

Rules of Play

For the

Robson Ranch Softball Association

Supplement to ISA 2019-2020 Official Senior Softball-USA Rulebook

As of August 16, 2022

Revision 22

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

The Code of Ethics is posted so it is readily available for all RRSA members to read:

Senior Softball-USA Code of Ethics

As a participant in a Senior Softball-USA / Senior Softball World Championships tournament, including Qualifiers and International Tours, I agree to conduct myself as a gentleman or lady both on and off the field, and that when playing I will:

Article 1: Abide by the current "Official Senior Softball Guide and Playing Rules" to the best of my ability.

Article 2: Accept the decision of the umpires and my team manager in good sportsmanship.

Article 3: Neither taunt nor degrade my opponent.

Article 4: Avoid bodily contact that may cause injury to others or myself.

Article 5: Never direct abusive or profane language at officials or opponents.

Article 6: Exercise control over my family members and friends to the extent of Articles 3 and 5 above.

Article 7: Not commit any act that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

Supplement to Senior Softball USA Code of Ethics

Article A: Managers should make every attempt to provide equal playing time to all players on the roster during the course of the game.

Article B: The Pitchers Screen should not be used as a defensive tool to block balls based on where a batter might hit the ball.

Article C: Pitchers should not intentionally walk any batter.

Article D: A courtesy runner should only be used if a batter has an injury or disability that precludes the batter from running beyond 1st base.

Article E: Managers will be responsible for getting their teams on and off the field in a timely manner.

Rules of Play
Robson Ranch Softball Association

Table of Contents

1. Introduction 1

2. Definitions and Guidelines 1

 a) Leagues 1

 b) Board..... 1

 c) Eligible player 1

 d) Ineligible player..... 1

 e) Manager 1

 f) Official game scorebook 1

 g) Replacement policy for a player who is absent from games..... 2

 h) Adding players to teams after the season starts..... 2

 i) Scoring Plate 2

 j) Final Inning..... 2

 k) Full Swing 2

 l) Pitcher’s Screen..... 2

 m) Commitment Line 2

 n) Dugout Gates 3

3. Team rosters 3

4. Official Lineups..... 3

5. Substitutions 3

6. Game Schedules..... 4

7. Uniforms..... 4

8. Length of Game..... 5

9. Flip-Flop Rule..... 5

10. Batting Order 5

11. Tie Breaker 6

12. Mercy Rule 6

13. Canceled and Suspended Games 6

14. Base Running and Collisions 7

15. Courtesy Runner (this item replaces SS-USA Rule 8.5)..... 8

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

16. League Championship	8
17. Disputed Umpire Calls.....	8
18. Protests	9
a) Definitions.....	9
b) Procedure	9
c) Decision of the Board.....	9
19. Disciplinary Action	9
a) Association Members	9
B. Spectators	10
20. Alcohol / Foreign Objects.....	10
21. Responsibilities	11
22. Additional Rules and Provisions.....	11
23. Co-ed Fairness Rules	13
24. RRSA Fall Season Only Starting Pitch Count	13

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

1. Introduction

The Robson Ranch Softball Association (RRSA) plays under the *Official Rules of Senior Softball-USA (SS-USA)*. The RRSA has adopted rules that supersede SS-USA rules and are enumerated below. When the SS-USA announces changes to the Official Rules of Senior Softball - USA, the RRSA Board will review the changes and determine if it will adopt that rule. If the RRSA Board does not adopt the change, it will modify the RRSA Rules of Play.

