

# Venice Senior Softball 65+ (Thursdays)

## League Rules

Updated 3/16/2026

### 1. Games

- a. Typically start is 8:30am during Summer and Fall seasons, and 9:00am during Winter season. See online schedule for changes/exceptions.
- b. Games are 7 innings unless shortened by rain, in which case, a complete game will be ruled after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if home team is leading).
- c. There will be a 15 run "Mercy Rule" after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if home team is leading).
- d. If tied after 7 innings, the runner who made the last out will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base to begin the inning. A pinch runner may be inserted.

### 2. League Officials

- a. League officials consist of the league commissioner and all the team managers.
- b. The league rules and any exceptions can only be made by league officials.

### 3. Teams

- a. There will be 12 players on a roster.
- b. All players must bat and play a minimum of 2 innings on defense.
- c. Teams are expected to field 12 players each week but may play with no less than 10.
- d. Players arriving late for a game may be inserted into the game. The late player must be added to the end of the lineup, and may bat or play field first.

### 4. Substitutes

- a. Only players in the league or on the Reserve List are eligible to play.
- b. Substitute players will be selected from the bye team. If no bye team player of similar rating is available, then a player from the Reserve List can be selected.
- c. Player substitutes will be finalized by team managers and pick order will be based on league standings.
- d. Substitute players are made based on the following:
  - Line #1 or #2 subs may be picked up from line #1 and lower.
  - Line #3, #4, or #5 subs may be picked up from line #3 and lower.
  - Bracket 2 subs may be picked up from bracket 2 or lower.
  - Bracket 3 subs may only be picked up from bracket 3 only.

- e. No player can be added to a roster without league officials' approval.
- f. League players are rated according to draft order and all other players will be rated by the league officials.

## 5. Pitching

- a. The 6-to-12 foot arc will be used and an illegal pitch should be called when the arc exceeds these guidelines. The illegal pitch call should be made prior to the pitch hitting the plate mat or crossing the plate.
- b. The pitcher must pitch from the rubber.
- c. The pitching screen is mandatory and can be placed up to 5 feet in front of the pitching rubber and must cover a minimum of half of the pitching rubber.
- d. After the pitch is released, the pitcher must go completely behind the screen until the ball is hit. He may then attempt to field the ball.
- e. If in the umpire judgement, the pitcher does not go behind the screen, he can issue a warning to the pitcher. On a second offense in the same inning, the umpire will call or signal "Delayed Dead Ball" if swung at, and the batter has the option of taking the result of the play, or batting over again with the same count.

## 6. Hitting

- a. Each batter begins with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.
- b. There are no courtesy foul balls. Therefore, a foul ball after the batter previously had a 2-strike count would result in an out.
- c. A batted ball that hits the screen is considered a strike, and is therefore, an out if the batter previously had a 2-strike count.

## 7. Pinch Runners

- a. Any player can pinch run at any time, but only once per inning (with the exception of rule 7.b. below).
- b. Any player that is replaced by a pinch runner is not eligible to be a pinch runner for the remainder of that inning.
- c. The "Rabbit Runner" allows a designated runner to start 3 feet behind the catcher and advance only upon a hit ball. The runner cannot advance to 2nd base unless it is a ground-rule double. The runner is considered a courtesy runner once a pitch is thrown, and cannot be used for the rest of that inning.  
*\* A doctor's note is required for the batter that is using the runner.*

## **8. Veer Rule**

- a. Any base runner approaching a fielder attempting to throw in order to complete a force out should veer out of the baseline so as not to impede the throw.
- b. If, in the umpire's judgement, the runner did not veer and the throw as unable to be made, both the runner and the runner closes to home shall be ruled out.
- c. If the runner veers and the ball is dropped or bobbled, then it's the umpire's judgement on whether to declare the runner safe.

## **9. Fielding**

- a. A thrown ball that hits the screen remains live.

## **10. Infield Fly Rule**

- a. The infield fly rule is suspended and will not be used in the Venice 65+ League.

## **11. Officiating**

- a. The at-bat team must supply a plate and base umpire.
- b. The home plate umpire is responsible for calls at home and 3<sup>rd</sup> base, fair/foul balls calls, and fly outs.
- c. The base umpire is responsible for calls at 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base and may assist the home plate umpire on any close plays.
- d. Umpire calls are final and can be discussed by managers and umpires only.
- e. If either umpire cannot make a call because he didn't see it, he can confer with the other umpire.

## **12. Unsportsman Like Conduct**

- a. Any physical confrontations will result in immediate removal from the game being played plus the next 2 scheduled games for the players involved.
- b. These issues will be reviewed by the league officials and may result in longer/shorter suspensions.
- c. Questionable umpire decisions will be discussed by managers only.
- d. All others abusing these decisions will be subject to suspension which will be determined by the league officials.

## **13. Player Leaves the Game**

- a. Any player ejected from the game will have their at-bat in the batting order result in an out for the remainder of the game.
- b. Should a player be unable to continue for any other reason (injury, health, prior commitment, etc.) they will take an out for their next at-bat only and then be skipped in the batting order in subsequent at-bats.

**14. All Other Rules.**

- a. The SSUSA Senior Softball rule book applies with exception to the above rules.
- b. Controversies will be resolved by the league officials.
- c. The Flip Flop book rule is in effect.