

## 2015 SUMMIT RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL RULES

HFBC SOFTBALL IS FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF THE PLAYERS, COACHES, FANS AND UMPIRES.  
ANY INAPPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

*All Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Rules will be followed with the following exceptions:*

1. Prayer and devotional will be given before each game. Prior to the game, the team captains will play one (1) round of paper, rock, scissors to determine the home team. The home team will pray before each game and read the devotional provided by Summit. The visiting team will pray after each game.
2. In the regular season, each team will play eight (8) games total – double header format. One-day playoff tournament will be single-elimination.
3. In the regular season, all games will be six (6) innings or 50 minutes of play, whichever comes first. The game clock will start after the devotional. No new inning may be started with less than 5 minutes remaining on the game clock.
4. There will be a 10-minute grace period to allow enough of a team's players to show up or for the team to pick up enough players to field a team before the game is ruled a forfeit. The 50-minute game clock starts after the devotional, so any grace period comes out of game time.
5. A game ending in a tie is permitted during the regular season. During the playoff tournament, if there is a tie at the end of regulation play, extra innings shall begin with a runner on second base (the last batter in the previous inning). Each team will begin with zero (0) outs. To speed up play, each batter will get one pitch only. A strike or foul ball will be considered an out. A ball will be considered a walk. Play will continue until one team wins.
6. Seeding ties for the playoff tournament will be broken by head-to-head record, run differential (total runs scored over the entire regular season minus total runs allowed), then a coin flip if necessary. The team with the lower (better) seed will be the home team in the tournament.
7. During the season, the rosters are open. Playoff rosters are final on the last week of the regular season. Players must have paid for AND played at least 2 games on their team to be eligible for playoffs. There are no picking up players for the playoffs. Only players listed on rosters are eligible to play. Verbal changes will NOT be accepted. The Official Roster will be kept by George Watson. All questions should be directed to [George.Watson@HoustonsFirst.org](mailto:George.Watson@HoustonsFirst.org).
8. Teams must have at least 9 paid players on their roster by the end of the second weekend of play (Saturday, February 16). Any team not meeting this guideline will be dropped from the schedule and paid members will be moved to another team.
9. A team's line-up shall consist of the entire team batting throughout the game. The batting order shall be alternating men and women and must remain consistent throughout the game.
10. Free-substitution (defensively) will be allowed throughout the game. No team shall have designated hitters. If you bat, you MUST field at least one (1) inning.
11. A defensive team shall consist of ten (10) players, with a minimum of four (4) females on the field at all times. If a team contains only three (3) females, the team may only play with nine (9) players on the field and all three (3) females must play the whole game. In this case, the team must take one (1) out each time the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) female player would be scheduled to bat. The batting team MAY bat two males back to back in this case only. Females must be evenly distributed throughout the field with one at pitcher OR catcher (if catcher is female, pitcher MUST be male and vice versa), one in the infield, one in the outfield, and the fourth anywhere. The fielding distribution rule also applies if a team has six (6) or more females and only three to four (3-4) males. However, such a team would NOT be required to take an out for the 4<sup>th</sup> player in the batting order in the event they only have three (3) male players.
12. Teams are required to have at least five (5) of their own players or the game is ruled a forfeit. Teams with at least 5 of their own players will be allowed to pick up players ONLY to get to the minimum of nine (9) required to field a team. Any team with nine (9) or more players will NOT be allowed to pick up players (unless they do not meet the minimum of three (3) females or three (3) males). For each player

*Rules continued....*

a team picks up, the opposing team will be awarded one (1) run. If a team's player(s) show up after a game has started, they are allowed to play. However, any penalty runs already awarded will stand. Any players picked up will be allowed to complete the current game, but not play additional games unless needed to meet the minimum player requirements. Teams must take penalty runs in EACH and EVERY game in which they pick up players (i.e. in BOTH games of a double-header).

13. A team with only eight (8) players may still compete, as long as they have a minimum of three (3) males and three (3) females. However, such a team will be required to take an out each time the 9<sup>th</sup> player's spot comes up in the batting order. A team with less than eight (8) players, or less than three (3) males AND three (3) females must forfeit.
14. A forfeited game will be scored 6-0. If neither team has the required number of players, the game will be scored 0-0 and BOTH teams will take a loss.
15. While a female is batting, all three (3) outfielders and the rover must remain behind the outfield restriction line (200 feet from home base) until the ball hits the bat. If they do not stay behind the line the batter is awarded a double.
16. If a male is walked, he will advance to second (2<sup>nd</sup>) base. Any runners on base at that time will advance one base only when forced by a runner on the preceding base. (For example: If there is a runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> and the male batter is walked, the runner on 2<sup>nd</sup> will take 3<sup>rd</sup> base but will not proceed to home plate because he was not forced by another runner) The upcoming female batter has the option to hit or take 1<sup>st</sup> base REGARDLESS of the number of outs.
17. To speed up play, each batter will automatically begin with a 1-1 count (one ball and one strike).
18. Pitchers must begin his/her motion with both feet touching the rubber. No quick pitches are allowed. Pitchers must make sure the batter is ready before they begin their motion.
19. The arc of each pitch must reach a minimum height of six (6) feet and a maximum height of twelve (12) feet. All pitches MUST be thrown underhanded.
20. After having two strikes, a batter is allowed one (1) foul ball with no consequences. After that point, the ball must be hit fair or the batter is out.
21. Courtesy runners shall be the immediately prior recorded out made by the batter of the same gender.
22. Lead-offs and stealing bases are NOT allowed. A warning will be given for the first offense per team of leading off or stealing. Subsequent offenses will result in an out.
23. A ball hit directly over the fence is considered a home run. If a ball bounces off a player (hat, glove, etc) and goes over the fence before the ball hits the ground, it is also considered a home run. Only one (1) over the fence home run per inning per team is allowed. Only one (1) over the fence home run per player per game is allowed. A second home run by a team within the same inning or by a player within the same game will be considered an out.
24. A ball that bounces over the fence or through the fence is considered a ground-rule double. Runners already on base will be awarded two bases from the base they were standing on when the play began, even if they obviously could have scored had the ball not gone out of play.
25. There will be a "mercy rule" of seven (7) runs per inning maximum for the first four (4) innings. Any and all innings AFTER the 4<sup>th</sup> inning will be unlimited runs. No run rule will be enforced (i.e. one team ahead by more than xx runs after the 4<sup>th</sup> inning ends the game).
26. Summit will provide all game balls and optional batting helmets. Teams will provide their own bats and gloves.
27. NO METAL CLEATS ARE ALLOWED. Close toed shoes are required. Athletic shoes are best.
28. No throwing bats. A warning will be given for the first offense per team. Subsequent offenses will result in an out. Repeated offenses may result in the player's ejection from the game.
29. First base will consist of two (2) bases. The runner MUST run to the outside (right) bag and the fielder MUST only touch the inside bag. The runner may ONLY touch the inside bag if they are intending to continue running to second base.
30. ALL players (runners AND fielders) MUST attempt to avoid contact with opposing players at ALL times. Sliding is permitted, but not encouraged (due to possibly injury risk). Blocking home plate (or any other base) is NOT permitted.