

2008 UTMB S.G. A. Intramural Softball League Rules

The UTMB S.G.A. Intramural Softball League Committee and The Office Of Student Life reserve the right to add, rescind or amend rules and regulations at any time during the season in order to promote fair, safe and better play.

1. RULES:

Team coaches or representatives are responsible for making sure that all team members receive a copy of the league rules, have read them and understand them. Any questions regarding these rules should be brought to the attention of one of the league council members. In addition and during the playing of any game, all council members reserve the right to point out any rule violation to the umpire in charge (UIC)

No team will be allowed to play in the UTMB S.G.A. Intramural Softball League unless a team member (preferably the coach) has attended the mandatory preseason softball meeting set forth by the Student Government Association.

2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

UTMB employees, UTMB contract employees (must have a UTMB badge), their spouses, siblings and/or children (age eighteen or older), Active Students and UTMB retirees (cousins, uncles, aunts are not eligible). Significant others are eligible to play. All non-student players listed on the roster must complete the Non-Student Player Agreement and pay any additional fees set by the Student Government Association. A player must sign an Activity Release Form to be eligible to participate, which must be turned in to the league commissioner prior to playing (NOTE: All other requests will be reviewed by the league council to determine eligibility).

3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY:

Entry fee and roster (league approved form) must be turned in together at time of sign up (date will be emailed to all coaches interested in playing). If team representation should change, the team should immediately notify the league commissioner and/or one of the league council members of the new contact person. Normal team play will consist of a minimum of ten players (seven males and three females). A team may start and finish a game with nine players. However, the player mix must consist of seven males and at least two females. If a team cannot field nine players prior to or during the game, then the game is a forfeit and will be recorded as such.

4. TEAM ENTRY AND FORFEITURE FEES:

Eligibility to participate requires the team entry fee, any additional non-player fees needed and, two twenty-five dollar signed forfeiture checks are to be submitted to the league commissioner or league council member along with the team roster (league approved form) at time of sign up. NOTE: The scheduling of any tournament may require an additional entry fee. A team will forfeit its entry fee if it folds during the regular season. In addition, one thirty dollar check each will be assessed for the first and second forfeitures. Lastly, all remaining scheduled opponents will receive a win by forfeit. If a team is not penalized for any forfeiture, then the two thirty dollar checks will be returned to the team at the end of the season. **NO PAY, NO PLAY!**

Note: If a team folds during the regular season, they will not be eligible to participate in post-season tournament play (if scheduled).

5. ROSTER AND ROSTER ELIGIBILITY:

An official team roster (league approved form), must be turned in to the Office of Student Life at time of sign up. An official (final or frozen) roster with player activity release forms must be submitted to the league commissioner prior to the start of the third game. No changes to the official roster will be allowed. EXCEPTION: New employees, students, their spouses and children (age eighteen or older) and those players previously deemed eligible by the league council. However, the league council and commissioner must approve inception. Team roster changes are to be submitted in writing to the league commissioner. **Players may not be on more than one team roster.**

6. SCORE KEEPING:

All teams will be issued record books prior to league play at the mandatory team coach meeting. Each team is responsible for bringing their book to every game; however, the home team's book will serve as the official record for that game. NOTE: At the end of each inning, it is the responsibility of the umpire(s) to verify runs scored for that inning with the home team scorekeeper. Prior to the start of a game, each team coach or designee should submit a written lineup to the opposing team coach and/or designee. At any given time during the game, the umpire has the option and may request to view the lineup of either team to determine if a player is batting out of order or if illegal players are on the field.

It is the responsibility of the winning team to report the score to the SGA Vice President and the Office of Student Life within 72 hours or 3 working days (by phone, email or through the website). Failure to report the score within this time frame will result in a loss for both teams in that game.

The number of officiating umpires should also be included in this report.

7. END OF SEASON /PLAYOFFS:

Player Eligibility - Teams are not allowed to pick up players for the tournament. Only players on a team's roster are eligible to play in the tournament. The only exception to this rule is if a player, who is on another teams roster and their team is not playing in the tournament, they can play be picked up for the duration of the tournament.

8. GAME TIMES:

The first game will start at 5:45 p.m. The second game will start at 6:45 p.m. If the first game is running late, then the second game will start immediately following the first game's team leaving the field. NOTE: GAME TIME IS FORFEIT TIME – THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD. Game playtime is restricted to fifty-five minutes. In the event of a tie, only one extra inning of play using the international tie breaker rule will be allowed. If the game remains tied following the extra inning of play, then each team will awarded one half of a win and one half of a loss. All teams and team players are expected to leave the playing fields and complex by no later than 8:45 p.m.

