**SOFTBALL STUDY GUIDE**

**Rules**
Team consists of 10 players; pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, shortstop, left fielder, center fielder, right fielder, and short center.

A regulation game consists of 7 innings.

The pitching arm must come to rest holding the ball in front of the body, with a pivot foot in contact with the pitchers plate. The ball is to be thrown on the first forward swing past the hip. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitchers plate until the ball leaves the hand. The hand must be below the hip. The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc of at least 3 feet from the time it leaves the pitchers hand until it reaches home plate. The pitched ball may not be higher than 12 feet from the ground during its flight to home plate.

The batter must take position within the lines of the batters’ box. All batters must bat in their batting order or an out is called on the person at bat.

A strike is called (1) for each legally pitched ball, (2) for each pitched ball missed by the batter, (3) for each foul tip—the batter is out if the tip is on the third strike (4) for each pitched ball struck at and missed that touches any part of the batter, and (5) for hitting a batter positioned in the strike zone.

A ball is called for a pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone.

A fair ball is one that (1) lands in the fair territory-between first and third bases, (2) lands on any one of the bases with the exception of home base, or (3) falls on fair ground beyond first or third base.

The batter is out immediately when an infield fly is hit with base runners on first and second, or first, second, and third with less than two outs. This is called the infield-fly rule. A foul ball is a legally batted ball that (1) settles on foul ground outside the first or third baseline or behind home plate or (2) bounds past first or third base on foul ground or outside of bases. If a foul fly is caught, the batter is out. The batter is out if there are two strikes and the next batted ball is a foul tip. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes from the bat, not higher than the batter head, to the catchers hand and is legally caught.

The batter is out under the following circumstances: (1) On three strikes, (K)(2) When the ball is bunted or chopped downward. (3) When a fly ball is legally caught. (FO)(4) On an infield fly rule. (5) When the batter interferes with the catcher. (6) Intentional interference puts a runner out plus the batter who hit the ball.
**Vocabulary**

- Assist - Throwing or deflecting, by a player, of a thrown or batted ball by which a possible out could be made.
- Base on balls - Reaching first base after four balls are caught. (BB)
- Battery - The pitcher and catcher
- Batting Average - Number of hits made by a batter divided by the times at bat.
- Batting Order - The official listing of the sequence of the players to bat.
- Double Play - A play in which two players are legally put out.

**Definitions**

A. Inning – a visiting team batting until 3 outs are made AND the home team doing the same.
B. Strike Zone – area approximately the width of home plate, from the arm pits to the knees of the batter, in which the ball should be pitched.
C. Ball – area pitched outside the strike zone.
D. Force Play – when there is a runner on all bases behind you, you are forced to the next base on a ground ball; the defense need only tag the base before the runner does to cause an out.
E. Tag play – when base runners are not forced by players on each base behind them; they must be tagged with the ball before touching the base to cause an out.
F. Tagging up – advancing to the next base on a caught fly ball. The player may not leave the base until the ball is caught and must be tagged to be out.
G. Bunt – intentionally tapping the ball with the bat, without using a full swing.

Each player position is designated by a number which is used for scoring purposes.