

Game Rules DSL e.V. – 2026

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

Only club members and holders of a valid course card are eligible to play.

A trial game day is free for new interested participants. To obtain further eligibility to play, a membership or course card must be purchased.

In the playoffs/final games, only those club members who have participated in at least 3 game days during the season are eligible to play.

GENDER REGULATIONS:

The current Gender Guideline of the DBV from June 28, 2021 applies, taking into account the WBSC.

TEAM COMPOSITION / CO-ED REGULATIONS:

The minimum age to participate in a game is 12 years. Children born between 2012 and 2014 are treated in accordance with the rules for women.

The lineup must include at least 3 women, who must be placed in the first 10 players of the lineup. At least 3 women must play in the defense.

SECOND ELIGIBILITY

Women are allowed to be full members of 2 Teams.

CHILDREN REGULATIONS:

Children under 12 may not participate in the game operations.

Children (under 18) must wear a batting helmet in the offense.

Parents of children born between 2009 and 2013 must sign a counseling protocol. A responsible person for these children must be present on the field. Additionally, these children must wear a fielding mask in the defense.

Children born between 2011 and 2013 hit the small ball and must play in the outfield. They are otherwise treated in accordance with the rules for women.

PICK-UP RULES:

Up to 3 pick-up players may be used, if the team has too few regular players.

All eligible players can apply to play as pick-up players for each game. Players who have played the least or no games as pick-up players on that game day are selected first. Pick-up lists are available with the scorer or displayed on a board.

The scorer determines the required players and announces the available pick-ups. If a team needs a woman, they select her first (following the pick-up list order). The same applies if a pitcher is needed, marked with a "P" on the list. Selections alternate, starting with the team that needs fewer players.

Pick-up players may only play in the positions P, 1B, 2B, C, or RF and must bat at the end of the batting order. Women may play any position in defense and bat in any batting position.

Pick-up players must be selected 10 minutes before the game starts and are then permanently assigned to both offense and defense for that game.

Late-arriving players may play in offense and defense, but the CO-ED rule must still be adhered to.

Directly approaching players from other teams with the intent of recruiting them as pick-up players is prohibited. This will be penalized as follows:

1. The game will be recorded as a 0:7 loss, and the coach will be suspended for two games.
2. A repeat offense will result in the team's exclusion.

GAME DURATION:

A game lasts 60 minutes plus the last inning. An inning begins after the third out of the previous inning.

After 60 minutes, the current inning is completed, and another one is played (unlimited runs). Each game has a maximum of seven innings (exception: tied games). Pick-up games end after 60 minutes.

FORFEIT RULE:

A game is automatically considered lost with a score of 0:7 if one or both of the following conditions are met:

1. The team has 6 or fewer team players at the start of the game.
2. The team has fewer than 3 female players at the start of the game.

FIVE/FOUR-RUN RULE:

Only 5 runs may be scored per inning.

HOME-RUN RULE:

All home runs count. The batter and the runners return to the dugout by the shortest route (Hit & Sit).

The FIVE-RUN RULE also applies to home runs.

HOME-RUNS OUTSIDE THE DEFENDER FIELD:

Any hit ball that first contacts the ground or a roof outside the grounds leads to the batter being out.

The batter responsible must immediately check if any damage occurred and retrieve the ball. If damage has occurred, it must be documented (with a photo) and appropriate measures should be taken.

The player may be replaced in the defence, if the measures above are not yet completed.

PLAYS AT HOME:

Plays at home are always a forced play. Tags are not required, but possible. The runner must touch the home plate. The catcher may only stand in the marked catcher zone in front of the home plate. The home plate is not part of the catcher zone. When throwing from fair territory to home, only the catcher may stand in this zone, if another fielder (other than the catcher) stands in the zone, the runner is safe. Exception: The ball is thrown by the catcher.

NEVER-COME-BACK-LINE:

If the marked line between third base and home is crossed, the runner must continue running. There is a forced play at home and there is no turning back.

PITCHING:

The ball must reach a height between 6 and 12 feet. The strike zone can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Illegal pitches may only be called by the home plate umpire. If an illegal pitch is called, it can still be hit and is considered a legal hit!

Pitchers must wear masks!

COUNT:

Start count is 0-0.

WALK RULES:

After four balls, the batter earns the right to first base.

Exception: A male batter earns the right to second base if the next batter in the lineup is a female hitter.

