



## SOFTBALL SPORT RULE AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY SPECIAL OLYMPICS, INC. - MAY 2026

*effectively immediately, unless stated otherwise*

### LEGEND

XXX	(black print)	= Rule Text
<del>XXX</del>	(blue strikethrough)	= Deleted
<b>XXX</b>	<b>(red bold print)</b>	= <b>Added to rule text</b>
XXX	(green print)	= Interpretation notes
<del>XXX</del>	(green strikethrough)	= Deleted interpretation notes
<b>XXX</b>	<b>(orange bold print)</b>	= <b>Added to interpretation notes</b>
XXX	(violet print)	= Text moved, unchanged

Softball Rule Amendments as of May 2026

May 2026				
Rule	Action	Current Rule	New Rule	Rationale
Section 1	Update	The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Softball shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon World Softball Confederation (WBSC) Rules for slow pitch softball found at <a href="http://www.internationalsoftball.com/">http://www.internationalsoftball.com/ .....</a>	The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Softball shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon World Softball Confederation (WBSC) Rules for slow pitch softball found at <a href="https://www.wbsc.org/en/disciplines/softball">https://www.wbsc.org/en/disciplines/softball ....</a>	Update of link

September 2024				
Rule	Action	Current Rule	New Rule	Rationale
3.6.2	Amend	Masks: Catchers must wear a mask with throat protector and WBSC or NGB approved helmet. An extended wire protector may be worn in lieu of an attached throat protector.	Masks: Catchers must wear a mask with throat protector, <b>facemask and helmet</b> . An extended wire protector may be worn in lieu of an attached throat protector.	
3.6.5	Amend	Body/Chest Protectors: It is recommended that catchers wear a body/chest protector. It is also recommended that male athletes and partners that may play catcher also wear a protective cup, as long as it is place in the undergarments. Any defensive player that desires to wear protective body equipment is permitted to do so, as long as the equipment meets WBSC or NGB standards and is in good working order/condition.	Body/Chest Protectors: It is recommended that catchers wear a body/chest protector. <del>It is also recommended that male athletes and partners that may play catcher also wear a protective cup, as long as it is place in the undergarments.</del> Any defensive player that desires to wear protective body equipment is permitted to do so, as long as the equipment <del>meets WBSC or NGB standards and</del> is in good working order/condition.	

Softball Rule Amendments as of May 2026

3.6.6	Delete	Shin Guards: It is recommended that catchers wear shin guards that will offer protection to the kneecap.	<del>Shin Guards: It is recommended that catchers wear shin guards that will offer protection to the kneecap.</del>	
5.3 d	Amend	Minimum pitching plate at 12.19 (40ft) and maximum pitching plate at 15.24m (50ft)	Minimum pitching plate at 12.19 (40ft) and maximum pitching plate at <b>16.76m (55ft).</b>	
5.3 e	Delete	Unified competition may move maximum pitching plate to 16.76m (55ft).	<del>Unified competition may move maximum pitching plate to 16.76m (55ft).</del>	
6.1.5.4.4	Delete	A player's final score is determined by adding together the scores achieved in each of the four events which comprise the Individual Skills competition.	<del>A player's final score is determined by adding together the scores achieved in each of the four events which comprise the Individual Skills competition.</del>	
9.1.2.1	Delete	<i>Unified ... the pitching distance shall be set at 50 ft</i>	<del><i>Unified ... the pitching distance shall be set at 50 ft</i></del>	

October 2022				
Rule	Action	Current Rule	New Rule	Rationale
Entire Document	Amend	International Softball Federation (ISF)	<b>World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)</b>	
6.1.5.1.3	Amend	Description: Bases are set up like a baseball diamond and positioned 19.81 meters (65 feet) apart. The athlete is instructed to start on home plate, and run around the bases as fast as possible, touching each base en route. See Addendum A	<b>Addendum A Diagram</b> (page 74)	Included diagram for clarity
6.1.5.2	Move		<b>Added the 10m mark to diagram</b>	Moved diagram to Addendum B

