

Sun City Peachtree Softball Club



2026 Local Rules for League Play

Adopted February 12, 2026

The Club Rules contained herein supplement and supersede the rules contained in the most recent edition of the **Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Rule Book**. Each individual league within the SCP Softball Club may in turn supplement or supersede Club Rules and certain SSUSA Rules for its own benefit prior to each season by written request to the [Club Rules Committee](#) prior to the start of the season.

[\[Changes in this edition are in blue\]](#)

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SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES IN THIS EDITION

The following recommendations were submitted by the Club Rules Committee and were approved by the Board at its meeting on February 12, 2026.

Section 1. CLUB RULES

- 1.1 Uniforms. Removed the ability to wear gray pants. They must be black or predominantly black.
- 1.2 Pitching Screen. Removed extraneous verbiage and reference to the “L” screen, which is not being used by any league. Removed reference to thrown balls, which is covered in the Ground Rules.
- 1.4 Game Participation. Implemented rule 1.4.b which establishes an “Injury Protocol”, specifying how game rosters and batting orders must be handled because of player injuries and their severity. Removed provision covering late-arriving players, which is covered in 1.5.
- 1.5 Substitute Players. Clarified specifications in 1.5.G explaining notification windows for substitute players, and how to handle roster players being available after a substitute was obtained. Removed provision requiring substitute players to sit defensively the same number of innings as roster players. Removed provision requiring substitute players be placed last in the batting order. Implemented requirement that substitute players MUST wear their own team jersey (or one assigned to sub pool) and NOT an extra/old jersey of the team they are subbing for.
- 1.6 Courtesy/Pinch Runners. Removed extraneous verbiage. Officially implemented the provision requiring courtesy runners take their place at the assigned base within 15 seconds.
- 1.7 Game Play. Standardized player count requirement verbiage across all leagues.
- 1.9 Flip-Flop Rule. Standardized run requirements (5) across all leagues.
- 1.10 Pitching. Added recommendation (not requirement) that pitchers use full-helmet masks and other protection.

Section 3. LADIES LEAGUE RULES

- A. Removed the written specification for 65-foot bases. This is a provision that already exists in the SSUSA rules for senior ladies.
- D. Removed the rule providing for assigning a defensive player from other teams if a shortage of players exists (the “Angel in the Outfield” rule). This was moved to the Board policy manual, as it is not really a playing rule but an optional league formation provision.
- F. Removed I-shaped pitching screen rule, as it is covered in club rules.
- G. Removed 8-run Flip-Flop rule, as it is now covered by the 5-run club rule.
- H. Implemented new rule governing how and when outfielders may participate in plays normally handled by infielders.
- M. Removed substitution notification rule, as it is now covered by a club rule.
- N. Removed mandatory secondary pitcher requirements. They are now optional at the discretion of the team manager.
- P. Removed requirements for sitting a substitute primary pitcher defensively, as it is no longer required for ANY substitute player to sit defensively.

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Section 4. MEN'S A-LEAGUE RULES

H. Removed Flip-Flop rule, as it is covered in club rules.

J. Removed I-shaped pitching screen rule, as it is covered in club rules.

K. Removed requirement for wearing black pants, as it is covered in club rules.

Section 5. MEN'S B-LEAGUE

A. Removed 65-foot base specifications. It will now revert to the SSUSA requirement for 70-foot bases.

H. Removed Flip-Flop rule, as it is covered in club rules.

I. Removed I-shaped pitching screen rule, as it is covered in club rules.

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SECTION 1 • CLUB RULES

1.1. UNIFORMS

All players on a team shall properly wear the league-provided jersey. In addition, athletic pants, athletic shorts, sweatpants or skorts in a **black (or predominantly black) color are required**. Players will be provided with one warning for uniform violations prior to being deemed ineligible to play.

1.2. PITCHING SCREEN

In the interest of safety, a pitching screen is **mandatory** for all pitchers. Pitchers are strongly urged to move and remain completely behind the screen after the pitch is released.

