

This would be before the batter takes her desired position in the batter's box or while she is still off balance because of the previous pitch.

77. SACRIFICE FLY – A sacrifice fly is scored when, with fewer than two (2) outs, **A** – the batter scores a base runner with a fly ball or line drive that is caught or **B** – the batter scores a base runner with a fly ball or line drive that is dropped by an outfielder (or an infielder running into the outfield), and, in the scorer's judgment, the base runner could have scored after the catch had the fly ball or line drive been caught.

78. SERIES – Series is more than one (1) game played between teams.

79. STARTING PITCHER – The starting pitcher is the player listed as pitcher on the lineup card or official scorebook who throws the first pitch of the game.

80. STEALING – Stealing is the act of a base runner attempting to advance during a pitch to the batter.

81. STRIKE ZONE – The strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's arm pits and the top of her knees when she assumes a natural batting stance.

82. "TIME" – "Time" is the term used by the umpire to order the suspension of play.

83. TRIPLE PLAY – A triple play is a continuous action play by the defense in which three (3) offensive players are put out.

84. TURN AT BAT – A turn at bat begins when a player first enters the batter's box and continues until she is put out or becomes a batter/base runner.

85. WILD PITCH – A wild pitch is a legally delivered ball so high, so low, or so wide of home plate that the catcher cannot, or does not, stop and control it with ordinary effort.

1:00 – THE PLAYING FIELD, GENERAL

NOTE: REFER TO SPECIFIC RULES OF EACH DIVISION FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC RULES CONCERNING THE PLAYING FIELD AND ITS EFFECT TO EACH DIVISION.

1:01 – There shall be a batter's box on each side of home plate. The inside lines of the batter's box shall be four inches (4") from home plate. The lines are considered part of the batter's box. **NOTE:** Refer to SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES of each division for dimensions of batter boxes.

1:02 – Home plate shall be seventeen inches (17") long on the edge nearest the pitcher's plate and shall be seventeen inches (17") from this side to the back point. The two sides shall be eight and one-half inches (8½") long before they angle back. Construction shall be of white rubber, with black beveled apron, and spikes may be permanent or removable. Construction shall provide maximum protection in design.

1:03 – The pitcher's plate shall be of white rubber six inches (6") by twenty-four inches (24") and shall be placed on the same level as the home plate.

NOTE 1: Refer to the specific playing rules of each age division for the distance of the pitching plate.

NOTE 2: DIXIE SOFTBALL recognizes the fact that in some areas that both boys and girls play on the same field and therefore approves of fields that have a raised pitching mound. However, it is highly recommended that such mounds be removed, when possible, for all tournament play.

1:04 – (LOCAL LEAGUE OPTION) There shall be an eight-foot (8') RADIUS circle around the pitcher's plate. It shall be measured from the center of the pitcher's plate. **NOTE:** If a league decides not to draw the circle, it will be judged by the umpires and all rules covering the circle will apply.

1:05 – Bases shall be of material of the league's own choice (cloth or rubber) but shall be of official size fourteen inches by fourteen inches by two and one-fourth inches (14" x 14" x 21/4") maximum. Bases may be anchored by straps or by the Hollywood type anchors. DSI recommends that the break-away safety bases be used at second (2nd) and third (3rd) base. When a double first base is used, the base shall be considered as one (1) base for the calling of plays. **EXAMPLE A:** If a base runner steps on the white part of the base, it shall be treated as if she had stepped on the orange part of the base. **EXAMPLE B:** If a fielder steps on the orange part of the base it shall be treated as if she stepped on the white part of the base. **NOTE:** If a game starts with the pitcher's plate, the eight-foot RADIUS circle and/or bases at the wrong distance, the error, when discovered, will be corrected and the game shall resume from the point of when the error was discovered. All results of a game up to the point of discovery of the error shall remain intact and are not to be replayed.

1:06 – The catcher's box shall be the foul lines extended nine feet (9'), with the points then joined.

1:07 – The base runner's path on the first (1st) base line shall be three feet (3') outside of the foul line and shall begin thirty feet (30') from home plate and extended parallel to the foul line to first (1st) base.

