

Florida First Coast Softball Rules

All Games are being played observing USSSA rules.

These rules can be viewed at: [ussa-slowpitch-2025-rulebook-final.pdf](https://www.ussa.com/~/media/USSSA/2025-Rulebook-Final.pdf)

We have highlighted some rules from the book below. We have also added some rule modifications below.

1. NO SMOKING of ANY KIND inside the park. If umpires catch someone smoking, vaping, cigars, etc.; they will have the authority to eject the player. If teams do not have a legal substitute the game will be forfeited ZERO TOLERANCE
2. 60 Minute Time Limit
3. Start with 1 and 1 Count, no courtesy foul, the NET is considered a foul. Hitting the net with two strikes on the batter, will result in an out.
4. Pitching Screen/NET must cover half of the pitching rubber. Pitchers are **NOT** allowed to be the first to make a play on a live ball. Pitchers can **NOT** catch fly balls, nor can they make a play on a slow grounder. If the pitcher is the first to touch a live ball the play will be called dead, and the batter will be awarded 1st Base.
5. Pitch height is 6-10 feet
6. Must toe the rubber
7. Pump Faking is allowed when pitching
8. At 1st Base, player must use safety bag if there is a play at 1st. If player uses wrong bag they will be ruled out. On any attempt to force the runner out at 1st base on the initial throw that pulls the defense off 1st base into foul ground, the defense and the runner may use either the white or orange portion of the base for safety purposes.
9. At Home plate there is a safety plate. Player must touch the safety plate before catcher catches the ball at home. It is ONLY a force out at home. Catcher must catch the ball before player steps on safety plate. NO TAGGING at Home and NO SLIDING at Home. Once a runner passes the commitment line, the runner cannot return to third base.
10. A **strike mat** will be used in all leagues, any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on any part of the PLATE or the MAT will be ruled a strike.
11. A batter must have some part of both feet touching the batter's box. When a batter makes contact, their back foot cannot be in front of the plate. Batter can NOT step in front of or on the plate/mat or they will be declared out.
12. Runners will be **ALLOWED** off the base if requested but must re touch before advancing to the next bag.

HOMERUNS

Homeruns allowed in each league can change from season to season based on the teams who sign up in our leagues. At the top of every schedule the homerun limits are listed for each division. **Women HRs in coed count towards team HR total.**

Sunday:

- Upper – 3 and an out
- Lower – 1 and an out

Tuesday Upper/Lower:

- Upper – TBD
- Lower – 3 and an IE

Monday:

Women's:

- TBD

Men's:

- TBD

Wednesday Coed:

- 3 and an out

Thursday:

- TBD

UMPIRES

FFC strives to provide the best umpiring experience you can have and in doing so we try to provide 2 umpires at all times if staffing permits. The fees per game for umpires are as follows:

\$31 Two Umpires (Each team pays one umpire \$24 and scorekeeper \$7)

\$23 One Umpire (Both teams pay one umpire \$16 and scorekeeper \$7)

All complaints filed on any of umpires **MUST BE IN WRITING.**

Please email: Mike@ffcsoftball.com.

PLAYER EJECTIONS

If a player is ejected by an umpire for any reason, the penalties will be as follows:

1st Offense- Suspended for two weeks and on probation for 12 months. A 2nd ejection during this probationary period will result in a 3-month suspension.

*If teams do not have a legal substitute the game will be forfeited.

EQUIPMENT

No Metal cleats

Any 220 or 240 USSSA Stamped Bats, **BANNED BATS ARE NOT ALLOWED**

For SENIOR LEAGUE ONLY: Senior Bats are allowed

Any Stamped Classic M or PRO M Ball for Men and any Stamped Classic W or PRO W for women. No ONYX Balls

RUNNERS

One runner per inning allowed, for coed one per gender per inning allowed. The player must be in the lineup or a legal substitution. If the player who ran is now up to bat, then the original player can return to the bases to run for themselves.

COED RULES

All Infielders must play on the brown color turf (or in the dirt at Ringhaver Park) when a female is up to bat. 4 outfielders must also be behind the 200' line when a female is up to bat. If a defender is in front of the line or not in the brown colored turf, they will be awarded first base.

LINEUPS

Men can bat up to 12 players in their starting lineup.