2. Definitions and Guidelines

a) Leagues

All Leagues will be formed and will play under the Direction of the Robson Ranch Softball Association.

b) Board

The RRSA Board of Directors will consist of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Co-Ed Commissioner
- Senior Commissioner
- Two "At Large" Positions

c) Eligible player

A player who meets all RRSA requirements as described in the By-Laws. All registered resident or homeowner players must pay the RRSA registration fee and annual dues in full before playing in any game. Registered resident or homeowner players must sign the Release of Liability Statement and shall be familiar with the Robson Ranch Senior Softball Association Rules of Play and agree to abide by them.

d) Ineligible player

An ineligible player is a player who does not meet all RRSA requirements, a suspended player or one who has been declared ineligible by the Board.

e) Manager

The team's official manager is approved by the Board, and therefore may be removed by the Board. Each team is responsible for selecting the manager from their roster. Each manager may appoint an assistant manager, subject to approval by the Board. This assistant manager may act as manager in the event of the manager's absence.

f) Official game scorebook

The RRSA will solicit volunteers to keep the official scorebook in the press box. If a volunteer score bookkeeper is not available, the managers will decide who keeps the

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

official scorebook. This involves keeping track of runs/inning, innings played, team lineups and the official start time. If there is a discrepancy of innings played or runs made, the press box book is the official and final word. The scoreboard is only used to convey information to the teams and spectators and does not represent the official record keeping for the game.

g) Replacement policy for a player who is absent from games

When a player is or will be absent for a minimum of three weeks, the manager may request a full time replacement player from the Commissioner. The full time replacement player must be a RRSA member in good standing and be eligible to play in that league. The replacement player will remain on the team roster for a minimum of three weeks. The manager decides the replacement player's defensive position and batting order position. The replaced player will remain on the team roster but will only be able to participate in the game as a manager/coach until the replaced player is reinstated as a full time player by the Commissioner. This replaced player will not be allowed to play offensive or defense during the game nor be a courtesy runner. Once the replaced player is eligible to return to play, the replacement player will be removed from the team.

h) Adding players to teams after the season starts

All Players added after sign-ups will be handled by the Board.

i) Scoring Plate

A scoring plate will be used in all RRSA games. In order to score the base runner must touch the scoring plate before a defensive player in possession of the ball touches the strike zone mat.

j) Final Inning

A standard game is seven (7) innings. The final inning is the 7th inning of a standard game. If time runs out before the 7th inning can be played, the final inning is as described in Section 8, Length of Game. The 5 run rule does not apply in the final inning.

k) Full Swing

A full swing is when the batter swings the bat with the intention of driving the ball. If, in the umpire's judgment, the batter did not take a full swing and struck the ball, the ball will be dead and a strike will be called.

l) Pitcher's Screen

A screen that will be used at the pitcher's mound to protect the pitcher from a hit ball that could result in serious injury. The pitchers screen shall be provided by the RRSA and shall be movable to accommodate placement by the pitcher as defined in paragraph 22k.

m) Commitment Line

The commitment line is 30 feet from the home plate.

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

n) Dugout Gates

The umpires will insure all gates to the dugouts are closed during play.

3. Team rosters

The official team rosters will be managed and approved by the Board. Rosters cannot be changed without Board approval.

All players shall be evaluated based on their fielding, throwing, running and hitting skills. They will be classified as a 4 High Skilled, 3 Medium Skilled, 2 Skilled, or 1 Regular Player. These ratings will be managed by members of the Softball Board with input from the managers where appropriate.

In order to maintain competitive balance within the league, a draft process for new and returning players will be implemented by the board. A draft selection committee shall be involved in the draft process.

Each team roster will include at least one (1) female participant. Spouses will be placed on the same team roster.

A player will remain on an official team roster until one of following occurs:

- a) The manager requests the Commissioner to remove the player from the team roster because the player has missed or will miss three (3) consecutive games (see paragraph 2g).
- b) The player resigns in writing to the Commissioner.

4. Official Lineups

The minimum number of players required to begin a game is twelve (12) of which seven (7) of these individuals must be assigned to the official team roster. If at least twelve (12) players are not available for a game, that team will be assessed one out at the end of the batting order every time that position comes around and is not filled.

A team must have a female player playing defense at all times in the Co-Ed league games. Any exception after the game commences due to fatigue, sickness, or injury, will need to be communicated between the managers and the umpire for agreement. Unless both managers agree about the absence of the female player, the defensive team will only play with 10 players in the field.

