

# Alpharetta Girls Softball



## Softball 101: Softball Terms and Definitions:

**Altered Bat** – when the physical structure of a legal softball bat has been changed

**Assist** – a defensive statistic credited to each fielder who throws or deflects a batted or thrown ball in such a way that a putout results, or would have resulted except for a subsequent error by any fielder

**Backstop** – the fence behind the batter's box (the umpire stands behind the catcher with his/her back to the backstop)

**Ball** – as called by the umpire, a pitch that does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck, or attempted to be struck, by the batter

**Base** – one of four points on the infield that must be touched by a runner in order to score a run. Also applies to the rubber or canvas bags comprising first, second, and third base, as well as the hard plastic or rubber plate known as home plate

**Baseline** – the area between each base along which the base runner must generally run

**Base on Balls (BB)** – also called a “walk”; the award of first base to a batter who, during his/her time at bat receives four pitches outside the strike zone;

**Base Runner** – a batter who has reached base safely

**Bases Loaded** - referring to the offensive team when there are runners on first, second and third base

**Batter** – also known as “hitter”; an offensive player who takes his/her position in the batter's box to try to hit a pitch

**Batter's Box** – a rectangular area beside home plate where the batter must stand to hit the pitch

**Batting Average** – an offensive statistic; it is the number of safe hits divided by the number of at-bats

**Batting Order** – the official list giving the sequence in which members of the offensive team must come to bat

**Box Score** – the summary of a game which lists the line-up for each team, including substitutions, such offensive statistics as at-bats, runs, hits, and runs batted in. The box score also lists the defensive statistics as winning pitcher, losing pitcher, pitcher credited with save, errors, wild pitches and passed balls

**Bullpen** – the area in foul territory adjacent to the outfield where pitchers wait and warm-up during the game, except where the pitcher is currently being used in the game

**Bunt** – an attempt by the batter to tap the ball instead of swinging at it; the bat is lowered to approximately chest height, parallel to the ground

**Catcher** – the defensive player who normally positions herself behind home plate and receives pitches

**Center Fielder** – the defensive player positioned near the middle of the outfield

**Change-up** – a pitch thrown deceptively slow to surprise the batter

**Complete Game** – a pitcher's statistic recorded when he/she has thrown every pitch for his/her team during a game

**Curveball** – a pitch thrown with a rotation that makes the ball curve

**Defensive Team** – the players in the field

**Designated Hitter (DH)** – a player who bats in place of a designated teammate in the batting lineup

**Designated Player (DP)** – a player designated to bat for any starting player without otherwise affecting the status of player(s) in the game. Unlike the DH, this player may play a fielding position for any player in the game

**Double** – a scoring statistic credited to a batter when she has hit a ball safely into fair territory and can advance to second base without the aid of defensive errors

**Double Play** – a defensive play in which two offensive players are put out as a result of continuous action, providing there is no error between put outs

**Dugout** – the semi-enclosed area beside the playing field where players sit when they are not actively involved in the game

**Earned Run** – a run for which the pitcher is held accountable

**Earned Run Average (ERA)** – the number of runs charged to a pitcher averaged over a seven inning span; determined by multiplying the total earned runs charged against a pitcher by seven and dividing the result by the total number of innings she pitched

**Error** – a defensive statistic charged for each misplay (fumble, muff, or wild throw) which prolongs the time at-bat of a batter or which prolongs the life of a runner, or which permits a runner to advance to one or more bases

**Fair Ball** – a ball hit into the field of play

**Fastball** – the pitcher's fastest pitch

**Fielder** – any one of the players on the defensive team

**Fielder's Choice** – the act of a defensive player who handles a fair ground ball and, instead of throwing to first base to put out the batter, throws to another base in an attempt to put out the preceding runner

**Fielding Percentage** – a defensive statistic also called fielding average, it is the sum of putouts and assists divided by the sum of putouts, assists and errors in each fielding position played by a player

**Fly Ball** – a ball hit in the air

**Force Out** – an out made when a base runner, forced to run because another teammate must run to the base being occupied, cannot reach the next base safely

**Foul Ball** – a batted ball that settles on foul territory between home and first base or between home and third base; a foul shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball to the foul line, including the foul pole, and not as to whether the infielder is on foul or fair territory at the time she touches the ball.

