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| **Softball Rules Simplified** | http://westlake.k12.oh.us/hilliard/whspe/softball/images/softball_pitch.gif |
| **THE GAME*** There are 9 players on a softball team.
* The playing field is divided into the infield and outfield
* The lines between the bases are 60’ apart and when joined they form a “diamond”, inside the baseline is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Outside the baseline but inside the playing field is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Any ball going outside the 1st or 3rd base line is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ball ( runners cannot advance and the batter gets another try unless the ball was caught in the air, which translates to an out)
* An official game is 7 innings (an inning is when both teams have had their turn to bat)

**PITCHING*** The pitcher must have both feet on the pitcher’s rubber and can only take one step forward while pitching.
* The ball must be thrown \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Both hands must be on the ball at the start of the pitch.

**BATTING*** Batters must follow the same order throughout the whole game
* The batter is out if and when:

a) three strikes have been calledb) a fly ball is caughtc) the batter does not stand in the batter’s box**BASE RUNNING*** Runners must touch each \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in order
* Runners may overrun 1st base only, all other bases the runner may be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and called out if they are off the base.
* Runners cannot lead off a base, they must be on base until the ball as left the pitcher’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* One base runner cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ another base runner that is ahead of them.
* Stealing a base is permitted
* A runner is out if:

a. they are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the ball before reaching a baseb. the ball gets to 1st base before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.c. they run more than 3 feet out of the base line to avoid being tagged**TERMS**:Force out, Ball, Strike, Grounder, Strike zone.* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:- a legally pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone (four balls equals a walk)
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:- A ball that is hit on the ground
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:- when the runner has to advance to the next base to make room for the following base runner.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:- term used when a ball is swung at and missed or is called when the ball enters the strike zone and is not swung at all.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:- the ball passes the batter over the plate between their chest and knees
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