- A. The pitching screen must be placed entirely within the designated space that is marked directly in front of the pitching area. The midpoint of the screen can be moved no further left or right than the outer edge of the pitching box.
- B. A standard rectangular screen **will be used**. The ball must be pitched from the side corresponding to the pitcher's throwing arm (facing home plate).
- C. Any pitch delivered with the screen not in a legal position will be declared a "ball". If a pitcher refuses to place the screen in the correct position, the home plate umpire will notify the player's manager and remove the pitcher from the pitching position.
- D. After a legal delivery, a pitched ball that contacts any part of the pitching screen prior to reaching the batter will be considered a dead-ball illegal pitch and a "ball" shall be called on the batter.
- E. Any batted ball that strikes any part of the pitching screen prior to contacting a defensive player shall be ruled a dead-ball no-pitch.
- F. The screen shall not be moved or tipped over to facilitate defensive plays, including throws. If the screen is intentionally moved by the defense while the ball is in play and, in the umpire's judgment, interfered with the play, the umpire shall award such bases to runners as would have been reached had the screen not been moved.

1.3. BATS

The Club will furnish a wide variety of bats for member use. Members may also use personal bats.

- A. Safety is the highest priority for the Club, and **ALL** bats must meet the following four criteria before being eligible for use in any Club-sponsored activities (**games or practice**):
 - 1. **CERTIFICATION:** Bats must display a certification stamp for either the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) or USA Softball (USA).
 - 2. **COMPRESSION:** all bats will conform to the USA/ASA barrel compression standards for slow-pitch softball bats, which is a minimum of 1450 psi using a certified bat compression test (BCT). Alternatively, if the bat is of a non-linear construction and appears on the current USA Softball Certified Softball Bat exception list, that compression cutoff reading will determine if the bat is eligible for use.
 - 3. **SPECIFICATIONS:** no bat may exceed 34 inches in length nor 30 ounces in weight.
 - 4. **INTEGRITY:** bats will be free from unusual markings, cracks, or any other defects that might impact performance.

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The Club will inspect and test all newly acquired bats (Club and personal) and will mark all bats in such a manner to allow for umpires to readily identify approved bats. The club will provide the testing equipment and sufficient opportunities for members to have the inspection and compression test performed on personal bats prior to the beginning of club activities each year. In the absence of a defined periodic testing schedule, the Club reserves the right to implement a program to randomly test member bats. If a bat is deemed illegal for Club use, the member may provide a written appeal to the board providing documentation and proof of why the bat would still meet the safety standards set forth by USA/ASA.

- B. The head umpire or league coordinator has the prerogative to question the performance of any bat. If during game play, the bat will be immediately removed from play and given to a Board member for testing. The bat will be tested in a timely manner and a report of the results provided to the player. If the bat is found to not meet the minimum requirements of the Club, the member will be told the bat can no longer be used in Club-sponsored events. Any previous markings identifying the bat as approved will be removed.
- C. Other than grip tape, it is illegal to modify a bat once it leaves the manufacturer. Regardless of whether the modifications are made by retailers, distributors, third parties, or by the owner, altered bats are ILLEGAL for use in Club-sponsored practices, scrimmage games, league play, or tournaments. Modifications such as “shaving”, “corking”, additional “end-loading”, etc. are a potential danger.
- D. Any intentional attempt to use an illegally altered bat or one that has not been approved by the Club will result in an immediate forfeit by the player’s team if used during game play. The player will be immediately suspended for the remainder of the current season. Any subsequent attempt to use an illegal or non-approved bat will result in a 5-year (10-season) suspension from the Club.

1.4. GAME PARTICIPATION

- A. A player may not sit out of a game defensively for more than the number of innings as prescribed by each league. **EXCEPTION: a player under injury protocol (below).**
- B. Any player that leaves the field due to an injury or other medical condition will be immediately placed into an “injury protocol”, at which time the following procedures will be in effect:
 - 1. Any injury or condition severe enough to require the player to leave the ballpark for medical attention or to withdraw from the game will result in permanent removal from that game’s lineup. An out will be recorded only the first time the vacant position comes to bat.
 - 2. If the injury or condition is less severe but causes the player to miss his/her time at bat, an out will be recorded only the first time at bat.
 - 3. Any injury that forces a player to miss an inning defensively, or to miss a time at bat will require approval from the head umpire, in consultation with Club officials and/or the onsite medical team before they are permitted to re-enter the game. The player may only re-enter the game ONE time. If they are subsequently removed from the field due to the same or another injury, they will be permanently removed from the game, at which point an out will again be recorded the first time their spot in the lineup comes to bat.

