



SOFTBALL LEAGUE RULES

[2025 USAS Official Rulebook](#)

[2025 Rule Changes with Comments](#)

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General Rules

Any matters not covered by the following rules will default to the USA (ASA) rule book. The umpires have the final say on the field, so please respect their calls.

Rosters

- **Player Limit:** A player is not allowed to play on more than one team in the same league on the same day in any SSA softball league.
- **Coed Female Minimum:** Coed leagues must have a minimum of 4 females.
 - **Starting with 3 Females:** If starting with only 3 females, an out must be taken in the lineup spot where the 4th female should be. This must be declared to the umpire and opposing team at the start of the game.
- **Online Roster Requirement:** All players must be on the SSA online roster in order to participate in any league games.
- **Subs:** Subs can only be utilized if a team is short the starting line up.

Game Play Rules

1. **Count:** All SSA games will begin with a one-and-one count. After the second strike, one foul is allowed.
2. **Game Length & Time Limit:**
 - **Innings:** All games consist of 7 innings.
 - **Inclement Weather/Unforeseen Circumstances:** In case of inclement weather, darkness, light failure, or any other unforeseen circumstances, 4.5 / 5 innings will be considered a completed game, unless the 12-run mercy rule is invoked.
 - **Time Limit:** No new innings will start after 70 minutes. Umpires will inform teams when the time limit is approaching.
 - **Tied Games (Time Remaining):** If a game is tied and there is time left, extra innings can be played, starting with the last batter up on 2nd base.

- **Tied Games (Time Limit Reached):** If a game is tied and the 70-minute time limit has been reached, the game can continue until a winner is declared (we don't want games ending in ties if there is still daylight).
- **Playoffs:** Playoffs will not have a time limit & games will play out, unless the 12-run mercy rule is invoked.
- 3. **Run Rule:** A run rule of 12 runs after 4.5 / 5 innings applies to all league play.
- 4. **Home Run Rule:** There is a two-up home run rule in effect for all league games.
- 5. **Pitch Arc:** The pitch's arc for all leagues will be between 6' to 12' from the ground.
- 6. **Courtesy Runners:**
 - Allowed for all leagues.
 - Coed will allow for 1 male, 1 female and 1 pitcher per inning. A male must run for a male and a female for a female.
 - Mens league will allow for 1 male and 1 pitcher per inning.
 - Women's will allow for 1 female and 1 pitcher per inning.
 - DPflex is allowed and must be reported to the home plate umpire prior to game start and only when the team has a full 10 players already in the lineup.
- 7. **Extra Players (EPs):**
 - **Maximum Lineup:** Teams can utilize extra batters (EPs) with a maximum lineup of 12.
 - **Gender of EP:** The 11th player can be of any gender, while the 12th batter must be female.
 - **Defensive Players:** Out of the lineup of 10, any 10 players can play defense at any time.
 - **EP Requirement:** To use the EP, the game must start with the EP, and they cannot be added after the game has started.
 - **Female Minimum Still Applies:** However, there must still be four females in the field and in the top 10 of your lineup.
- 8. **Late Arriving Players:**
 - **Starting with 8 Players:** If a player on the roster arrives late, they can be added to the lineup immediately, but only if starting with eight or nine players. If a player is hurt or ejected, and roster is below 8, then the game becomes a forfeit.
 - **Starting with 10+ Players:** If there are already 10 players in the lineup, the late player can only play as a substitute.
 - **Online Roster Requirement:** All players must be on the online roster to participate in any league games.
 - **Minimum Players to Start:** Games can start with 8 players.
- 9. **Pitching - No Faking:** No faking is allowed in pitching.
- 10. **Live Home Plate:** Home plate is live.
- 11. **Umpire Fees:** Umpire fees are \$30 per game PER TEAM for standard 2 umpires (\$22 for 1 umpire) and should be paid directly to the umpire before the start of the game.
- 12. **Coed Outfield Line:**
 - **Outfield Line Distance:** In all coed leagues, a 180' outfield line is used.
 - **Outfielder Starting Position:** All outfielders (4 outfielders MAX), regardless of gender, must start behind this line until the ball is hit.
 - **Violation Penalty:** If violated it will result in the batter being awarded first base and any runners would advance, if forced.
- 13. **Mat Ball:** All leagues will be playing Mat Ball.

14. **Alcohol Prohibition:** Alcohol is prohibited at the park, and all public and village laws must be followed. All SSA venues follow a bring-it/take-it trash policy. Participants are responsible for cleaning up after themselves.
15. **Game Start Time:** Games must start on time. Teams have a 10-minute grace period, but the game clock starts at the originally scheduled time without exceptions.
16. **Playoff Eligibility:** To be eligible for playoffs, a player must participate in at least 5 regular-season games (3 for the fall season). Your integrity is also appreciated.
17. **Player Safety:**
 - **Pitcher Masks:** Pitchers are now required to wear a mask during all league play for safety purposes.
 - **Cleats:** Cleats are allowed but no metal cleats for safety purposes.
18. **Walk Rule (Coed & Men's Leagues):**
 - **Walk to Male Batter:** A walk to a male batter will result in a two base award *ONLY* when a female is up next.
 - **Effect:**
 - A - The ball is dead
 - B - A male batter-runner advancing to second base without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed
 - **Exception:** With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. Should the female batter choose to walk and pass a male batter-runner while advancing to first base, no out shall be called during this dead ball period. (This is a word for word USA softball book rule we are using.)
19. **No Sliding into First Base:** No sliding into First base.
20. Per our rules and USA rules you do no longer need to touch first base on a HR.

Forfeits

All forfeits must be reported 24 hours prior to your game time, or the forfeiting team will be charged a \$60 forfeit fee. No exceptions. This fee must also be paid before the next game.

Questions?

Contact our SSA Softball Commissioner, Meghan, at Meghan@cusesports.com.