

4S Ranch Adult Co-ed Softball Rules
Fall 2022

9/14/22 THIS DRAFT REFLECTS THE RULES AS DISCUSSED WITH MANAGERS ON THE ZOOM. After approval of the Commissioner, only their order will change in the final version.

The Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation (SCMAF) Rulebook will be used with the local rule additions and deletions as listed below.

1. Anyone who has reached their 21st birthday may play.
2. TEAM PLAYER LIMIT RULE. 20 players per team except in the case when players get hurt and need to be replaced. However, if that player returns from injury, then the replacement player is no longer eligible if he/she takes the team over 20 players.
3. REPLACEMENT PLAYER RULE. This rule only allows players who are on the original roster and have played at least a third of the season's games to participate in the playoffs. This rule is simply to discourage adding players in the playoffs for the purpose of winning the championship. The only exceptions are as follows: a). If a player(s) gets hurt and you need to replace them; b). If a player gets hurt and comes back from injury, he or she will be allowed to rejoin the team, c. If the player is a female and you need to satisfy the coed rule.
4. A maximum of 10 defensive players on the field (at least three must be women), down to a minimum of 7 players (at least two must be women). Regarding the minimum number of women playing, any of these configurations are permitted: 3 women/7 men (10 total); 3 women/6 men (9 total); 2 women/6 men (8 total); 2 women/5 men (7 total).
5. At least 3 females on field defense, otherwise, the team must play a man short. At least 2 females are required to be in the infield/catcher. If there is only one woman present, or none, the game is a forfeit.
6. Every 4th batter needs to be a female, or an out will be called. Additionally, if all women are on base, so there is no woman available to be a courtesy runner, then that at-bat shall be an out.
7. CASUAL PROFANITY RULE: The umpire has the authority to assess ONE OUT against the offending team who uses profanity/expletives (Vulgar or Profane Language) directed at umpires, opposing players, uttered by a player, manager, coach, on the field or individual within the dugout involved with the play of the team, frustrated with themselves, a teammate or fan. All outs will be assessed against the offending team during their term at bat. Only ONE "Casual Profanity" out may be assessed per play with a maximum of two per term at bat. Any player exceeding these limits will be ejected from the game.
8. If a team does not call or notify the Commissioner by 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before game day, that they will not be able to play (no show/no call) they will forfeit AND pay a \$25 fine to the team they forfeited to before their next game. Two forfeits and your team will be released from the league with no refunds.
9. Game clock shall start at scheduled game time. There will be a 15-minute courtesy waiting period to get the player minimum of seven players; two of which must be women. If not, the game will be a forfeit. After a forfeit has been officially declared, the teams may use the balance of the remaining game time to play. This unofficial game will have an umpire.
10. Bunting is not allowed. Batters must take a full follow-through swing.

11. A fly ball over foul territory, caught by the catcher, is an out if the ball goes higher than the batter's head.
12. Ball is dead after it is popped up and hits the backstop.
13. It doesn't matter who is in the field or on the bench, everybody on the team should be in the batting lineup.
14. On defense, position players and bench players can be interchanged at any time during the game.
15. Three outfielders must be on the brown turf (150' from home plate) until the ball is hit. If playing with seven or eight, then two outfielders must be on the brown turf.
16. The rover position (4th outfielder) can play anywhere on the field behind the baselines when a male batter is up. When a female is batting, the rover must be a woman.
17. Home runs are fair fly balls that leave the field. Teams are allowed 3 home runs over the fence per game. Fly balls that hit the top of the fence, or contact a fielder, and continue over the fence are rules home runs. Every home run over the fence after the allowed 3 will be an out. In-the-parkers are not home runs.

Balls that bounce over the fence are ground-rule doubles.

