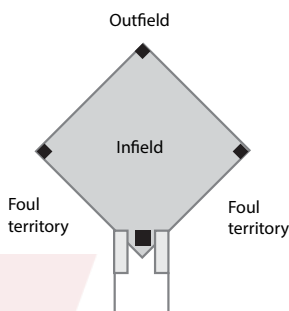


Softball

Softball has two main disciplines, fastpitch and slowpitch. Fastpitch is played in local, state, national and international competitions. Slowpitch, which is also played competitively, is very popular as a recreational or social sport.

The playing field

The playing field is divided into fair territory and foul territory. Fair territory is further divided into the infield and the outfield and territory beyond the outfield fence.



Infield

The infield is a square called a diamond. There is a base at each corner: first base, second base, third base and home plate. The pitching distance is measured from the rear point of the home plate to the front edge of the pitchers plate.

Outfield

The outfield is a grassed area beyond the infield and extends the entire width of the field and to the outfield fence. The table below outlines the distances relevant to the competition.

Playing field layout and dimensions

Below is a table outlining the international standard distances. They are measured from the rear point of home plate to the first base and the front edge of the pitchers plate.

Division	Age group	Bases	Pitching	Outfield fence
Adult				
Fastpitch	Men	18.29m	14.02m	76.20m
Fastpitch	Women	18.29m	13.11m	67.06m
Slowpitch	Men	19.81m	15.24m	91.44m
Slowpitch	Women	19.81m	15.24m	83.82m
Slowpitch	Co-ed	19.81m	15.24m	83.82m

Division	Age group	Bases	Pitching	Outfield fence
Youth				
Fastpitch	U19 Women	18.29m	13.11m	67.06m
Fastpitch	U19 Men	18.29m	14.02m	76.20m
Fastpitch	U16 Women	18.29m	12.19m	67.06m
Fastpitch	U16 Men	18.29m	14.02m	76.20m
Slowpitch	U19 Women	19.81m	15.24m	80.77m
Slowpitch	U19 Men	19.81m	15.24m	91.44m
Slowpitch	U16 Women	19.81m	14.02m	80.77m
Slowpitch	U16 Men	19.81m	14.02m	91.44m

School age programs

The following table is suggested distances for younger aged children

Age	Pitching	Bases
6 and under	T-ball	7.6m
8 and under	T-ball	13.7m
10 and under	10.66m	16.76m
12 and under	10.66m	18.28m
14 and under	12.9mm	18.28m

The minimum length of the baselines vary depending on the competition played. For fastpitch and slowpitch the baselines are 18.29m. In wheelchair softball the baselines are 15.24m.

Backstop

The backstop is the area behind the home plate.

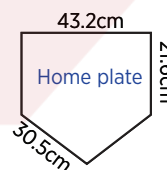
Bases

At one corner of the diamond is the home plate with bases at each of the remaining corners. The bases are numbered counter clockwise as 1st base, 2nd base and 3rd base and securely fastened to the ground.

Each base is a 38.1cm square and made of a white material. First base is a double base—76.2cm x 38.1cm.

Home plate

Home plate is a five-sided piece of white rubber located between the two batter's boxes and the catcher's box.



Batters and catcher's box

The batter's boxes are the rectangular areas beside home plate and the catcher's box is behind home plate.

Coaches box

A coaches box is located in foul territory outside both baselines.

Foul lines

The two foul lines meet at a right angle at home plate. These lines and the fence running between the baselines defines the limits of the field.

Pitching circle

The pitching circle surrounds the pitching rubber.

