

Rule Specifications for Finnish Fastpitch Softball

- last updated 17.6.2026 -

Competition:	Finnish Softball League
Character of the competition:	season, tournament, non-playoff
Age restriction:	females born on or before 1.1.2011
License	Required for Baseball/Softball, SuomiSport
Players of the opposite sex:	NO
Minimum number of players:	7 Automatic out applied when the missing batting spot comes up in the lineup
Forfeit	If a team does not have enough players to play an official game, a forfeit fee can be billed to cover pre-booked costs such as fields, umpire, travel, scorekeeping, etc. This fee will not exceed 100 euros.
Playing ball:	Wilson A 9011 SST yellow,
Rules (WBSC softball):	https://static.wbso.org/uploads/federations/0/cms/documents/c4423d39-179f-04ec-9054-99f919b1f85b.pdf
Rules modification:	Pitcher restrictions – NO Regular game Automatic out applied when the missing batting spot comes up in the lineup, minimum 7 players (not minimum 9 - see 3.2.2. of the rules) A match that the referee ends early will be considered a regular game if at least four innings have been played (not five - see 1.2.1. of the rules) Recommended playing time: 90 min. + finishing the inning, or 7 innings
Scorekeeping:	Required, online
Statistics:	YES
Bat certification:	YES, certified softball bats
Softball field modifications:	HR fence distance 67,06 m, pitching distance 13.11 m, base distance 18,29
Field Equipment:	Safety base on 1st, pitching mound, 1st-3rd bases & homebase, homerun fence
Referee:	Head umpire

Finnish Softball League - Pre and post game protocol	
TIMING	PRE-GAME
60	Warm up time, designated areas for home team and visitors, cage time
30	Teams have access to dug-outs, Home team 3rd base side
	Pitcher warm-up at designated areas only
	Ground crew has precedence on field until completed
	Umpires may inspect field & dugouts, check bats & helmets
	No batting practice, teams can use Foul territory and outfield on respective sides
20	Visitors In-field for 5 minutes
15	Home team In-field for 5 minutes
10	Managers and Umpires at Home Plate: ground rules; both game balls submitted to Plate umpire
	Teams gather at base next to their dugout.
	Teams advance single-file towards pitching plate, form diagonal line facing Home.
	Announcer may provide athlete names over PA
	Umpires at Home Plate
	All on field acknowledge TC / spectators.
	If anthems played, all on field respect the appropriate flag, removing caps.
	Umpires remain at Home plate, while -
	Two at a time, players / manager closest to pitching plate from each team move together in pairs to home where they turn and shake hands. Then split and return to their dugouts.
	Plate umpire goes Home, base umpires brush pitcher's plate, first & third bases.
	IF First-Ball ceremony required, VIP throws ball to Home Team Catcher, ready masked: calls & signals "Strike!"
0	Home team takes field, pitcher takes 5 pitches or 1 minute: Game commences.
TIMING	POST-GAME
Promptly	Umpires leave field together.
1	Teams gather at bases, as pre-game, proceed single-file towards pitching plate and as each passes the other team at the plate, shake hands with each then return to dug- out.
5	Teams may gather by their own dugout to acknowledge their supporters in the stands, but not indulge in any demonstration disrespectful to the opposing team or players. Immediately vacate dugout if required for next game.
5-20	If no time restrictions, teams may warm-down on their side of the outfield.
Reference:	SOFTBALL EUROPEAN PROTOCOL FOR TEAMSTIMING
	https://static.wbsec.org/uploads/federations/278/cms/documents/62c15cc8-3108-fc50-e61c-823baef72b66.pdf