

Rules Swiss COED Slowpitch Softball Championship

Last update 21.1.2025

1-Introduction

- a. Official rules and agreements
- b. Deadline

2-Field & equipment

- a. Field
- b. Tournament
- c. The ground rules
- d. First base & strike zone
- e. Commitment line
- f. Safety line
- g. Courtesy area
- h. Equipment

3-Teams

- a. Batting order
- b. Automatic-out & penalty rules
- c. Substitutions
- d. Loan players
- e. Maximum batters
- f. Player equipment

4-Game

- a. Coach meeting
- b. Line-up card
- c. Game time
- d. No re-batting
- e. Maximum of run
- f. Homerun limit
- g. Warm-up pitches

- h. Legal pitch

5-Batters

- a. Starts
- b. Next batter
- c. Walk

6-Base runners

- a. Slide
- b. Leave the base
- c. Ball out of play
- d. Safety base
- e. Courtesy runner
- f. Pitcher courtesy runner

7-Umpires

- a. Pitch
- b. Strike mat
- c. Score
- d. Runner not advance

8-Classification modus

- a. Season
- b. Swiss champions

9- Rules enforcement and fair play

- a. Rules
- b. Insult & aggression
- c. misconduct

1. Game operation in Switzerland

- a. This document supplements the current WSBC rules regulations.
Due to the particular conditions of the game in Switzerland, the SBSF rules take precedence over the WSBC rules.
By participating, each player, team, coach, umpire and club confirms its acceptance of the SBSF Statutes, all regulations, fines and fees.
All teams registered for the season must participate in a minimum of 3 tournaments.
Only teams that have participated in 50% or more tournaments are eligible for the playoff.
Any match lost by forfeit is scored 9-0.
- b. Deadlines
1- SBSF championship register BSM / end of January
2- Tournament date announcements by clubs/ end of February
3- Team registration for tournaments/ end of March
After these deadlines, no further action is possible.
Exceptional requests may be granted with good justification. This is charged at CHF 100.00 per case.

2. Field & equipment

- a. Homologation on the field is decided by the SBSF. It takes into consideration the holding of an official match as well as protecting the physical integrity of the players.
The SBSF may grant tournament authorization at any time.
- b. A maximum of 5 teams can participate per tournament with one playing field. With two playing fields, 10 teams can participate. This ensures that all teams can compete in full games (50-minute).
- c. The ground rules and any special regulations will be announced at the coaches meeting by the organizing team.

According to the WBSC Softball Slowpitch Rule Book, the following distances apply:
- Bases 19.81m
- Pitcher's plate min. 15.24m with a 61cm x 150cm box.
- Home Run Fence - no less than 83.82m
All fair and foul ball lines must be marked. Cones are not permitted.
- d. Each tournament organizer must provide, in addition to the normal bases and pitcher's plate, a safety base for the 1B and a strike mat (60cm x 90cm).
- e. A commitment line must be marked perpendicular to the 3B home line (10m from the back edge of home plate and perpendicular to the 3B infield line). If the baserunner completely crosses the ground with one foot on the other side of the commitment line, it becomes a force play at home plate.
- f. safety line behind home plate. The base-runner scores if he crosses the safe line before a defensive player holds the ball and touches home base at the same time. A "tag-out" is not required in any case. **Extra Homeplate in place of safety line is accepted.**

- g. The courtesy zone is announced 10 m behind the infield bases. The 4 outfielders (no 5 infielder/rover allowed) may not cross until the ball is hit by a female player. If a male player is batting, this rule does not apply. Team officials are required to make the umpire aware of the disregard of the rule prior to the pitch. Protests after the pitch will not be heard. If the rule is disregarded, there will be no disrespect.

h. Equipment

Ball: Only USA (ASA) Softball certified .52 COR, 300 MAX. are allowed. The 12-inch size ball will be used for men. In case of a female batter the 11-inch size can be used.

The team organizing the tournament supplies the balls to all the teams.

Bats: Only ASA, ISF or USSSA labels are authorized

All players of a team must wear a jersey or T-shirt that respect the color code of the rest of the team.

Only loan player can be use another jersey.

3. Teams

- a. There are ten players on defense. The batting order shall alternate the sexes so 2nd and 4th or the 1st and 3rd batter must be a female player. The batting order must be followed during the game.
- b. Each team must have at least 3 female players on defense and offence.
If a team has only 2 women, it may only play with 9 people (7 men / 2 women) on defense. Batter number 10 is always an automatic out.
If a team has only 1 woman, it may only play with 9 people (8 men / 1 woman) on defense. Batter numbers 4 and 10 are always an automatic out. If there are fewer than 3 women in the field, the catcher must be a man.
If a team has no women, it cannot participate in a tournament.

Exceptions may be made in two cases.

1- With the opponent's agreement

2- When a team refuses an exchange of male and female players to the other team.

if this is the case, the referee may accept that the match be played with 2 automatic outs, 9 players on defense and two runs (penalty) when the game begin.
(no table win)

- c. Any number of substitutions may be made. Substitutions and substitutions aimed only at changing the batting order are to be omitted.
- d. Each team must have at least 7 of its own players to participate in a tournament. To borrow players, the opposing coach must be contacted. Loaned players bat last in the lineup (8-10) unless they are female players, in which case rule a applies. If one or two players are loaned out, they play at the C and RF positions respectively. The third borrowed player may play in any position in the outfield. With the agreement of the opponent, exceptions can be made to the positions in the field.
- e. Maximum of 12 batters may be in the batting order.

- f. All players must wear a jersey or t-shirt that respects the color code of the rest of the team.
Only loan player can be use another jersey.
No shoes with metal cleats (shoe lugs) may be worn.
Pitcher mask is obligatory
Batting helmet is recommended.