<p>6.1.5.2.3</p>	<p>Amend</p>	<p>Description: The player being tested stands behind the restraining line, back far enough to take one or more steps in preparation for throwing. The player has two trials to throw the softball as far and as straight as possible down the throwing line, without stepping over the restraining line. Coaches, assistants or other waiting players should be positioned in the field to indicate, using a cone or marking stake, the spot where each ball first touches the ground. The better of the two throws is measured and recorded as the player's score. If a player steps on or over the line before releasing the ball, the trial must be repeated. There will be a maximum of two repeats.</p>	<p>Description: The player being tested stands behind the restraining line, back far enough to take one or more steps in preparation for throwing. The player has two trials to throw the softball as far and as straight as possible down the throwing line, without stepping over the restraining line. <del>Four Coaches, assistants or other waiting players should be positioned in the field to indicate,</del> <b>stand on opposite sides of the throwing line, at the 50m and 20m mark, near the 6m error mark. The nearest assistant will indicate,</b> using a cone or marking stake, the spot where each ball first touches the ground. The better of the two throws is measured and recorded as the player's score. If a player steps on or over the line before releasing the ball, the trial must be repeated. There will be a maximum of two repeats. <b>See Addendum B</b></p>	
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6.1.5.2.3	Amend	Description: The athlete will stand between and behind the two cones. The official must throw the ball on the ground to the athlete, between the cones. The throw to the athlete must hit the ground before the 6.10- meter (20-inch) chalk mark. The athlete may move aggressively toward the ball. If the thrown ball is outside of the cones, the throw must be repeated. Each athlete gets five fielding attempts per trial. Each athlete receives two trials.	Description: <b>Two cones are placed 10 feet apart and 85 feet away from the official. A line is drawn 20 feet away from the official (65 feet from the cones).</b> The athlete will stand between and behind the two cones. The official must throw the ball on the ground to the athlete, between the cones. The throw to the athlete must hit the ground before the 6.10- meter (20-inch) chalk mark. The athlete may move aggressively toward the ball. If the thrown ball is outside of the cones, the throw must be repeated. Each athlete gets five fielding attempts per trial. Each athlete receives two trials. <b>see Addendum C.</b>	
7.2.1	Amend	The field shall conform to ISF standards, with the following modifications:	The field shall conform to <del>ISF</del> <b>NGB</b> standards, with the following modifications:	Based on update to WBSC
10.1.4	Amend	10.1.4 May loosen up with no more than two official softball bats, an approved warm-up bat, or a combination not to exceed two. Note: A bat with which the On-Deck Batter is loosening up may not have anything attached to it other than an ISF approved bat attachment.	10.1.4 May loosen up with no more than two official softball bats, an approved warm-up bat, or a combination not to exceed two. Note: A bat with which the On-Deck Batter is loosening up may not have anything attached to it other than an <del>ISF</del> <b>NGB</b> approved bat attachment.	Based on update to WBSC
12.3	Amend	There are five situations when a violation of the rule occurs. An umpire recognizes it and the ball remains live until the conclusion of the play. These situations are:	There are <del>five</del> <b>four</b> situations when a violation of the rule occurs. An umpire recognizes it and the ball remains live until the conclusion of the play. These situations are:	

Softball Rule Amendments as of May 2026

16.2.4 <a href="#">✚</a>	Amend	Should a policy of meaningful inclusion be enforced, whereby every eligible and ablebodied athlete and/or Unified partner participate in each game, a coach can file a protest if the opposing team did not follow the policy...	Should a policy of meaningful inclusion be enforced, whereby every eligible and ablebodied athlete and/or Unified partner participate in each <b>regulation 7-inning game</b> game, a coach can file a protest if the opposing team did not follow the policy...	
Addendum	Add		<b>Addendum A – F</b> <b>A – Softball Individual Skill Base Running</b> <b>B – Softball Individual Skills Throwing</b> <b>C – Softball Individual Skills Fielding</b> <b>D – Softball Individuals Skills Hitting</b> <b>E – Base Race Diagram</b> <b>F – Bat for Distance Diagram</b>	