Wednesday and **Friday** Coed can bat up to 12 players in their starting lineup. No girls can touch in the starting lineup, and you cannot bat 3 guys in a row in the starting lineup. Teams must always have 4 females in the field. **One exception, a team can start with 9 players if short a FEMALE or MALE. That spot in the lineup will be considered an out.

6 males-4 females

6 males-5 females

7 males-5 females

Sunday Coed can bat up to 12 players in their starting lineup. No girls can touch in the starting lineup, and you cannot bat 5 guys in a row in the starting lineup. Teams must always have 3 females in the field. **One exception, a team can start with 9 players if short a FEMALE or MALE. That spot in the lineup will be considered an out.

7 males-3 females

8 males-3 females (ONLY on Sundays can you bat an extra guy without an extra female)

8 males-4 females

Teams that are short a female on Sundays may only bat a maximum of 9 players (10 if female arrives late) They can NOT bat the extra guy if missing 3rd female. (7 males/2 females)

Exceptions: If a player cannot continue to play due to an injury and the team does not have a substitute then the game is not a forfeit, it will just be an out in the lineup each time the injured player comes up to bat. If a player is ejected, then the team must have a legal substitute for the game to continue. If the team does not have a legal substitute, then the game will be over.

ROSTERS

Rosters must be turned in EACH season to be eligible to play in the end of season tournament. ONLY Rostered players are eligible to play in the end of season tournament. Players are eligible to play in ONLY one MEN'S end of season tournament each season.

RAIN

Cancellation Hotline 904-255-7945

FFC will attempt to notify teams to the best of their ability as soon as the decision is made to cancel games. Emails will be sent to the coaches, or the hotline will be updated depending on the time of cancellation.

If games start and rain is in the immediate forecast, umpires will discuss with the coaches at the coaches meeting if they would like to attempt to play. If the game starts, the umpires will be authorized to keep their money. If both coaches decide not to play the umpires will not get paid and no game will be played.

If active rain occurs after the start of the first games the umpires are required to wait 10 MINUTES to see if rain will stop. Only exception, if torrential rain occurs quickly and the Outfields have standing water then the games can be called prior to the 10-minute wait.

OFFICIALS FEES: Each team manager will be responsible for paying game officials before each game is played. Each game will be assigned two (2) umpires and one (1) scorekeeper

Slow Pitch Softball:

\$24 per game for umpire and

\$7 per game for scorekeeper

If a game has only one umpire, each team pays the umpire \$16.

NOTE: Personal Checks **will not** be accepted by the umpire and scorekeeper. Game fees for umpires and scorekeeper subject to change with written notification. Game will be forfeited if a team fails to pay an umpire or scorekeeper **before** each game. Please have exact amount due for umpire fees. Three forfeits will call for expulsion from league play.

GENERAL LEAGUE MEETING INFORMATION

1. **Important Note:** Once the schedules have been completed and published there will be no refunds processed due to facility, field, or game time assignment. There will be a \$30 administration fee applied to all refunds processed.
2. **Placement Policy:** No guarantee will be granted to any teams regarding placement at any softball complex or field, or playing times for league play. Florida First Coast Softball, Inc. reserves the right, with or without the concurrence of the managers in each league, to do one of the following in the interest of balanced competition and sports promotion generally: (1) refuse an entry; (2) place a team(s) in a league of higher or lower classification.
3. **Managers' responsibilities:**
 - Ensure all team players are familiar with the playing rules & regulations.
 - Ensure all team players are at least 18 years of age to play and has signed the Waiver, Release of Liability, and Indemnification Agreement Roster.
 - Control the behavior of their players and fans. Managers are responsible for all acts of unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - Furnish FFC Softball a valid email address. ***All correspondence from FFC Softball will be via email.***
4. **Number of Games Played:** Each team will play approximately **10 to 12 games** during the season, depending on the number of teams in the league and weather conditions permitting. **Sunday Co Ed** and other one-night-a-week leagues will play **6 to 8 games** during the season weather conditions permitting.
5. **Game Times:** Weekday games start at **6:45 p.m.** but may vary from league to league. Game times occasionally change in the schedule and double headers may be added to make up canceled games. Team managers are responsible for checking schedules before each game and make notes on the schedule anytime you receive makeup-game information. **Sunday Co Ed** games will start at **4 p.m.** except when tournaments are being hosted at game site they may begin at **5 or 6 p.m.** **NOTE:** A team that is not ready to start on time will forfeit the game.