

## **Rules for Regular Season Play (Adopted 1-21-14)**

The league will abide by all the rules of the Amateur Softball Association except as modified below:

1. A strike mat will be used at home plate. All balls legally pitched that strike the mat and any part of home plate will be a strike. We will use the 4-3 rule, that is 4 balls and 3 strikes are maximum numbers.
2. A double bag is used at first base. The outer bag is in foul territory. The inner bag is in fair territory. The defensive player must use the inner bag and the batter runner the outside one except when there is no play at first or the runner is tagging up. In those cases the runner shall use the inner bag.
3. There are two home plates: the first is home plate where batting occurs and shall be used by the defensive player in making an out during play. A second called a scoring plate shall be an 8 feet from home plate on an extended line from first base and shall be used exclusively by runners trying to score. A commitment line perpendicular to the foul line and 20 feet from home plate shall be marked. No runner passing this line may return to third base. Any attempt by the defensive player to tag or use the scoring plate will result in the runner being safe. Any player trying to cross home plate to score shall be automatically out.
4. Only forced outs are allowed at home. If the defensive player at home plate catches the ball before the runner touches the scoring plate, the runner is out. The strike plate is not part of home plate.
5. The pitcher's box is the width of the pitching rubber extending from the rubber to 56 feet from the back of home plate. The ball may be delivered anywhere within that area.
6. A screen to protect the pitcher shall be used. Any hit ball striking the screen is a strike. If a batter has two strikes and hits the screen thereafter, the ball is a dead ball and shall not count against the hitter.
7. The arc of a legal pitch shall be within 6 and 12 feet from the ground.

8. Sliding will be allowed at second and third base or returning to first base. There is no sliding into home plate or initially running to first.
9. Tagging of runners is allowed except at home plate.
10. Metal cleats are not allowed.
11. Courtesy runners may be used if on the roster. No player can run as a courtesy runner more than once in an inning.
12. Any batter who is injured or has a chronic ailment that does not allow him to run may have a substitute runner who must stand directly behind the catcher and not start until bat contact is made.
13. There is a 5 run limit on runs per inning with unlimited runs allowed in the last inning.
14. Any ball hit by a player 80 or older that is not touched by an infielder and reaches the ground in the outfield as a fly or grounder is a single. Other base runners may be tagged or forced out on that hit.