



# **PHI Slo-Pitch Tournament Rulebook**

## **June 2023**

1. Each team shall field a defensive lineup consisting of 9 players (a minimum of 3 females must be on the field at all times, and a minimum of 4 on the roster).
2. In the event a team only has 2 females, they will only field 8 players and must take an automatic out for the absent female's spot in the batting order.
3. A commitment line will be drawn 20 ft from home plate. Once a baserunner passes this line they must continue to home. A baserunner who crosses the commitment line and returns to and stays at 3rd base will be called out.
4. A scoring line will be drawn in foul territory perpendicular to the third base line. Runners must touch the ground beyond the line (or the line itself) to score a run. Any baserunner who touches (or crosses over) home-plate will be called: OUT.
5. Use of a safety bag at first. If there is a play at first base, the batter must only touch the orange bag and the fielder the white. Failure to do so will result in the call going against the offender (regardless of the closeness of the play).
6. Teams can have no more than 5 players on the infield (catcher included) until bat-ball contact is made.
7. No infielder can position themselves inside the base path prior to bat-ball contact.
8. 3 pitch format (pitch to your own team). Maximum 3 pitches per batter (balls, foul balls included). A batter failing to hit a fair ball after 3 pitches is: OUT.
9. A batted ball that strikes any part of the pitcher is an automatic out. The play is dead, base runners must return to the base held prior to the at bat.
10. No bunting / chopping downwards on a pitched ball - the result will be an out. Base runners must return to the base held prior to the at bat.



11. No leadoffs / anticipation step. If any base-runner leaves their bag prior to bat-ball contact the play will be called dead and the base-runner will be called out. The umpire will determine whether the pitch will count based on timing of the infraction. If the result is the third out, the batter will start the next inning with a fresh count.

12. Once a player crosses the commitment line, it becomes a force out at home. If a fielder touches home plate with the ball in their possession prior to the base-runner touching the ground beyond the scoring line the base-runner is out.

13. Tagging is permitted between the commitment line and the scoring line.

14. Each team will be allowed a maximum of 5 runs per inning. The last inning (either 7th or as decided prior to the start of any other inning depending on time) will be an open inning.

15. Unlimited batting order. At no time can any team bat more than 2 males back-to-back (inning to inning included). Teams can have separate batting orders (one for males and one for females) and rotate the batting between orders (see example of types of batting orders).

16. All bats must be ASA approved (no baseball bats).

17. batting orders must be exchanged between teams prior to the start of the game. Once exchanged they cannot be altered.

18. SPO Rule book will be used as reference for any rules not specified above.

19. Games will be 55 minutes with no new inning starting after 45 minutes from the scheduled start

20. courtesy runners - each team will be permitted 3 courtesy runners. Runner must be male for male, female/female or female/male.



21. Trappers are permitted for use by catchers and first base **ONLY**.

22. Any abuse of umpires will result in immediate ejection from game and tournament.

23. NOEXPOSED JEWELRY.

24. NO METAL CLEATS.

25. MERCY RULE - if after 4 innings a team is winning by 10 runs or more it will be considered a mercy (3 1/2 innings if the home team is winning).

26. HOME RUN RULE - match plus 1. At no time can anyone team's total "over the fence" home runs equal more than their opponents total+1.

Result: A batter hitting an over the fence home run more than the limit shall be ruled out. The ball is dead, no runs will be scored, and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

27. There is no sliding at first base or home plate. Result: base runner is: Out.

28. Maximum +/- run differential per game is: 7.

#### TIE BREAK FORMULA

1. TOTAL POINTS

2. HEAD TO HEAD

3. PLUS / MINUS (max 7 per game)

4. TOTAL RUNS AGAINST (least runs against)

5. TOTAL RUNS FOR

6. COIN FLIP