

# Master's League Softball Special Rules

(ASA Rules apply unless otherwise stated below. All SPRD special rules listed below will supersede ASA rule book.)



1. Home team will be decided by coin flip. Home team will provide one new softball; visiting team will provide a good used ball.
2. The count will start at 0-0 ( a foul on the 3rd strike will result in an out).
3. Batting order may consist of more than 10 players (a team can bat its roster). If more than 10 bat, any 10 can play defense.
  - A. Teams can start with 8 players. When additional players arrive - or other players arrive - if a team starts with 10 or more - they will be placed on the bottom of the batting order. Players not listed as substitutes can play if they are on the team roster. If a player leaves the game for any reason, skip their spot in the batting order. No automatic out unless player was ejected.
4. **Courtesy Runners:** ASA rule: No restrictions on the number of courtesy runners per inning, however a player may be used as a courtesy runner ONLY ONCE AN INNING. If they are on base and their turn to bat comes up, they are removed from the base, called out, and take their turn at bat.
  - A. A team cannot replace a courtesy runner with a courtesy runner.
  - B. There will be no courtesy runner of home plate.
5. **Scoring:**
  - A. On fenced fields only, one **(1)** over-the-fence per team per game, plus the progressive rule. Once each team has hit its home run, each may hit another. No team may be more than one **(1)** home run ahead of its opponent. In excess, a single is ruled.
  - B. **Run Rule:** 15 runs after 4 innings and 12 runs after 5 innings
  - C. The league will have a limit of 5 runs per inning, except for the final inning which is unlimited.
    - i. If a home run over the fence causes more than 5 runs to be scored, only 5 runs will count and the team will not be charged with a home run under the home-run rule.
  - D. At end of 7 innings, if tied ASA tie breaker rule will be played (Last batter of previous inning starts at 2<sup>nd</sup> base with no out). If a game is tied, and the game has been called due to weather or after 7 innings and the time limit has expired, the teams will revert back to the score of the prior inning to determine the winner. If the prior inning's score still results in a tie, the game will be deemed a tie.
6. **Time limits:** No new inning will start after 1 Hour and 15 minutes (75 minutes). Last inning- NO RUN LIMIT – this could be the 7<sup>th</sup> or whichever inning has been declared the final inning.
  - A. A 10 minute delay allowed for the start of the 1st game of the DH only. Games will still end at their scheduled time. If teams are short but, have players on route they will have 15 minutes from the time a forfeit is called for the first game by the umpire to get players to the field to play the 2nd game.

**7. Bats in the 60+ League:**

- A. Only ASA Approved may be used. Please see the current SPRD Bat Testing Policy for further details on the use of illegal bats.

**8. Bats in the 50+ League:**

- A. Only Masters 50s are allowed to use “senior bats.” However, these bats MUST possess a manufacturer’s “Senior Softball” stamp (below).
- B. Masters 50’s bats must be Senior Softball and or ASA approved marked BPF 1.21 or less.
- C. The Miken Ultra is not allowed. The Miken Ultra II is allowed as long as it is not on the current ASA non-approved bat list.
- D. Any illegal bat use will be subject to the penalties found in the current SPRD Bat Testing Policy.

**9. Strike Mat & Plate:** A pitched ball hitting the strike mat or home plate is a strike; no other strike zone is used. Pitches must comply with height requirement of 6’-10’.

**10. Pitching:** A pitcher can pitch from up to 10’ feet behind pitching plate, but must be straight back, not off to either side of pitching plate.

**11. Borrowed Players:** Up to two registered Senior players can be picked up to start a game only if the team is short of the minimum or only has 7 players.

- A. The pickup player is only allowed to play outfield or catcher. If a team has 10 of its own players, no pickup players are allowed. A player can play down (a 60 player in the 50 league), but CAN NOT play up (50 league player in the 60 league).
- B. If only two pickup players are needed, a forfeit will not be called.
- C. An Extra Player (EP) may be used for a physically challenged player who can play only offense or only defense. This is called FLEX OPTION and must be made known prior to start of the game.

**12. Second Home Plate & Commitment Line:**

- A. Defensive players can only touch plate (not strike mat), and runners can only touch the scoring plate, which is eight (8) feet from the back tip of home plate.
- B. Runners touching/crossing home plate/strike mat will be out; ball will remain live.
- C. Prior to reaching the commitment line 20’ from plate, a runner may change direction only once, unless the defense is fielding or throwing ball. There are no tag outs from commitment line to scoring plate, only force outs at home.

**13. Second First Base:** If there is no double 1<sup>st</sup> base, a runner just has to run past 1B. If he arrives/goes past before ball arrives, he is safe. No appeal for missing base.

- A. The use of an “imaginary” scoring plate is permitted if necessary.

**14. Softball:** Men’s teams will bat a 12” ball. Only “Optic Yellow” balls will be used during games.

**15. Base Running:**

- A. Official distance between all bases will be 65 feet.
- B. No “run-bys” at 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>; sliding is allowed.
- C. Tag-outs OK anywhere except from commitment line to home.

- D. A runner must avoid contact with a defensive player if it is avoidable.
- E. A defensive player does not have to throw for it to be interference.

**16. Under-Aged Players Grandfather Rule:**

- A. \*\* We phased out the use of under-age players. In 2015, we decided no under-age players will be allowed. However, if a player turns 50 or 60 (depending on the league) within that calendar year they will be eligible. For example, if a player is playing in the spring 2017 league and they will turn 50 on or before December 31, 2017, they will be eligible to play.\*\*
- B. Players are required to have picture identification at games. SPRD will be performing random roster checks. If you do not have valid ID, YOU WILL NOT PLAY.
- C. If a team is caught playing with 1 or more underage player(s), it will result in an automatic forfeit of the game and or games the underage players participated in.