

SDSA Mixed Slowpitch Rules in Brief

Slowpitch was designed to be a mixed recreational sport. Some of the rules of Fastpitch are not played in Slowpitch with the intent of minimising player contact and making the game more enjoyable for all.

For any new player the rules can be a little overwhelming. One person from the team should be designated to learn the complete set of rules. For the remainder of the players the following summary is intended to give a brief overview of the game.

- Each team can have **a maximum of 10 players on the field** at one time and a minimum of 6 to play the game, with a minimum of 4 females or males when fielding a full team. There **MUST** be two (2) females in the infield and the outfield when fielding a full team or (1) female in the infield and outfield if playing short.
- Minimum age is: 13 years of age by 31 Dec 2017
- **A maximum of 12 players may be listed in the batting line up, unlimited defence interchange allowed.** Any additional players above the 12 starting players are classed as substitutes coming into the game & must play at least 1 complete innings i.e. bat and field.
- A team can score a maximum of six (6) runs in each innings. An innings is complete once 6 runs score or there are 3 outs.
- Official softball bats are to be used only.
- The ball will be a 12inch softball incrediball (slowpitch ball)
- A toss of a coin will decide who is fielding and batting (the home team calls and away team does the toss)
- A regulation game is 7 innings or 90 minutes, whichever occurs first. No new innings to start within 5 minutes of the scheduled finishing time.
- There is no sliding or tagging, runners can only be played out by the fielder having the ball at the base before the runner gets to the safety zone.
- There are safety zones marked around 1st, 2nd and 3rd base. A runner only needs to be in the safety zone before the fielding player with the ball touches the base. If a base runner overruns 2nd or 3rd bases the runner must return to the safety zone before the fielding player touches the base holding the ball.
- There are commitment lines marked between 2nd – 3rd bases and 3rd – home. Once a runner crosses the commitment line they cannot return to the base they came from.
- A batter is out on the 3rd strike, whether it is caught by the catcher or not.

- A batter is out if the 3rd strike is hit foul, whether it is caught or not.
- The ball must be pitched in an arc a minimum of 6 feet in height and a maximum of 12 feet in an underarm motion.
- If the batter does not swing at a pitch it must land on the strike zone mat to be called a strike.
- There is a scoring line marked near home plate. The runner must cross this line and **NOT** touch home plate. The fielder must play the home plate.
- A runner is not permitted to leave a base until the ball is hit or reaches home plate. If the ball is not hit the runner must return to the base. There is no stealing bases.
- If the pitcher pitches 4 “balls”, the batter then goes to 1st base.
- If the batter is hit by a pitched ball a “ball” is called on the batter.
- The batter must stand within the marked batters box and must be within that batters box when they hit the ball.
- There are no protests in slowpitch.