



Aquinas College Co-ed Softball Rules



Teams

- Teams of 10 players comprise a normal playing team.
- A minimum of 8 players must be present to begin a game. If they chose to start with 8 players, the 9th and 10th spots will be an out until the players arrives.
 - A game can end with 7 players, but must start with 8.
- A minimum of 4 males and 4 females comprise a normal team.
 - With a minimum of 2 females in the infield and 2 females in the outfield.
- Everyone bats.
 - A batting line up must be submitted at the beginning of every game.
 - Batting order must be alternating between male and female.

Eligible Players

- Only 2 ex (sport specific) athletes on a team.
- All Aquinas College students and staff are eligible to play.
- A team member may only play for one team.
- A player must participate in 1 regular season game to be eligible for post season playoffs.

Forfeit Policy

- Forfeit time is 10 minutes after the scheduled game time.
- 2 Forfeits eliminates the team from any further competition.

Weather Policy

- A decision to play or not to play outside will be made 30 minutes before the start time of the game.
- If the game is not played outside, the teams will play inside of the field house.

Uniforms and Equipment

- Shoes with metal cleats will NOT be allowed!
- Plastic cleats and athletic shoes are allowed.
- No bare feet.

Game Rules

- A game will be 6 innings or governed by a time limit.
- No new inning will be started after 60 minutes. Innings in play after the time limit has gone into affect will be finished.
- If the score is tied after 6 innings of play or the time limit has gone into affect, the game will officially be scored a tie.

- **Mercy Rule:** If after four (4) innings or 3 ½ (if the home team is ahead and there is a 15 point lead **OR** if after five (5) complete innings or 4 ½ (if home team is ahead) there is a ten (10)-point lead, the game is over.
- A 10 run limit will be enforced except the last inning.
- The ball-strike on a batter will begin with one (1) ball and one (1) strike. The batter only needs three (3) more balls to be walked and two more strikes to be called out.
 - There will be only 1 foul ball once a player receives the 2nd strike, then the player will be called out.
- A mat laid next to home plate will help determine balls and strikes. Any ball that touches any part of the mat or any part of the plate will be considered a strike.
- Infield fly rule will be in effect, the batter will be out if the softball is popped up in the infield with players on 1st and 2nd.
- If the softball goes out of play (umpires ruling) the player gets an extra base; unless you are more than half way to the next base then you get the next base.

Pitching Regulations

- Pitches must go higher than the batters shoulder (no higher than 12 feet) to be deemed a legal pitch.
- Any pitch that is too high or too low will be called illegal and scored as a ‘ball’, **unless** the batter swings at or hits the pitch, making it a live ball.
- The pitcher’s foot must be in contact with the pitching rubber before the ball leaves their hand.

Batting Regulations

- No bunting is allowed. Any bunting action (determined by the umpires) will result in an automatic out.
- The ball becomes dead if a pitch hits a batter. No base shall be awarded.
- A batter must be entirely within the batter’s box when swinging, or the batter will be called out.
- The batting lineup must alternate genders.
- When a male batter walks, he gets 2 bases.
- Aquinas College will not provide helmets; the players will be playing at his or her own risk. Players do have the option to supply his or her own helmet if desired.

Base Running Regulations

- A runner may turn either way after passing first base and return with no liability to be put out so long as he/she **makes no attempt** (umpire’s judgment) to advance to second base.
- Base runners are required to slide **or** avoid contact with the defensive player. A runner who does not slide when a play is being made will be automatically out along with one more out for inappropriate conduct.
- A base runner may not leave the base until the ball has crossed the plate. No stealing of bases or running on passed balls is allowed.