5. Substitutions

Substitution of players is NOT intended to improve the skill level of a team, but it is intended to maintain the balance of the skill players on the roster.

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

For the first skill level 1 or 2 player on the team roster where a substitute is not available, three (3) runs will be awarded to the opposing team. For a second skill level 1 or 2 player on the team roster where a substitute is not available, another two (2) runs will be awarded to the opposing team at the beginning of the game. A total of a five (5) runs is the maximum that will be awarded. The awarded runs are in addition to any runs scored in the first inning.

For each missing skill level 3 or 4 player on the team roster where a substitute is not available, no penalty will be assessed.

If substitutes are used, they must be filled from the lowest skill level first, then second lowest, etc. Lower skill levels may be substituted if higher skill levels are not available. A level 2 player can be substituted for a level 1 skill player if a level 1 cannot be identified). Substitutes can bat in any order in the lineup.

When a team requires a substitute(s), the team manager will identify the missing player(s) and the player(s) skill level classification(s). The manager may reach out to an equal or lower skill level player(s) on any of the RRSA teams. To aid managers, a list of substitute players and players available on other RRSA teams is available on QuickScores under the "Links" section.

All substitutions must be approved by the opposing team manager prior to the game (ideally the day prior to game day). The opposing team manager, after taking any unusual circumstances under consideration, decides whether or not the opponent's lineup is approved. This will be communicated at the Managers Meeting with the umpires prior to the game. If both managers cannot agree upon the team lineups, a forfeit for each team will result.

In the event that a player on the official roster shows up for a game after the lineup has been submitted, the player may be added to the lineup (See paragraph 10). If the team has substitutes the player must replace one of the substitutes of the similar skill level classification in the lineup.

Substitutes may be selected from members of the other teams or from a substitute list if it is available. An individual may substitute only one time per team per season, unless they are on the substitute list.

6. Game Schedules

The official schedules for all leagues are posted on the RRSA website:
www.quickscores.com/robsonranch.

7. Uniforms

All players will wear league-approved uniforms. Suggested uniforms will consist of the following:

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

- a) Team jersey with a number unless the player is a substitute player.
- b) Team hat or visor, pants or shorts and a belt.
- c) Softball shoes with rubber cleats or tennis shoes. Metal cleats of any type are prohibited.
- d) All uniforms must be RRSA compliant and RRSA approved. No player may wear a uniform or any piece of a uniform that does not meet RRSA standards or approval.

The catcher and the pitcher may wear a protective mask and shin guards provided by the RRSA if they choose. This safety equipment is strongly recommended.

8. Length of Game

Games will have a maximum of seven innings. A game becomes official upon completion of 4 innings.

If playing conditions result in a need to adjust the length of game, the lead umpire will inform both managers that the current inning will be completed, followed by the final inning with unlimited runs. The general guideline to assist the lead umpire in timing this call will be - approximately 20 minutes prior to sundown (40 minutes of daylight remaining).

The lead umpire may call the game at any time when weather conditions do not warrant further play.

9. Flip-Flop Rule

If a visiting team is ahead by five (5) or more runs at the beginning of the seventh inning or the last inning at bats, the umpire will implement the Flip-Flop Rule. The home team will remain at bat and start a new at bat. All runners then on base will return to the dugout. If the home team fails to tie or go ahead of the visiting team, the game ends and the visiting team wins. If the home team ties or goes ahead, the visiting team takes its turn at bat.

10. Batting Order

Each manager shall provide a lineup to the opposing team manager prior to the start of the game. The manager of each team may monitor the batting order of the opponent's team as described in SS-USA Rule 7.1. The official scorekeeper is responsible for monitoring the team's batting order. If the manager wishes to carry a copy of the opponent's batting order while playing defense, the RRSA will provide paper lineup forms for him/ her to complete.

- a) All players who show up ready to play must be placed in the batting lineup.
- b) All substitutes shall be placed anywhere in the batting order.
- c) If a team has no females available to play, the first position in the batting order shall be assigned to the missing female and shall be an automatic out each time the position comes up to bat.
- d) If a player must leave for injury or emergency prior to the completion of the game, the line-up will be compressed.