FOUL-TIP BEGINNER RULE:

The opposing coach or pitcher may grant two additional foul tips for children and beginners. A batter who uses this rule must put the ball into play; no walk is allowed, and only 1 out may be recorded.

FOUL BALL:

The third strike, a foul ball, results in an out.

DEAD BALL:

If the ball is thrown over the fence, rolls through the fence, bounces over the fence, or gets stuck in the fence, it results in a 2-base award.

BUNTING AND SLIDING PROHIBITED:

No one is allowed to bunt!

Sliding = OUT

PINCH-RUNNER:

There are no pinch runners starting from home. Pinch runners substituted at a base must always be the last out of the previous inning or, in the first inning, the last batter in the lineup.

UNLIMITED RE-ENTRY:

The batting position must be maintained for the entire game.

Exception: Injury

DISTANCES:

Pitching: 50 feet

Base distance: 65 feet

EQUIPMENT:

Generally all softball bats with an official stamp are allowed. Senior bats are prohibited.

Metal cleats are prohibited. Shoes must be closed.

BALLS:

Men hit 12-inch balls, women hit 11-inch balls. Women may also hit 12-inch balls. Umpires are responsible for ensuring the correct ball is used. Each team must provide the umpire with four large and two small balls before the game starts. "Hit your own balls."

INFIELD FLY

With fewer than 2 Outs and runners on 1st and 2nd base or on 1st, 2nd and 3rd base, the Batter is out when a fair fly ball is hit and the ball is expected to be caught or is actually caught by an infielder. Runners can move at their own discretion.

GENERAL RULES - DSL e.V.

FIELD:

The home team is responsible for setting up the field. The field must be ready for play *30 minutes before the first game*. The away team is responsible for setting up the snack shack. The area behind the field, as well as the field itself, is closed for warm-ups until the setup is completed.

Between games, the home team from the previous game is responsible for field maintenance.

The two teams from the last game of the day are responsible for dismantling the field and the snack shack, as well as cleaning up the field and the dugouts.

SCORING:

The home team is responsible for managing the scoring and operating the scoreboard.

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:

Unsportsmanlike conduct will be penalized and may lead to exclusion from the league and/or the club.

Everyone on the Defender Field deserves respect!

SMOKING:

Smoking is only allowed in the designated areas.

PRACTICE:

The teams are responsible for the field.

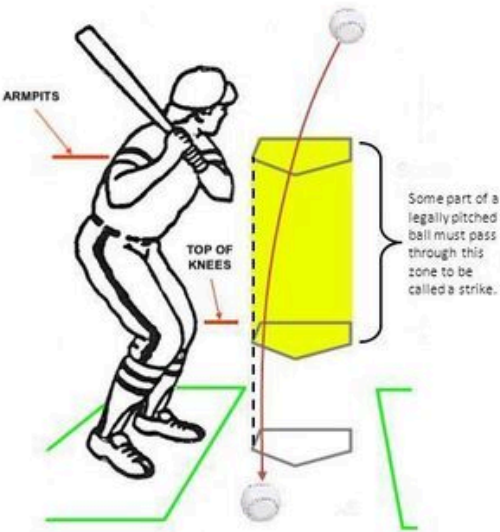
During batting practice, mats must be used to protect the ground (pitching and batter's box).

The outfield must be watered during practice.

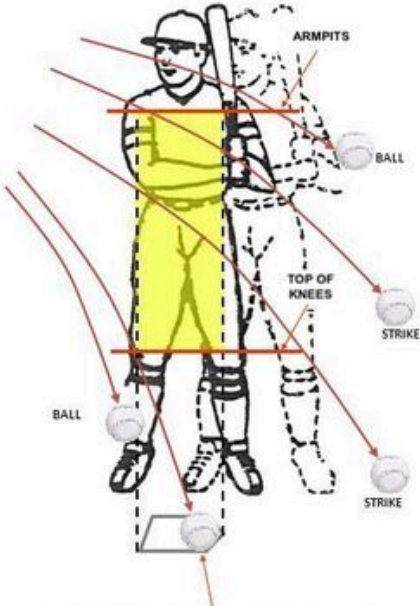
FEES:

The current fees were decided at the general membership assembly. Only members who have paid their fees are eligible to play.

MODIFIED PITCH STRIKE ZONE



Remember that the position of a batter in the batter's box makes no difference. The plate and batter's natural stance at the plate are the controlling factors.



A pitched ball that touches home plate and is not struck at is always a ball.

Appendix 2.: Batters Box

