

Rules for Indoor Softball

By Steve Trundle

The Basic Game

Indoor Softball is played by teams with 8 players each. One of the great things about Indoor is that it can be played on various sizes of playing areas. Only eight players take the field at one time but you can have an unlimited number of batters. There should be 5 men and 3 women on the playing field.

NB For this Tournament we will be playing with a MINIMUM of 3 women.

The basics are a variation of slowpitch softball. The **pitcher** pitches the ball to the **batter** who hits it and runs round as many bases as possible before the ball is brought under the control of the defensive team. The aim of the game is to score more **points** than the opposition.

Meanwhile the defensive team tries to get the batters and base runners out in the same ways they do in slowpitch.

- Strike Outs
- Fly Outs - balls hit in the air and caught including off the walls or ceilings.
- Force Outs
- Tag Plays

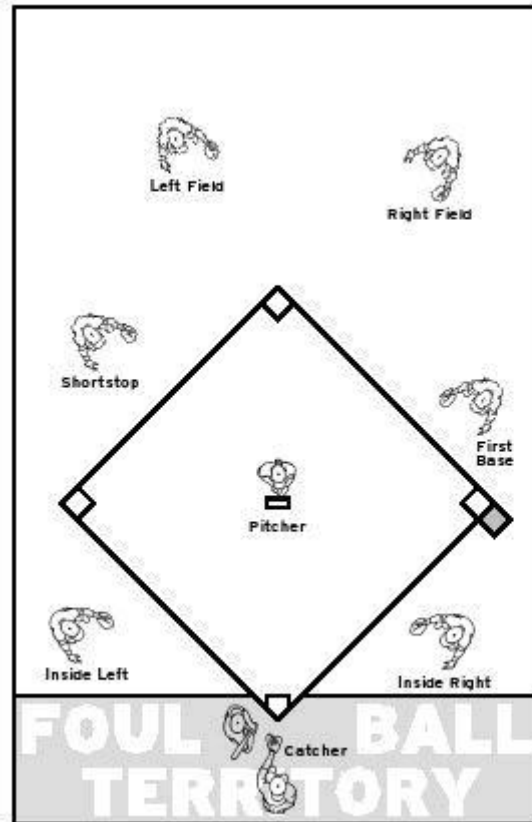
Indoors is two innings long and are not defined by the number of outs, but rather by time. Each half inning is usually 6 minutes long - duration is flexible as long as its applied to each half inning.

Players still bat in a pre-arranged order and in mixed-sex games the batting order should alternate male and female batters. Batters continue to bat in that order for six minutes regardless of any outs being made.

The Defensive Team

There are essentially 8 fielding positions (see diagram below)

Pitcher	Catcher
First Base	Short Stop
Left Field	Right Field
Inside Left	Inside Right



You can place your fielders where you want, however Pitcher must pitch from the plate and catcher must remain behind batter until ball is hit to receive the ball and keep the game going.

Throws to second base are normally taken by left or right field positions, throws to third by shortstop or inside left.

Venue Policy

- Non-Marking Soles will only be permitted on the courts.

There are 3 main types of material used in soles: -

- * **Rubber**, which is used in basketball, tennis and cross trainers to provide non-marking traction and external durability.
- * **Gum rubber**, which is used with indoor court shoes eg: squash or indoor soccer. A non marking compound designed to offer maximum traction on a wooden playing surface.
- * **Carbon Rubber**, which is a compound used mainly in running shoes due to its hard wearing properties. However, although being a more durable compound, these outer soles have the disadvantage of being a marking sole, and are not advised for surfaces such as tennis courts, where they will leave marks on the court.

- No Sliding - To avoid damage to the flooring and to yourself, we must enforce this policy - Sliding into bases = OUT!

