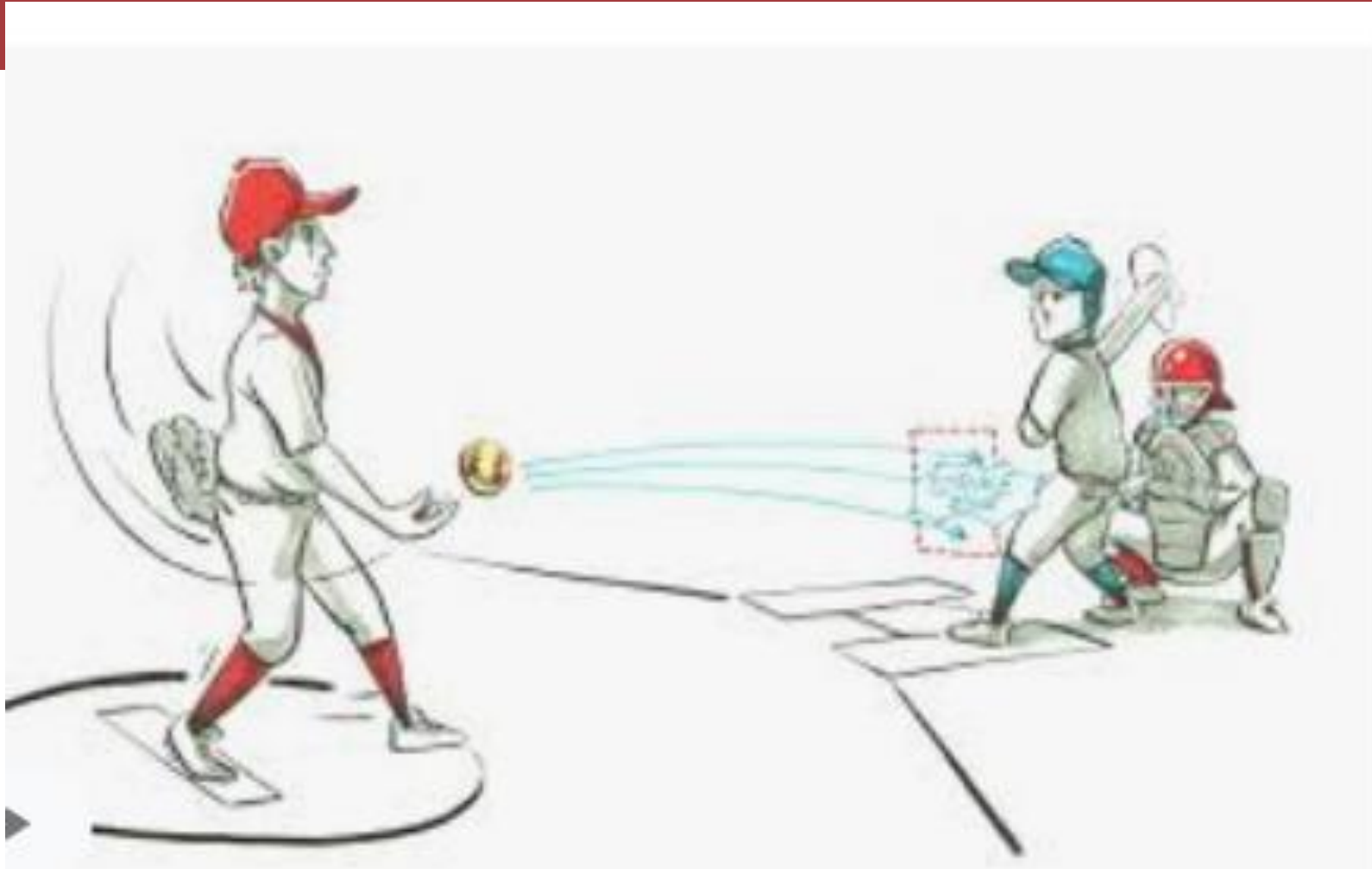


Year 8 Softball Knowledge Organiser



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HISTORY OF SOFTBALL

George Hancock has been given credit for inventing the game of softball in Chicago on Thanksgiving Day, 1887.

The very first game was played indoors and used a broken off broom handle for the bat and a tied up boxing glove that resembled a ball.



