



IN THE GAME

Commentary by Linda Derk,
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"WILL THE REAL GAME OF SOFTBALL PLEASE STEP FORWARD?"

We have created a monster called College Showcasing

Tournaments!

Ok, fasten your seat belts and try to keep up! I am sure this article may turn some heads but hopefully by the end of it you will at least get my point. We are trying to teach our student-athletes the GAME of softball and how to be competitive. We ultimately want to create an opportunity for college coaches to come see them in a competitive softball environment. I believe with all those good intentions, we have tried to re-invent the wheel, so to speak, when honestly the wheel didn't need to be re-invented.

We are teaching our kids, at a young age, that our wonderful game of softball can be tweaked and twisted into something it's not. My team played all over the country this summer and now we are two weeks into the Fall season. The madness has already begun to consume me.

My question today is:

WILL THE REAL GAME OF SOFTBALL PLEASE STEP FORWARD?

Softball Game Times, Rules and Twists we have experienced so far this year;

GAME TIMES: CREATIVITY AT ITS FINEST FOR COLLEGE SHOWCASES

- 1 hour 15 minutes finish the batter
- 1 hour 15 minutes drop dead (to bad you are in the middle of a good at bat:)
- 1 hour 15 minutes finish the inning
- 1 hour 30 finish the batter
- 1 hour 30 finish the inning
- 1 hour 30 drop dead (again too bad if you are the sorry soul at the plate!)
- 1 hour 40 minutes finish the inning
- 1 hour 40 minutes finish the batter
- 1 hour 40 minutes drop dead
- 1 hour 40 minutes situational play
- **1 hour drop dead (just in case the weather looks bad)

GAME RULES:

- No line-up needed
- Bat as many as you want, when you want
- Bat 10
- Courtesy runner for pitcher and catcher (use anyone you want because there is no lineup)
- Situational play (I actually like this one)
- Free defensive substitution
- Call as many conferences as you want (even though there is a time limit)
- No throwing the ball around after the out
- You must take a pre-game infield
- No celebration after a great play
- Chin straps
- No chin straps
- Tuck your shirts in
- Don't care if your shirt is tucked in
- Check the equipment
- No check of the equipment
- On deck batter can go to the opposite side of the field

On deck batter must stay on their side of the field

UMPIRES:

Fees will vary based on the game times now: We have a fee schedule of:

- 1 hour 15
- 1 hour 30
- 1 hour 40

...and seven innings (which if you notice above I did not list because we have not once played it!)

ORGANIZATIONS:

ASA, USSSA, ISA, NSA, ISF, **and more

You have to pay a fee to be a member or you can't play in the tournament (we try to play ASA and USSSA...but you never know what the sanction will be.) Depending on which organization you use will depend on the rules, color of umpires shirts, game times etc. Now, let me ask you...whatever happened to the good old days of 7 inning softball!

My point is SIMPLIFY PEOPLE...SIMPLIFY! When our student-athletes go to college they are playing seven inning softball games! Fields specs are 43 feet bases, bases are 60 feet and fence distances are all the same standards! There is NO time limit, no free substitution, no courtesy runner for my pitcher or catcher and coaches must turn in a line up with nine batters and can not play the clock! Players over all don't know this awesome game of softball because we don't promote this awesome game of softball the way it is really played. I know some of you are sitting there and saying well they still have to throw and catch and hit and run, of course they do, but if we truly want these young student-athletes to learn the real game of softball and respect the game we need to take a hard look at the monster we have created! Sometimes change and creativity are good things...in this case they are not...WILL THE REAL GAME OF SOFTBALL PLEASE STEP FORWARD?

My suggestions?

GAME TIME:

NONE - the game is seven innings and if it's tied...play until you drop or at least use a reasonable tiebreaker!

RULES:

College rules should apply!

ORGANIZATIONS:

Agree that college rules apply!

UMPIRES:

The game is seven innings...lets figure out what that will cost me and when we get back to one set of rules for all organizations you can thank me! This is the best game in the world!

Let's get it back!