

# 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/usa-slowpitch-2025-rulebook-final.pdf)

**We have highlighted some rules from the book below**

**We have also added some rule modifications below**

## **LEAGUE RULES (Senior League rules are separate from these rules)**

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

60 Minute Time Limit

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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> Base.

Pitch height is 6-10 feet

Must toe the rubber

Pump Faking is allowed when pitching

At 1<sup>st</sup> Base, player must use safety bag if there is a play at 1<sup>st</sup>. If player uses wrong bag they will be ruled out. On any attempt to force the runner out at 1<sup>st</sup> base on the initial throw that pulls the defense off 1<sup>st</sup> base into foul ground, the defense and the runner may use either the white or orange portion of the base for safety purposes.

At Home plate there is a safety plate/line. Player must touch the safety plate/line before catcher catches the ball at home. It is **ONLY** a force out at home. Catcher must catch the ball and be standing on the **WHITE** part of the mat before player steps on safety plate/line. **NO TAGGING** at Home and **NO SLIDING** at Home. Once a runner passes the commitment line, the runner cannot return to third base.

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.

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.

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.**

Monday Men's 1 HR

Tuesday OR Thursday Men's 1A 3 HR

Women's 3 HR

Wednesday Coed 3 HR

Tuesday or Thursday Men's 2A 6 HR

Friday Coed 1-3 HR

Sunday Coed 1-3 HR

## **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:

\$26 Two Umpires (Each team pays one umpire \$20 and scorekeeper \$6)

\$20 One Umpire (Both teams pay one umpire \$14 and scorekeeper \$6)

All complaints filed on any of umpires MUST BE IN WRITING. Please email [floridafirstcoastsoftball@gmail.com](mailto:floridafirstcoastsoftball@gmail.com)

## **PLAYER EJECTIONS**

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense- Suspended for two weeks and on probation for 12 months. A 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **ANIMALS**

NO Dogs allowed inside park