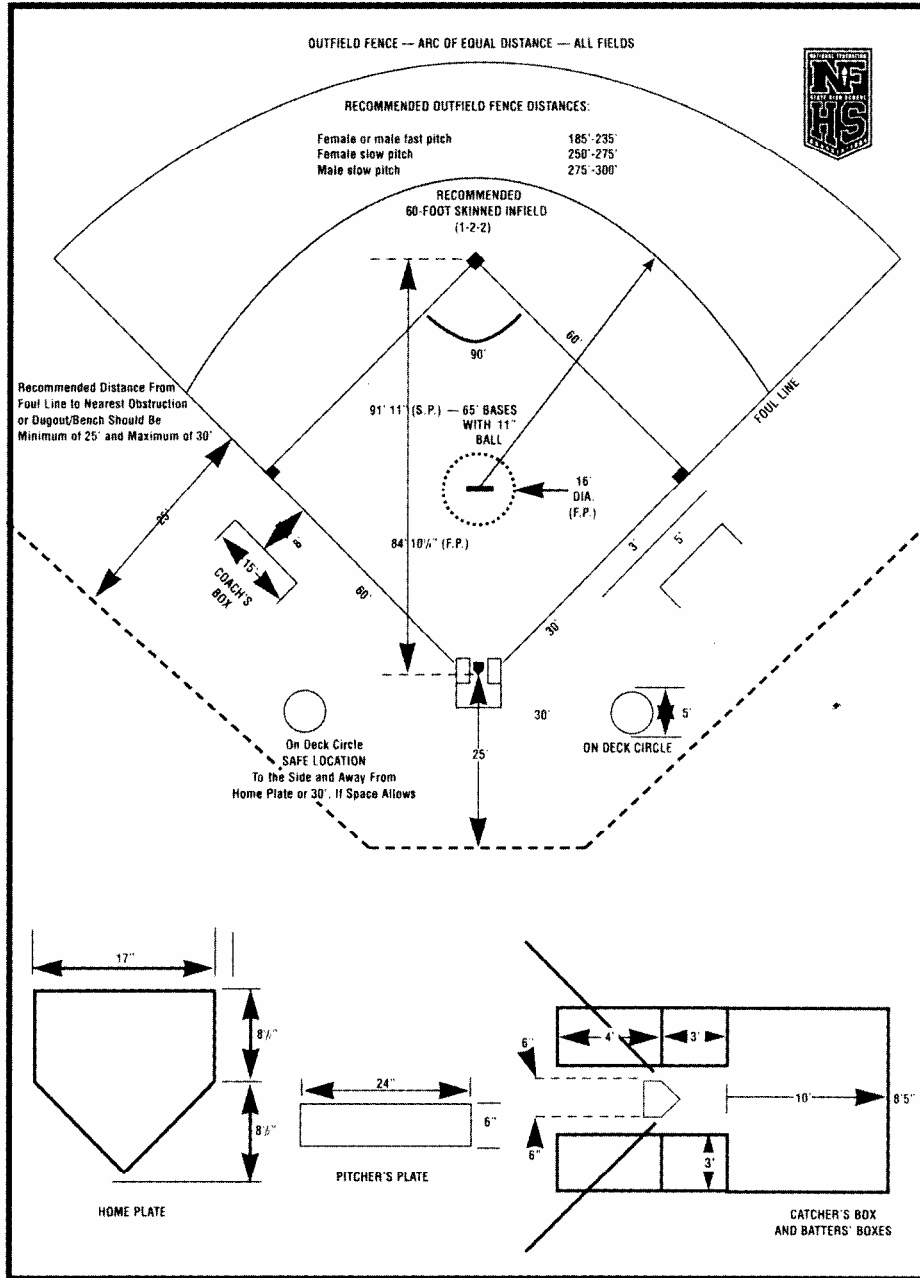


SOFTBALL



When laying out the softball diamond, it is recommended that the line from home plate through the pitcher's plate to second base run east-northeast. If a skinned infield is used, 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.

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 Diagram 1 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. It is recommended that a skinned infield be used. If a skinned infield is used, 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.

BASES, PLATES —

- a. First, second and third base shall be white bags made of canvas (filled with a soft material), molded rubber or synthetic material and shall be securely attached to the ground. Each base shall be 15-inches square, two to five inches thick and may have tapered edges. Bases designed to disengage their anchor systems for safety purposes are permitted.

NOTE: By state association adoption, a double first base is permitted. The base shall be a single unit, 15 inches by 30 inches.

- b. Home plate shall be a 5-sided slab of whitened rubber or other suitable similar material. It shall be a 17-inch square with two of the corners filled in so that one edge is 17 inches long, two are 8½ inches and two are 12 inches. It shall be set flush with the ground in fair territory with the two 12-inch edges coinciding with the foul lines extending from home plate to first base and third base and with the 17-inch edge facing the pitcher's plate.
- c. The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber or suitable material, 24 inches by 6 inches. It shall be set in the ground with the top flush with the playing surface as shown in Diagram 2 so that the distance between the nearer edge of the pitcher's plate and the apex of home plate shall be 40 feet for female fast pitch, 46 feet for male fast pitch and male and female slow pitch, and 50 feet when an 11-inch ball is used in slow pitch.