Softball Field Terminology

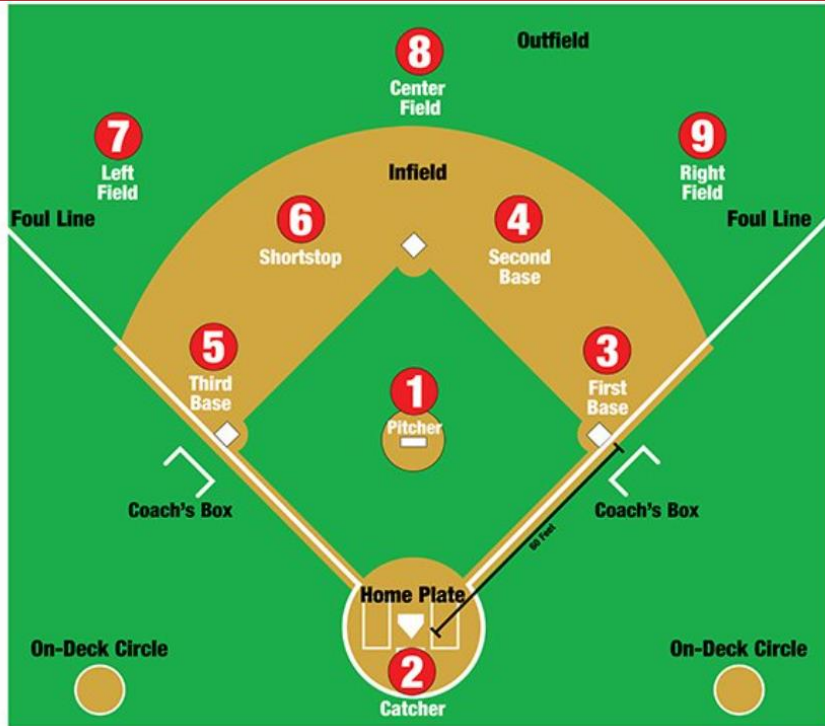


- Pitchers plate -
- In field -
- Out field -
- Right foul line -
- Left foul line -
- Batters box -
- Home plate -
- Bases -

Softball Rules - General

- Two teams take turns playing in the field and batting. One inning is completed when both teams have a chance to bat.
- Softball games are usually 7 innings long.
- Each team gets 3 outs in their half of the inning (6 outs in a full inning)
- The players on the team bat in a specified order (batting order)





Field Positions

The first objective of all players is to catch any ball that has been hit in the air before it touches the ground, as this is an immediate 'out' for the batter.

1 Pitcher

Throws the ball to the Catcher (**underhand**), trying to get it through the 'strike zone' without the Batter hitting it. They use a variety of different pitches to get the ball past the Batter. The Pitcher must also be ready to cover 1st base, if the baseman leaves to get a ground ball.

2 Catcher

The Catcher signals to the Pitcher what type of pitch to use. They squat behind home plate and catch the Pitcher's throws. They also field the area around home plate.

3 First Base

The main responsibility of the person on First Base is to catch the ball. They must remain close to First Base to tag runners out, by either touching the base with their foot or by touching the runner with the ball (or glove with ball in it).

4 Second Base

Second Base fields the area between First and Second Base. This position is not on Second Base, but rather in the upper infield between First and Second base.

5 Third Base

The person on Third Base fields the area near Third Base trying to get ground balls and throw them to First Base. They also cover Third Base by catching balls and tagging runners out.

6 Shortstop

The Shortstop is responsible for the area from Third Base and up the middle beyond Second Base. Often the quickest player on the team, they try to keep the ball in the infield.

7 Left Field

The Left Fielder covers the area in the left outfield by trying to prevent the ball from going to and over the back fence. They try to get the ball back to the infield as quickly as possible.

8 Center Field

Covers the area in the center outfield by trying to prevent the ball from going to the back fence. They try to get the ball back to the infield as quickly as possible.

9 Right Field

Covers the area in the right outfield by trying to prevent the ball from going to the back fence. They try to get the ball back to the infield as quickly as possible.



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Game Overview

OFFENSE (BATTING): Each batter has three chances ('**strikes**') to hit the ball, which must be thrown by the Pitcher through the '**strike zone**'. If the batter hits, they run to First Base, unless the ball goes outside the Foul Lines (a '**foul ball**'), which counts as a strike (except as a third strike), or if the ball is caught in the air (an '**out**'). If they make it to first base, or beyond, before the defense throws the ball there, they are '**safe**'. Batters are entitled to proceed directly to first base (known as a '**walk**') if the Pitcher throws four bad pitches ('**balls**'), which they do not swing at, or if a pitch hits the batter.

OFFENSE (RUNNING): The player on a base is called a '**runner**'. Only one runner can be safe on each base, so they must advance if there are runners approaching behind them. A player who comes up to bat can advance the runners by hitting the ball or taking a '**walk**'. If the runner is touched ('**tagged**') with the ball between the bases, they are out. Players score when they reach Home Plate safely. If the ball is hit over the fence

(a '**home run**') then the batter, and all runners, proceed around to Home Plate.

DEFENSE: The defense uses a variety of techniques to try and prevent the offense from scoring. The Pitcher tries to get batters out by throwing three 'good' pitches that the batter is unable to hit. If a hit is made, the defenders try to prevent the batter from making it to first base, either by catching the ball in the air or throwing the ball to First Base before the batter reaches it. If the Batter makes it to First Base or beyond, they try to tag them with the ball between bases. Alternately, they may throw the ball to a base that a runner has been forced to advance toward by another runner behind them, getting them out. Once the defense makes three outs, they become the offense.

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