

SOFTBALL

PARTICIPATION: Athletes may compete in only one event.

In Unified Team Competition, the partners shall be of **similar ability and age and must have the required paperwork on file.**

Please be aware of the following rules:

1. A line-up must be submitted to the umpire prior to the first pitch.
2. Substitutions must be made known to the umpire and official scorekeeper before the player enters the game. Starters may re-enter the game once. If a starting player re-enters the game the athlete goes back into the original batting position. All athletes must bat or play the field for at least one inning.
3. A game shall consist of 7 innings or 1 hour whichever comes first. The games will be called by the umpire if there is a 15 run spread after 4 full innings or 10 runs after 5 full innings.
4. Appeals must be made before the next pitch or before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter.
5. A safety base will be used. Bats may not be left unattended in the 'on deck' circle.
6. A 10 batter rule per inning will be used for both Unified and Traditional games. There will be a 10 batter or 3 outs per inning whichever may come first. When the 10th batter comes to the plate, there will be 2 outs automatically assessed to the offensive team. Play will be stopped and the inning will end when the 10th batter stops forward progress or the ball goes to any base in front of the 10th batter.
7. **Unified** – Pitcher/catcher must be split between athlete/partner. Athlete/partner must rotate in batting order. There must be 2 partners in the outfield and infield. Partners or athletes may not dominate play.
8. The distance from home plate to the pitcher's rubber may be modified to a minimum distance of 12.19 meters (40 feet) from the official distance of 15.24 meter (50 feet).
9. Maximum number of players on a team 16.

** Issues not covered by Special Olympics may be found in the ASA rulebook.

SOFTBALL EVENTS AND CODES

EVENT

EVENT CODE

Team Competition

SBTEAM

Unified Team Competition

SBTMUN

Coaches cannot have dual roles as unified partner and coach at the same competition.