



# **RULES OF PLAY**

**For the**

**Robson Ranch Softball Association**

**Supplement to ISA 2026-2027 Official Senior Softball-USA Rulebook**

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**As of March 5, 2026**

**Revision 27**

# 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 Game Lineup 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. The purpose of a courtesy runner is to provide opportunity for players to participate in a game rather than create an advantage.

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

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### 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, as specified in the by-laws, consists 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 residents 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.

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### 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 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 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) ADDING PLAYERS TO TEAMS AFTER THE SEASON STARTS

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

### 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.

### I) 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.

### J) 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.

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## K) PITCHER'S SCREEN

A screen 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.

## L) COMMITMENT LINE

The commitment line is 30 feet from the home plate.

## M) DUGOUT GATES

The umpires will ensure 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 the Commissioners' approval.

All players shall be evaluated based on their fielding, throwing, running, and hitting using a five point scale. The total of these evaluation areas is called the rating level of a player. Based on a breakout of the rating level totals, players will then be classified as a 4 High Skilled, 3 Medium Skilled, 2 Skilled, or 1 Regular Player. These ratings levels and skill level classifications will be managed by members of the Softball Board with input from the managers where appropriate.

A draft process for player assignment to a team will be implemented by the board. The Board will solely be responsible for implementing the rules of the draft.

Each Team Roster will consist of twelve (12) players and will include at least two (2) female players. Spouses will be placed on the same team roster, unless requested otherwise.

A player will remain on an official Team Roster until one of following occurs:

- a) The Commissioner approves a request from the Manager to remove a player.
- b) The player resigns in writing to the Commissioner.

A player cannot be a rostered player on two RRSA Co-Ed or two RRSA Senior Co-Ed league teams at the same time during a season.

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### 4. GAME LINEUP

The minimum number of players required to begin a game without penalty is twelve (12) of which seven (7) of these individuals must be assigned to the official Team Roster and two (2) must be female.

A team with a Game Lineup listing fewer players than the number of players on their Team Roster will be assessed one (1) out at the bottom of the batting order for each missing player.

- a) A team unable to field a minimum of eleven (11) players including two (2) female players at the start of the game will forfeit the game. A team with only eleven (11) players will be assessed an out if the 12th player has not yet arrived at their time in the batting order to play.
- b) A team must have a female defensive player on the field in the Co-Ed league games. Any team unable to meet this requirement will forfeit the game.

### 5. SUBSTITUTIONS

a. Substitutions are **not** intended to improve the overall skill level of a team. Their purpose is to maintain the balance of skill levels represented on the team's roster. **A team may use a maximum of 5 substitutes per game.**

b. The Substitution List consists of currently evaluated RRSA players who are not assigned to a permanent team roster and who are approved by the Commissioner. The Substitution List **may** serve as the initial source for substitutes, provided the player meets the required skill level.

c. A substitute must have the same rating level as, or a lower rating level than the absent player.

**Exception:** To help ensure player availability, a manager may substitute a nine (9)-rated player with a ten (10)-rated player.

d. If no suitable substitute is available from the list, a manager may select a player from the roster of any other team in either the Co-Ed or Senior league. **A player may substitute:**

- **One (1) time per team during the regular season, and**
- **One (1) time per team during the playoffs.**

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**Exception: A nine (9)-rated or ten (10)-rated player** may substitute for the same team **twice during the regular season**. This exception does not apply during the playoffs.

e. When a substitute is required, the team manager must identify the absent player(s) and their rating level(s). All substitutions must be approved by the opposing team manager prior to the game (ideally the day before game day).

- i. The opposing manager, after considering any unusual circumstances, will determine whether the proposed lineup is approved.
- ii. Once approved, the requesting manager must update the “Sub-List Usage Form” in QuickScores. The substitution player’s status as a “**sub**” must be noted on the team’s lineup card. The substitution will also be communicated to the umpires during the **Managers Meeting prior to the game**.
- iii. If the managers cannot agree on the lineups, the result will be a forfeit for both teams.

f. If a rostered player arrives after the lineup has been submitted, the player may be added to the lineup (see Paragraph 10). If substitutes are in the lineup, the returning rostered player must replace a substitute of similar skill-level classification.

g. If a player will be absent for three (3) or more consecutive weeks, the manager **may** request a full-time replacement from the Commissioner. If approved, the manager may select either a player from the Substitution List with the same or lower rating. Or a player with the same or lower rating from the roster of any other team in either the Co-Ed or Senior league.

- i. The replacement player will be added to the official team roster.
- ii. A non-playing individual may serve as a manager, coach, or assistant but may not be listed on the official roster as a player.
- iii. When the originally replaced player becomes eligible to return, the manager may apply to have that player restored to the roster in place of the assigned replacement. The Commissioner must approve this change. If approval is not granted, the returning player may be placed on the Substitution List.

## 6. GAME SCHEDULES

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The official schedules for all leagues are posted on the RRSA website:

[www.quickscores.com/robsonranch](http://www.quickscores.com/robsonranch).

