**Softball**

**Facts about how the game is played:**

The batter: Stays at the plate until he/she either:

1. Hits the ball into play
2. Takes four balls for a walk to first base
3. Gets three strikes for an out

The defense can get an out by:

1. A force-out by throwing ball to first base before the hitter gets there
2. Tag a runner who is not on a base with the ball
3. Catch a fair or foul ball in the air
4. If another runner is on base, a force out at another base is possible

The offense scores a run when a person makes it all the way around the four bases without being tagged or forced out.

Each team bats until there are three outs.

A game lasts seven innings. One inning is complete when both teams have batted.

The team with the most runs wins!

**Differences between baseball and softball:**

A softball is bigger than a baseball.

Softball is played on a smaller field than baseball.

A softball is pitched underhand, while a baseball is pitched overhand.

**The playing field:**

The playing field is a diamond shape with bases located at each corner of the diamond. The field is divided into an infield (area in-between bases), and an outfield (area beyond 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base).

**History of the game:**

The game of softball began in Chicago, Illinois on Thanksgiving Day in 1887.