4. Game

- a. Coaches meeting will be held between the team officials and umpires prior to the start of the game/tournament. In the event of absence, the absent Team Officer will be responsible for obtaining the correct information.
- b. Line-up card
Prior to the game, team officials will hand each other their team lineups (lineup card). The lineup cards will include the batting order of the teams and the names and/or numbers of the players for tracking purposes.
Line-up card is strickly recommended, without which it is not acceptable to blame the referee for forgetting or request.
- c. **The last inning will be determined after 40 minutes. At this time, the inning in course will be finished and the next inning will be the "Last inning". The last inning will be an open Inning.** If no winner is determined at the end of the inning, play will continue with tie-breaker rule (batting order is maintained, last out goes to 2B) until a decision is made.
When a game has stopped for a potentially serious injury lasting longer than 5 minutes, the referee must stop the timer.
- d. The home team is in the lead, there will be no re-batting when the time is up.
- e. Maximum of 5 or 8 runs can be scored per inning. At the time the fifth run comes home, the play continues until the ball is either at the pitcher's pitching rubber or at the catcher's home
- f. Maximum limit of 3 homeruns. All base runners home up to this point count as runs. If a 4 homerun is hit, all base runners count as runs and the batter is out.
- g. Warm-up pitches
At the start of the game, the pitcher is given 10 warm-up pitches in the first inning.
when one pitcher relieves another, no more than 3 pitches to the catcher or another team member.
If this is not respected with additional pitch, the referee gives a ball against the pitcher.
- h. The pitch starts when the pitcher makes any motion that is part of their windup after the required stop.
The pitcher must not make any motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.

The pitcher cannot throw a hidden ball in his pitching motion.

When the batter is in the box, the pitcher has 10 seconds to make the next throw after receiving the ball.

5. Batters

- a. It is started with a 1-1 count.
A bunt is a strikeout.
There will be no bunts, no hit-by-pitches, no wild pitches, and no passed balls.
After 4 balls there is a walk, if the third strike is a foul ball the batter is out.
There are 3 home runs allowed per game per team. Each additional home run is considered an out, with runs counting (batter and each player on-base).
- b. Only the next two batters can be waiting outside the dugout
- c. Any walk to a male batter, intentional or not, will result in an award of two bases when the next batter is female.
If, during this walk, you have two outs, the woman batter may decide to bat or take an automatic walk in the first base.

Only ASA, ISF or USSSA labels are authorized

6. base runners

- a. Sliding is permitted (head-first and feet-first).
- b. The runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit. If the runner leaves the base prematurely, he will be called "out" by the umpire.
- c. If the ball is given "out-of-play" after a play, the runners may advance 2 bases from the starting base (at the time of the pitch) if the action can be considered the first defensive action of the infield. In all other cases, runners may advance 2 bases from the time of the failed throw.
- d. The batter-runner must touch the safety base on an infield single at 1st base.
- e. Courtesy runners are allowed: A courtesy runner may be used once per inning, when announced to the umpire by the manager/coach. A courtesy runner can be used at any time after the batter reach a base. A courtesy runner may not run for another courtesy runner. The courtesy runner can be anyone (excepted by the last out) that is in the lineup and bench (A woman can run for women and men/woman can run for a men)
- f. Pitcher courtesy runner: A pitcher can always have an extra courtesy runner even if the courtesy runner was used. This special courtesy runner must be the last out independently of the gender (i.e. if the last out is a girl, then is a girl)

7. umpires

There will be 2 Umpires provided by each team (Home Plate and Field).

- a. The pitcher must throw the ball to the batter in an arc between 1.8m - 3.6m (an illegal pitch must be indicated by the umpire). If the batter hits the ball anyway, the pitch is considered legal. An illegal pitch is call when the pitcher throw a ball hidden in his motion.

- The pitcher has 10 seconds to release the next pitch receiving the ball.
- b. The strike mat (60cm x 90cm) indicates the strike zone. The leading edge of the mat is flush with the leading edge of home plate. All balls thrown within the proper height and touching the mat directly from the air are strikes (including home plate).
 - c. To score, the runner must cross the safe line behind home plate (see Commitment Line rule). In the case of an Extrahome plate is set, you need to touch it.
 - d. Once the ball is with the pitcher, the runners may not advance.

8. classification / modus

- a. During the season, daily tournaments of 3 to 5 teams will be organized. **Teams can register for tournaments at the beginning of the year up to the deadline.** If the number of teams registered for a tournament exceeds the maximum number, the participants will be determined by drawing lots. Teams unable to participate because of the draw will be redirected to other available tournaments.

The first match of each **tournament usually starts at 10:30 a.m.** to allow teams to travel to each tournament venue.

Excetpion made by the organizer in agreement with the clubs involved in the tournament.

The team with the most distance kilometers does not play the first match of the tournament.

If a team does not respect its commitments, its matches are forfeited 9-0 and 150 CHF will be imposed.

50 CHF go to SBSF

100 CHF go to Tournament organizing club.

- b. **The Swiss champion playoff** is determined by the best teams in a one-day tournament. The championship percentages are used to determine the best Swiss teams. The final tournament *usually* takes place in autumn, in a 4 teams final. Exceptions are granted by the SBSF if fewer than 4 clubs qualify. Each team participating in the final tournament must have played at least 50% of the season's one-day tournaments.

9. Rules enforcement and fair play

- a. In the event of repeated non-compliance with the rules in force, the SBSF reserves the right to impose forfeit penalties or fines, depending on the seriousness of the case.
- b. Any insult or aggression on the pitch may result in the club's exclusion from the championship and a fine.
- c. Misconduct towards a referee may result in the club's exclusion from the championship and a fine.