



## Men's & Women's Senior Program Rules

Policy & Procedure 0039K

### Sec. 1 – USSSA

All playing rules not specifically covered here in this policy and procedure shall be governed by the USSSA rule book, as outlined in rules one through ten.

### Sec. 2 – Age Requirements:

If the player reaches the listed age during the calendar year, he would be eligible to play in that division.

Men's: 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ & 70+

Women's: 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+

### Sec. 3 – Divisions of Play and Home Run Rules:

A. There will be 6 divisions of Men's play: There is one division of Women's play.

#### B. Men's Home Run Limits

1. Senior Major Fifteen (15) per game
2. Senior A Eight (8) per game
3. Senior B Six (6) per game
4. Senior C Four (4) per game
5. Senior D Two (2) per game
6. Senior E Zero (0) per game

NOTE: Each Home Run that exceeds the limit in the Senior B and above Divisions will result in a dead ball single. Each Home Run that exceeds the limit in the Senior C and below Divisions will result in an out. (Optional for State Programs).

C. Any player currently listed on the USSSA Major Player List or Major Player Watch List is only eligible to play in the Senior B and above Divisions.

### Sec. 4 – Rules of the Game:

A. The game may start and finish with a minimum of nine players; however, an out shall be declared when the tenth position in the lineup is scheduled to bat. A tenth player may be added in the tenth position, any time before the end of the game. A team may bat the entire roster that is present, and play any ten defensively, with the batting lineup staying the same. If a player leaves the game when he is due to bat, an out will be declared. If a team starts with ten players, they are not allowed to add any players to the batting order once the game has started.

- B. With the exception of World Tournaments, a time limit may be used in round robin or bracket play. When a time limit is used, and the time expires, that inning will be completed and one additional inning played. The time limit in this program is 1:15.
- C. Teams are limited to five runs per inning, except for the final inning, which is unlimited. The umpire shall announce the final inning.
- D. A team shall be awarded a win by the Run Ahead Rule if they are ahead by 15 runs, after five complete innings.
- E. A scoring plate will be used. The scoring plate shall be located with its right corner eight feet from the back of home plate. The scoring plate should be situated on the imaginary extension of the first base foul line. If possible, the scoring plate should be anchored to the ground to prevent slippage and change of position during the game. The offensive team must always touch the scoring plate when scoring. NOTE: If a scoring home plate is not available, the first base foul line shall be extended behind home plate and the runner will run past in lieu of touching a scoring plate.

If the runner touches home plate, the runner is automatically out. The defensive team must always touch home plate for the out. If there is an attempt to tag the runner, by the defensive team, the runner is automatically safe.

- F. A home plate commitment line will be used. The commitment line shall be marked perpendicular to the 3rd base foul line, 20 feet from the home plate. Once a runner steps on or past the commitment line, defensive players can put the runner out by touching home plate while holding the ball. They cannot touch the runner.
- G. A strike zone mat will be used. The mat will be 17 inches wide and 24 inches long, measured from the end of the mat to the tip of each side that abuts the backside of home plate. The end of the mat that abuts home plate shall have a 'V' shaped notch that will conform to the outline of the backside of the plate. Together, home plate and the strike zone mat will form a rectangular shape, 17 inches by 32 ½ inches. Any legal pitch that hits the plate or the mat, shall be ruled a strike.
- H. The pitched ball must arc at least six feet from the ground, but not more than ten feet from the ground after leaving the pitcher's hand, and before it passes any part of home plate.
- I. A safety base is mandatory (see rule 2, sec 6 note, of the USSSA handbook).
- J. In the Men's & Women's 65 and older programs, a team may use 11 defensive players.
- K. Sliding or diving headfirst is not allowed when going to first base or home plate. The runner would be ruled out. Sliding or diving headfirst is allowed when returning to first base, or at any time involving second or third base.

## Sec. 5 – Pitching Screen (Optional for Tournament and League play)

- A. If used, the pitching screen will be placed in front of the pitcher. The screen must be a minimum of 6'6" high, and 3'6" wide. The screen must be at least 47 feet from home plate. NOTE: Wilson Sporting Goods has developed a specific Pitching Screen for USSSA Senior Play.
1. If the batted ball hits the screen for the first time in an at bat, it becomes a dead foul ball. If the batted ball hits the screen for a second time, it is a dead ball out.
  2. If the pitcher is not behind the screen, and becomes hit, it is a live ball. An out is determined only when the ball hits the screen.
- B. If a pitchers screen is NOT used, the pitcher is required to wear protective head gear. Head gear must include face mask.

## Sec 6 – Courtesy Runner

A courtesy runner may be used at any time. The courtesy runner may be any player on the team roster. The same runner may not be used more than once per inning. Any runner caught running more than once per inning, will be declared out. Any runner on base at the time of his at bat, comes off the base for an out, and resumes his spot in the order.

## Sec 7 – Softballs and Bats

- A. USSSA approved Senior Softball Bat Manufacturers are listed on the USSSA Website. As of December 1, 2013, the following Licensed Softball Manufacturers are approved for Senior Play (40 and above):
- COMBAT
  - EASTON
  - GSC
  - HILLERICH & BRADSBY/LOUISVILLE SLUGGER
  - MIKEN
  - RAWLINGS
  - WILSON/DEMARINI
  - WORTH

Any manufacturer approved after this date will be listed on the USSSA website. Senior bats will be marked as a senior bat and do not require the USSSA logo.

- B. Senior play may also include bats that are marked 1.20 with the approved USSSA bat logo.
- C. Senior play will use the Classic M softball for Men's play and Classic W softball for Women's play. USSSA approved Softball Manufacturers are listed on the USSSA website.