Tournament Rules & Scoring

1. One pitch per batter (ball or strike).
2. Each game will be 2 innings with each half inning 6 minutes in length. There are stopwatches provided in each court.
3. Defence should consist of 8 players with a minimum of 3 women on the field at all times.
4. EXTRA PLAYERS in batting order as long as the ratio is kept to M:F - 5:3, 6:4, 7:5 extra players may be used during batting. 3 males should not bat in a row. Equal numbers of M:F is also permitted and they should bat M:F:M:F etc.
5. There are 2 playing courts - **DO NOT do batting practice on the game pitches.**
6. Slowpitch rules apply except that **bunting is allowed.**
7. Running through 1B is permitted though runners should run straight through or turn to the RHS. Any player who appears to advance can be tagged out.
8. We strongly suggest you do not use your good, expensive bats. Please lay the bat down gently and don't throw it after your turn at bat.
9. Batting team should stand to the right of home plate leaving the LHS clear for the scorer.
10. 1 Point for each batter who safely reaches 1B - the batter gets 1 additional point for each base they reach on their turn at bat ,even if they stop at each base before advancing on an overthrow or mis-fielded ball etc. Base runners do not get points as they advance to the next base on another batter's turn at bat, except for the following circumstance: 1 Point is given for each base runner who safely crosses home.
11. 5 Points are scored for a Homerun AND an additional 1 Point for each runner on base when the Homerun was hit. (A point is subtracted if the batter is caught off the back wall).
12. - 1 Point for each out made by the defensive team.
13. Outs (-1pt) will be given for - any ball hit over the nets, any ball that is hit into the viewing gallery, a direct hit on the ceiling, metalwork & scoreboard.
14. HOMERUNS - A home run can be 'run out' or scored by hitting the Home Run target on the back wall (line below the basketball net). Where a direct home run is caught off the back wall target, ball is dead and runners on base return to their bases. When a direct home run is not caught, all runners on base come off the field immediately and re-join the batting line up - score 5 points for the batter, plus 1 point for each runner on base.
15. Ball stuck in the net, 1 base award will be given to the batter and any base runners.
16. If the ball hits the walls and then rolls into foul ball area it must be played as FAIR.
17. Format, Two rounds of 2 groups of 4, followed by semi final, final.
18. Umpiring & Scoring: Each team will be given games to umpire and score. There will be a chair, pen & paper and a stopwatch in each court. The result should be handed to Julie immediately after each game.
19. Slow Play: Any team deliberately slowing play will be warned for the 1st offence. ANY further warning(s) during the tournament will incur a 10 points penalty each time. Teams should change over quickly and not be throwing the ball around the court wasting time.
20. Only closed sports drinks containers are permitted on courts, No open cans or bottles please. Do not take any food into the court area.
21. No children under 16yrs of age will be permitted to play EXCEPT where the child is aged 15 and with the agreement of the organisers and a letter from the parent accepting full responsibility for their welfare.
22. "Borrowing Players" - If teams are short then they may borrow players from other teams. These players **MAY NOT** play Pitcher, 1st Base or Short-Stop.

Home Runs Area

Are any balls that hit, hitting the back wall below the basketball nets. Above this area is an out.

If the Ball hits the Basketball back board or ring , then the ball is live.

Viewing Gallery

On the courts if the ball is hit back into the gallery then the batter will be called out.

Indoor Playing Positions

Home Runs

A home run can be 'run out' or scored by hitting the Home Run target on the back wall.

Where a direct home run is caught off the back wall target, ball is dead and runners on base return to their bases. When a direct home run is not caught, all runners on base come off the field immediately and re-join the batting line up - score 5 points for the batter, plus 1 point

for each runner on base. If it hits the basketball net or backboard the ball is live.

Scoring the Game

As Indoor Softball scoring is more complex than the outdoor it is usually done by a non-player who scores for both teams.

Points are scored as following

- 1 Point

for each batter who safely reaches 1B - the batter gets 1 additional point for each base they reach on their turn at bat (even if they stop at each base before advancing on an overthrow or mis-fielded ball etc) base runners do not get points as they advance to the next base on another batter's turn at bat, except for the following circumstance:-

- 1 Point

is given for each base runner who safely crosses home

- 5 Points

are scored for a Homerun and additional 1 Point for each runner on base when the Homerun was hit. (A point is subtracted if the batter is caught off the back wall).

- - 1 Point

for each out made by the defensive team. Note it is perfectly possible for a team to have a negative score!!

Outs will be given (-1pt)

- Any ball hit over the nets
- Any ball that is a direct hit on the ceiling
- If a ball lands in fair territory then rolls into the dead area
- A ball hit above the home run line.

Local Rule

- Any ball hit into the viewing gallery
- Any ball hitting the electronic score board

Equipment

Standard equipment for slowpitch is used - i.e. a set of throw down bases, same gloves and bats. It is, however, worth remembering that the floors are usually made of concrete and you should probably not be using your expensive bats.

The only equipment that is different is the ball - Indoor balls are still 12" standard size but are softer and more "squidgy" - they are often referred to as practice balls.