

**SOUTHLAND SOFTBALL ALL ASSOCIATION (Inc)**  
**Some Softball Rules to help Player/Umpires September 2012**

1. **Foul Ball** A foul ball is a legally batted ball which:
  - (a) Settles on foul territory between home and first base or between home and third base.
  - (b) Bounds past first or third on or over foul territory
  - (c) Touches foul territory beyond first or third base.
  - (d) While on or over foul territory, touches the person, attached or detached equipment or clothing of an umpire, or player, or any object foreign to the natural ground.
  - (e) A foul ball shall be called if outside the baseline, regardless of whether then fielder is in fair territory or not.
2. **Infield Fly** An infield fly is a fair fly batted ball that can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied at the time of the pitch, and there are less than two out. Once the out is called and the ball is dropped, baserunners may advance at their own risk.
3. **Dropped Third Strike** When a third strike is called by the umpire and the ball is dropped or goes past the catcher when first base is occupied at the time of the pitch and there are less than two down, the batter is automatically out.
4. **Double Base** Half of the ball is in fair territory, with the other half in foul territory. If the batted ball hits the half that is in fair territory, then the ball is declared fair, while if the ball hits the half in foul territory, then the ball is declared foul.
  - (a) After over-running the base, the batter-baserunner must return to the fair portion.
  - (b) On balls hit to the outfield when there is no play being made at the double base, the batter-runner may touch either base.
  - (c) When tagging up on a fly ball, the fair portion of the base must be used.
5. **No Pitch** If a base-runner is called out for leaving a base early, the call on the batter, whether a ball or a strike is a no pitch and is not added to the call.
6. **Obstruction** When a fielder prevents a base-runner from making a base, or impedes the progress of a runner who is legally running bases if the fielder is:
  - (a) Not in possession of the ball
  - (b) Not in the act of fielding the ball
  - (c) Making a fake tag without the ball
  - (d) The Umpire awards the runner the base that should have been reached if obstruction had not occurred.
7. **Interference** This occurs when a baserunner causes a fielder to mishandle a batted ball. The baserunner is out.
8. **Time Out** The umpire cannot call "time out" until, in his judgement all play has come to a halt, unless there is a serious injury.
9. **Plate and Base Umpires** Either umpire cannot overrule the other. Either umpire can be asked to confer on a play, but the ones whose call it is has final say.
10. **Foul Bunt** The batter is out if a bunt is put down on the third strike and the ball goes foul. If the bunt stays fair, then there is not an out.
11. **Base Entitlement** If a baserunner is trying for the next base and realises that they are not going to make it, provided they have not touched the next base, then they are still entitled to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. Any runners following must go back to the base they occupied.
12. **Illegal Pitch** If an illegal pitch is called, a ball is added to the batters count and any baserunner gains a base.