

# Palm Springs Senior Softball League

## Rules

Updated 2022

Most SSUSA rules will apply with the following exceptions.

### #1 GAME FORMAT

- A. ALL regular season games start with a one and one count, 7 innings long with a 1 hour 20 minute time limit [when time is limited.] Open inning will be called after the time limit has expired if before the 7th inning. If the game ends in a tie then the International tie-breaker will be used.
- B. Five runs maximum per inning except for the final inning. The final inning will be open and the team can register as many runs as the team can score. \*If the visiting team is ahead by 12 or more runs the "flip flop" rule will be in effect.
- C. The playoffs will be as follows, teams play in seeded elimination games
- D. The pitching distance will be from 50' to 60'. No pitcher will pitch over the screen. the pitch must come from either side of the screen. The pitching screen may be moved between the middle of the pitching rubber. The pitching screen can be placed no further than 3ft. In front of the pitching rubber. The pitcher must get behind the pitching screen after releasing the ball. If the pitcher does not step behind the pitching screen and fields the ball hit by the batter, the play is dead. The batter is awarded first base and all runners will advance 1 base. Once the ball is hit the pitcher can resume his defensive position on the mound and may field any ball hit back to the mound and surrounding areas. If the ball is struck and hits the pitching screen a dead ball shall be called and a strike be given to the batter. If the batter is in a must be fair situation the batter shall be called out. If a fielder throws a ball that hits the pitching screen the ball shall be considered ' live' and play shall be allowed to continue.
- E. All SSUSA softball bats are allowed including double walls. The Miken Ultra #1 and titanium bats are not legal and therefore prohibited. The Ultra II is

legal and acceptable for use. No player at anytime shall use a bat that is deemed unfit for play by the umpire. A bat deemed unfit for play can be a crack with raised edges running around more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of its circumference. The umpire may examine a bat at any time. If the bat is unfit for play it will be moved from the game. There will be no penalty to the batter, if however if the batter steps into the batter's box with a bat which previously had been removed the player shall be ejected from the game and an out recorded.

- F. All players will be encouraged to wear the current team sponsor's shirt. Players from the substitute list are not required to wear a team sponsor's shirt.

## #2 TIES

- A. The International Tie-Breaker guidelines will be utilized, in which the last batter of the previous inning will be placed on second base, and play continues. A substitute runner is permitted only after they have advanced safely to 3rd base.
- B. If time or circumstances do not allow play to continue, the commissioner will schedule a tie breaker. When the re-scheduled Tie-Breaker is played, any legal player may be placed on second base, and any legal line up may be used.

## #3 ROSTERS

- A. All teams will have a minimum of 9 players.
- B. Team members must be listed by first and last names on all line up cards.
- C. Any manager can execute the trade of a player from one team to another if the second manager is agreeable. This action must take place before the end of the second week of the season. The trade must be for a like line team member.

## #4 SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. Subs must be on the same line as the player they are replacing. However, managers may use any player on any line lower than the replaced player. The current sub equivalency is as follows:(1-1) (2-3) (4-5) (6-7) (8-9-10)
- B. Subs can only be replaced, at the start of the inning, by the player for whom he has substituted. If the sub is injured, any player on the original line or lower can replace him immediately.
- C. Lower position (in standing) manager has priority on a sub if he calls the sub by 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the game. The manager must inform the affected manager that he has taken his sub. Exception; National league; the team playing twice on Saturday cannot have his sub taken away.
- D. If a team player informs his manager that he will not be able to play a scheduled game, a substitute player may be picked in accordance with the Substitute Rules in section #4 If the team player decides he will be able to play after previously telling the manager he could not, he must inform the manager by 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the game. If the manager is unable to contact the sub prior to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday the team player will not be allowed to play.
- E. If a player arrives late for his game and a sub is playing in his place, the late player must sit out the first three full innings of the game UNLESS the opposing manager agrees to let the original player enter earlier and the sub agrees to be removed.
- F. A manager can elect to start play with only 9 players, but will be charged an out the first(2)times the missing batter/10<sup>th</sup> batter comes up in the batting order. The opposing team will provide a catcher. If / when the tardy player arrives, they may enter the game at anytime.A manager with 9 players has the option to play with only 9 and therefore avoid any penalty.

## #5 RUNNERS

- A. Unlimited runners are permitted, but a runner can substitute run only once per inning. The original runner must touch the base before leaving the field of play, as the sub enters. A violation is an automatic out on appeal.
- B. A courtesy runner may not run for an existing courtesy runner. A runner who is being replaced with a courtesy runner may not then be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.

## #6 BASE RUNNING

- A. In the American League, we have a "slide or get out of the way" rule when going to 2nd or 3rd base. Note: The runner is not permitted to slide into first base or home plate.
- B. For the purpose of scoring during an inning ending play, a force out shall be determined by normal baseball definition.
- C. The RUNNER is responsible for avoiding ALL contact or collisions and should always run to the side of the base AWAY from the play or the flight of the ball. The runner must stay outside the triangle or can be called out if a play is attempted at that base.

### BASE RUNNING RULE # 6 CLARIFICATION

It is the objective of the league to avoid injury to all players, therefore, the rule that prohibits contact shall be interpreted the following way:

When a defensive player has legal possession of a base (by having his foot in contact with it) and a play is being made at the base, it shall be the runner's obligation to avoid touching the defensive player. Whether or not the runner intended to touch the defensive player is NOT relevant. The amount of contact made is also NOT relevant.

### THE PENALTY FOR MAKING CONTACT IS AS FOLLOWS:

If for any reason the runner arrives at the base safely, he will

be declared out and no advancement of the other runners will be allowed (unless forced by virtue of the batter/runner reaching the base).

If the runner is put out despite having made contact, the preceding runner shall also be declared out and no other runners may advance.

If a runner makes contact with a defensive player who has legal possession of home plate or the strike zone mat, the runner is out.

Once a runner touches or passes the commitment line along the 3rd baseline the runner may not go back towards 3rd base. The runner cannot be tagged out once he crosses the commitment line. Must be forced at home.

#### # 7 HOME RUNS

In the case of a player hitting the ball over the fence, a home run is awarded. If the same team hits 2 more over the fence before the opposing team hits 1 over, the third home run will become a single. The batter will remain on first and play will resume. No runners will advance, except by force. This is considered a "2 up" rule. The player who hit the HR will be credited with a HR in the stats.

#### #8 INTENTIONAL WALKS

Since no player comes to the park to walk, we ask all managers to keep the intentional walks to a minimum. The umpire will not award first base to any batter unless the opposing manager instructs the umpire to walk a batter intentionally.

#9 Players in good standing with the league having paid in full their current fees and have no outstanding prior balances will be entitled to play in league games and playoffs. This includes players on the substitute roster and players from the National league.

#10 Confine players to their lines during playoffs. All players must remain on the line assigned them at the start of league play. No player shall move from their assigned line line when being requested as a substitute player during

playoffs regardless whether their lines are grouped with other lines during regular league games.