



# Softball Rules 2012



The Georges River District PSSA Softball Competition will be played in two divisions – Junior Teeball and Senior Softball. The competition will be conducted in accordance with the District Sport Draw. Nine Fridays have been set aside for the competition and one Friday for the Finals.

## Softball: Years 5 and 6

### Results

Please text or email your scores to Paul Cohen (Convenor) before 5pm on the afternoon of your match. Both teams should submit results, making sure that the final score is agreed upon by both teachers. If scores are submitted that differ, the lower score of the two will be recorded. Please make sure that you include:

Your Name:  
Your School:  
Opposition School:  
Junior Score: Including who won  
Senior Score: Including who won

If all scores are submitted early enough, I will endeavour to have the updated leaderboard on the Georges River PSSA website that afternoon [www.sites.google.com/site/grpssa](http://www.sites.google.com/site/grpssa)

1. Submit the results to me in person
2. **PREFERRED** - Text me your scores while travelling back to school (Paul Cohen 0410 668 011)
3. Email me by 5pm - [paul.cohen@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:paul.cohen@det.nsw.edu.au)

### Finals

Semi Finals will be played between the top four place getters. First place on the ladder will play fourth, with second place challenging third. The winners of both matches will then play in the final, with the other teams playing off for third place.

### 1) Equipment

- i) The Bat
  - a. No wooden bats to be used.
  - b. Bats must have grip – no electrical tape.
- ii) The Ball. Leather covered softballs 11" to be used for all Softball games. Plates and Bases;
  - a. Home plate must be rubber.
  - b. Pitcher's plate can be either rubber or wood.
  - c. Other bases to be made of canvas.
  - d. Safety base on first base.

- iii) Catchers must wear masks with attached throat protectors. Catchers must also wear chest plates and should wear leggings.
- iv) Helmets must be worn by all batters and runners.
- v) Mitts must be worn by all field players

The school that arrives first should set up the diamond so that play can start as soon as possible.

## **2) Playing Conditions**

The Softball diamond

Base lines: 18.29m

Pitching distance: 10.67m

Teeball will be played first starting as close to 12:45pm as possible. Softball will be played after Teeball. If a school arrives late, please allocate an equal amount of time for each game. If any school needs to change the order of the draw or forfeit a game, please let the convenor and other school know as soon as possible.

## **3) Length of games**

Each game is played for either 5 innings or 50min.

A game is timed out when the ball is returned to the pitcher.

The final score is that at the end of the last complete innings unless the team batting second has scored more runs than the team batting first in the incomplete innings. In this case; the score shall be that of the incomplete innings.

## **3) End of Innings**

Three outs or when nine runs have been made by the batting side. Once the 9<sup>th</sup> run has been scored, the innings is ended regardless of how many are out.

## **4) Pitching**

Both feet are to be in contact with the pitching plate at commencement of pitch. One foot is to remain on the plate during the release of the ball. This trailing foot is allowed to be dragged as a follow through. Pitch must be underarm release in a continuous motion. Each new pitcher is allowed 5 practice pitches when starting (this could be at the beginning or during the innings). Each team is allowed a maximum of 3 pitchers in the same innings.

## **5) Batting**

- i) The batter is out if they throw the bat in a dangerous manner (one warning is given before out is called).
- ii) Only players entered on the score sheet before the game may play.
- iii) Batters must bat in order on the score sheet.
- iv) Substitution of batters may take place but:

- a. Substituted batter must play the rest of the innings.
  - b. No more than one batter may be substituted in any one innings.
- v) A fair hit:  
Ball landing and staying in fair territory.
- vi) Foul Hits
  - a. land in foul territory
  - b. Land in fair territory but rolling in foul territory before reaching 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - c. Are counted up to two strikes.
  - d. No limit to number of foul hits.
- vii) Foul Tip is where the ball is tipped by batter, caught behind and goes no higher than batter's head (in natural standing position). A foul tip is counted as a foul.
- viii) If a batter is hit by a ball the batter gets a free walk to 1<sup>st</sup> base only.
- ix) After the 4<sup>th</sup> 'ball' is called, the batter will hit off a tee. The count returns to zero and standard Teeball rules apply.

