

Sun City Summerlin Men's Softball Club

2017-18 Playing Rules

Common Rules American and National Leagues

NOTE: During the season, rules may be modified as deemed necessary by Commissioners and Team Managers, with approval by the Club Board before implementation.

A **Competition Committee** shall be appointed by the Club Board to develop league and team rosters for the coming season. The Committee shall have representation from both leagues, with preference given to former and/or current League Commissioners and Team Managers. The Committee shall develop rosters along a timeline established by the Club Board to ensure sufficient time to properly inform Club members of their league and team placement, order uniforms, publish the Club Directory, and develop the playing schedule. The Committee's team rosters will be submitted to the Board for review and approval prior to release.

SSUSA Rules. The Club's game competition will be governed by the Tournament Rules of the Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) (seniorsoftball.com). Their rules may be found on their website at <https://seniorsoftball.com/wc/wc2017/SSUSA-Rulebook-2017-Web.pdf> The Competition Committee will consider exceptions to SSUSA rules for the Club and leagues and make recommendations to the Club Board for approval and publication prior to each season.

Schedule. The season schedule will run approximately October thru April, depending on the field maintenance schedule. The season will be split into two halves of an approximate equal number of games. Champions will be designated for the first half, upon which team records will reset to 0-0 for the second half. In the event of a tie, there will be a one-game playoff on the first Saturday following the end of a particular half. If another team wins the second half title, there will be a best-of-3 game playoff held the week following the end of the season. Early game times will alternate between the American and National League teams. Adjustments may be made upon agreement of Commissioners and Team Managers for a particular game day. There will be at least a 2-week break over the holidays to accommodate player travel, absences, and holiday observances. Early games will begin at 8:30 or 9:00 AM depending on weather and with agreement of both Commissioners.

Time Limit. The visiting team for each early game will be spotted 1/2 run at the top of the first inning to preclude an extra-inning game and a delayed start of the second game. If there are more than two games scheduled on a given day, then all games except the final game that day will have a visitor 1/2 run spot. For all games, except the final scheduled game of the day, at a point 65 minutes from the scheduled start, the umpire shall announce that time has expired and the inning in progress will be completed and the following inning shall be the open inning.

Flip-Flop/Mercy. If, after the inning prior to the open inning, the home team is behind by 10 or more runs, the umpire will implement the flip-flop with the home team batting again. If the home team ties or goes ahead after their at-bat, the visiting team will take its turn at bat to determine

the outcome. If, at any time during an open inning, a team reaches a 15-run advantage, their at-bat will be terminated and the other team will have their final at-bat to determine the game's outcome.

Umpires. Bye teams will provide two umpires for scheduled games. If, for any reason, 1 or both umpires fail to show, Managers may seek volunteers from other non-players and, if none are available or willing, the playing teams will provide umpire(s). The Commissioners will coordinate umpire coverage if mixed-league crews are utilized. The Board will conduct a pre-season clinic for all prospective umpires and hold necessary refresher sessions to ensure umpires are consistently making calls and properly enforcing playing rules.

Minimum Players. Teams must have at least 6 of their own rostered players to begin a game. If one or both teams cannot field at least 6 of their players, the game will be postponed and re-scheduled within 2 weeks. A minimum of 9 players in the field are required to play an official game. It is expected that games will be played with an equal number of players on each side, whether it be 9, 10, 11, or more players.

Make-Up Games. Postponed games will be made up within the 2 weeks following the week the games were scheduled. Any games not made up within that timeframe will be declared a tie game in the standings. If a team can field a team but refuses to play a make-up game, the willing team will be awarded a win and the reluctant team will be recorded a loss. Exceptions must be approved by the respective league Commissioners. For games not played due to a tournament, the Commissioner and managers will determine if and how to schedule and record make-up games.

Early Departure. If a player has to leave a game for any reason (injury, appointment, etc.) approved by his Manager, his place in the batting order will be skipped and will not be an out. Players leaving may not re-enter the game at a later time. If departure(s) bring a team below 9 players, the Managers will determine how to continue play by supplementing the short team.

New Players. Players who join the Club after the season begins will be assigned to play a game with each team in the National League and be evaluated afterwards by the Competition Committee for league and team assignment.

Quitting. If a player declares his intent to quit during the season, his Manager and Commissioner will confirm his intention and inform the Club Board. The Board will review the request and inform the player in writing of his suspension for the remainder of the season.

Field Preparation and Security. The home team for the first game will set up the field for play, including the pitching screen, scoreboard controls, warm-up balls, etc. The home team for the final game shall secure the field and return all equipment to the shed with special attention to not damaging the scoreboard control antenna.

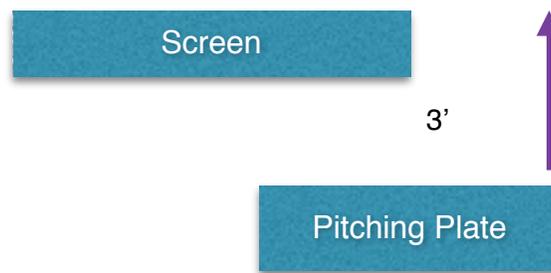
Smoking. Smoking is prohibited within all Sun City facilities (SCSCAI Rules and Regulations Article IV.A.1). For the Pinnacle Field, the Club Board has designated the playing field within the perimeter fence, both dugouts, the stands, the walking track, and the restrooms as part of our facility. Smoking is not permitted within 50 feet of any part of this combined facility. Vaping is included in this rule.

