

Sun City Festival Community League Softball Rules

Approved by: Sun City Festival Softball Club Board September 10, 2019

Senior Softball - USA with changes and additions as contained herein. Managers of all Community League Softball Teams can provide input and suggestions concerning the rules and any changes that may be made in the future to the Officiating and Rules Committee for review and possible submission to the Softball Club Board. These rules will apply for all games at the Del E. Webb Memorial Field. Final rule changes will be approved or denied by the Sun City Festival Softball Club Board. The web site for Senior Softball - USA Rules

is: www.seniorsoftball.com

Code of Conduct:

1. Definitions

- a. "Individual" means a Coach, Manager, Player or Spectator
- b. "Official" means an Umpire or Board member
- c. "Ejection from the game" and "Suspension" means ejection from and suspension from using any area of the softball complex.
- d. "Probation" means that a Club Member is under scrutiny and can have his penalty increased to the maximum or beyond if another incident takes place.

2. Conduct – No individual shall:

- a. At any time lay a hand upon, strike or threaten an individual of official:

- i. Minimum Penalty: Removal from the game, plus five additional game suspensions and one-year probation.

- ii. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all Sun City Festival Softball activities for one year.

- b. Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent by throwing gloves, balls, bats, caps, or any other object.

- i. Minimum Penalty: Warning by an official

- ii. Maximum Penalty: Ejection from the game plus one additional game suspension.

- c. Be guilty of using unnecessary rough tactics in the play of the game

- i. Minimum Penalty: Ejection from the game plus one additional game suspension.

- ii. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all Sun City Festival Softball activities for one year.

- d. Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any individual or official on or off the field of play

- i. Minimum Penalty: Ejection from the game plus one additional game suspension.

- ii. Maximum Penalty: Suspension from all Sun City Festival Softball activities for one year.

e. Be guilty of any demonstration or unsportsmanlike conduct not specifically referred to elsewhere in these rules.

i. Minimum Penalty: Warning by an official

ii. Maximum Penalty: Ejection from the game plus one additional game suspension.

3. Ejections:

a. Umpires should submit a written report to the Commissioner within 24 hours. The ejected player must leave the field within at least five minutes or the game will be forfeited to the opposing team. If the offender continues improper behavior after leaving the field/complex the matter will be referred to the league board.

4. Uniforms

b. It is recommended that a Team shirt and a Club hat be worn. Neck chains, if worn, must be under the shirt at all times.

Organization, Rules and Procedures:

1. Organization of League

a. Seasons of Play – Community League Softball games will be played from November thru March of each year.

b. Selection of Managers – Managers will be identified and approved by the Board prior to the draft.

c. The Community League will be a “combo” league, with teams consisting of Tier I, II, and III Club members.

2. Teams

a. Team Organization – Teams will be formed based on number of players indicating that they want to participate in this League.

b. Team Managers and the Commissioner will draft balanced teams based on the number of eligible players and skill levels and the need to fill certain defensive positions.

c. All players in the lineup should play at least four innings defensively and be part of the batting rotation, unless player injuries require otherwise.

3. Rosters

- a. Rosters will consist, in general, of a minimum of 11 players and a maximum of 15 players. Exceptions can be made with the agreement of the Commissioner and the Team Managers.
- b. Players will consist of Softball Club member homeowners or renters in the SCF Community.
- c. Players are required to call the Manager or contact him/her in person within 48 hours of a scheduled game if they are unable to play. The only exception is for an emergency situation.
- d. At the discretion of the Manager, players who do not inform their Manager that they cannot play will be suspended for their next scheduled game. The League Commissioner must approve any exception to this rule. The manager of the team will make the request to the Commissioner.
- e. Player Tardiness: At the discretion of the Manager, if a player shows up after the start of the game, the player shall not play.
- f. Substitutes – If 12 players are able to play on a team, the manager is authorized to contact a comparable player from the designated substitute list. If no player is available from the substitute list, the manager is allowed to contact a comparable player from another SCF team. If a team only has 10 players, the batting team will supply a catcher. **If 11 players are able to play on a team, the manager is authorized to contact a comparable player from the designated “Sub List”(a Sub must be of equal rating or below for the 12 th. player.. Each Manager should know of what subs the other team is using for that game.****
- g. Courtesy Runners – A player is limited to being a courtesy runner once per inning. Courtesy runners may be used at any time during the game regardless of what base they are on. Only Tier III players are allowed to have a courtesy runner from home plate, all other tiers must reach first base before a courtesy runner can be used. **If a courtesy runner is used, the person making the last out will be the first person used. A Manager cannot use a courtesy runner for speed**