**Foul Lines** – two straight lines extending from home plate past the outside edges of first and third bases to the outfield fence

**Foul Tip** – a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's hands and is legally caught; it is not a foul tip unless caught, and any foul tip that is caught is an out. It is not a catch if it is a rebound.

**Grand Slam** – a home run with a base runner on each base scoring four runs

**Hit** – when a batter reaches first base (or any succeeding base) safely on a fair ball

**Hit Baseman** – also known as “hit by pitch” (HBP); a batter who has been hit by a legally pitched ball, and is awarded first base

**Home Plate** – the five-sided piece of whitened rubber that the batter stands beside to hit the pitch

**Home Run** – a safe hit, when no error or putout results, which allows the batter to reach all four bases and score a run, usually a fly ball in fair territory that goes over the outfield fence

**Illegal Pitch** – an act by the pitcher not allowed by rule, with or without a runner on base; the batter is credited with one ball

**Infield** – the diamond-shaped area in fair territory formed by the three bases and home plate that is normally covered by defensive players known as infielders

**Inning** – that portion of the game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three put outs for each team. Each team’s at-bat comprises a half inning

**Intentional Walk** – a base on balls intentionally issued by a pitcher

**Interference** – an act by a catcher that hinders or prevents a batter from hitting a pitch. On any such interference, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base

**Left on Base** – those runners who have not scored and have not been put out, but remain on base at the time of the third out in the half inning

**Line Drive** – a ball hit sharply in a straight line, roughly parallel to the ground

**No-hitter** – a pitching statistic credited when the pitcher completes a game and allows the opposing team no hits

**Offensive Team** – the team that is at bat

**On-Base Percentage** – offensive statistic; for any player, divide the total of hits, all bases on balls, and hit by pitch, by the total number of at bats, all bases on balls, hit by pitch and sacrifice flies

**On Deck** – offensive player waiting to bat next

**Passed Ball** – a pitch that should have been held or controlled by the catcher

**Perfect Game** – a statistic credited to a pitcher when she completes a game and allows no one on the opposing team to reach first base

**Pinch Hitter** – a player who bats in place of a teammate

**Pinch Runner** – a player who enters the game at a base to run for another player

**Pitcher** – the player who throws the ball to the batter

**Put Out** – credited to each fielder who: catches a fly ball or a line drive; whether fair or foul; catches a thrown ball which puts out the batter or runner; or tags out a runner when the runner is off the base to which the runner is legally entitled

**Rise Ball** – a technique used by the pitcher so that the ball goes up as it reaches the batter

**Run** – the point scored when a batter or base runner advances safely to home plate

**Run Batted In (RBI)** – an offensive statistic credited to a batter for every run which reaches home plate because of the batter's safe hit, sacrifice bunt, sacrifice fly, infield or outfield choice; or which is forced over home plate by reason of the batter becoming a runner with the bases loaded on a walk or being hit by a pitched ball or for interference

**Sacrifice Fly** – an offensive statistic scored when, before two are out, the batter hits a fly ball or a line drive which is handled by a defensive player in the outfield which: is caught, and a runner scores after the catch

**Sacrifice Hit** – an offensive statistic; a sacrifice bunt is scored when: before two are out, the batter advances one or more runners with a bunt and is put out at first base, or would have been put out at first base, except for a fielding error

**Slap** – performed by mostly left-handed hitters, it is an attempt to hit a ground ball with a controlled short, chopping motions (rather than a full swing). A slap is not considered a bunt

**Steal** – a base runners successful advance from one base to the next on a pitch that is not hit

**Strikeout** - when a batter is put out by a third strike caught by the catcher, a batter is put out by bunting a ball into foul territory after two strikes

**Strike Zone** - the space over any part of home plate between the batter's armpits and the top of her knees when she assumes a natural batting stance

**Substitute** – any member of a team's roster who is not listed as a starting player, or a starting player who re-enters the game

**Triple Play** – a continuous action play by the defense on which three offensive players are put out

**Utility Player** – a player that may appear at more than one fielding position or strictly as a designated hitter

**Walk** – also called base on balls (BB); an automatic advance to first base for the batter after the pitcher delivers four "Balls" as called by the umpire because they are outside the strike zone

**Wild Pitch** – a pitch so high, so low, or so wide from home plate that it cannot be handled with ordinary effort by the catcher