

3 - Pitch Softball

Teams

- A team shall consist of up to 16 registered players
- All players bat each inning but 9 take the field.

Equipment

- Low impact or Incrediball - Size 11"
- Glove - each fielding player must wear a fielding glove
- Bat - A regular softball bat with non-slip grip covering the handle.
The length/weight of the bat should be suitable for the size of the players
- Batting Helmets - helmets must fit properly and be worn by batters and base runners during the game. It is preferable for batting helmets to have chin straps
- Catchers Gear - All catchers are to wear a chest protector, catchers helmet, face mask with throat protector, leg guards
- Batting Tee - should be a collapsible tee. Must be adjustable in height.

Game Times

- A game lasts for 75 minutes
- Each team bats for ten (10) minutes per inning - regardless of the number of outs. It is expected that all players should have at least one turn at bat in the 10 minutes. The 10 minutes should be extended to allow each batter one turn at bat - the coach of both teams should hurry the players along to ensure that all bat within the 10 minutes.

Strategy

- Teams take it in turn to bat and field - 10 minutes each
- All players should field and bat each game.

3 PITCH SOFTBALL

RULES

Playing Field

- The base paths shall be 60ft apart
- The pitching distance shall be approximately m/30ft from home plate

Coaches

- One (1) coach is permitted on the field but is only allowed to be positioned behind the infield area when their team is fielding
- The batting team is allowed a coach in each coaches.
- Coaches in the field may not interfere with the ball in play, nor physically assist their players in the act of fielding
- No open faced shoes such as thongs or sandals are permitted

Batting

- All players' names are to appear on the scorecard. This is the 'batting' line-up, with all players having a turn at bat.
- All players should rotate through the batting line-up each week to ensure that each player bats in a different part of the batting line-up each week.
- The coach pitches to their own team.
- Each player has a maximum of three pitches per turn at bat from their coach. (there are no walks in 3-Pitch Softball)
- If a batter doesn't hit the pitch 'fair' from their own coach in the required number of pitches, they are permitted to hit off the Tee (normal teeball rules apply to hits off the tee eg foul balls, and catches)
- On a safe hit off the tee the batter runner may advance 2 bases only.
- Each pitch is a hit and run until the ball is held in the infield.
- Batters may run as many bases as they can when they hit the pitch off the coach. This is to reward and encourage players to hit the moving ball and not wait for the tee.

- Bunting is not permitted.

Fielding

- No fielder can be closer to the batter than the pitcher.
- All players must play both infield and outfield each game.

Outs

An out is made when:

- A hit ball is caught on the full
- A fielder with the ball touches the base before a forced runner
- When a tag is made with the ball on the runner, who is off the base, whether the ball is held in the tag play or not. (This is to encourage the players to execute the correct play, particularly on lead runners, and not to penalise them for lack of skill in this developing stage)

Running Bases

- On a hit into fair territory off the pitched ball by the coach, a batterrunner may advance until the ball is fielded and held in the infield.
- On a safe hit off the tee the batter runner may advance two bases only.
- A base runner can only advance two bases on a ball hit off the Tee
- The batter-runner and all base-runners may only advance one base on a ball that hits the coach
- The batter and base-runners may advance one base only on an overthrow.
- Sliding is permitted
- Baserunners cannot steal bases or home
- Bunting is not permitted in 3-Pitch Softball

Pitching

- The coach pitches to their own team (3 pitches per batter)
- The position of the coach pitching is in line with home plate and the pitching plate at a comfortable distance
- The player fielding in the pitchers position fields next to the coach.
- The coach pitching uses an underarm action
- The coach pitching should wear a glove for self protection only
- The coach pitching leaves the field when the batting tee is used

Players Pitching

- After the first complete round the players will pitch for the 3rd innings.
- When players are pitching there are no warm up pitches
- The pitcher pitches from the 30 feet mark

Catching

- Catchers must wear full catching gear
- Catchers must stand a safe distance from the batter directly behind and in a straight line with home plate

Scoring

- The fielding team scores 1 point for each out
- The batting team scores 1 point for each run.

Umpires

MWSA will provide the plate umpire.

The 1st base team provides the 1st base umpire, the 3rd base team provides the 3rd base umpire.