

SFMSA Adult League Playing Rules/Exceptions

All USA Softball Rules apply with the following League exceptions that are in effect for 2022:

- **Time Limit:** All games have a time limit of **65** minutes.
 - Playoff games have a time limit of 80 minutes with a winner.
 - Championship games have no time limit.

- **Grace Period** of 15 minutes from the start of original game time. When utilized, the Grace Period is part of the 65-minute game.

- **Mercy Rule**

Regular Season games is **15** runs with the following scenarios: Drop Dead at 60 minutes when one team is ahead 15 runs; or after 5 innings of play (4 1/2 if the home team is winning), whichever comes first.

Playoff and Championship games:

Mercy Rule: 20 runs at 70 minutes. Complete the full inning if the home team is losing.

NO DROP DEAD Rule! Must have a winner!

- **Courtesy Runners (CR)**

- 1) Anyone on the line-up card (including substitutes) can be the CR.
- 2) CR must be of the same gender in the Co-Ed games.
- 3) Only 1 CR per 1/2 inning.
- 4) If a CR is used and his/her turn is up to bat: Remove the runner from the base and an out is to be declared. The removed runner will now take his/her turn at bat.
- 5) CR is to be used for the batter-runner only: The batter-runner must reach first base or subsequent bases on their own before a courtesy runner can be granted. The CR must be put in promptly. He/she has up until the next pitch is made (legal or illegal) to enter the game.

- **MODIFIED CO-ED**

- 1) A team consists of 10 players, 6 males and 4 females.
- 2) A team may begin the game using the short-handed rule of a minimum of 9 players of which must be **only** of these 2 combinations: 6 males and 3 females, or 5 males and 4 females. When the late player arrives, he/she must enter the game immediately in the last spot of the batting order. Until the 10th player shows up, the last spot will be an automatic out.
- 3) A team may not bat 3 males consecutively. When a team starts the game shorthanded with only 9 players and the shorthanded spot (10th batter) is a male, the manager or team captain **should rearrange the lineup card before the start of the game to assure that there are not 3 males batting consecutively. If a male does bat in the 10th spot with the 8th and 9th spots being males, the effect would be the male in the 10th spot is not allowed to bat. An automatic out is to be declared in that spot; however, that male player may still play defense (field).**
- 4) When using EP's, the lineup of 12 players shall consist of 7 males and 5 females, no deviation to this combination. When an EP needs to be dropped, both EP's, one of each gender must be dropped following each other; thus 6 males, 4 females.
- 5) All Modified CO-ED lineup cards must have indication of "M" (male), or "F" (female) listed next to each player's name.

- **Bats**

COMPOSITE bats can only be used in the 'Open C'. These bats are to be checked in accordance with the USA Softball Bat Guidelines. **All** bats must bear the ASA or USA Softball certified logos and must be on a list of approved bat models published by USA Softball; or must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the USA Softball Bat Performance Standard. This includes wooden bats. Bats on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks **cannot** be used.

NOTE: Currently, composite bats are not allowed for SFMSL play as there are no Open "C" and above teams in the league.

- **Line-Up Cards and Result Sheet**

- 1) Must indicate the starting and ending times of each game on the top left-hand corner of the line-up card.
- 2) Complete the line-up card with the correct score and winner.
- 3) Note any ejection, protest, forfeit, and suspension of game information on line-up card.
- 4) Transfer all correct information to the Result Sheet.
- 5) Take a picture of the Result Sheet for your use when making your report.

- **Suspension of Game**

You must record the following on the Line-up Cards and Result Sheet:

- 1) Scores: which team is ahead
- 2) What inning when the game got suspended
- 3) Which batter is up to bat
- 4) How many outs
- 5) Runners on and which bases
- 6) How much time is left in the game