

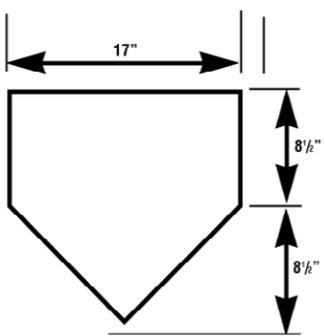
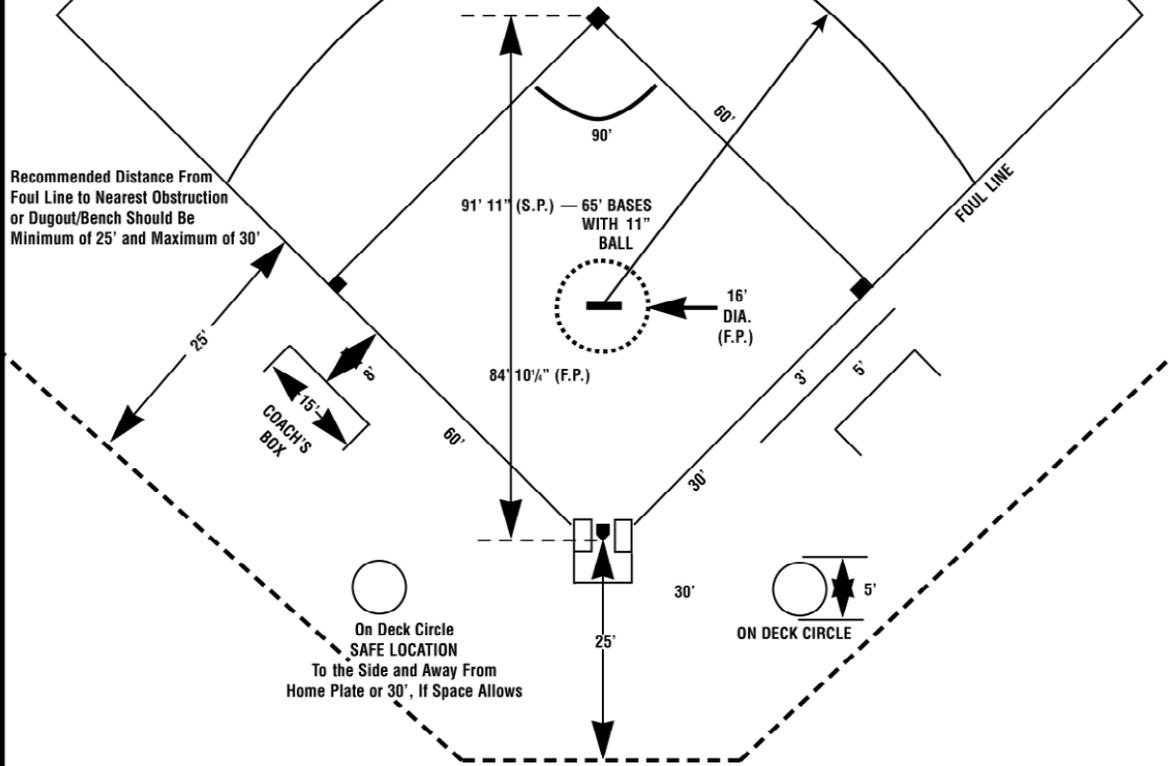
OUTFIELD FENCE — ARC OF EQUAL DISTANCE — ALL FIELDS



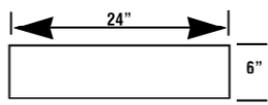
RECOMMENDED OUTFIELD FENCE DISTANCES:

Female or male fast pitch	185'-235'
Female slow pitch	250'-275'
Male slow pitch	275'-300'

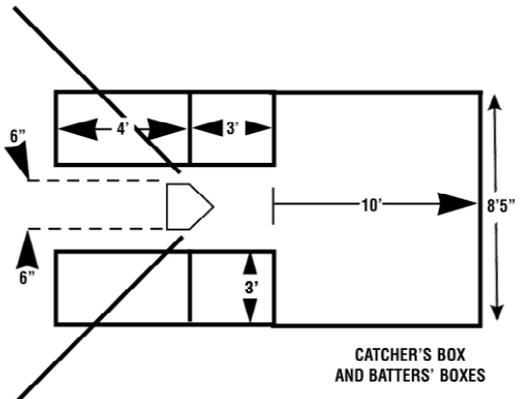
RECOMMENDED 60-FOOT SKINNED INFIELD (1-2-2)



HOME PLATE



PITCHER'S PLATE



CATCHER'S BOX AND BATTERS' BOXES

NOTE: The NFHS does not perform scientific tests on any specific items of equipment to determine if the equipment poses undue risks to student-athletes, coaches, officials or spectators. Such determinations are the responsibility of equipment manufacturers.