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

- e) If a player is ejected during the game or leaves for any reason other than injury or emergency prior to the completion of the game, an out will be assessed at that player's assigned position in the batting order.
- f) If a player on the official roster arrives after the game has started that player will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- g) Managers have the discretion as to where all players bat in the batting order, except as delineated above.

11. Tie Breaker

A game can end in a tie during the regular season. During the end of season tournaments, a tie will result in the teams playing additional unlimited run innings until the tie is broken.

12. Mercy Rule

If a team is ahead by 15 or more runs at any time after five innings have been completed, or four and one-half innings with the home team ahead, the losing manager may concede the loss and it shall be declared a complete regulation game.

13. Canceled and Suspended Games

A. Game Cancellations

In the case of inclement weather or unsafe field conditions, the decision to cancel a league game prior to it being played will be made by the Robson Ranch Softball Association Commissioner or his/her designee. A cancellation notice will be posted by 4:00 P.M. on game day on the RRSA website (www.quickcores.com/robsonranch). Team managers are responsible for verifying the cancellation and notifying members of their teams.

B. Suspended Games

In the event a game has not completed 4 innings (see paragraph 8) and inclement weather or unsafe field conditions exist, it is sole responsibility of the field umpires to determine if play should continue. If play is discontinued, the following information will be collected by the umpires in order to schedule the completion of the game:

- a. In what inning the game was stopped.
- b. What the current score is
- c. How many outs in the called inning
- d. Who was on base
- e. Who was at bat

Note: Managers will be requested to retain their lineups, in order to duplicate them as closely as possible when the game is rescheduled. If the players from the original game are not available for the rescheduled game, and a team cannot field eleven players, substitutes can be used in accordance with Rule 5.

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

The field umpires will provide this information immediately to the Commissioner or his/her designee in order to facilitate the completion of the game.

C. Rescheduling

After a cancelled game, makeup games shall be available as follows:

- 1) The first Saturday following the cancelled game at either 10 AM, 1 PM, or 3 PM.
- 2) the following Sunday after the cancelled game at either 1 PM, 3 PM or 5 PM,
- 3) the second Saturday after the cancelled game at either 10 AM, 1 PM, or 3 PM.
- 4) the second Sunday after the cancelled game at either 1 PM, 3 PM or 5 PM.

The two opposing managers will choose one of these pre-reserved make up days/times and report to the Commissioner the proposed day and time. Rescheduled games should be scheduled as soon as possible when field conditions permit. If both managers cannot agree upon one of these reschedule times, a forfeit will be recorded for one or both teams per the Commissioners decision.

If makeup games cannot be played due to field conditions over the course of the two weeks, the teams will split the game decision and receive half of a point each toward their season win/loss record.

14. Base Running and Collisions

Any fielder blocking a base or base path without possession of the ball will be called for obstruction and the runner will be awarded that base and any further bases that in the umpire's judgment he would have reached had there been no obstruction. (SS-USA Rule 8.6(4) will apply).

SS-USA Rule 8.7 will be enforced by umpires as follows:

- a) Infielders not involved in fielding a batted ball are responsible for avoiding collisions with base runners attempting to advance to the next base. If a fielder impedes a runner that is trying to advance, then the runner will be safe at the next base and possibly the following base or bases depending on the situation. The exception is that the base umpire may call the runner out if the umpire feels that the runner would have been out even if not having been impeded.
- b) A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases. If a runner misses or overruns a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out (umpire's judgment). In the event a runner can avoid a collision (meaning more than slight incidental contact), but does not, the runner will be called out and the ball is dead. Exception: If in the umpire's judgment the collision was clearly

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

unavoidable due to a last second movement by a fielder, the runner will not be called out and the ball will remain live.

c) Sliding is permissible, but not encouraged. Sliding may be used at 2nd and 3rd bases or when returning to 1st base. If, in the opinion of the umpire, a sliding person is apparently trying to intimidate and/or injure a defensive player, the umpire shall call the runner out.