***A Batter is out when:***

- i) The hit ball is caught (fair or foul) – all runners must keep contact with their base or return to their base before proceeding. If the ball beats the runner back to their base the base runner is also out.
- ii) The thrown ball reaches the base before the batter or forced runner reaches it.
- iii) An unforced runner is tagged. Unforced runners (runner who does not need to run but chooses to) must be tagged. When tagging a player this can be down with the ball or with the mitt if the ball is inside the mitt.
- iv) A runner leaves the base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand (a warning is usually given before an out is awarded).
- v) Base runners do not go directly to an adjacent base when the pitcher has both feet on the pitcher's plate and is ready to pitch the ball.
- vi) If a base runner overtakes another base runner – the base runner overtaken is out.
- vii) A base runner goes off line on the diamond to avoid being tagged.
- viii) Catcher catches the ball on the full on the third strike. (If the third strike is not caught on the full the batter can run).

**6) Base Running**

- i) First and home base may be over run. If a batter overruns second and third base, they may be tagged out.
- ii) Base runners may steal bases after the ball has left the pitcher's hand BUT
  - a. Must return on a foul hit
  - b. Must return or hold base until catch is made on fly ball.
- iii) Passed (dead) ball – 1 base is awarded to base runners. Ensure passed ball lines are clearly established before game commences.
- iv) A safety base at 1<sup>st</sup> allows the batter a clear path without colliding with the first baseman. 1<sup>st</sup> base is to be placed in fair territory and the safety base in foul territory. When 1<sup>st</sup> base has been gained by the batter, the white 1<sup>st</sup> base is then used.

**7) Fielding**

- i) No fielder shall be closer than the pitcher to home plate before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.

- i) The fielding team must have 3 outfielders outside the diamond.
- ii) Any fielder may tag runners whether they are forced or not between bases (even a runner going to 1<sup>st</sup>).

## **8) Sportsmanship**

- i) Any attempt by batting team to purposely get out to finish an innings or deliberately extend the length of an innings will be considered to be bad sportsmanship (and game may be called a draw)
- ii) Any behaviour contrary to Code of Conduct may result in termination of game if deemed necessary by the umpire.
- iii) Just a reminder PSSA is an opportunity for children to learn new skills, practice game play, meet new friends and most importantly have fun so please help your children enjoy the game.

## **9) Timeout**

Play will not stop until the ball is returned to the pitcher or the ball is overthrown and becomes dead. When the ball is returned to the pitcher, runners must immediately return to an adjacent base.

Any other rules not mentioned above will NOT be played.

## **10) Results**

At the conclusion of the game, both teams are requested to EMAIL results, including scores, to the convenor (Paul Cohen – [paul.cohen@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:paul.cohen@det.nsw.edu.au)) by 5PM Friday afternoon. You may also text message your results to my mobile number 0410 668 011 if you prefer. Please check that results and scores agree before leaving the ground. When scores differ, those with the narrower margin will be recorded.

## **11) Points Score**

Win	3 Points
Bye	3 Points
Draw	2 Points
Loss	1 Point
Forfeit	0 Points

## **11) Grounds**

Grounds have been allocated. Please ensure that you play on your allocated field and always leave them in a tidy condition.

## **12) Wet Weather**

In the event of wet weather the summer sport convenors will decide whether or not the round will be played. Schools will be advised ASAP. Wet weather rounds will not be played at a later date and are allocated no points.

## **13) Umpiring**

Usually the teachers alternate umpiring duties by umpiring one innings each (i.e. one round of batting and one round of fielding). Please help each other or conduct the umpiring so that both coaches are in agreeance.

Parents may umpire as long as both coaches are in agreeance. The parent must have some prior experience and knowledge of the game.

#### **14) General**

Students may play in a higher division than their age allows. Students playing in a higher division must remain in that division after playing 3 games in that division.

Each student may play one game per week, unless otherwise agreed by both coaches.



# Teeball 2012



**The Georges River District PSSA Softball Competition will be played in two divisions – Teeball and Senior Softball. The competition will be conducted in accordance with the District Sport Draw. Nine Fridays have been set aside for the competition and one Friday for the Finals.**

## **Teeball: Years 3 and 4**

### **Results**

Please text or email your scores to Paul Cohen (Convenor) before 5pm on the afternoon of your match. Both teams should submit results, making sure that the final score is agreed upon by both teachers. If scores are submitted that differ, the lower score of the two will be recorded. Please make sure that you include:

Your Name:  
Your School:  
Opposition School:  
Junior Score: Including who won  
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If all scores are submitted early enough, I will endeavour to have the updated leaderboard on the Georges River PSSA website that afternoon [www.sites.google.com/site/grpssa](http://www.sites.google.com/site/grpssa)

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### **Finals**

Semi Finals will be played between the top four place getters. First place on the ladder will play fourth, with second place challenging third. The winners of both matches will then play in the final, with the other teams playing off for third place.

