

# SOCIAL 7S



INFORMATION  
FOR  
AFFILIATES



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**“A great product that generated lots of laughs and the opportunity to recruit new members.”**

**- Evelyn Seabourne, Southern Tasmanian Softball Association**



# WHAT IS SOCIAL 7s?

Social 7s is Softball Australia's new form of softball that is fast, fun and easy to play, designed to:

- Increase participation and membership
- Simplify the rules, making it easy to learn
- Increase the involvement of all players
- Shorten the length of the game and the season

Some of the features of Social 7s that make it fast, fun and easy to play include:

- Teams only require seven players
- Every player bats each inning
- Ball is pitched slower, leading to more hits and fielding
- High scoring – every base gained is a run
- A new pitcher each inning
- A Strike Zone Mat is used – if the pitch lands on the mat, it is a strike
- A four innings game is completed in less than an hour
- No umpire required – a game coordinator is responsible for scoring and adjudicating on close plays

## Did you know?

Social 7s can be run as a one-off game, one day or weekend tournament, or weekly competition.

An affiliate can change the playing rules to best suit their competition and participants. However, the official Social 7s playing rules will be used at Social 7s competitions run by Softball Australia.



# BENEFITS OF ORGANISING A SOCIAL 7s COMPETITION

Social 7s provides a range of benefits to affiliates who choose to organise a competition.

- Opportunity to attract new participants
- Greater utilisation of facilities
- Generate revenue
- Opportunity to link with local business and community groups
- Opportunity to reconnect with former members
- Assists with long term growth and sustainability of your association
- An enhanced community reputation to impress local and state government
- Showcases your venue to a new audience



# SOCIAL 7s

## REGISTRATION PROCESS



# WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE AFFILIATE IN ORGANISING A COMPETITION

The affiliate will:

- appoint a competition coordinator to oversee the organisation of the competition
- appoint at least one game coordinator to oversee each game

It is possible that one person could manage both roles.

## Competition Coordinator

- Registers the competition on the [Social 7s website](#) (refer to How to Register on page 17 for instructions)
- Ensures the competition will have the equipment required and that the venue is suitable
- Is the point of contact for Softball Australia, the state association, teams and individuals for that competition
- Allocates those who register as individuals (ie not with a team) to a team to play in the competition
- Responsible for ensuring information displayed for their competition on the [Social 7s website](#) is correct
- If the team entry fee is not captured at the time a team registers on the [Social 7s website](#), they need to decide and organise how the game fees are collected
- Provides the game coordinator with a list of team and individual registrations for the competition
- Identifies the person responsible for overseeing the venue on game day (they could take on this role themselves)
- Ensures there is someone at the venue on game day who is First Aid trained
- Ensures all competition organiser terms and conditions are met (refer to About on Social 7s website: <http://social7s.com.au/about-social-7s/>)
- Is obliged to read and be bound by the team terms and conditions and participant terms and conditions (refer to About on Social 7s website: <http://social7s.com.au/about-social-7s/>)



## Game Coordinator

- Is responsible for ensuring all participants are registered to play
- Any participants not registered should be guided to the [Social 7s website](#) to register, prior to taking the diamond
- Adjudicates on any close plays and makes a call when needed
- Scores the game
- Ensures all participants have fun
- Ideally, is bubbly, energetic and outgoing

To distinguish the game coordinator from the participants, Social 7s 'Officials' polos are available to purchase from the [Social 7s online shop](#).

# HOW DOES SOFTBALL AUSTRALIA AND THE STATE ASSOCIATIONS ASSIST?

## 1. Social 7s website

A dedicated website, [www.social7s.com.au](http://www.social7s.com.au) has been developed, providing:

- Information and resources
- Online competition registration, with a unique competition page displayed within the website
- Team and individual registrations directly to a competition
- Details of team and individual information as they register

## 2. Free registration for affiliates

Softball Australia recognises and rewards affiliates for their membership to their state and national body by offering FREE registration as a competition organiser.

## 3. Insurance coverage

All registered Social 7s participants are covered under Softball Australia's Insurance Policy.

## 4. Social 7s competition balls

For each team that registers to your competition, Softball Australia will provide the competition organiser with three specially designed Social 7s balls. These are bright orange and have a softer core than a standard softball, making them safer to play with.



# PROMOTION

## 5. Social Media

Softball Australia will promote Social 7s competitions on its Facebook and Twitter pages. Please ensure that you use #softballsocial7s when writing a tweet on Twitter or posting a comment or photo on Facebook.

## 6. Website

A link from the Softball Australia website will direct individuals to the Social 7s website.

