Intramural softball will be governed by the official ASA softball rules with the following exceptions and inclusions.

START OF GAME AND TIME LIMIT:
1. All games will be 7 innings or 55 Minutes. No new inning will start after 50 minutes of play. If play has started, the inning will be completed. The umpire will make the time decisions.
2. Teams should show up 10-15 minutes prior to their game. A team must have a minimum of 8 members to begin game. All eligible players must present and signed in to play. Forfeit time is 5 minutes after the scheduled start time.
3. The home team is listed first on the schedule.
4. No postponements will be made. Never assume games have been canceled due to inclement weather—find out. If play begins and the rain comes, the umpire will make a decision on canceling games. Any other cancellations due to weather will be announced by the IM department prior to games starting. Scheduling conflicts must be discussed with the Director at least 24 hours in advance to be considered for rescheduling.
5. In the event of a terminated game, the score shall revert to the end of the last complete inning. A rain shortened game is official in 3 innings (two and a half if home team is ahead) have been completed. Canceled games are not guaranteed to be made up, but will be attempted at the most convenient time for the IM department.

PLAYERS, EQUIPMENT AND FIELD:
1. A team must have eight players to beginning a game. Only 10 players may play the field but all players may hit in the order specified on the score sheet.
2. All players must have signed the team roster/liability on file with the IM department to be eligible for play. Players must be added to the official roster at least 24 hours prior to participation in a contest. Any player who participates and is not on the official roster for that team will be subject to cause a forfeit.
3. Teams can be made up of men, women, or co-rec rosters.
4. When a male scores, one run is awarded. When a female scores, two runs are awarded.
5. Co-rec teams must alternate male, female throughout the batting order as long as possible.
6. Teams may use their own bats if they are legal softball bats. Softball bats say “Official Softball” on them. Any double wall or “super” bat will be considered illegal. Umpires may prohibit a bat from being used.
7. Base lines are approximately 62 feet. Pitching distance is about 46 feet.
8. A seven-run limit per inning per team will be enforced through the first 6 innings. This will act as a mercy rule and also to ensure that the full seven innings will be played before the time limit is up. This run limit rule does not apply in the 7th inning or extra innings after that.

9. **NO CLEATS OF ANY KIND CAN BE WORN ON THE FIELD.**

**PITCHING:**
1. The ball must be pitched at a moderate speed, underhand, and below the hip. There is an arch minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 12 feet. Arch of the pitch is solely the judgment of the home plate umpire. The umpire shall govern speed, height, and legality of the pitch. The umpire shall warn the pitcher violating these regulations.
2. An illegal pitch is a ball unless a batter strikes it. When the umpire sees an illegal pitch, he/she should immediately yell “illegal pitch”. The batter then has the option not to swing. If swung at, it counts as a pitch.
3. A quick return pitch is not permitted, and is illegal.
4. The strike zone consists of home plate and a mat behind home plate. Any legal pitch hitting these is a strike. This area is measured from the back tip of home plate to the back line of the batter’s boxes. The width will be the distance between the two boxes. A pitched ball that is not swung at, that hits home plate, will be called a BALL.

**BATTING:**
1. There is no bunting. Any batter attempting to bunt is automatically out.
2. A foul tip is a batted ball, which goes directly from the bat not higher than the batter’s head to the catcher’s mitt.
3. A batted ball that hits home plate is a fair ball.
4. A foul ball on the third strike is an out.
5. Any hitter who throws the bat will be out.

**BASE RUNNING:**
1. No stealing of bases is allowed. A runner may leave the base when a pitched ball has reached home plate or is hit by the batter. If it is not hit, the runner must return to the base. If a runner leaves too early, the runner will be called out.
2. The batter becomes a base runner when four balls have been delivered. If the pitcher desires an intentional walk, he/she may do so by notifying the umpire.
3. Runners may slide or go around in an attempt for a double play. In the umpires’ judgment, runners that hinder a player’s attempt for a double play will result in an automatic double play. A runner may be ejected from unnecessary roughness for trying to take out the second baseman or catcher.
4. Sliding is allowed. Intentional colliding with a fielder in an attempt to jar the ball loose will result in an automatic out, and possible ejection.

**GROUND RULES:**
1. Any softball that goes over the Outfield fence will be an automatic HOMERUN.
2. Teams are allowed 3 Home Runs per game. Each Home Run over 3 will be considered an out.
3. Any Home Run that strikes the scoreboard will be scored a Home Run but not considered one of the team’s 3 Home Runs.
4. Team members not on defense MUST stay on the turf area and off the grass.
5. Only 1 on deck batter at a time.
PROTESTS AND CONDUCT:
1. No protest regarding umpires judgment will be allowed.
2. All protests of eligibility or rule interpretations will be settled after the Director has received a written protest within 24 hours of the game.
3. Forfeiting a game in a season will result in the team being removed from the league. Unless that team “buys back” into the league by paying $25 to Rec Sports Office.
4. A second forfeit results in elimination from league and playoffs.
5. Captains shall be in control and responsible for their team and fans. All communication with the IM department should go through the captain.
5. IM EQUIPMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE IM DEPARTMENT. Any person(s) caught taking this equipment will be removed from the league and their team may also be forced to forfeit their remaining games.