

Oswego State

Campus Recreation – Intramural Sports

Softball Rules

Pre-Game:

All Players must present a valid SUNY Oswego ID to be eligible to play.

Team Size:

1. Men's and Women's teams must start with a minimum of 8 players. 11 players constitute a full team; a maximum of 10 players can be in the field at one time. One additional player may be optionally included in the line-up as extra hitter (EH). Such players will have regular places in the batting order, but will not play in the field.
2. Co-Rec. teams must start with a minimum of 8 players. Teams can field 8, 9 or 10 players, gender split as follows: 4 women on an 8 or 9-player team, 5 women on a 10-player team. An EH may be used as long as the gender split is maintained. (i.e., A team may not have a male designated hitter on a 9 player team that fields 4 women and 5 men)

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. In the Co-Rec. division, only men can substitute for men and women for women.

Length of the Game:

1. 5 innings or 1 hour whichever one comes first for regular season games.
2. 3 innings will constitute a complete game called due to darkness or weather conditions.
3. Playoffs and Tournaments will be 7 innings.
4. Playoff and Tournament 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 12 runs any time after 3 ½ innings, or the away team is ahead by 12 runs after 4 innings, the game is over, and that team is declared the winner.

Equipment:

1. The Campus Recreation Sports Office will provide all equipment at the field with the exception of gloves. Gloves may be signed out with a SUNY Oswego ID.
2. No metal cleats will be allowed.

Playing Field/Ground Rules:

1. The pitcher must have at least one foot on the pitcher's plate when pitching.
2. Before the start of the game an umpire will explain the ground rules for the various fields for the first week of the season.
3. East Field: A chalk line marking the out of play boundary shall be drawn from the end of the backstop parallel to the left field foul line. If the player has one foot entirely outside the line while making a catch, the ball shall be declared "dead" and "foul". If a ball is caught inside the line and carried over it into dead ball territory by momentum, the ball shall be declared dead and each base runner shall be awarded an additional base.
4. West Field: A chalk line shall be drawn from the end of the fence along the right field line extending to the base of the Parking Lot Hill. The drainage ditch at the base of the hill shall serve as the dead ball boundary for home runs. A ball landing beyond this ditch in the air is a home run. Outfielders are not permitted to catch balls on the hill. Any ball caught by an outfielder on the hill is a home run. A batted ball landing on the ground before the ditch and then bounding over it shall result in at least a ground rule double. It is the plate umpire's responsibility to place the base runners in any dead ball situation regarding the ditch.

Special Intramural Rules:

1. It is mandatory for each player participating in Intramural Softball to wear a batting helmet while batting and while running or coaching the bases. Failure to wear a batting helmet will result in the umpire calling an automatic out.
2. The runner will not be allowed to leave the base until the ball passes the batter. A runner in violation of this rule shall be called out.
3. There will be no stealing or bunting. A player who steals or bunts will be called out. Bunting includes the action of "chopping at the ball".
4. In Co-Rec games, batting order must follow an alternating pattern; man, woman, man. It is possible for 2 men to bat in a row if the teams are playing 9 players.
5. In Co-Rec if a male is walked, he automatically gets second base and the next female has the option of walking or hitting.
6. A ball with the proper arc (6ft-12ft), which lands on the mat, is a strike. A strike mat will be used to call balls and strikes. At anytime during the game if there are more than four walks in an inning, it will be the umpire's discretion to widen the strike zone. A team cannot protest an umpire's decision to widen the strike zone.
7. There will be no sliding allowed. 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.
8. 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.
9. NIRSA Softball rules will be in effect with the exception of the ground rules stated above.