Playing the Game

*An official team consists of 10 players
*6 infielders: first baseman, second basemen, third basemen, shortstop, pitcher, and catcher
*4 outfielders: left fielder, right fielder, center fielder, and short center
*The home team takes the field first and the visiting team bats first
*The ball is put into play by the pitcher
*A regulation game is 7 innings in length
*An inning consist of a turn a bat (3 outs) for each team and a turn playing the field

Field Responsibilities

1-Catcher-catching the ball thrown by the pitcher to home plate area
2-Pitcher-throwing ball underhand to batters, fielding the ball hit in the area of the diamond between homeplate, covering 1st base when the baseman must field a ball, and back up the 1 baseman on an overthrow
3-First Basemen-covers the area around 1 base and halfway to 2nd base
4-Second Basemen-covers the area around 2nd base and halfway to 1st base and also acts as the cut off man for right field
5-Third Basemen-Covers the area around third base and halfway to 2nd base
6-*Shortstop-covers the mid area between 2nd base and 3rd base and acts as the cut off man for left field
7-Short Center- Covers the area behind 2nd base also may cover 2nd base
8-Left Field- Covers the outfield from the third base foul line to 2nd base
9-Center Field- Covers the mid outfield section and also backs up right/left fielders
10-Right Fielder- Covers the outfield from the 1st base foul line to 2nd base

Strike (May occur in any of the following)

*Batter swings at the pitched balls and misses
*Pitched ball is called a strike when delivered over home plate between the knees and shoulders of the batter( In Physical Education class we do not call strikes)
*Fly ball, which goes foul and is not caught (except on the third strike)
*Foul tip that remains lower than batter’s head and is caught by the catcher

Ball (for Physical Education class we do not call balls)

*Pitched ball that lands on the home plate
*Pitched ball not over the plate between batter’s knees and shoulders and the batter does not swing. Four balls entitle batter to become a base runner.
*Pitcher goes through preliminary motions of pitching but fails to deliver the ball
Fair Hit Ball: Legally batted ball that:

*Lands and remains in the infield between home and first or home and third
*Touches or goes over the first or third base
*Lands in outfield in fair territory between extended lines from home to first and home to third

Foul Ball: Batted ball which:

*Lands fair and rolls foul in the infield
*Hits foul in the outfield

Overthrow

*When the ball is thrown over the first or third bases into foul territory-players get to advance one base, assuming that the ball went beyond the playable area or touches any obstruction
*If the ball is not touched by a person not in the game and does not touch any obstruction the runners may advance as far as they can make it

When a Batter is OUT:

- Swings at and misses the third strike
  Exception-THIRD STRIKE RULE- when the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground when there are less than two outs and first base is unoccupied or anytime there are two outs, the batter becomes a base runner
  *Is tagged with the ball before reaching first base
*Foul tip is caught on third strike
*Fair or foul fly is caught
*Interferes with the catcher
*Is hit by her own batted ball in fair territory before it has been played by a fielder
*Reaches first base after the ball is caught by the baseman

When the Base runner is OUT:

- Leaves the base before ball leaves the pitcher’s hand (class rule before the ball goes over home plate)
- Is tagged off the base
- Fails to return to the base before ball reaches Baseman following a fair hit fly legally caught
- Interferes with a fielder trying to field the ball
- Is forced out at base
- Passes a Base runner
• Is hit by a fair batted ball
• Runs outside the legal three feet from direct base line
• Intentionally kicks a ball missed by fielder

Scoring:

One run shall be scored every time a base runner touches each base and home plate before three players are put out

**History**

*Softball originated in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day, 1887.*

*A group of about twenty young men had gathered in the gymnasium of the Farragut Boat Club in order to hear the outcome of the Harvard-Yale football game. After Yale’s victory was announced, a man picked up a stray boxing glove and threw it at someone, who hit it with a pole.*

*George Hancock was the inventor. He tied the boxing glove so that it resembled a ball, chalked out a diamond on the floor (smaller dimensions those of a baseball field in order to fit the gym), and broke off a broom handle to serve as a bat. He shouted “Let’s play ball!”*  

*Softball was played with a larger ball, indoors, and was known as “indoor baseball”. It was intended as a sort of substitute for baseball, a way of keeping in shape during the winter months. Nicknames for softball include: Kitten ball, army ball, mush ball, indoor-outdoor, recreation ball, and playground ball.*

*In the spring of 1888, Hancock’s game moved outdoors. It was played on a small diamond and called indoor-outdoor. Due to the sport’s mass appeal, Hancock published his first set of indoor-outdoor rules in 1889.*

*While Chicago was definitely softball’s birthplace, the game saw some modifications in Minneapolis.*

*In 1933 during the depression the world championships were held. Governed by the Amateur Softball Association of America, the first champions for both the women and the men were from Chicago.*