ART. 1 . . . The softball field shall be free of obstructions between the foul lines, level and contain an infield diamond and an outfield area that may or may not be enclosed by a fence.

ART. 2 . . . Mandated field distances are designated as follows:

- a. Bases shall be 60 feet apart for games using the 12-inch ball and 65 feet for games using the 11-inch ball.
- b. (F.P.) The rear tip of home plate and the front edge of the pitcher's plate shall be 43 feet for female fast pitch softball and 46 feet for male fast pitch softball.
- c. (S.P.) The rear tip of home plate and the front edge of the pitcher's plate shall be 46 feet for males or females playing slow pitch softball when using the 12-inch ball, and 50 feet for female slow pitch using the 11-inch ball.

NOTE: By state association adoption in slow pitch, the pitching distance shall be 50 feet when using a 12-inch ball.

- d. (F.P.) A circle 16 feet in diameter shall be drawn with its center at the midpoint of the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

ART. 3 . . . Recommended field distances are designated as follows:

- a. From home plate to the nearest obstruction on fair ground may uniformly range from:
 1. 185 feet-235 feet for female or male fast pitch
 2. 250 feet-275 feet for female slow pitch
 3. 275 feet-300 feet for male slow pitch
- b. From the top of the outfield fence to the ground should be 6 feet to 8 feet
- c. Outside (foul ground) the foul lines and between home plate and the backstop - an unobstructed area with a distance of 25 feet to 30 feet
- d. On-deck circles shall be a safe distance from home plate with a recommended distance of 30 feet, if space allows.
- e. The width of all chalk lines is recommended at 2½ inches.
- f. Foul lines extend from the batter's boxes, beyond the bases, to the outfield fence. When an outfield fence is not present, foul lines should extend to a minimum of 185 feet.

ART. 4 . . . The catcher's box, bases, coaches' boxes, batters' boxes and the three-foot running lane to first base shall be marked as noted (see "Figure" above).

ART. 5 . . . The infield and outfield, including the boundary marks from the rear tip of home plate to first and third, and their extended foul lines, are fair ground. All other area is foul ground.

ART. 6 . . . While the on-deck circle does not have to be occupied, a player desiring to warm up shall use that area, provided it is safely away from home plate. Neither team's players shall warm up in the other team's on-deck circle.

ART. 7 . . . Media shall be prohibited from being in live-ball area, unless marked. The home team or game management shall designate a lined area for the media (5-1-1o).

ART. 8 . . . The outermost edge of each line is the restricting boundary and shall meet the dimensions defined in the rules. All lines on the field shall be white and marked with a material that is not injurious to the eyes or skin. Lime or caustic material is prohibited.

ART. 9 . . . Any game started on a non-regulation facility shall not be protested for this reason. Once a game has started, if it is discovered by or brought to the attention of the umpire that the pitching distance, base distances or batter's boxes are incorrect, the correction shall be made immediately. The game shall continue and shall not be protested for this reason.

ART. 10 . . . When planning a new field, the following factors should be fully studied and applied: protection for contestants (batter, catcher, pitcher and others in that order); comfort and safety for

spectators; season of use; latitude (North to South); East-West geographic location within time zone; prevailing winds; daylight savings time; background and obstacles or barriers.

ART. 11 . . . When laying out a new softball diamond, it is recommended that the line from home plate through the pitcher's plate to second base run east-northeast. Designate a point for the apex (rear tip) of home plate. Using a steel tape or a strong cord which will not stretch, measure in an east-northeast direction exactly 84 feet 10¼ inches for fast pitch (60-foot bases) or 91 feet 11 inches for slow pitch (65 foot bases and 11-inch ball). This will be the center of second base. With the tape still secured at the rear point of home plate, measure 60 feet toward the first-base area and mark a short arc. Measure 60 feet toward the third-base area and mark a short arc. Fasten the tape at the center of second base and measure 60 feet toward first and third bases and strike arcs. Where these arcs intersect the first two arcs struck at first and third bases will be where first and third bases will be located. (See "Figure" above to see how first and third bases are placed and also how second base is different by being centered on the 60-foot distance from each of first and third bases.) When measuring the distance to first base or third base, measure from the apex of home plate to the back edge of the base. If a skinned infield is used (which is recommended), the area is determined by measuring a 60-foot arc from the front center of the 46-foot pitcher's plate, even if other pitching distances are used.