## 7. Videos

- A two minute promotional video, viewable on the Social 7s homepage and which can be shared, gives an insight into the game.
- A video, viewable on the Social 7s website, gives an overview of the rules of the game.

## 8. Resources

The Official Playing Rules, Abbreviated Rules, Equipment and Playing Field Requirements and Social 7s scorecard have all been developed and are available (refer to About on Social 7s website: <http://social7s.com.au/about-social-7s/>).

## 9. Support

Softball Australia's Product Development Coordinator is available and ready to answer any questions (refer to Contact Softball Australia on page 17).

Check with your state association to find out what additional support is offered.





**“The social side of it is really the winner, I enjoyed it a lot, especially playing in a mixed team.”**

**Taylah Tsitsikronis, Aussie Spirit (Australian Open Women’s team) player.**

# WHAT ARE THE EQUIPMENT & PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS?

A game of Social 7s is ideally played on an existing softball diamond, with standard fastpitch field measurements used for the base and pitching plate distances.

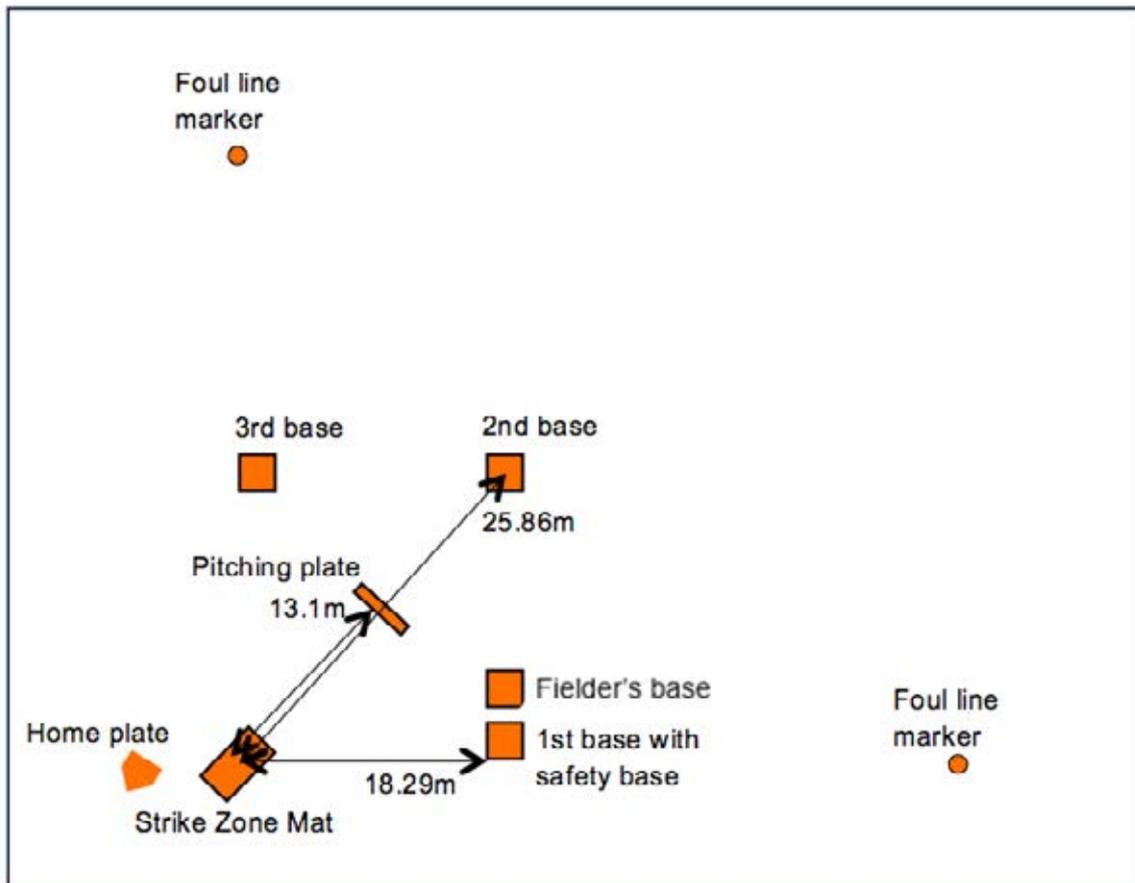
However, it can also be played on any moderate sized space – a park, sporting field, indoor venue, the beach.

The following sets out the minimum equipment and playing field requirements. Some affiliates will have most of the equipment required, with the exception of a Strike Zone Mat. All items can be purchased from the [Social 7s online shop](#).