15. Courtesy Runner (this item replaces SS-USA Rule 8.5)

A courtesy runner may be used in accordance with the code of ethics. The batter making the last out that is not injured or physically disabled will be used as the courtesy runner.

In accordance with SS-USA Rule 8.4(1), each batter must reach first base without the aid of a courtesy runner. A player who is injured so severely that he/she cannot run to first base shall be prohibited from participating further until appropriate treatment can be administered.

If a batter with a limiting injury believes they will need a courtesy runner, the batter should not go past 1st base. If the batter is not further injured proceeds past 1st base and then requests a courtesy runner, the courtesy runner will be placed on 1st base.

A player in the Senior League unable to run to first base, may waiver this rule and will be permitted to have a courtesy runner for all bases. A line behind home plate and 5 feet behind the 3rd base foul line in foul territory will be established as a starting position for this courtesy runner.

16. League Championship

The League Championship will be determined by a process established by the Softball Board and conveyed to the association members prior to the beginning of the season. The home team will be the playoff higher seed.

17. Disputed Umpire Calls

In the event a team does not agree with an umpire call, their manager will address the concern with the umpire making the call. No other player on the team may address this with the umpire. This will result in all umpires assigned to the game to confer concerning the call. The consensus of the umpires will be conveyed to the manager or assistant manager of both teams and this will be the final call.

Each team manager will be allocated two challenges at the beginning of the game. If the challenge overturns the umpire call, the manager will retain that challenge. If the challenge does not overturn the umpire call, the manager will lose that challenge. Once a manager loses both challenges, no further challenges from that manager will be allowed.

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

18. Protests

a) Definitions

There are two classes of protest:

- 1) *Misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule.* The protest must be made before the next pitch, before all fielders have left fair territory or if on the last play of the game, before the umpire leaves the playing field.
- 2) *Ineligible player.* The protest may be made at any time. The Board will determine eligibility.

Protests will not be considered valid if they are solely based on a judgment call by an umpire, such as balls and strikes or calls on the bases.

b) Procedure

- 1) The manager or in the absence of the manager his designee of the protesting team will immediately notify the home plate umpire that the game is being protested. Every effort will be made to resolve the protest on the field by the two managers and the umpire before the next pitch to a batter. If the protest is still determined to be valid by the offended team, the umpire will declare the game to be played “under protest” and will notify the opposing manager and the Official Scorekeeper.
- 2) A letter of “Official Written Protest” will be given to the RRSA president or, in his/her absence, any other Board member within five days of the protest.
- 3) The written letter will contain the following information:
 - a. Date, time and location of the game.
 - b. Name of umpires and scorers.
 - c. The section of the official or league rules under which the protest is being made.
 - d. All details and conditions pertinent to the decision of protest.
 - e. All essential facts concerning the matter protested.
- 4) After receiving the written protest, the Board will render its decision to the two managers within seven days.

c) Decision of the Board

Decisions of the Board are final and not subject to review. All protests will be handled by the board and rulings will be final. Any and all players must use the ‘chain of command’ in filing their protests. That is, they must address their concerns with their Manager before bringing their concern to the Board. All Managers must accompany the player to this hearing, but are not allowed a vote in the proceedings. Any board member with a conflict of interest will be excused from the decision process.

19. Disciplinary Action

a) Association Members

Any player or manager who threatens an umpire, another player or spectator or uses abusive, offensive or profane language or who violates the Code of Conduct will be

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

ejected from the game at the discretion of the umpire. An ejected player must immediately leave the playing field for the remainder of the game or the game will be forfeited. An automatic out will be recorded each time the ejected player would have batted in this game.

