

# FASTBALL



## RULE CHANGES & CONTEXT

### REGULATION GAME

- 3 innings or 45 mins.

After analysing game data and reviewing feedback from the recent FASTBALL 45 series it would be advantageous to revert to 3 outs and reduce the innings to 3.

Rationale as follows:

- Of the 12 games played only 3 were completed. If the 12 games were played under 3 innings / 45 minutes time limit – 6 games would have been completed. If we were to reduce the number of outs to 3, a greater number of games would have concluded.
- By reducing the innings and outs to 3, it will allow for more games to be completed as per traditional softball rules and therefore mitigate the issue of uneven innings and complexities at the conclusion of the game.
- Reducing the innings to 3 will allow a greater opportunity to play out the “loaded bases” scenario. This scenario has the potential to allow a team to come from behind by several runs and win, adding more suspense to the game (refer to Runners on Base).

### INNING

- 3 outs per inning

### RUNNERS ON BASE

- 1<sup>st</sup> inning will start with runner on first base
- 2<sup>nd</sup> inning with runners on first and second base and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> inning with loaded bases.

### TEMPORARY CATCHERS

- A temporary catcher can come into the game if the catcher in the line-up isn't ready. The relieving catcher will not be charged as a substitution.

## TIE BREAKER OPTION

Tournament organisers may apply a “tie breaker” to determine an outright winner, as below.

- The offensive team begins the inning with loaded bases; with the seventh hitter in the batting order placed on third base, the eighth on second, and the ninth on first base.
- The offensive team has “one” out to score as many runs as possible.
- Once the offensive team is retired the defensive team will have an opportunity to bat with the same scenario as above.
- If the scores are still locked, further tie breakers will be played to determine an outright winner.