9. FORFEITS:

A team will forfeit if it cannot field at least nine players at the designated game time. If only nine players are fielded then each time the tenth batter spot comes around will count as an out. A tenth player can enter the game at anytime during regulation play, but must enter in at the vacated (tenth and final) position. At anytime during the game, at least three players must be female if playing with ten, two if playing with nine, and four if playing with twelve (one male DH and one female DH, players 11 and 12). **No more than two forfeits will be allowed for any team during the season. A third forfeit will result in that team being ejected for the remainder of the season. A team will be assessed thirty dollar fine for the first and second forfeitures at the time of forfeit.**

10. PICK-UP RULE AND DH (DESIGNATED HITTER) RULE:

If short handed and with the opposing teams approval, a team may pick up three players (one of the players must be female) to keep from forfeiting. All pick up players MUST be on another team roster. A team cannot pick-up any player if that team has ten of its own players present and able to play. Pickup players are required to bat at the end of the batting order (line up). **Should a violation occur and an appeal is made by the defensive team, then the defensive team has the right to take the play as it stands and the batter – runner is out or a dead ball situation is in effect and the batter – runner is out. In either situation, the batter – runner is ejected from the game. No additional pick-up player for that game will be allowed and the violating team will have to play short provided they have at minimum of 2 females.**

A team that wishes to have a DH (Designated Hitter) must do so for both a female and male (twelve players batting, eight males and four females). The eleventh and twelfth batter must be on the team's roster. **NO PLAYER CAN BE PICKED UP TO FILL EITHER DH POSITION**

Note: The opposing team coach has the right to verification of roster of another team but must make the request prior to the start of the game. Penalty for illegal players will result in forfeiture. If the opposing team recognizes a violation, an

official appeal must be made to the umpire and a formal protest filed to the league commissioner or designee by 5:00 p.m. the next business day. League officials reserve the right to initiate forfeiture proceedings for any rule violation observed.

11. HOME TEAM:

For regular season play, the home and visiting team will be listed on the schedule.

12. GAME RESCHEDULING / SCHEDULE CHANGES:

Change in schedule and/or rescheduling of games must be in writing (handwritten, typed or email) and must be submitted to the S.G.A. Vice President for review. Requests submitted that are less than forty-eight hours in advance will not be honored. All coaches are strongly urged to contact the league as early as possible. We will make every effort to honor the request, however, we can guaranty that all requests will be granted.

Note: Failure to comply with this ruling will result in a loss for the requesting team.

13. INCLEMENT WEATHER / DARKNESS

In the event of inclement weather, the league commissioner and/or designee will notify each team coach or representative by e-mail between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to inform them if games are going to be played that evening. Rain outs from rain that starts after 4:30 p.m. will have to be determined at game time by the umpire. Any game rained out will be made up the first Monday following the game in which there are no games already scheduled for that Monday.

The decision to stop a game that is already underway due to darkness, rain, or other causes that place the players or spectators in peril is left to the discretion of the umpires. A game called by the umpires shall be regulation if five or more innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more innings (ASA Rule 5, Section 3, C).

14. COMPLETE GAME:

The winner of the game will be determined as follows: By the score at the end of the scheduled game time or after seven innings of play.

For tie games, refer to Rule # 8 - Game Times. ASA Rules for completion of a game due to inclement weather will be in effect.

Games can only be stopped in one of three ways.

- **1st completion of 7 innings**
- **2nd time has expired**
- **3rd trailing team does not wish to continue.**

The umpires can no longer call games because of run differential.

15. FIVE RUN RULE:

The offensive team will be allowed to score a maximum of five runs per at bat. If a team scores more than five runs before three outs are made, then the team on offense will take the field and allow the defensive team to begin its first or next at bat.

16. FIELD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE:

A twelve-inch softball for male batters and an eleven-inch softball for female batters are required. Teams will furnish their own balls. Each team will provide and hit their own balls. Male players must use a core .44 (375 lb compression or less) softball and it must carry the A.S.A approved logos. Females may use up to an eleven-inch core .47 (525 compression or less) softball. The ball must be clearly defined as core .47 (for females) or core .44 (for males).

The field equipment shed (green storage shed) will be opened on game day by a staff member of the UTMB Alumni Field house. The home team for the first game will be responsible for putting out the bases, strike mat and cones on each field at least 15 minutes before game time. That team is also responsible for bringing the field rakes out to the fields.

In an effort to help maintain the softball fields, it has become necessary to enlist the help of all team coaches. **Therefore, within 15 minutes after the last game played, it is the responsibility of the winning team to replace the plugs in each of the base supports, to rake the dirt around all bases and home plate, and to return the strike mat, bases, rake and cones to the green storage shed.** Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game won.

Related rule: **28. BASES, RAKES AND CONES**

17. STRIKE MAT AND HOME PLATE

If a legally pitched ball hits any part of the mat or plate then it is a strike. Any other pitched ball is a ball. A legal pitch constitutes an arc of at least 6 feet and no more than 12 feet. It is the judgment of the plate umpire as to what is a legal or illegal pitch. The umpire will call out any illegal pitch.