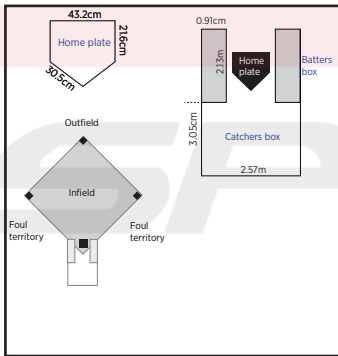
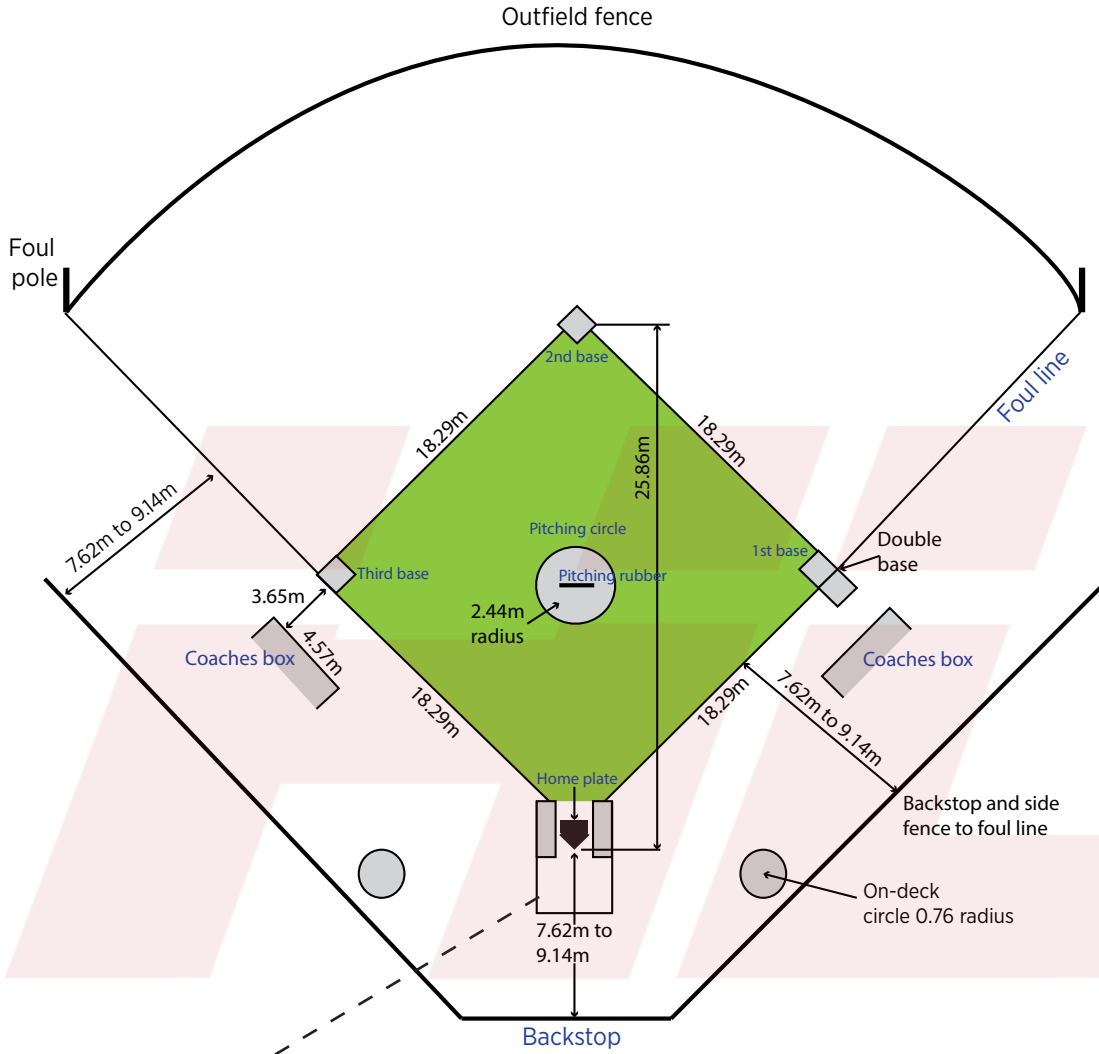
Pitching rubber

The pitching rubber is located at the centre of the diamond. It is 61cm wide and 15.3cm deep.

References

Softball Field Guidelines. Updated January 2015. Softball Australia. www.softball.org.au

Softball field



Batters box