1. Games are drop dead at 70 minutes after scheduled game time. Final score subject to revert back rule. This rule does NOT apply during playoffs.
2. Pitching is to the opposing team. The count begins at 1 ball and 1 strike for every batter.
3. The pitch must be delivered in an underhanded motion, with moderate speed, and have an arc to it. The ball must be higher than the batter's head and not be greater than 12 feet off the ground, as determined by the umpire. The umpire will call "illegal pitch", and if not struck at, it will be called a ball. The batter has the option to swing at the pitch, and the "illegal pitch" call will be ignored.
4. If the base runner touches/crosses the commit line, the runner is required to continue home in all circumstances. If the runner retreats back over the commit line, the runner is out.
5. Base runners can leave the base when the pitched ball crosses the plate, or the ball is hit.
6. Courtesy runners/Pinch runners must be the last out of the same gender. The pinch runner from home should not be standing closer to first base than the batter. The runner should be behind the batter and should not start to run until the ball is hit, where appropriate.
7. Base runners can overrun bases on a force play only. Base runners must be tagged if the play is not a force.
8. Rounding the base and overrunning the base are different. If the runner rounds the base, the runner can be tagged out only if the runner shows intent to advance.
9. Base runners must score by stepping on the alternate home plate. If the runner enters the batter's box, the runner is out.
10. Fielders get base runners out at home by holding the ball while on the regular home plate (not the mat). Home plate is always a force out. The runner is safe if the catcher makes a tag AFTER the runner crosses the commit line.
11. Always avoid collisions. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE RUNNER TO AVOID COLLISIONS.** Defenders should not block the bases or running lanes. If a defender is blocking a base, the runner should simply step adjacent to the base.
12. Sliding is not allowed. The base runner is out.
13. Diving (headfirst) is different than sliding; diving is allowed if the runner is retreating back to a base.
14. Infield fly rule applies. The ball is live!
15. Metal cleats are not allowed.
16. During playoffs, the higher seed shall be home.

17. Bats shall be ASA/USA approved, and not on the banned list (https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/build_batlist_w_pics_2000.asp). Use of an illegal bat shall be an out.
18. The batter will receive one warning if a bat is thrown on accident. The batter will be called out all times thereafter.
19. Verify with the umpire, the number of runs scored each inning.
20. A mercy rule is in effect. If the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs or more, at the end of the 3rd, or later inning, or the home team is ahead in their half of the 3rd, or later inning, the game is over. The score is final. However, play can continue until the 70-minute drop dead is reached. This additional play will have an umpire.
21. After batting, each team should verify with the umpire, the number of runs scored. The manager of the winning team is responsible for reporting the score on the Google Sheet page (to the league record keeper) within 2 business days.
22. If a team forfeits, the game will be recorded as a 0-15 loss against their record. A team can reschedule a game, but it must be completed before the end of the season. If the game is not played, it will not be counted on the record. This includes regular season and playoffs. If the championship game needs to be rescheduled, it should be played within a week of the scheduled game.
23. All managers should have a copy of the rules. If a dispute arises, the managers should meet with the umpire, who will make the final decision on all issues EXCEPT player eligibility. That decision lies solely with the commissioner.
24. PITCHING—height from head to 12 feet; no closer than 40' from back of home plate; pitching net (provided) is optional.
25. A pitching net (provided) is allowed with a maximum size of 4 feet by 7 feet (e.g., PowerNet I-Screen on Amazon). The purpose of the net is to give the pitcher a protected area to avoid being struck by a hit ball, therefore, a hit that MISSES THE NET AND CONTACTS THE PITCHER shall be a live ball. The pitching net is an extension of the pitcher and any hit contacting it is a dead ball (a line drive is a strike; a bounding ball is a “no pitch”; after two strikes, ANY hit contacting the pitching net is an out. The pitcher should do their best to help avoid the screen interfering with play.
26. For pitchers who do not use the pitching net, at the sole discretion of the umpire, any ball hit within reach shall be an out. Should a pitcher move sideways from where the pitch was released, BEFORE the ball is hit, this rule shall not apply.
27. During playoffs there shall be NO borrowing of male players.
28. Playoffs are determined in the following order:
 - Record
 - Head-to-head
 - Runs against
 - Coin toss

Notes:

1. Questions on the rules need to be discussed by the manager(s) with the umpire. This can be done at any time, but if possible, before the game is preferable.
2. The manager of the winning team should email the scores no later than Monday to Leticia Gomez who will manage the scores for the league. The email address is plaayscores@gmail.com. The league spreadsheet is located at: <https://goo.gl/p5trRT>
3. Music and music boxes are allowed at the games. Your music should be limited to your at-bat if the opposing team does not want to hear the music while they hit. Lower the volume if directed by the umpire.

4. Alcohol is permitted IN THE DUGOUT ONLY, not on the field or in the stands!!!! Glass must be removed and disposed of properly when the game is over. If this privilege is abused, it will be removed. Only rostered players in the dugout--NO PERSON UNDER 21 ALLOWED.
5. Be safe and respectful to everyone in attendance. Exude great sportsmanship and HAVE FUN!!!