18. PITCHER CATCHER RULE:

Any combination is allowed

19. CO-ED LINE RULE:

When a female player is at bat, no player in the outfield is allowed to cross the designated co-ed line until the ball is hit. If crossed prior to the ball being hit, the team at bat has the choice of accepting the play as it stands or awarding the batter-runner first base.

20. ILLEGAL / ALTERED BAT RULE:

Use of an illegal or altered bat will result in a dead ball situation. An out will occur and the offending player will be ejected from the game. A second offense by the same team will result in a loss by forfeit. Any player caught using an illegal or altered bat twice during the season will be ejected for the remainder of the season.

21. ILLEGAL BALL RULE:

Use of an illegal ball will result in a dead ball situation and the player at bat at the time of the offense will be called out. A second offense by the same team will result in a loss by forfeit.

22. SAFETY BASE

Refer to ASA Rule 8, Section 3

Key points:

1. When ever a play is being made on the batter – runner, the defense **MUST** use the **WHITE** portion of the base and the batter – runner the **ORANGE** portion of the bag.
2. On balls hit to the outfield with no play on the batter – runner advancing to first base, the batter – runner may touch the **WHITE** or **ORANGE** portion of the bag. Defensive player can not interfere with runner's progress.
3. On an errant throw pulling the defensive player into foul territory, the defense must still use the **WHITE** portion of the base and the batter – runner may use either the **WHITE** or **ORANGE** portion of the base.

23. WALKING A MALE BATTER:

If a male batter is walked (intentionally, or not) with less than two outs and a female batter follows, the male base runner advances to second base. However, the female must take her turn at bat.

If a male batter is walked (intentionally, or not) with two outs and a female batter follows, the male base runner advances to second base. In addition, the female has the option to either freely advance to first base or take her turn at bat

24. SUBSTITUTION RULE:

Definition: Any member of a team's roster who is not listed as a starting player, or a starting player who re-enters the game.

Rule: Any of the starting players may be withdrawn and re-enter the game only once, providing such player occupies the same batting position, whenever he/she is in the lineup. Players may not re-enter a second time. The starting player and their substitute may not be in the line-up at the same time. Penalty for this rule is disqualification (ASA Rule 4, Section 5, A, B, and C. ASA Rule 4, Section 7). A player occupying the DH position in the batting order may change positions with another player playing a defensive position at anytime during the game an unlimited number of times but the their position in the batting order remains the same.

25. HOME RUN LINE AND NUMBER OF HOME RUNS ALLOWED:

The batter will be awarded an automatic home run for any fly ball that crosses the home run line in the air while in fair territory (this includes any untouched ball in the air that lands on the line). It will be up to the outfielder and/or outfielders closest to the play, but not involved in the actual catch attempt to be honest and announce if a home run should be awarded. In addition, players are to be honest about all balls that barely cross the line. **NOTE:** If a home run is hit, the batter only needs to advance to and touch first base. A base runner on first needs only to advance to and touch second base, a runner on second base only needs to advance to and touch third base, and a runner on third base only needs to advance to and touch home plate.

- A male batter that hits a ball that crosses the line in fair territory after it touches the ground will be awarded a double; ball and play is dead, and the batter and all bases runners are awarded two bases.
- A female batter that hits a ball that crosses the line in fair territory after it touches the ground may advance at her own risk; the ball and play remain live.
- A fly ball that crosses the line in the air after touching any part of a fielder will be considered a four base award and will not count as a home run.
- A four+ home run rule for each team will be in effect. Once both teams have reached four home runs then each team can hit one more, once both teams have reached 5 home runs then each team can hit one more, and so on. Any other scenario will result in an out. For example, if one team has four home runs and the other team only three and the team with the four home runs hits a fifth home run before the other team hits their fourth, then this is an out.

NOTE: The field umpire reserves the right to make the home run ruling without fielder input and/or override any home run ruling made by a fielder if he/she has determined that an injustice has been done. Cones will be used and placed on the home run line to assist both players and umpires in making calls.

When applicable, and as a courtesy to the other team and umpires, the outfielder making the attempt on the play **and/or the outfielder and/or outfielders** closest to the play.

- Should indicate by raising their arm and 2 fingers that the double ground rule (males only) is in effect
- Should indicate by raising their arm and four fingers if a four base award is in effect
- Should indicate by raising their arm and making a circular motion if a home run has been hit

26. CONTINUATION RULE:

If a male and/or female is injured or paged for an emergency, the game may be continued without a forfeit being awarded so long as a team can field nine players (two of the nine players must be female). An out is to be recorded for the absent player's scheduled at bat. The intent of this rule is to allow the game to continue provided a team does not have a replacement player available. A replacement player that arrives late may be added to the line up to fill the vacated position (male for male, female for female, unless three females are already playing). If a team cannot field nine players prior to or during the game, then the game is a forfeit and will be recorded as such. The substitution rule (Rule 20. SUBSTITUTION RULE) is also in effect and must be adhered in order for the continuation rule to be in effect.