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- C. A player included in the game-day lineup provided to the scorekeeper and/or opposing manager, arriving after play has begun, will be allowed to enter the game, provided the player arrives before his team's fourth inning at bat. The late arriving player shall bat in their position in the lineup. The missing player will be charged with an out for each at-bat prior to their arrival.
- D. Only players listed on the game-day lineup provided to the scorekeeper and/or opposing manager will be eligible to play.
- E. Violation of any game participation rule will result in a game forfeiture.

1.5. SUBSTITUTE PLAYERS

- A. All substitutes must be active members of the SCP Softball Association, registered for the current season, and either on an active team roster or a qualified member of an established substitute pool.
- B. A team is permitted to choose substitutes from the other teams or the substitute pool within the same league for players that are missing, at the manager's discretion. League rules specify at what point a manager may obtain a substitute and how many substitutes they may use for a game.
- C. Managers may select a substitute player from the same substitution group for which the missing player is slotted. If no player from that group is available, the manager may select from any group lower than the group of the player to be replaced. In no case shall a substitute player be chosen from a higher group than the player to be replaced.
- D. With Board approval, a league may implement an alternative plan to use when obtaining substitute players during the season. The plan **MUST** consider the skill level of the player missing as well as the potential substitute. The plan must provide the ability to obtain an equitable replacement for a missing player. The plan must not give the missing player's team an advantage by obtaining the substitute. If necessary, the Board will make the final decision on any issues or conflicts arising from the plan.
- E. If a manager fails to field a "complete team" according to league rules, all unused lineup spots will have an automatic out recorded each at bat. Managers may employ the missing slot(s) at any point in the original lineup at their discretion. **EXCEPTION:** If a game is played in which **BOTH** teams are short by an equal number of players, the automatic out provision will be waived.
- F. During the regular season, a team manager may not use the same substitute player more than the number of times specified in the league rules. Playoff games required to determine a league champion are considered part of the regular season. If a post-season tournament is held, this count resets to zero and a team may not use the same substitute more than one time during the tournament.
- G. The manager must notify the league coordinator and the opposing manager **at least** 24 hours prior to game time for any possible substitutions. The notification will include both the player(s) being replaced and the player(s) that will replace them. The league coordinator will confirm that all substitute players are valid.

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1. Once the 24-hour window has been reached, the designated substitute will be provided with the opportunity to play.
 2. Should the original roster player become available prior to the 24-hour advance notice deadline, that player will be afforded the opportunity to play. If they desire to do so, the previously obtained sub will be informed they are not needed. If the league coordinator and/or opposing manager have already been informed of the substitution, they will likewise be informed that the original roster player is now available to play.
 3. If an emergency of any sort occurs that would prevent the substitute from playing, the League Coordinator may authorize the original player or another substitute to be placed in the lineup.
- H. Substitute players must wear his/her own team shirt, or a uniform shirt provided by the club to players participating in a sub pool.
- I. Violation of any substitute player rule or use of an invalid substitute will result in a game forfeiture.

1.6. COURTESY/PINCH RUNNERS

- A. If extra innings are required, then the pinch runners will be allowed to run ONCE again until the end of the game.
- B. Managers will alert the scorekeeper, home plate umpire, and opposing team manager when a courtesy/pinch runner is inserted into a game. Managers will be responsible for keeping up with those who they have used as pinch runners, as well as those used by the opposing team. The scorekeeper can be consulted ONLY between innings.
- C. If a pinch runner inserted into a game has already run the maximum allowable times for that league, then the player the pinch runner was designated to replace will be declared out. This is an appeal play by the opposing manager. The home plate umpire will consult with the scorekeeper to make a ruling.
- D. A courtesy runner will have 15 seconds to take his/her place at the assigned base after a walked batter reaches first base, or after time has been called following a ball being put into play. This is a judgement by the umpire crew chief or other designated umpire. If it takes an excessive amount of time for a courtesy runner to take his/her place, a warning will be issued on the first violation, and the courtesy runner will be disallowed on subsequent violations.

1.7. GAME PLAY

- A. For a game to be official, each team must have at a minimum one less player than the defensive alignment for that league, including substitutes. Fewer than that number of players will result in a forfeit for that team. If neither team can field that number of players, it will result in a double forfeit with each team being given a loss for that game.
- B. A maximum of eleven (11) players may play defense, including one (1) pitcher, one (1) catcher, no more than four (4) infielders, and no more than five (5) outfielders.
- C. On offense each available team player listed on the roster must bat in rotation.
- D. Bat boys or bat girls will not be allowed due to safety concerns.