4. Equipment:

- a. Only 12-inch balls with a 44 core 375 compression will be used. **Men will use the 12’ ball. Women will use the 11 inch ball**
- b. Bats: Tier I and II players will be required to use bats marked “1.20 bpf” with an ASA stamp. Tier III players can use all bats marked “1.20 bpf/1.21.bpf” with a SSUSA or ASA stamp.

Any attempt to use a non-approved bat or altered bat will result in the batter being called out and ejected from the game. Base runners will be instructed to return to the base(s) occupied at time the illegal bat was used, providing there are fewer than three (3) outs.

5. Ground Rules/Misc.

- a. Pitchers Protection Rule: It will be required that pitchers wear a protective mask when pitching. It is also strongly suggested that pitchers wear additional protective safety gear when pitching.
- b. Home Run Over Fence Rule: We will use a “Three Home Run Limit” rule. Here is an example to explain in detail how it works:
 - i. If one team hits 3 home runs, they cannot hit another home run until the opposing team matches with 3 home runs. If the team that already has 3 home runs, hits another, it will be considered a “walk” until the opposing team matches the 3 home runs.
 - ii. The matching home run rule will continue with a limit of 1. Each team can only go up by one home run. Any beyond one home run will again be considered a walk.
 - iii. The responsibility to track home runs during the game will fall with the scorekeeper and umpire.
- c. Sliding – If in the umpire’s judgment the runner initiates contact for the sole purpose of upending the fielder or physically taking the fielder out, the umpire shall call the runner out. In a double play situation, the double play will be awarded.
- d. Foul Tips: Any foul tip caught on the fly by the catcher is an out.
- e. If the game is tied after the last inning, an extra inning will be played using the Senior Softball tie break rule. If still tied after one extra inning the visiting team will be awarded ½ run and the win.
- f. Protests and Appeals – Only a manager may appeal a call. Judgment calls such as balls and strikes are not grounds for appeals. Rule interpretation will be the only grounds for a protest, and should be resolved on the field between the two managers and the umpires. If a protest absolutely cannot be resolved, the League Board with both managers and both umpires will meet to come to resolution.
 - h. If an injury occurs to a player during a game, play will be suspended until the injured player has been treated. An injury report will be completed, as required by the SCF Softball Club procedures.
 - i. There will be a limit of four (4) runs per inning.
 - j. No game clock will be used.
- K Outfield Restriction Line. 160 ft arc will be utilized in the outfield for all batters. At the discretion of the umpire ,the penalty for a violation will be the batter and all base runners awarded 1 base(unless each has already advanced 1 or more bases safely**

6. Responsibilities:

- a. Team Managers will be responsible for the following:

i. The Home Team Manager of game one (1) will oversee the opening of the field following the documented process, to include obtaining the scoreboard controller from the storage room. The field will be dragged between games as necessary and as time allows.

ii. The Home Team Manager of the final game is responsible for closing the field, and returning the scoreboard controller back to the storage room.

b. Neglect of duties – A player that has four (4) unexcused absences may be released to the sub pool and replaced on the roster by a player of the sub pool.

c. Neglect of duties – A player that does not fulfill a non-game duty may be suspended one game day and brought to the attention of the Club Board.

d. Resignations – If a player quits a team, he will be out of the league for the rest of the season.