27. COURTESY BASE RUNNER

A team may use up to two courtesy base runners (1 female and 1 male) during a game. A courtesy base runner can only serve the same player each time. A male cannot be a courtesy runner for a female or a female for a male. A courtesy base runner cannot enter the game other than as a base runner. Exception: If a team loses a player to injury, which leaves them with only nine players, then the courtesy runner may enter the game as the tenth player. However, he/she can no longer serve as a courtesy runner.

28. BASES, RAKES, AND CONES:

The home team is responsible for making sure that bases, cones and strike mat are put in place by 5:30 p.m. (prior to the start of the 5:45 p.m. games) and that a league supplied rake is on hand for use in after game day field maintenance.

Within 15 minutes, it is the responsibility of the winning team of the last game by forfeiture or otherwise for that day to rake the dirt around all bases and home plate. It is also the responsibility of the winning team to return the strike mat, bases, cones and rake back to the UTMB Field House Storage Shed (Field 1). Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game won. The same will apply for each incident thereafter.

Related rule: **17. FIELD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

29. FACILITY RULES:

Any abuse of runners/walkers, tennis players, or others using surrounding UTMB Field House facilities will result in disciplinary action. Players and their guests are asked to use the refuse containers provided at each field for disposal of trash. In addition, players and their guests are asked to respect the rights of others so that we can continue to have softball field privileges.

NOTE: Our softball league shares this property with others that have just as much right to use it.

30. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

Unsportsmanlike conduct by any individual(s) will not be tolerated.

The umpire has the authority to eject any individual(s) who does not abide by this rule. Violations include, but are not limited to: Violent behavior, abusive language including profanity, etc.... Any individual ejected must leave the UTMB complex within three minutes. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game for his/her team. The umpire and coach and/or team representatives must submit, in writing, a detailed report of the incident to the S.G.A. Vice President and the Office of Student Life within twenty-four hours after said incident. The S.G.A. Intramural Committee will review the incident and as to further and final disciplinary action will make a final ruling. Disciplinary action includes, but is not limited to: Warning, suspension for a specified period of time, suspension for the remainder of the season, permanent suspension, etc....

The S.G.A. Vice President, the Office of Student Life and the Director of Student Life will maintain records of any or all incidents. Individuals who continually, year after year, are ejected from games and/or who are disciplined repeatedly will be banned from the league.

31. PROTEST:

ASA rules for filing protest are in effect. Only protests that are received in writing by 5:00 p.m. the next business day will be honored. In addition, all protests need to be in writing (email is acceptable) and be addressed to the S.G.A. Vice President and the Office of Student Life only.

The S.G.A. Vice President, the Office of Student Life and the Director of Student Life reserve the right to file a protest against any team in violation of these rules.

32. COMMUNICATION TO THE LEAGUE:

Any and all correspondence to the league must be in writing (email is acceptable) and must be addressed to the S.G.A. Vice President and the Office of Student Life. The league will not accept or address protests and/or complaints or for that matter, any other correspondence if addressed to persons other than S.G.A. Vice President and the Office of Student Life.

Rule changes and/or suggestion to improve the league for the following season must be submitted in writing before the end of the regular season (current season). Email is acceptable. In addition, an end of season meeting will be scheduled which will also give teams the opportunity to voice any "next season" recommendations.

NOTES:

- All players, guests, and fans are responsible for cleaning the complex upon completion of regular season or tournament games. All trash is to be put in the appropriate refuse containers at each field. Please, no glass containers! All teams and players are responsible for making sure that these rules are known and followed by anyone who participates or is watching the games at our fields.
- Any situation not covered by the UTMB rules and/or ASA rules will be discussed and a ruling made by S.G.A. Vice President, the S.G.A. Intramural Committee and the Office of Student Life.
- Persons who choose to park their vehicles along the streets next to the UTMB softball parks are to do so at their own risk. The UTMB Softball League and sponsors cannot be held responsible for any vehicular damage as a result of a hit ball.
- No team can practice on any UTMB Field without prior authorization by the Alumni Field House Management. All players must have a current and signed activity release form (waiver) to practice. To request a field, please call Ms. Leslie Blacketer, Alumni Field House Manager at (409) 772-1304. Final approval to hold a practice will be given once all criteria has been met and confirmed as met by S.G.A. Vice President and the Office of Student Life.
- The S.G.A. Intramural Softball League has not requested and does not have special permission from the Office of the President to allow alcohol at the UTMB fields. Please remember that UTMB policies (no alcohol or smoking on campus) apply.