

GENERAL RULES

1. Game time is forfeit time. (There are no exceptions). However, there may be some occasions when games will not be started on time because of a late running game scheduled before your game. Forfeit time on these occasions will be when the umpires call both teams to start the game. Both teams must have a minimum number of players (8) to start. If not, this is grounds for a forfeit.
2. The designated home team is the official score keeper.
3. Home Runs: Players do not have to round the bases for over-the-fence home runs; the batter and base runners may safely return to the dugout, and points will be awarded.
4. Umpires decisions will be final.
5. There will be a one (1) hour time limit for all games. A new inning cannot begin after the time limit has expired.
6. There will be a ten run lead rule in effect after five (5) innings, a 15 run lead rule after four (4) innings, and a 20 run lead after three (3) innings. The teams may agree to continue play until the one (1) hour time limit.
7. There will be no smoking on the playing field or in dugouts.
8. Games may end in a tie.
9. Teams must have a minimum of eight (8) players throughout the game.
10. There will be a three (3) over-the-fence homerun limit per team, per game. Any other homeruns after that will be ruled as a single. Any ball touched by a defensive player causing the ball to go over the fence, shall not be included in the total of over-the-fence homeruns.
11. If a replacement runner is needed for a player, the person of the same gender that made the last out will replace the runner. If there is no other person of the same gender to replace the runner, the last person (of any gender) that made an out will replace the runner. If the courtesy runner is needed in the first inning, before an out is made, the courtesy runner shall be the last person of the same sex listed on the line-up card.
12. There will be no base stealing or leading off.
13. Each hitter will begin his/her at bat with a 1 strike count. A batter with a 2 strike count cannot strike out on the first hit foul ball. If the batter hits a second ball foul, the batter is out.
14. Players arriving late can be SUBSTITUTED into the line-up in any position, but the person removed from the line-up, cannot re-enter the game. ADDITIONAL players arriving late to the game may not be added in the line up where that slot has already batted. If they arrive after everybody has already batted, they must be added to the bottom of the line up. In the case of a late arriving female, where an out was being taken for her "at bat", she can be added to the line-up where the out was being taken. The batting order rules in the "coed rules" section still apply.

COED RULES

1. **Females on the field -.**
 - Teams are required to play at least 2 female on the field at all times.
 - Teams CANNOT play more than 9 males on the field at any time.
2. **Batting Order**
 - a. Teams are required to keep 2 females in the batting order at all times.
 - b. If there are less than 2 females in the batting order, the batting team must take an out in the place the female(s) would have been. The captain can take the out(s) at any point in the line-up.
 - c. Players can be removed from the line-up, but the number of players must not drop below 8 total, and rule 2.a & 2.b still apply.
 - d. Players removed from the line-up (and not substituted with a player not currently in playing) are NOT eligible to reenter the game.
3. **Walks**
 - Any walk to a male batter will result in a two base award, if he is followed by a female batter.
 - With less than 2 outs, the next hitter must bat.
 - With 2 outs, if the next hitter is female, she has the option to walk or bat.
 - Any walk to a male batter will result in a one base award, if he is followed by a male batter.

RAINOUPS

1. An official game is 4 innings, or 3.5 if the home team is winning. (If the game does not go this far due to rain, it will be started over from the beginning.)
2. The coaches shall make the decision as to whether a game should be called on account of rain or wet grounds once the game starts.
3. Both teams and umpires shall be present for a scheduled game unless the teams have been informed that the field is too wet to play.
4. Rainout notifications will sent to all players by email, and will placed at <http://softball.gracechurchsc.org/>