1:08 – The coach's box is between two lines eight feet (8') long drawn outside the playing field. The lines shall be four feet (4') apart and are parallel to and six feet (6') from the first (1st) and third (3rd) baseline extended toward home plate.

1:09 – Lighted fields shall be those deemed safe by local league officials.

1:10 – Infields may be either grassed (natural or artificial) or skinned (no grass).

2:00 – EQUIPMENT UNIFORMS/SAFETY

NOTE: Approved 2023 DSI eleven-inch (11") and twelve-inch (12") softball manufacturers as of November 30, 2022: DIAMOND SPORTS. As other softball manufacturers are approved, they will be posted on the official DSI website (www.dixiegirlsoftball.org) and the DSI Facebook page (Dixie Softball, Inc. NOTE: THE OFFICIAL SOFTBALL FOR ALL DIXIE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

2:01 – The official softball shall be a regular, smooth-seam or mid youth stitch or flat surfaced ball. For season play only but not in tournament play, leagues may use the equivalent of a "Level 5" safety softball in DIXIE SWEETEEES. The cover of the ball may also be made of synthetic material. All softballs for DSI play will be optic yellow in color. The color of thread used in stitching the softball is optional with the manufacturer.

NOTE A: The official softball for the DIXIE SWEETEEES, DARLINGS, and ANGELS shall be a softball not less than ten and seven-

eighths inches (10-7/8") nor more than eleven and one-eighth inches (11-1/8") in circumference and shall weigh not less than five and seven-eighths ounces (5-7/8 oz) nor more than six and one-eighth ounces (6-1/8 oz) avoirdupois.

NOTE B: The official softball for the DIXIE PONYTAILS, BELLES and DEBS shall be a softball not less than eleven and seven-eighths inches (11-7/8") nor more than twelve and one-eighth inches (12-1/8") in circumference and shall weigh not less than six and one-fourth ounces (6-1/4 oz) nor more than seven ounces (7 oz) avoirdupois.

NOTE C: Leagues have the option to use the eleven-inch (11") and/or twelve-inch (12") softball in their local league play when a league combines its DIXIE ANGELS and PONYTAILS divisions. Combined teams may allow the DIXIE PONYTAILS age players to use the twelve-inch (12") softball and the DIXIE ANGELS age players to use the eleven-inch (11") softball in the same game if they so choose. However, the softball used during DIXIE PONYTAILS tournament play shall be the twelve-inch (12") softball and during DIXIE ANGELS tournament play shall be the eleven-inch (11") softball.

NOTE D: Only softballs that bear the signature of the National President of DSI, a DSI logo, and is stamped by an "approved" manufacturer, can be used in any regular season game.

NOTE E: All softballs used in Dixie Softball play must NOT exceed a COR of 0.47. Softballs with a COR of less than 0.47 may be used. All temperature treated softballs are illegal.

NOTE F: NEW LEAGUES WILL BE GIVEN TWO (2) YEARS IN WHICH TO USE UP THEIR PRESENT STOCK OF UNAPPROVED SOFTBALLS. ANY GAMES PLAYED USING SOFTBALLS THAT ARE NOT APPROVED BY DSI WILL NOT BE OFFICIAL GAMES AND WILL NOT COUNT IN LEAGUE STANDINGS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NEW LEAGUES.

NOTE F: Leagues may have the option to use approved softballs or the soft feeling softballs in the DIXIE SWEETEEES and DARLINGS divisions during regular season play.

NOTE G: Approved 2023 DSI bat manufacturers as of November 30, 2022 are: AXE BAT by Baden; MARUCCI. As other bat manufacturers are approved, they will be posted on the official DSI website (www.dixiegirlsoftball.org) and the DSI Facebook page (Dixie Softball, Inc.).

2:02 – The official bat shall be round, made of one piece of hard wood, or formed from a block of wood consisting of two (2) or more pieces of wood bonded together with an adhesive in such a way that the grain directions of all pieces is essentially parallel to the length of the bat. Plastic, bamboo, ceramic, graphite, carbon, magnesium, fiberglass, or any other composite material approved by DSI are acceptable materials for construction of bats. Any such laminated bat shall contain only wood or adhesive, except for a clear finish. The bat shall be no more than thirty-four inches (34") long and not more than two and one-fourth inches (2 1/4") in diameter at its largest part. A tolerance of one thirty-seconds inch (1/32") is permitted to allow for expansion. The bat, in its entirety, shall not exceed thirty-eight ounces (38 oz.) in weight. The bat shall have a safety grip of cork, tape, or composition material. The safety grip shall not be less than ten inches (10") long and shall not extend more than fifteen inches (15") from the small end of the bat. The bat shall not have nails, staples, screws, or any form of exterior fastener that would present a hazard. All exposed surfaces of the bat shall be smooth and free of burrs.

