



2023 Outdoor — Softball Ground Rules

Junior Players — Helmet Policy

1. aged 14 to 17 years must have parental/guardian consent to participate.
2. aged 14 to 16 years must wear an approved softball helmet and are discouraged from taking positions within the infield. The Umpires assessment is final on the grounds of player safety.
3. aged 17 years can dispense with the helmet with parental/guardian consent but encourage to wear one. There are no constraints on fielding positions.

Diamond 1.

The following ground rules apply on Diamond 1 (the pitch with purpose-built fence):

- a. The dead ball lines: The dead ball lines are to be extended from the end of the fence to run parallel with the foul ball line. The cycle track is not part of the official playing field and is considered dead ball territory.

Batted balls, landing fair and then crossing foul ball territory before going dead will be a traditional stand-up double base award.

However, a batted ball hit down the right-field line, staying within fair territory and eventually reaching the cycle track will be called dead the moment it reaches the cycle-track, the umpire will award one extra base to the runners based upon the last base past, the award starts with the lead runner and works back to the batter-runner.

- b. Thrown Ball Hitting the Fence: A thrown ball hitting the fence will remain live and in play. However, a batted-ball hitting the fence will be a dead-ball. No batter will be given out for a ball caught off the fence.
- c. Spectator/Cricketer Interference: If a batted or thrown ball is interfered with by somebody outside of the game the umpire will call dead-ball and award the batter and runners the base they believed they could have reached had there been no outside interference. This is left solely to the judgement of the umpire.



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Diamond 2.

The following ground rules apply for all games played on Diamond 2:

- a. Cycle Track: The cycle track does not form part of fair territory. Any ball reaching or passing over the cycle track will be called dead by the umpire. Fly balls can be caught by outfielders providing neither foot is fully touching the cycle track before making the catch.
- b. Right-Hand side of Second Pylon (from the right): A ground ball or fly ball that reaches or lands on or past the cycle track will be called dead and a standard ground ball double will be ruled.

NO homeruns will be awarded for balls hit to the right-hand side of the Second Pylon (from the right)

- c. Left-Hand side of Second Pylon (from the right): A ground ball that reaches the cycle track will be called dead and a ground ball triple will be awarded to the batter-runner.

If a batted ball first lands on or clears the cycle track the ball will be called dead and the batter-runner will be awarded a home run.

- d. Trapped Balls: Pitch 2 now has temporary netting bordering home plate. The rules applicable to Pitch 1's fence are also applicable to Pitch 2.

EXCEPTION: A fair batted or thrown ball that gets entangled under the netting will be declared blocked and the overthrown rule is applied being a two-base award from the time of the throw.