## Minimum equipment requirements

ITEM	IDEAL	ALTERNATIVES
Ball	Social 7s Easton 12" synthetic covered soft core orange ball (Three per registered team will be provided free)	No other, mandatory
Bat	Orange or black Easton bat	Softball bat in good condition
Gloves	Orange or black Easton gloves	Any softball/baseball gloves
Bases/Pitching Plate	Social 7s orange throw down rubber bases and pitching plate	When played on a softball diamond, standard bases can be used
Home plate	Social 7s orange throw-down home plate	Any throw-down home plate  Lines marked on the ground to indicate the home plate
Fielder's Base	A throw-down rubber base that is positioned 1 metre away from 1st base	When played on a standard softball diamond, a normal double base can be used, positioned next to 1st base  Lines marked on the ground to indicate the safety base
Strike Zone Mat	Social 7s Strike Zone Mat	Any mat of size approx. 120cm long and 90cm wide  Lines marked on the ground
Foul lines/markers	Two lines marked on the ground, running directly to the outside edge of 1st base and 3rd base so that the bases are inside the foul line. Both lines extend to the home run boundary	Cones, witches hats or any other appropriate markers can be placed past the bases (deep in the outfield) to indicate the foul lines

# MINIMUM PLAYING FIELD REQUIREMENTS



**Strike Zone Mat** – used to determine balls and strikes

**Bases** – positioned 18.29 metres apart from one another, at a 90 degree angle

- The front edge of 1st base and 3rd base are positioned 18.29 metres from the middle of the Strike Zone Mat
- The middle of 2nd base is positioned 25.86 metres from the middle of the Strike Zone Mat