Turf Care. Any activity that may damage the turf is not allowed. Specifically, spitting tobacco, sunflower shells, or chewing gum on the turf is not allowed.

Intentional Walks. Walking any player intentionally should be kept to a minimum and should only be done in **obviously** sound tactical situations. Managers shall discriminately employ this tactic only in key situations (i.e., 1st base open, tying or winning run in position, or final inning, etc.) and NOT in retaliation for an earlier base on balls. If a league Commissioner and a majority of its Managers believe that the rule is being violated, the Club Board will consider additional walk restrictions for the remainder of the season.

Mask. All pitchers shall wear a mask when pitching. Shin guards are recommended.

Pitching Screen. The pitching screen shall be used by all pitchers. The screen shall be placed 3 feet in front of the forward pitching plate and its right edge (facing home plate) centered on the front pitching plate.



Warm-Ups. To help keep games on schedule, pitchers will be allowed up to 5 practice pitches before the first inning. After that, no more than 3 practice pitches for each following inning. After the first inning there will be no infield practice between innings.

Safety First. In the event of an on-field injury, umpires may halt play immediately to assess the situation and allow aid to a player(s) and later determine the appropriate outcome of the play once the injury is resolved.

American League

Substitutions. If a team is short players, they may recruit a player of similar skill level from the American League bye team to bring its game roster to 11 players for a game. For this purpose, each team shall have its roster players rated within "A", "B", or "C" categories. The number in each category and player placement shall be designated by a Committee of the Team Managers under the American League Commissioner. Players may sub for a player within their category or a higher category. For example, a "B" player may sub for another "B" player or an "A" player, but not for a "C" player. If 2 or more players are missing, managers will sub for the lower category player(s). For example, if a team is missing a "B" and a "C" player and they only need one sub, the sub must come from the "C" pool of the bye team. If there are no AL players available to sub, game Managers may agree to recruit an NL player to sub.

Substitute Recruiting. Managers may not line up substitutes more than one week prior to a scheduled game. If both managers need an “A” player substitute for a game, they will confer ahead of time and work out an equitable substitution decision. If a conflict arises, the Commissioner shall resolve the issue.

“A” Player Exception. If a team is missing 2 “A” players, they may sub 1 “A” player from the bye team, even if they have 11 players without the “A” sub.

Batting Order. All present and able players shall be in the batting order. All substitutes shall be placed at the bottom of the order below all team roster players.

Number of Players. A normal defense will be 11 players in the field. If a team has more than 11 players, extra players shall be rotated defensively with each playing a minimum of 5 innings in the field. If one or both teams cannot field 11 defensive players, the managers will determine the number of field players for both teams, with 9 being the minimum. If a team cannot field at least 6 of its own roster players, the game will be rescheduled per the common make-up rule.

Home Runs - One-Up Rule. The first team to hit a home run in a game cannot hit another that game until the opposing team hits a matching home run. If a player hits a home run while his team is “one-up”, it shall count as a SINGLE and all base-runners will advance only one base.

Substitute Runners. Substitute runners may enter the game for a player who safely reaches a base. Players may only substitute once in an inning and no more than twice in a game. Illegal substitute running will result in an out being called.

Runners from Home. If a player is injured during a game, but remains in the game, he may have a substitute runner from home for the rest of that game. The opposing manager shall select the substitute runner. If that substitute runner’s turn at bat comes up while on base, he shall be replaced on that base and take his turn at bat.

Sliding. Players may slide only into second and third base, although they may slide into first only to avoid a potential collision with a fielder. Players may slide back into any base to avoid a tag. Sliding will not be allowed into the home plate area.

National League

First Base Outs. A batter may be thrown out at first base from the outfield unless the batter is 80 years of age or older.

Infielder Position. Infielders may not position themselves within or in front of the baselines before the ball is hit. Infielders may play on the outfield grass.

150’ Line. Outfielders must stay beyond the 150 foot marker until the ball is hit. If the 5th run of an inning is on 3rd base with less than two outs the outfielders may play anywhere on the outfield grass and may be brought in to serve as additional infielder(s).

Substitute Runners. Substitute runners may be utilized on any base, including running from home plate. Players may only serve as a substitute runner once per inning. If a substitute

runner's time at bat comes while he is on base, a new runner will replace the substitute, who will bat without an out being called. Runners from home must remain behind the running line until the batter makes contact with the ball.

Sliding. Sliding will not be allowed. A runner will be called out if he slides into a base. Runners must try to avoid contact with a fielder by veering to the side of the fielder to avoid a collision.

Substitute Players. If a team cannot field 11 of its own players, they may arrange substitute players from the bye teams. Managers will seek substitute players of similar skill level and not improve their teams through substitution. If the opposing team has more than 11 players, the managers will negotiate a reasonable substitute to bring the short team up to 11 players. Next priority will be NL spectator/players of similar skill level of the missing player. If necessary to complete a game, AL players may be used as agreed to by both managers.

Excess Players. When there are 24 or more roster players available for the game then each team will play with 12 fielders. Extra players may be positioned anywhere on the field consistent with above position restrictions.

Batting Order and Minimum Innings. All present and able players will be in the batting order and must play a minimum of 3 innings on defense.

Umpires. NL games will be officiated by at least one umpire from the AL, who will be the home plate umpire.