The umpire who ejects a player or manager from a game must send an Email report to the Board within two days of the ejection. The report should contain specific information about the ejection, e.g., the date of the game, the names of the teams, the parties who were involved, the managers of the two teams, those involved in the incident and the names of other game umpires. After receiving the Email, the Commissioner will then conduct an investigation and prepare a written report that will include recommendations for additional sanctions, if appropriate. The report will be transmitted to the Board, and the matter will be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

After the Board considers the Commissioner's report and recommendations, it will decide if additional penalties are warranted. The President will send an Email to the individual involved with the report of the Board. The individual involved in the incident will have one week to respond by email to the President. If the decision of the Board is challenged, the individual will be invited to the next Board meeting. At that meeting, the Board will meet in executive session with the individual and witnesses selected by him/her. After this session, the Board has the option to modify its original decision. The President will send an Email to the individual with the report of the Board. The action of the Board may not be appealed.

If an umpire gives a warning to a player or manager, the umpire may send, at his discretion, an Email report to the Board as described above within two days of the incident. The report should contain a recommendation of whether disciplinary action is warranted. If the Board agrees that further action is warranted, the President will notify the Commissioner and he will conduct an investigation and prepare a report for consideration by the Board as set forth above for ejections.

B. Spectators

It is the policy of the Robson Ranch Softball Association that abusive, offensive or profane language and/or conduct will not be tolerated. If, during a game, a spectator violates this policy the Board shall implement a procedure to resolve the situation.

20. Alcohol / Foreign Objects

No player may possess or consume alcohol on the bench or the playing field during an official league game. Offenders will be removed from the game and suspended for the next game. Repeat violators will be referred to the Board for additional disciplinary action, which may include a suspension of up to one year.

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

21. Responsibilities

- A) All players may be assigned by the manager to the following:
 - 1. Field preparation prior to and after games.
 - 2. Scorekeeping during the game.
 - 3. Raising and lowering the flags before and after games.
- B) Managers are responsible for the following:
 - 1. Instructing their players about these rules.
 - 2. The conduct of their players.
- C) Players are responsible for the following:
 - 1. Reading the Rules of Play.
 - 2. Reading the Code of Conduct.
 - 3. Signing the Waiver of Liability Statement.
 - 4. Signing the statement indicating agreement with the Code of Conduct and the Rules of Play on the Registration Form.
- D) It is the responsibility of all players to attend League meetings. Minutes are kept by the League Secretary and may be accessed but only at the approval of the Secretary.

22. Additional Rules and Provisions

a) Maximum Players on the Field

The maximum number of defensive players allowed on the field at any one time is eleven (11).

b) Official Softballs

- 1. Shall be a regular, yellow optic, smooth-seamed, flat-surfaced, pebble-textured or dimple-textured ball with concealed stitches.
- 2. A 12-inch ball with a COR of .44 and a compression rating of no more than 375 psi shall be used in men's or women's play.
- 3. One new game ball will be provided at each game. The lead umpire will choose a 2nd worthy game ball from previous play. After the game, the lead umpire will decide if the game ball is still game worthy. If so, the ball will be returned to the inventory of game balls. If not game worthy, the ball or balls will be added to the home team's practice balls.

c) Pitcher's Box

The Pitcher's Box comprises a rectangular area from the front of the pitcher's rubber, 50 feet from home plate, and extending back 10 feet perpendicular from the pitcher's rubber. The pitcher's foot must be touching the box until the pitched ball leaves the hand.

d) Pitching Arc

The apex of the arc on a legal pitch shall be 6 feet to 12 feet. If the pitch does not meet these criteria, the umpire will call the pitch "illegal" when it reaches its apex, and the pitch will be called a ball. If a batter swings at an illegal pitch, the play will stand. In

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

other words, if the batter swings and misses the illegal pitch it will be a strike. A foul will be a foul ball, and a fair ball will be played as normal.

e) Infield Positions

All infield defensive players (except for Pitcher and Catcher) shall remain even with or behind an imaginary line between the bases until the pitch passes home plate. If the base umpire determines that this rule was violated, all base runners will be declared safe at the end of the play.

