



FIREBAG SOFTBALL 2023 RULES

START TIMES & GAME TIME LIMITS

- Regular season games will start promptly at the scheduled start time – 7:30 PM
- Teams will have fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time to field a team. A team fielding less than seven players shall forfeit the game
- Games are played to a max. of 7 innings or 9 PM. The team captains will make a judgment call at approx. the 8:45 minute mark as to whether or not another complete inning could be played. If a new inning is started, the inning must be completed
- The bottom of the 7th inning is played only if the visiting team is leading. Play stops at three outs or as soon as the home team scores the winning run



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INCELEMT WEATHER & CANCELLATIONS

- Game cancellations due to inclement weather must be decided at the park unless cancelation is called by the team captains at least 2 hours prior to the game
- Team captains are responsible to notify their players of any cancellations or rescheduled games
- In the event a game in progress is called due to rain, games are considered complete after four full innings

PLAYERS ON THE FIELD

- The maximum number of players allowed on the field is 10, four outfielders, four infielders and one pitcher and one catcher.
- The minimum number of players on the field shall be seven (replacement players are okay although they must be on the roster) Opposing team can back catch if opponent doesn't have enough players.



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IMERCY RULE

- There shall be a maximum of seven (7) runs per inning per team except the last inning, which shall be unlimited.

UMPIRES

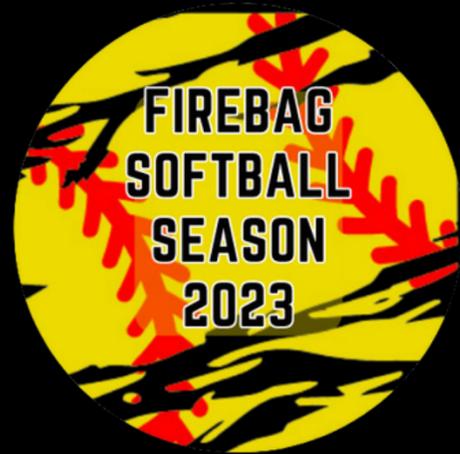
- Regular season games will be self-umpired. The batting team will be responsible to provide an umpire every inning; plate umpire is responsible for calling all strikes, balls, foul balls and plays at the bag.



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PITCHING RULES

- Pitcher's must pitch from the pitcher's mound marked at 35 feet from home plate
- Pitches are to be underhand only. (Fastball or "windmill" pitches are not permitted)
- Pitch to your own team, 3 pitches max. If batter does not get on base after 3 pitches they will be deemed "out"
- "NO PITCH" shall be declared when: 1) The pitcher pitches during a suspension of play, 2) The runner is called out for leaving the base too soon 3) The pitcher makes a quick return pitch, 4) The ball slips from the pitcher's hand during the windup, or 5) The pitching arc is lower than 6 feet or higher than 10 feet.
- The pitch must be delivered with an arc between **six** and **ten** feet.
- If the batter hits a foul ball on their 3rd pitch, they will be considered "out"



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BATTING RULES

- A foul tip is a batted ball which goes directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand and is legally caught by the catcher. The batter is not out unless the ball goes above the batter's head before being caught or it is the third strike.
- The batter gives up all rights if they swing at an illegal pitch.

HOME-RUN RULES

- There is a maximum of three 'outside the park' Home Runs allowed per team / per game.
- All Home Runs hit after the third Home Run, will be counted as strikes
- Any ball that is hit into the mesh is considered a ground rule double, no matter if the ball comes back into play or goes between the fence and mesh.



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BASE RUNNING RULES

- The following activities are prohibited and will result in the offenders being called out:
 - No sliding into any base at any time (diving or sliding back to return to an overrun base is accepted)*
 - No base stealing*
 - No leaving the base until the bat makes contact with the ball or will be considered an out*
 - Runners may not touch the home plate*
 - Commitment line will be drawn 1/3 of the way from 3rd base to home plate*
 - No throwing the bat*
- INTERFERENCE; interference with a runner by a defending player will result in an awarded base to the runner UNLESS the defending player is fielding the ball
- RUNNER INTERFERENCE: Runners who interfere with a defending player making a defensive play shall be called out. This includes physical and verbal interference including yelling.
- BASE LINE RULE; Runners who run beyond three feet on either side of the base line to intentionally dodge a play will be called out
- HOME PLATE TAGS; Tags at the home plate are prohibited. Players who are tagged at home plate will be considered safe. (The catcher needs to step on home plate with possession of the ball before the runner crosses the plate line, in order for the runner to be called out)