

Almaguin Gazelles Softball Tournament

Registration

- Teams must be registered and registration paid by May 18, 2024.
- Registration cost is \$425 per team. Once confirmation of payment has been made, your team will be entered into the event.
- Payment can be made by e-transfer or cash. E-transfers can be made to treasurer.gazelles@outlook.com
- If using e transfer, please use "softball" as the security question.
- Registration will be "first come first serve" and the number of teams will be limited due to time and diamond availability.

Event Rules

- Players must wear athletic shoes on the field at all times. Open toe shoes or metal cleats are prohibited.
- Rubber baseball cleats approved for use in softball are permitted.
- Players are discouraged from wearing jewelry, especially rings, during games. Medic Alert bracelets are accepted.
- All players must use a baseball glove.
- Games will start no later than 10 minutes after designated time. Games will last no longer than one hour. At the one hour mark, the score at the last full inning will be the final score.
- Each team will have to field 10 players with a minimum of 4 females to be fielded. Teams must field at least 8 players or will have to forfeit.
- A full roster and batting order must be submitted to the umpire before fielding a team.
- No alcohol is allowed on the field or bench. This is a family event, therefore please refrain from foul language.

MERCY RULE: There shall be a maximum of seven (7) runs scored per inning per team. Runs per team in the last inning shall be unlimited. A difference of twenty (20) runs at any point throughout the game will result in a game mercy.

BATTING RULES:

ALL PLAYERS in the lineup must bat. Exceptions include players that are removed from the lineup during the game.

FOUL OUTS: Batters who foul the third strike will be called out.

PARTIAL SWINGS: Partial swings are not allowed. Any batter deemed to have made a partial swing shall be called out.

SCORING: To score, any part of the player's foot must touch the ground on or past the "Safe Line" before the catcher has solid possession of the ball and touches home plate. Batters who touch the plate will be called out.

BATTING ORDER & GENDER RESTRICTIONS: There shall be no more than two (2) batters of the same gender in a row in the batting order, including the wraparound at the bottom of the order.

HOME RUN LIMIT & RESTRICTIONS: Each team may hit three (3) home runs maximum per game without restriction.

-Once the home run limit for either team is reached additional home runs will be awarded a single only. Any base-runners on base may advance one base only if forced. "In the park" home runs are unrestricted and do not count as part of the home run total.

GROUND RULE DOUBLE: A batter may only advance to second base only if his/her ball travels under or bounces over the outfield fence.

WALK RULE: Male batters will be awarded first and second base if walked by the pitcher, either intentionally or unintentionally. Base runners, if any, advance if forced. Females must bat.

BASE RUNNING RULES: The following activity is prohibited and will result in offenders being called out:

No sliding into any base at any time. Diving or sliding back to return to an overrun base is accepted. No base stealing. No leaving the base until the bat

makes contact with the ball. No crossing back over the commitment line between 3rd base and home plate. Runners touching home plate. Throwing the bat.

DEFENSIVE INTERFERENCE: Interference with a runner by a defending team player will result in an awarded base to the runner UNLESS the defending player is fielding the ball. This includes physical or verbal interference including yelling or obvious and intentional visual distraction.

RUNNER INTERFERENCE: Runners who interfere with a defending player making a defensive play shall be called out. This includes physical or verbal interference including yelling or obvious and intentional visual distraction.

BASE PATH RULE: Runners who run beyond three feet on either side of the base path (established only when a fielder with the ball attempts a play) to intentionally avoid a tag will be called out. Establishment of the base path will be at the umpire's discretion.

HOME PLATE TAGS: Tagging a runner at home plate is prohibited. Players who are tagged at home plate or any time after crossing the commit line will be considered safe.

SAFETY BAG RULE: Runners must always use the safety bag, (orange) if there is an obvious play at 1st base, (example: infield ground ball). Runners who fail to use the orange bag in this case will be called out. If there is no play at 1st base, either bag, (white or orange) may be used.

OVER RUNNING FIRST BASE: Runners who run through 1st base and make a deemed attempt towards 2nd base are considered still in play and may be tagged out. An attempt will be at the discretion of the umpire.

INJURED RUNNERS: Players who declare they require a substitute runner may not proceed past first base on each at-bat (or subsequent at-bat) during the game. A home run (out of the park) is excluded. The requirement for a substitution runner must be disclosed before the game

starts unless resulting from an injury during the game. Substitute runners must be the last player called out of the same gender.

PITCHING RULES:

PITCHER: The fielding team provides the pitcher.

PITCHING ARC: The pitching arc must fall between 6' and 12' at any point between the pitcher's mound and home plate. Pitches determined by the umpire that do not obtain within the 6' X 12' arc limits shall be called an illegal pitch and counted as a ball. Any illegal pitch swung at by the batter shall be considered legal.

PITCH COUNT: The standard pitch count shall be used. (Example: Maximum 4 balls or 3 strikes).

STRIKES & BALLS: A legally pitched ball that touches any part of the base mat before touching the ground shall be called a strike. A legally pitched ball that touches the ground before touching the base mat or touches the ground only shall be called a ball.

FIELDING RULES:

CATCHER: The fielding team provides its own catcher.

ENCROACHMENT: Infielders must remain behind all base lines until the ball is hit. Outfielders must remain on the grass until the ball is hit.

INFIELD FLY RULE: The SPO infield fly rule IS in effect. SPO "INFIELD FLY"

RULE DEFINITION: The rule applies only when there are fewer than two outs, and there is a force play at third base (i.e., when there are runners at first and second base, or the bases are loaded). In these situations, if a fair fly ball is in play, and in the umpire's judgment is catchable by an infielder with ordinary effort, the umpire shall call "infield fly" (or more often, "infield fly, batter is out") and the batter will be out regardless of whether the ball is actually caught. If "infield fly" is called and the fly ball is caught, it is treated exactly as an ordinary caught fly ball; the batter is out, there is no

force, and the runners must tag up. On the other hand, if "infield fly" is called and the ball lands fair without being caught, the batter is still out, there is still no force, but the runners are not required to tag up. In either case, the ball is live, and the runners may advance on the play, at their own risk.

PLAYS AT FIRST BASE: The first baseman must touch any part of the white portion to make a play at first base. Runners will be considered safe if the first baseman touches only the orange bag. A fielder **MAY NOT** stand on first base or in the first or second base path **IF THERE IS NO PLAY AT FIRST BASE**. This is defensive obstruction (and is extremely unsafe). If a collision results, the runner shall be awarded one base.

POSITION CHANGES: Are prohibited during an inning. A "no pitch" will be declared and play will return to where it was prior to the infraction. Players must maintain their same defensive position throughout the inning unless: Injury occurs during a play and the player must be removed or relocated to another fielding position. A defensive player must leave the game during an inning for other legitimate reasons.

BASE AWARDS: Runners (including the batter-runner) will be awarded **ONE** base on any ball that is thrown out-out-play. The award is based on the last legal base held and the position of the lead runner at the **TIME OF THE THROW**.

FAKE TAGS: Fake tags are prohibited. All runners will be awarded an extra base.

FOUL TIPS: Foul tips caught by the catcher will result in the batter being called out regardless of the pitch count or height of the hit ball.

OUTFIELD TO FIRST BASE RULE: Outfielders, including Rovers, may not throw out batters at first base. Runners who attempt to advance or turn toward second base may be thrown out. Outfielder or Rovers are permitted to relay the ball to Infielders to throw out batters at first base.

DISPUTES & APPEALS: Please remember this event is a fun event run by volunteers. All volunteers will do their absolute best to make the correct calls but they are human and you are not going to the world series, so have fun!