

Sports Bubble

Indoor Softball Rules and Regulations

2006/2007

The Field

The game is played on artificial AstroTurf, with the infield being regulation ASA softball. The game is 7 innings or 55 minutes whichever comes first. The centerfield wall is approximately 180 ft from home plate, with short walls in right and left field. The ceiling as well as the outside walls is live and special rules are incorporated to accommodate the play of each. A softball size incrediball is used which makes for a fast infield and a real need for concentration when fielding and catching the ball.

Offense

A team may bat as many players as they wish as long as the lineup is followed in its correct order. Subbing can be at anytime but the lineup cannot be altered. If a player is subbed he must re-enter in the same lineup spot he left, though he may play another position defensively. If a player bats out of order he will be out and the next batter will be out as well, and any runners that advanced on the "At bat" will return to their last base occupied before the infraction occurred.

Defense

The defense may field up to 7 players. Normally the pitcher covers second base so as to provide ample outfield support, with the first basemen and third basemen playing shortstop duties on both sides of the infield or a rover that plays shortstop right or left of 2nd base depending on the batter.

Balls and Strikes

The count starts with 1 ball and 1 strike to the batter with no courtesy foul. Four balls is a walk, and 3 strikes is an out. 3rd strike foul is an out.

Special Rules

The Bubble is color coded Blue and White with the split coming half way running thru second base, east to west. The White portion of the walls and ceiling are live and the fielder can catch the ball off them for an out as if it were a regular fly ball that never hit anything. The Blue portion of the walls and ceiling may not be played off of for an out, but instead a play must be made at a base or on the runner. The umpire will distinguish whether the ball hits Blue or White upon its contact by loud verbal command. If the ball hits the white portion in foul territory but lands fair it is a fair ball. The netting that hangs just below the ceilings and walls is considered part of the color area it covers. Net-White is white and net Blue is Blue. ONLY the umpire can call Blue or White !! Interference or obstruction will be called if it creates a disadvantage to either team.

Tree outs makes a half inning and 6 outs constitutes an inning.

Infield Fly Rule

Because of the 60-foot ceiling, the "Infield Fly Rule" is not in effect.

Scoring per inning

The batting team may only score 9 runs in a half inning with the teams then switching from offense to defense.

There is no 10 or 15 run rule in effect. Ties in the standings are broken by run differential for the season as to team points scored and team points allowed. A game can end in a tie if the 55 minutes has expired. No new inning will start after 55 minutes.

Pitching

The pitch must be according ASA rules, no lower than 6 feet and no higher than 12 feet at highest point of the arm. All pitches must be made underhand with one foot on the rubber at the time the pitcher goes into his delivery. The pitcher must also come to a 1 second pause before release upon taking his pitching position. There will be no quick pitches and the ball shall be dead if it occurs and considered a NO PITCH.

Bases

There is no sliding into or diving back to a base. If this occurs the runner is out. A double base will be used at 1st base with the outside base being for the runner and inside base for the fielder according to ASA rules.

Reminder

All rules not covered are governed by ASA slowpitch regulations such as interference, obstructions, etc.

Home Runs

There are 5 advertisement banners hanging on the Blue outfield walls which if hit are HR's. The first home run each game will be a bonus HR in which that batter will be given a free pitcher of beer coupon. The coupon must used on the evening it is given.

Out of Bounds

The white line that extends behind homeplate and runs behind each bench area outside wall to outside wall is considered DEAD BALL. Two bases will be awarded from the time of the throw, just as ASA rules would specify. Should a player carry a ball into the deadball area it will be one base. The bench area is also DEAD BALL and out of bounds.

BUBBLE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Sports Bubble will not tolerate any unsportsmanlike conduct from any player or spectator that places the integrity or safety of a Bubble employee, official, player or spectator at risk. Use of violence, profanity or any other type of behavior that creates a travesty to the game or the Sports Bubble is included in this rule. Violation of this rule can result in immediate ejection from game or league play. Alcohol consumption during the game is allowed but is to be treated as a privilege. Any official or Sports Bubble employee can and will terminate that privilege should they feel it has been abused or is creating a danger to another person, the game or themselves. Minors will not be served and anyone providing alcohol for a minor will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and be banned for any future participation in Sports Bubble Activities.