingers, wrists or forearm of the pitching arm.
6. Ball type – 12” with a COR of .47.
7. Safety Base: will be used at first. The outside/orange “safe” part of the base is located in foul territory and is the base runner’s half of first. The inside/white portion of the base is played by the first base person. A runner intending to advance to second may round first by tagging the inside of the white base and continuing on. In this situation, if there is no play at first, the first base person should not block the runner’s ability to round the base. Base runners not intending to go to second may over run first base but they must turn out to the right (umpire’s discretion if they turned in but were not intending to go to second).

### B. FIELD

1. Pitching Distance: 45’
2. Base Distance: 65’ (92’ from home to second base)
3. Mat Dimensions: Mat size and shape should be consistent at all diamonds (2-feet by 3-feet).
4. There is no longer a batter’s box, instead is a line 3 feet in front of the plate
  - The Batter’s Box will consist on a line drawn 3 ft. in front of home plate and will extend past the foul lines on both sides. There will be no inside, outside or back line to the batter’s box.
  - What it means: Prevents the batter from running out of the box and offers protection for the pitcher. The batter must start and finish their at bat with both feet behind the front batter’s box line. While the batter’s foot may touch the line, no part of the foot may cross or be in front of the line. Should the line be removed during the course of play, the umpire will use their best judgement to determine if the batter has remained behind the line.
5. Commitment Line: 20’ from home plate. A base runner must go home once they have passed this line.

6. Safety line: lines up with home plate and the first base line, extending back towards the backstop. A base runner must take the safety line and the catcher must take the plate. If a base runner takes the mat or plate they will be automatically out. There will be no sliding at home. The opposing catcher does not have to tag the runner just the plate

### **C. PLAYERS**

1. Rosters may be any size.
2. Each team must have a minimum of 4 players of each gender on the field at all times. (e.g. 6 boys/4 girls ratio must be maintained).
  - If a team cannot field 10 players, the minimum allowed will be 8.
    - 3 girls & 5 boys = no outs
    - 3 girls & 6 boys = out taken in 10<sup>th</sup> spot of batting order
3. Courtesy runner (last recorded out) may be used in case of injury. The umpire should be made aware that a courtesy runner will be required prior to the game, or after an injury occurs. The players must make it to first base on their own. A courtesy runner may then take their place at first.
4. The players in the starting lineup may be substituted for and may subsequently be re-entered once, in the same spot in the order so that the batting order stays the same.
5. Substitutions - boy for boy/girl for girl.
6. In the case of a substitution players must play defense before they can bat.
7. Players must play 1 season game to qualify for playoffs.

### **D. Game Play**

1. 7 inning games, maximum 5 runs per inning, 7<sup>th</sup> or final inning will be unlimited runs.
2. Games will be played in 1 hour 30 minutes, with no new innings starting after 1 hour 15 minutes. This does not include playoffs. Announce before last inning starts.
3. Mercy Rule: after 5<sup>th</sup> inning 10 run lead. Teams may continue to play if both teams agree and time allows.
4. Tie after 7 – International rule in effect – the batter to last bat in the previous inning goes to second as a base runner. Batting order then continues as written.
5. Default game score is 7-0.
6. No lead-offs. Anticipation is allowed. A player may step off of the base once the batter has swung or once the ball crosses the plate (one step only). More than one step is an out.
7. Pitches must have a 6 to 12 foot arc (umpire's discretion).
8. Four straight balls (0 strikes) to any batter – batter advances to second, next batter still bats.
9. A player who makes contact with the plate or mat while batting will be out
10. No intentional bunting or chopping, the batter will be out. A foul ball hit after a batter has 2 strikes results in an automatic out.
11. Base runners may advance after a foul fly ball is caught. The base runner must tag up after the catch is made.
12. A “fair play” rule on double plays at first and second will be enforced. If the runner

going to 2<sup>nd</sup> base knows he/she will be out, it is the player's responsibility to get out of the way so as not to obstruct or distract the throw to first base. If in the umpire's judgment, the runner obstructed the throw to first base in any way, the batter will also be called out, resulting in an automatic double play.

13. Infield Fly rule is in effect with runners at first and second or the bases are loaded and there are less than two (2) outs.

The infield fly "can be caught by an infielder with an ordinary effort". This means that if a shortstop has to run ten steps into left field and dive to make the catch then the infield fly rule does not apply. However, if that same shortstop had been playing back ten steps into left field and could therefore catch the fly after taking only a couple of steps, then this is an infield fly. It does not matter where the infielders start nor where they can catch the ball, if they can get there with a reasonable effort (again, in the judgement of the umpire) then this is an infield fly.

To qualify as a fly ball and not a line drive, the ball must travel in an arc of some kind. This is a judgement call by the umpire at the time of the hit, immediately following contact with the bat.

The umpire must call "Infield Fly-batter is out" while the ball is ascending and prior to its descent to warn the fielders and any base runners. If a base runner chooses to advance despite the call by the umpire they do so at their own risk.

This rule was created to eliminate a player from intentionally dropping a fly ball near the infield to put out base runners that are forced to tag up and wait to run to the next base(s).

## SLO-PITCH - (ALL)

### Acceptable Certification Stamps:

ISF 2005



WBSC  
(New)



ASA 2000



ASA 2004



USA Softball  
(New)



USSSA



NEW 2021

### League Tie-Breaker Rules:

- If 2 or more teams have the same win-loss record of all games in the pool, the game(s) between these 2 or more teams shall decide the ranking.
- If the 2 or more teams have the same win-loss record of the games between them, further criteria will be applied in the following order:
  - Higher run difference of the games between them.
  - Higher number of runs scored in the games between them.
  - Higher run difference of all games in the pool.
  - Least amount of runs surrendered in all games in the pool.
- If at any level of these criteria one or more team(s) can be ranked, the procedure shall be repeated from the beginning for all the remaining teams not ranked yet.
- If these criteria still cannot decide at the end of the group phase, a draw shall decide on the final ranking