#### **1) Umpiring**

- i. The umpire should call "Batter" and "Play Ball" for each batter. Also after every strike or foul ball, "Play Ball" should be called after time.
- ii. The umpire shall ensure that the tee is adjusted to the batters satisfaction before calling "Play Ball"
- iii. "Last Batter" should be called when the final batter comes to bat.
- iv. The Teeball stand should be placed **in front** of home plate.
- v. The Umpire is to make all decisions.

The umpire can call TIMEOUT when all runners are safe and when the ball is held up in front of the lead runner.

Usually the teachers alternate umpiring duties by umpiring one innings each (i.e. one round of batting and one round of fielding). Please help each other or conduct the umpiring so that both coaches are in agreeance.

Parents may umpire as long as both coaches are in agreeance. The parent must have some prior experience and knowledge of the game.

## **2) Playing Conditions**

The Teeball Diamond

Base lines: 15.20

Pitching distance: 9.15m

Each game is played for either 5 innings or 50min.

A 10.5" rubber ball should be used for Teeball.

The final score is that at the end of the last complete innings unless the team batting second has scored more runs than the team batting first in the incomplete innings. In this case; the score shall be that of the incomplete innings.

Teeball will be played first starting as close to 12:45pm as possible. Softball will be played after Teeball. If a school arrives late, please allocate an equal amount of time for each game. If any school needs to change the order of the draw or forfeit a game, please let the convenor and other school know as soon as possible.

## **3) End of Innings**

Three outs or when all nine runners have had a bat. The last batter is a forced runner so when the ball is thrown to home plate and catcher/fielder steps on the plate with the ball all runners still running are not home.

## **4) Batting**

- i. Only players entered on the score sheet before the game may play.
- ii. Batter must bat in order on the score sheet.
- iii. Substitution of batters may take place but the substituted batter must play the rest of the innings.
- iv. A fair hit is a ball landing and staying in fair territory (on or between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases).
- v. If the batter hits the ball before "Play Ball" is called, the ball is dead and no count is recorded on the batter.
- vi. The batter shall take a set stance in the batting box. From "Play Ball" the batter is not permitted to reposition their back foot so that they hit in a different direction. A Strike should be called.

## ***Strikes***

- i. Swings at a ball and misses
- ii. No bunting – players must take a full swing.
- iii. Batter hits the tee and not the ball.
- iv. A fair batter ball must go beyond 3 metres.
- v. If a batter hits the ball and tee at the same time, and the ball travels beyond the 3 metre line, the ball is a fair hit.
- vi. The batter is permitted to level the bat with the ball (half swing) but batter is not allowed a full swing or any additional movements or a strike will be called.
- vii. All foul balls are counted as strikes
- viii. 3 strikes and the batter is out.

## **5) Fielding**

Until the ball is hit:

- Pitchers must have both feet on pitching plate.
- Base players are not to stand on the base.
- No fielder shall be closer than the pitcher to home plate (except the catcher).
- Short stop stands between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base and cannot change sides for different handed batters.
- Three fielders are in the outfield.

## **6) Base Running**

- ii) A base runner must wait until the ball is hit before leaving the base.
- iii) A base runner that leaves the base before the ball is hit is out.
- iv) A base runner shall not be called out but must return to their base immediately if they leave the base as a result of the batter;
  - a. Swinging at the ball and missing.
  - b. Hitting the tee and not the ball.

### ***Forced Runner***

- A runner forced to advance need not be tagged.

### ***Unforced Runner***

- MUST be tagged out. Ball must in fielder's hand or mitt.

***Base stealing is NOT permitted.***

***A batter is out when:***

- i. The batter throws the bat in a dangerous manner (one warning is given before out is called).
- ii. The hit ball is caught (fair or foul) – all runners must keep contact with their base before proceeding. If the ball beats the runner back to their base the base runner is out also.
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