

**WOODBRIIDGE SENIOR SOFTBALL CLUB**  
**SILVER SLUGGER PLAYING RULES/RULE EXCEPTIONS**

**March, 1, 2022**

**Games of the Woodbridge Senior Softball Club (WSSC) are played under the rules of the Senior Softball ASA (USA-Softball) rules with the following exceptions:**

1.     **2nd & 3rd base and home plate** The force-out rule will be in effect on all plays where the runner is attempting to advance whether or not the runner is forced by a trailing runner. **(2nd & 3rd base)** Once a runner has established reaching the base safely by running to the stop zone, they are now protected. Should the runner beat the throw to the base and then come off the stop zone area, the runner is in jeopardy of being called out if tagged or fielder steps on the base. If the runner touches the base and continues or rounds the base with what the umpire believes to be an intent to advance to the next base, the runner is not protected and may be put out if the defensive player tags the runner or the base prior to the runner returning to the base. If the runner retreats for any reason toward the base last occupied, the force play is in effect and they may be put out if the defensive player tags the runner or the base to which the runner is returning. The runner is committed to returning to the last base that he is retreating to and must touch it before advancing to the next base. If the defensive player catches the ball and touches the bag while the runner is advancing toward the bag, the runner is out. Note: A commit line is used between 3rd base and home plate. (There is no "run down" or "pickle" on the part of the runner.) (Rules 1.26 and 8.6).

2.     **Turf shoes or shoes with rough rubber soles are strongly encouraged.** No flat rubber shoes or open toe shoes allowed.

3.     **Courtesy or Pinch Runner:** Must report to and be acknowledged by the home plate umpire who, in turn, reports it to the Score Booth. Irregularity with any runner is relayed from the Score Booth to the home plate umpire and coaches.

**Home plate:** A Courtesy Runner will be allowed for any batter who requests one. Courtesy Runner cannot advance beyond first base on any fairly hit ball, including an overthrown ball. Any existing base runner(s) may advance as far as possible at their own risk. After Courtesy Runner is established at first base, they may advance as far as possible at their own risk on any ball hit by the following batter(s).

For a Courtesy Runner from home plate, a rope/tennis ball tether attached at the mid-backstop screen shall be used. Courtesy Runner may drop the tethered ball on batter's contact with the ball. **Note:** CR leaving early from home: 1st time warning, 2nd time batter is out.

**On Base:** Base runners must agree, if asked, to be replaced with a pinch runner. Coaches must accept the base runners decision to run or not. Base runner can request a pinch PR anytime.

4. **If any base runner slides or dives into any base**, the base runner shall be declared out and the umpire will call a dead-ball time out.
5. **With 12 defensive players, outfielders (OFers) and short-fielder (SFer)**: Configuration shall be at least 4 OFers behind the 170' line and no more than 2 SFers in front of 170' line and no closer than the infield dirt until contact with the ball is made. Switching between OFers and SFer may be done between at bats.
6. **With 11 defensive players, outfielders (OFers) and short-fielder (SFer)**: Configuration shall be at least 4 OFers behind the 170' line and no more than 1 SFer in front of 170' line and no closer than the infield dirt until contact with the ball is made. Switching between OFers and SFer may be done between at bats.
7. **With 10 defensive players**: No short fielders allowed. All 4 OFers need to remain behind the 170' line until contact with the ball is made.
8. **With 9 defensive players**, 170' line is disregarded and outfield configuration is a decision of the Coach.
9. **Infielder or Outfielder Encroachment**: If an infielder encroaches in front of the base line, an outfielder encroaches in front of the 170' arc, or a short-fielder encroaches on infield dirt before contact with ball and catches the ball, a dead ball will be declared, batter awarded first base and any runner already on base, who may be forced to advance, will be allowed to do so. Infielders must play on the infield and outfielders and short fielders must play on the grass.
10. **Short-fielder is not allowed to cover 2B**, but they can still make throws to 2nd and 3rd base.
11. **Outfielder and Short-fielders**: No batted balls thrown directly to 1B. However, Infielders can still run out onto grass and make throws to 1B.
12. **WSSC SENIOR BAT RULE (PLAYERS 70 OR OLDER)**:  
For WSSC softball games played at Woodbridge (Del Webb Field), players 70 years of age (70 within the calendar year) and older may purchase and use these bats. All Senior Bats must be marked by GREEN TAPE by the umpires. It is the responsibility of the Manager/Coach/Assistant Coach to verify that the players are eligible to use these bats. At the beginning of each game, the Manager/Coach/Assistant Coach shall notify the home plate umpire which players will be using the Senior Bats. Any softball player younger than 70 years of age who knowingly uses the Senior Bat and makes contact with the ball, putting the ball in play, will be called out. If the ball is not been hit and put in play, only a WARNING shall be issued.

