

VAVi SPORT & SOCIAL CLUB
OFFICIAL COED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT RULES

VAVi Softball contests will be governed by the official rules of the Amateur Softball Association of America (ASA) with the following modifications:

Safety Base Rules:

1. Safety Base at Home Plate must be used at all times. If you do not use the safety plate at home plate, you will be called OUT even if there is no play at home plate (including out of park home runs). The safety of the players is our main concern so the umpires will be enforcing this rule in full effect. Please remind your teammates before and during every game. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our leagues safe!
2. Safety Base at First Base must be used whenever the ball is hit into the infield or if there is a play at first base or the runner will be called OUT. If the ball is hit into the outfield then the runner may use first base to round the bag to second base. In this case, the first baseman must move off the bag to allow the runner to round first otherwise it will be called obstruction and the runner will automatically be called safe at second.
3. Tagging at Home Plate: Runners that cross the commit line may NOT be tagged when running home. The ball must be thrown to the catcher otherwise the base runner will be called safe.

NO ALCOHOL AT DOYLE PARK

Bats

Each team must supply their own bats. Bats must be ASA certified and not appear on the list found here: http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp

Helmets

Helmets are optional. We do not provide helmets for any of our leagues. Each team may bring their own helmets to use if they feel it is necessary.

Players

A full team consists of 10 players. There may not be more than 5 players in the infield. A maximum of 6 males allowed on the field at all times.

Lack of Full Team

If you do not have a full team ready to play at start time you may play with a minimum of 8 players (minimum of 3 females, or 3 males). If you do not have at least the minimum you must forfeit. You may split up the players on both teams there and play for fun. This is subject to change if team captains and umpire agree to an alternate plan

Attire

Please remove jewelry. No metal cleats. It is recommended that you wear your team shirt or a shirt of your team color to each week's game.

Sliding

Sliding is allowed except at home plate.

Time Limit

No inning starts after 50 minutes. You may finish the inning that you are in if time goes slightly beyond 50 minutes. No time limit in Championship Game. This game will be played for 7 innings.

Home Team

The schedule does not always give each team an even number of home or away games so the home team will be decided at the beginning of each game with a coin toss.

Pitching

The batting team will be pitched to from a designated member of their team. Each batter will be allowed three pitches. **There is no "flat pitch" rule for this tournament. Flat pitches are allowed and pitches are not required to reach a specific height apex to be legal.** A legal pitch is thrown underhand and once hit, the pitcher must get out of the way of the ball. If the pitcher gets hit by the ball, that ball is dead and it counts as one of the three pitches allowed.

Run limit

Once a team has scored 7 runs in an inning they must take the field and allow the other team an at bat. This rule does not apply in the last inning.

Batting Order

The batting order must alternate male and female players. All players may be put on the batting order (those playing the field and those substituting) Changes to the order can only be made at the top of the inning or due to injury.

Fielding

You can have no more than **10** players on the field with a minimum of four girls.

Tagging at Home Plate: Runners that cross the commit line may NOT be tagged when running home. The ball must be thrown to the catcher otherwise the base runner will be called safe.

Running

The Safety Base at Home Plate must be used at all times. If you do not use the safety plate at home plate, you will be called OUT even if there is no play at home plate (including out of park home runs). The safety of the players is our main concern so the

umpires will be enforcing this rule in full effect. Please remind your teammates before and during every game. Thank you for your commitment to keeping our leagues safe!

The Safety Base at First Base must be used whenever the ball is hit into the infield or if there is a play at first base or the runner will be called OUT. If the ball is hit into the outfield then the runner may use first base to round the bag to second base. In this case, the first baseman must move off the bag to allow the runner to round first otherwise it will be called obstruction and the runner will automatically be called safe at second.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship must be practiced at all times. Directors and umpires reserve the right to remove any player from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Substitutions

Only roster players may play on a team and no last minute substitutions are allowed. However, please see below “ringer clause” To add a player to the roster you must contact the VAVi office at least 24 hours before game time.

*Ringer Clause: If before your game or during the first 10 minutes of your game, you feel that a player on the opposing team is not on an official roster and could possibly affect the outcome of your game, it is the responsibility of the team captain to approach the umpire/referee and log a complaint. If the opposing team captain confirms a player on their team is not on their roster and a possible “ringer”, then the non-rostered player in question must sit out that game or the rest of the game. However, if both teams agree to play with a sub or non-rostered player, then it will be played as a true game and the player must sign a waiver form.

Complaints about subs, non-rostered players or “ringers” cannot be logged after 10 minutes into your game or at the end of your game.

Scoring

The umpire will keep track of runs scored. However, teams are encouraged to keep their own score during the game for discrepancies at the end of play.

Stealing

No stealing bases or leading off. One foot on the bag until contact is made with the ball.

Commit Rule

After you touch or cross the Commit line (appx. ½ way from 3rd base to home plate) you must continue home. It is always a force out at home plate. This only applies for home plate. You must always use the “safety home plate” or you will be out. If there is a fly ball in the outfield you must not cross the commit line or you have committed home. *If there are 2 outs and a runner crosses home plate before or after a force out at another base, the run does not count at home.

In-Field Fly Rule

The batter will automatically be called out if there are less than 2 outs with runners on first and second or the bases are loaded and there is a pop fly which the umpire judges could be caught by an infielder in fair territory.

Bunting

No intentional bunting allowed.

Ties

In the event of a tie and the game has reached 50 minutes, the game will end in a tie for games before playoffs. Ties in pool play are recorded as 1/2 win, 1/2 loss.

Tournament

The top team in each pool play bracket will advance to Semifinals (total of 4 teams). The top team in each pool play bracket will be determined by record (2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss).

In case there is a two-way tie between teams in a pool play bracket, the following tiebreaker system will be used:

~Head-to-head matchup

~If there is still a tie we will move on to head-to-head run differential (Head-to-head runs scored minus runs scored against)

~Overall 3-game run differential (Overall 3-game runs scored minus overall runs scored against)

~In the case that a tie still persists, a coin flip will determine the winner.

*** FINAL CALLS ARE ALL DECIDED BY THE UMPIRE***