**Home plate** – positioned 2 metres from the Strike Zone Mat.

Baserunners run through home plate rather than the Strike Zone Mat

**Pitching plate** – the front of the pitching plate is positioned 13.1 metres from the middle of the Strike Zone Mat

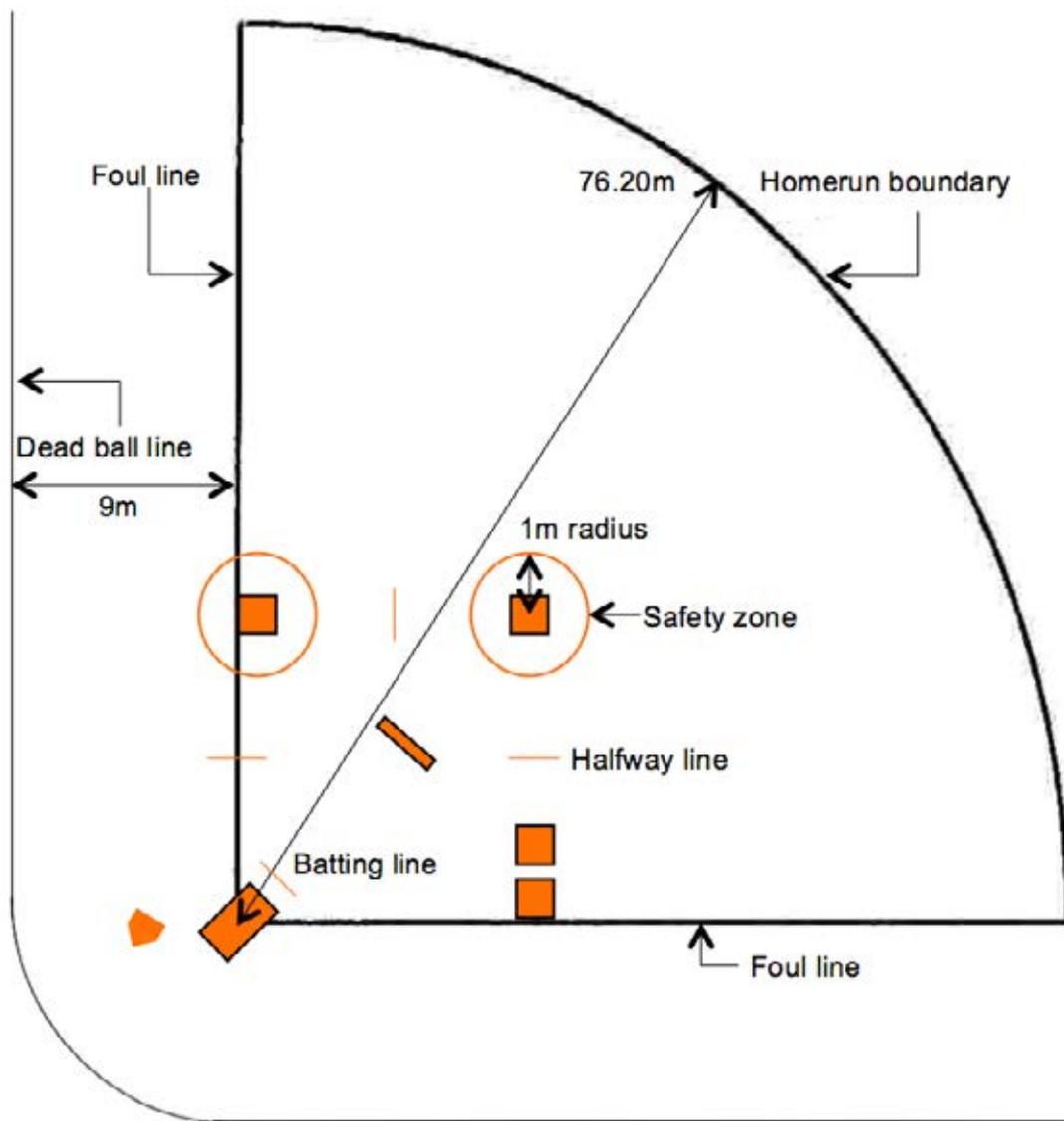
# NICE TO HAVES

ITEM	IDEAL	ALTERNATIVES
Home run boundary	A home run fence, 1.2 metres high, erected 76.20 metres from the middle of the Strike Zone Mat	Cones or a line marked on the ground to mark the distance, or a distance that is deemed appropriate
Safety zones	Lines marked around 2nd and 3rd base, in the shape of a circle, with a 1 metre radius from the middle of the base	
Dead ball line	A fence 9 metres back from the foul line, to indicate the boundary	Cones, witches hats, lines or any other appropriate markers to indicate the boundary
Halfway line	A line marked halfway between each base (not needed between the Strike Zone Mat and 1st base).	
Batting line	A line marked 1 metre in front of the Strike Zone Mat to indicate where a batter cannot cross when they hit the ball	



# LAYOUT

The following diagram shows the layout of the playing field, including the positioning of the homerun boundary, foul lines, safety zones, halfway lines, batting line and dead ball line.



# COMPETITION COSTS

All prices include GST

To register as a Social 7s competition organiser	FREE
Game fees: cost per team per game	Recommended \$70
Game fees: Cost for individuals per game*	Recommended \$10
Softball Australia receives	\$10.50 per team per game
State Association receives	\$10.50 per team per game
Affiliate keeps	\$49 per team per game

\*Cost for individuals who register without a team

A competition organiser has the ability to increase the game fees if they have significant additional costs (eg lighting).

## Examples

### Example 1

Number of teams	4
Number of games per team	7
Cost per team	\$490
Cost per player (based on seven players per team)	\$70
Affiliate keeps	\$1,372

### Example 2

Number of teams	6
Number of games per team	6
Cost per team	\$420
Cost per player (based on seven players per team)	\$60
Affiliate keeps	\$1,764



**NEXT**

**STEPS**

# GETTING STARTED

- Determine a preferred day and time to conduct your competition
- Appoint a competition coordinator, who will be responsible for overseeing the competition
- Register your competition on the [Social 7s website](#) (refer to instructions below)
- Promote your competition locally to encourage teams and individuals to register
- Appoint game coordinators to oversee the games and ensure participants have fun

# HOW TO REGISTER

1. Go to the Social 7s website: [www.social7s.com.au](http://www.social7s.com.au).
2. In the top menu, click on 'Organise a Competition'.
3. Click on 'Register Now'.
4. Enter your details:
  - Take note of the username and password
  - Click 'Yes' to affiliated club/association
  - In the 'Provider (Organisation) Name' field, enter your association name
  - Once all details are entered, click 'Register'
5. Go to your email and click on the verify link (check your junk email as well).
6. Login to the Social 7s website with your username and password.
7. Click on 'Organise a New Competition'.
8. Enter details for your competition
  - Once all details are entered, click 'Submit'.
9. Softball Australia is notified and confirms with the state association that your club/association is affiliated.
10. The competition is then published on the Social 7s website.

## Contact Softball Australia

If you would like to discuss Social 7s further, please contact:

### Shane Cantelmi

Softball Australia Product Development Coordinator

E: [shane.cantelmi@softball.org.au](mailto:shane.cantelmi@softball.org.au)

P: 03 9417 0022 (ext 110)

Further information is also available on the Social 7s website at:

[www.social7s.com.au](http://www.social7s.com.au)



Australian Government  
 Australian Sports Commission



[www.social7s.com.au](http://www.social7s.com.au)