11. **Balls:** All softballs used on Dell Webb Field at Woodbridge must be 12", 375 lbs., and .44 or less COR, not to exceed the current maximums.
12. **First Base -- Run-through line:** (No Orange bag) A line starting 2 feet right of the bag and extending out 2 1/2 feet long. Whenever a play is being made on the batter-runner, the defense must use the White base and the batter-runner must use the run-through line. Runner will be called out if they touch the base when there is a play at 1B.
13. **FLIP-FLOP RULE:** The "Flip-Flop" Rule shall be instituted at the end of 6 innings should the **VISITOR** team have a lead of 10 or more runs than the **HOME** team. [This rule may be instituted at any time during a game with the agreement of both Coaches.]
14. **PITCHERS:** Wearing a face guard and shin guards is mandatory; wearing a chest protector is optional. [Each team has a chest protector available.] A Pitching Screen is optional.
15. **PITCHERS NET OPTIONAL:** However, if a pitcher does decide to use the pitching net to start the game they must continue to use it for the remainder of the game. If a pitcher is using the pitching net they will NOT be permitted to touch a batted ball. If the pitcher touches a batted ball, before anyone else on the defense, it will be considered "Dead Ball" and the batter will be awarded first base. If a batter hits the pitching net it will be considered a foul ball/ strike. In the case where the batter has two strikes and hits the pitching net they will be granted one more "free foul". If batter has two strikes and then hits the pitching net two more times they will be called out, dead ball, base runners cannot advance.
16. **CATCHERS:** Wearing a face guard is mandatory.
17. **POOL PLAYERS "ONLY" ARE NOT ALLOWED:** To be eligible as a Pool Player, a player must be currently active on a Silver Sluggers team. Players can play on the Wildcats team and/or Wolverines team without playing on a Silver Sluggers team, but cannot be a Pool Player.
18. **If a player quits a Silver Sluggers team:** They will not be allowed to play again that year.
19. **Bats throw toward dugout will not be allowed**
20. **95 DEGREES or AIR QUALITY RULE:** Score Booth will monitor both the temperature and air quality. Score Booth notifies home plate umpire when temperature reaches 92 degrees or air quality exceeds the 145 index reading. Home plate umpire then informs both Coaches. Once temperature reaches 95 degrees or 150 air quality index, no new full inning shall begin. Use of the "Flip-Flop" Rule is waived, unless "Flip-Flop" Rule is instituted before 95 degrees or 150 air quality index is reached.
21. **STOP ZONES for 2B and 3B:** Stop zones Left and Right of 2nd and 3rd bases. Parallel lines in front and back of bases extending out 4 feet on each side. Runner must stop on or between these lines. If a runner touches the base while a play is being made at the base they will be call out.

## **RULE CLARIFICATIONS**

**A)UMPIRE TIME OUT SITUATIONS:** Only the umpires may call "Time Out". Any player in a game may request the umpire to call a "Time Out". A "Time Out" is not assumed by a player, Manager or Coach and does not occur until the umpire grants the "Time Out".

**(B)DISPUTED CALLS:** Should warning a player be necessary, the team Manager or Assistant Coach should be informed first. Only the Team Manager may discuss disputed calls with the umpire. Any team member(s), including the Team Manager, who persists in complaining or arguing about an umpire's call, may be considered behaving in an unsportsmanlike manner and may be warned once. Any further discussion may result in ejection from the game.

If a Team Manager wants to discuss a call, the Manager must request and receive a "Time Out" from the home plate umpire. No discussions will be considered based solely on a decision involving the accuracy of judgment on the part of an umpire. Once a "Time Out" is granted, the Manager may then ask the umpire who made the call to consult with their fellow umpire(s). If the umpire feels another opinion is of value, they may ask for it. Under no circumstances can one umpire overrule another umpire's call without first requesting if they need assistance.

NOTE: An umpire is not obligated to discuss their call. The home plate umpire, however, shall have the authority to make the final decisions on any situations if first requesting assistance is granted and consultation takes place. Any further discussions on rule interpretations or other calls on the field must be held at the completion of the game.

**INCIDENT REPORTS:** It is the responsibility of the home plate umpire to write an incident report. These consist of reports on altercations, aggressive behavior, or ejections from a game. The home plate umpire will give a copy to the Operations Manager and to the Head Umpire for any appropriate follow-up action by the WSSC Discipline Committee.

**INJURY REPORTS:** It is the responsibility of the Team Manager or Assistant Coach to write injury reports. A copy of the report will be provided for the Head Umpire who, in turn, will provide a copy for the Operations Manager.

**SILVER SLUGGER SCHEDULED GAMES:** All games shall be 1-1/2 hours apart, no time limit, 7 innings, no extra innings. Number of innings played may be less with the consensus of both Coaches.

**DIAMOND GALS SCHEDULED GAMES:** All games shall be 1-1/2 hours apart, no time limit, 5-7 innings, no extra innings. Number of innings played is determined by consensus of both Coaches.

**OPENING DAY:** All games scheduled for 1 hour apart, no time limit, 5 innings, no extra innings.

Approved: 2/2022