f) Wind Affected Pitches

If in the opinion of both of the managers the wind conditions prohibit the accuracy of both pitchers, they will recommend to the home plate umpire that balls will no longer be called. The home plate umpire will make the final decision. This decision can be made either prior to the start of the game or at the end of a complete inning.

g) Home plate

A tag of a runner by a defensive player coming to the Scoring Plate is not allowed. Such a tag will be called safe by the umpire. To make the out at Home Plate, the defensive player must touch the strike zone mat before the runner touches the Scoring Plate. If, during play, the mat is dislodged, the defensive player shall touch home plate. If no defensive play is made at the Home Plate and the runner inadvertently scores using the Home Plate (in lieu of the Scoring Plate), he/she will be safe, but the umpire will warn the manager of the infraction.

h) Forfeit

Once a game is declared a forfeit, the umpires may leave even if the two teams would like to play an unofficial game.

i) Home Run Rule

A limit of one home run over the fence per player per game is allowed. Each home run over the limit is considered a walk, base runners advance accordingly.

j) Pregame Infield Practice

No pre-game infield practice is allowed on the game field.

k) Pitcher's Screen Placement

The pitcher's screen shall be placed on the field for all RRSA sanctioned games where these Rules of Play are used. The pitcher has the option to use the pitcher's screen during that team's rotation into the field. It shall be emplaced by the pitcher once at the beginning of that team's inning or if a pitcher is replaced during the inning. The left or right side of the pitcher's screen shall be within the length of the pitcher's rubber and may be placed from zero (0) to three (3) feet in front of the rubber. The screen shall be perpendicular to a line from the pitcher's mound and the home plate.

l) Pitcher's Screen Use

Use of the Pitcher's Screen is solely up to the discretion of the pitcher.

m) Batter Hitting a Pitcher's Screen

Rules of Play

Robson Ranch Softball Association

Batted balls hitting the pitchers screen will be considered a no pitch dead ball.

n) Defensive Player Throwing the Ball into the Pitcher's Screen

Any ball in play thrown into the pitcher's screen will be a live ball and runners may advance at their own risk.

o) Defensive Player Running or Making Contact with the Pitcher's Screen

Any contact by a defensive player with the pitcher's screen that moves it from its established position will continue to be a live ball.

p) Infield Fly

The infield fly rule outlined in paragraph 1.37 and 1.41 of the SS-USA Rule Book is not in effect. Teams will treat infield fly hits like any other fly ball.

23. Co-ed Fairness Rules

In an effort to provide the female players a more significant opportunity to get on base the following provisions are put in place:

- a) A three-person touch rule is in effect. This allows only three players on the defensive team to be the first to touch the ball after it has been hit by the female player in order to keep the ball in play. The three defensive players will include the catcher, short-stop and second base positions. The designated players cannot switch positions prior to beginning of female batters time at bat.
- b) When the three person touch rule is in effect, the short-stop must start anywhere between 2nd and 3rd base, and in the grass, but not in front of the baseline. Similarly, the 2nd base player must start anywhere between 1st and 2nd base, and in the grass, but not in front of the baseline. If the umpire feels this rule has been violated the batter will be awarded 1st base and all runners will advance one base.
- c) If any other defensive player touches the ball first as described above, the female batter will be awarded 1st base and all other runners on base will be awarded the next base. Players may advance beyond these awarded bases at their own risk. Base runners that "round" the base awarded to them are at risk of being tagged out.
- d) The female player has the option to waive the rule during her turn at bat

If a female hits a fly ball that is caught by a non-designated defensive player, runners on base must tag up before proceeding to the next base if their intent is to proceed beyond the freely awarded base. If appealed by the defensive team, runners going past the freely awarded base and not tagging up will be called out.

24. RRSA Fall Season Only Starting Pitch Count

Fall season diminishing daylight restricts the number of innings that can be safely played. In an effort to possibly play the allotted 7 innings, the pitch count for each batter will start with 1-ball and 1-strike to speed up the play of the game. Each at bat will receive 1 courtesy foul ball.