NOTE A: DIXIE SWEETEEES bats can measure no longer than thirty-one inches (31") in length.

The bat may be made of one-piece or multi-piece metal. The bat shall have no exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges, or any form of exterior fastener that would present a hazard. All exposed surfaces of the bat shall be smooth and free of burrs. A metal bat shall not have a wooden handle. It shall conform to all the above specifications in the preceding paragraph with the exception that it is metal instead of wood, plastic, or bamboo. Unless the bat is made with one-piece construction with the barrel end closed, there shall be a rubber or vinyl plastic insert firmly secured at the large end of the bat. A ONE-PIECE RUBBER GRIP AND KNOB COMBINATION IS ILLEGAL. A metal or magnesium bat must have a knob on the handle end welded or mechanically fastened. Bats may be "flame treated" or natural finish or colored, and the stamped markings showing that they are "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL", "YOUTH SOFTBALL" or "FASTPITCH SOFTBALL" must remain throughout their normal life. Only bats that meet the above specifications shall become official and recognized as an "Approved DSI Model." Shaved, rolled, or loaded bats are illegal.

NOTE B: ALL TOURNAMENT BATS (MADE OF ANY MATERIAL) MUST BE STAMPED "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL", "YOUTH SOFTBALL" OR "FASTPITCH SOFTBALL" AND MUST BEAR THE NAME OF AN "APPROVED DSI MANUFACTURER".

NOTE C: Only a DSI official "training" or "warm-up" bat will be allowed in the dugouts and the warm-up batter's circle during all Dixie Softball games.

NOTE D: Umpires have the authority to remove any bat that they deem unsafe due to the bat's color, condition, construction etc.

DSI RESERVES THE RIGHT TO APPROVE/DISAPPROVE ANY BAT THAT MEETS THE SPECIFICATIONS OF RULE 2:02 OR THOSE APPROVED/ DISAPPROVED BY THE USA GOVERNING BODY OF SOFTBALL. Leagues joining DIXIE SOFTBALL shall be permitted to use presently owned bats not manufactured by an "Approved" manufacturer for the first two (2) years **but not during tournament play.**

2:03 – Players may wear any type clothing in local league play approved by the league provided they do not contradict any other DSI apparel rule. Ball caps or visors, when worn, are considered part of the clothing. Individual players may wear a cap or visor. However, if more than one cap or visor are worn by a team, the caps or visors must coordinate with the rest of the player's uniform. Players on a team may wear caps or visors but not both types during the same game. **EXCEPTION:** The catcher, batter, on-deck batter, base runner, player/coach, player/bat girls etc., are allowed to wear a cap or visor under helmets they are wearing outside the dugout area. This applies to catchers, batters, base runners, player coaches, on-deck batters, bat girls, fielders etc., if the helmet does not fit incorrectly on the head.

NOTE A: The umpire shall rule whether the helmet fits correctly. If the umpire rules that a helmet fits incorrectly, the cap or visor must be removed. No protest will be allowed regarding the umpire's decision. The cap or visor can be worn backward if the helmet fits properly.

NOTE B: Clothing shall include shoes and a pitcher shall not wear a shirt with long sleeves that blend with the color of the softball.

NOTE C: Advertisements, emblems and/or wording that would denote or infer the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, gambling, illegal drugs, obscenities, or profanity shall not appear on uniforms, equipment, or team gear.

NOTE D: For safety reasons, designs that resemble a softball shall NOT be found anywhere on uniforms. DSI recommends that all uniforms of a color that blends in with that of the softball not be used. Any patch or uniform design, etc. approved by DSI can be worn. DSI reserves the right to refuse any design on uniforms, clothing or equipment worn by a player, coach, or fan.