## 7. PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

### A) UNIFORMS

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

- a) Team jersey with a number.
- b) Team hat or visor, and pants or shorts.
- 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.
- e) Substitutes should wear softball attire similar to their assigned team, but is not required.

Any player may wear their own protective gear or those provided by the RRSA if they choose. This safety equipment is strongly recommended.

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## B) BAT PERFORMANCE STANDARD – 1.20 BPF REQUIREMENT

All male softball players 55 years of age and younger must use bats that meet the 1.20 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) standard or lower in all Co-Ed league games and league-sanctioned events.

### **Manager Responsibilities**

- Team managers are responsible for ensuring all rostered players in this age group use compliant bats before and during play.
- Managers must identify all players 55 and younger on the official game lineup card.
- These players must be reviewed at the pre-game meeting with the umpires and opposing team manager.

### **Penalty for Violation**

- The batter will be declared out.
- If there are fewer than three outs, all base runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the violation.

## 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 umpire rotation will inform both managers that the current inning will be completed, followed by the final inning with unlimited runs. The general guideline to make this adjustment will be approximately 20 minutes prior to sundown. With the addition of twilight time (20 minutes) this will allow 40 minutes of daylight to complete the game.

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

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## 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, one to the scorer's booth and one to the reporter 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 an individual comes to bat out of order, the scorekeeper will notify the home plate umpire for resolution.

- a) All players on the team roster 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 player must leave for injury or emergency prior to the completion of the game, the following will be implemented. If the player is a skill level 1 or 2, an out will be assessed at that player's assigned position in the batting order. If the player is a skill level 3 or 4, no out will be assessed and the lineup will be compressed.
- d) A team with no females available to play will forfeit the game.
- e) If a player is ejected during the game the lineup will be compressed and an out will be assessed at that player's assigned position in the batting order no matter of skill level.
- f) If a player on the official roster arrives after the game has started that player may replace a corresponding substitute or will be added to the bottom of the batting order if a substitute has not been assigned.
- g) Managers have the discretion as to where all players bat in the batting order, except as delineated above.

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### 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.quickscores.com/robsonranch](http://www.quickscores.com/robsonranch)). Team managers are responsible for verifying the cancellation and notifying members of their teams.

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## 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.

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

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.

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## 14. BASE RUNNING AND COLLISIONS

SS-USA Rule 8.4(10) 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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases or when returning to 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (1))

In the Co-ed Leagues each team is allowed to designate up to two (2) players that will utilize a Courtesy Runner during that game. They must indicate on the Game Lineup which players are designated to use a Courtesy Runner. Only those two (2) players will be allowed a Courtesy Runner.

A player may request a Pinch Runner if they become injured during the game or are physically unable to proceed. The Pinch Runner will replace the injured runner at the base for which the player is safe after the Umpire(s) calls for time. Players will not be allowed a Pinch Runner unless they are injured (i.e., a slow runner is not a rationale to use a Pinch Runner). If the injury is temporary, the player may remain in the game after the injury is resolved.

The player making the last out, that is not injured or designated to use a Courtesy Runner themselves, will be used as the Courtesy Runner or the Pinch Runner as applicable. If no outs

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have occurred, the player in the last position of the batting order will be the Courtesy Runner or the Pinch Runner.

A batter designated to use a Courtesy Runner, even if advancing past first base, the Courtesy

Runner will only be awarded first base. **The one exception is that if a batter having a Courtesy Runner hits the ball over the fence, it will be deemed a Home Run for the first Home Run over the fence and a Walk for all succeeding Home Runs over the fence.**

In the Senior Co-ed League there is no limit on how many players can use a courtesy runner and there is no requirement to designate on the Game Lineup. Players in the Senior League unable to run to first base, 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 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 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.

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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.

### 21. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) All players may be assigned by the manager for field preparation prior to 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.

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4. Signing the statement indicating agreement with the Code of Conduct and the Rules of Play on the Registration Form.

### 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. Two new game balls will be provided at each game. 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 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 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 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.

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## 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 strike 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 umpire rotation that balls will no longer be called. The umpire rotation 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 the Strike 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 Strike 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 on the first occurrence.

## 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 subsequent home run by the same player is considered a walk and base runners advance accordingly.

## J) PREGAME INFIELD PRACTICE

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

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## 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. 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

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 1.41 of the SS-USA Rule Book is not in effect. Teams will treat infield fly hits like any other fly ball. Paragraph 1.37 of the SS-USA Rule Book addressing intentionally dropped balls is in effect.

# RULES OF PLAY

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## 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, shortstop 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and in the grass, but not in front of the baseline. Similarly, the 2<sup>nd</sup> base player must start anywhere between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. RRSА FALL SEASON ONLY STARTING PITCH COUNT (CO-ED LEAGUE ONLY)

Fall season diminishing daylight restricts the number of innings that can be safely played. To increase the likelihood of completing a full 7 inning game, 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.

The Senior Co-ed League will not use the one-and-one starting pitch count.