

# Shelterball

**PLAY BALL. INDOORS.**

We're not sticklers for the rules, but there are a few we're going to enforce.  
So buckle up and take a minute to read them through.

## Getting Started

1. All games will start on time; please arrive 10 minutes before the first pitch and be ready to play.
2. Your team should bring the required equipment to every game, which includes a softball-approved bat and helmets.
3. The batter must wear a helmet the entire time they are at bat and on the field (insurance is a \$!^@#).
4. Masks for the catcher and pitcher are recommended, but not required.
5. Indoor softballs and bases will be provided. You must use the indoor softballs.
6. You need to wear clean, indoor running shoes. Unclean shoes, boots, and cleats are prohibited (that's right, PROHIBITED) in the indoor facilities.
7. Games will not be officiated by an umpire. Teams must come to an agreement when a call needs to be made before the game can proceed.
8. First and third base will each be 45 feet from home plate, with second base between first and third where it belongs (...you know where it belongs, right?).
9. The pitcher should stand far enough back to not get drilled by the ball.
10. Before the game starts, team captains will agree on any out-of-bounds areas that need a do-over. They will also identify what constitutes a home run (pick one object, that when hit, is a home run).

## Playing Ball

1. Game play is 1 hour and should include 7 innings. If 7 innings are not completed within the hour, any unfinished innings will not count towards the final score.
2. 4 balls is a walk, 3 strikes is an out.
3. Each team will field 7 players: a pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, third base, and two outfielders.
4. You must have a minimum of 2 female players on the field and in the batting line up every inning.
5. You must have a minimum of 5 players to proceed with the game. For every missing player, you will receive an automatic out (therefore, if you have 5 players, you only get 5 at bats).
6. Each team will bat through the order (7 players) to end the inning. The inning does not end after 3 outs.
7. The batting order will be randomized each inning. The team captain can reorder the players, as long as each player only bats lead off and clean up once per game.
8. The batter must swing in a forward motion; otherwise, you're automatically out (this ain't cricket).

9. There is a home plate carpet provided that serves two purposes.
  - When the ball is struck, it must travel past the carpet to be in play (even bunts – but you CAN bunt, that should be fun).
  - The bat must land and remain on the carpet after being dropped or the batter is out. No Bautista bat flips! (This protects the gym floor – and our insurance).
10. There are NO FOULS in Shelterball. Every ball is live! The walls and ceiling are live, and a ball caught off the wall or ceiling without first touching the ground is an out, regardless of the path it took.
11. The lob of your pitch should be between 6-12 feet. Throw junk if you want, we don't care – as long as it hits the batter's box.
12. Stealing bases is prohibited (your knees aren't worth it, dude).
13. Sliding is also prohibited (see above).
14. You can overrun at first (see above the above).
15. There's no infield fly rule; that thing is coming off the ceiling and it's in play.
16. If the ball is stuck and you can reach it, you better get that thing out because it's in play. If it's stuck and you can't reach it (you've lodged it in the ceiling...PLEASE don't lodge it in the ceiling), start the pitch over.
17. Do you need a runner? They can take your place from the batter's box. You can't use the same runner for everyone, though – you'll use the last out of the same gender.
18. The inning is over when the catcher steps on home plate with the ball after the last batter. The last batter cannot be walked. If the ball is caught, it counts as an out.

## Finishing the Game

1. Teams should come to an agreement on the score at the end of every inning, so there should be no debate as the game finishes. Commit to the final score and submit it to the league for tracking.
2. Please ensure you leave the facility as you found it; take all belongings and garbage with you, and follow any instructions provided by facility staff.
3. We're all here to have fun, and no one is making it to the show (because there is no show, this is a made-up sport). We love a little competitive spirit, but let's play nice, eh?