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- E. The Infield Fly Rule will not be in effect. Intentional dropping of a fly ball will be at the discretion of the umpires.
- F. All league games will be played with a time limit of 70 minutes, plus the open (unlimited run) inning.
- G. Scorekeepers will notify the home plate umpire immediately upon noticing that the wrong player is at bat. If this notification is made at any time during the at-bat, the correct player will assume the at-bat and any existing count. There is no penalty. If the incorrect batter is discovered after the at-bat has been completed, SSUSA rules will take effect.
- H. Players will begin each at bat with no count (i.e., no balls and no strikes, 0-0).
- I. All appeals and/or questions pertaining to the application of a specific rule can only be made by the team manager and directed at the game's head umpire. A team manager, with prior notification to the head umpire, may designate this responsibility to a non-playing assistant manager.

1.8. SUSPENDED GAMES

- A. Any game that is suspended prior to reaching the status of an official game will NOT be resumed from that point but will be rescheduled as a make-up game and replayed from the beginning.

1.9. FLIP-FLOP RULE

- A. If, after the completion of the inning prior to the open (last) inning, the home team is **behind by five runs or more**, the home team shall remain at bat in the top of the final inning. The visiting team will then bat in the bottom of the final inning if the home team has tied the game or gone ahead. If the game is tied at the conclusion of the final inning, the visiting team will return to batting first in the extra innings.
- B. If a time-limit expiration results in the game proceeding directly to the final, unlimited-run inning, the current game score will be evaluated to determine if the flip-flop rule should be invoked at that point.
- C. If, during the top half of the open (last) inning, the visiting team takes a lead of 12 or more runs, an immediate Flip-Flop will take place. The number of outs, positions of baserunners, etc. will be recorded, the visiting team will take the field, and the home team will bat. In the event the home team overcomes the deficit during their at-bat, the visiting team will return to bat and complete their inning.

1.10. PITCHING

- A. Per SSUSA Rules and in the interest of safety, the use of a protective mask is mandatory for all pitchers and shall be used during any club-sponsored activity, including league games, practice games, pre-game warmups, or batting practice. The club will provide masks if a pitcher does not obtain his or her own personal mask. Any pitcher failing to comply with this requirement will be

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subject to disciplinary action by the Board. [The use of a full-helmet pitching mask and chest/heart protection is also recommended.](#)

B. A pitcher may employ up to two steps during the delivery, but at least one foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's box until the pitched ball leaves the hand. PENALTY: the pitch will be immediately declared an illegal pitch [and a ball awarded to the batter.](#)

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SECTION 2 • GROUND RULES

2.1. LODGED BALL

A ball is considered lodged if, in the judgment of the umpire, the natural trajectory of the flight of the ball is interrupted long enough to affect further play. A batted fair ball or a thrown ball that sticks in or goes under a fence, tarp, banner, pitching screen, or any game equipment located on the playing field, should be considered a lodged ball. The following process should be followed to resolve a lodged ball situation:

- A. The defensive player(s) attempting to field or retrieve the ball will immediately raise one or two arms to indicate the ball is in a lodged situation, and their ability to cleanly field the ball has been disrupted.
- B. The player should leave the ball as is, and not attempt to retrieve it, loosen it, field it, etc. Failure to leave the ball where stopped will NULLIFY the lodged ball situation, and play will continue with no opportunity to appeal.
- C. Play will CONTINUE until the umpire confirms that the ball, in their judgment, is in fact lodged, or has been lodged for a period of time significant enough to affect the outcome of the play, at which point TIME will be called.
- D. For a batted ball, if the umpire confirms the lodged ball situation, the hit will be considered a ground-rule double, and the batter will be awarded two bases, with all base runners advancing accordingly.
- E. For a thrown ball, if the umpire confirms the lodged ball situation, the baserunners will be awarded the base they were approaching plus one additional base.

2.2 LIVE BALL

A thrown ball will remain a live ball if it hits a defensive player, a base, an offensive player (who is not intentionally trying to get hit), or game equipment (discarded bat, discarded pitcher's mask, on-deck bats, bat rack, pitching screen) providing the ball remains within the limits of the playing field.

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SECTION 3 • LADIES LEAGUE RULES

- A. The number of innings per game will be six (6).
- B. Defensive players for a complete team will be eleven (11). If a team chooses to play with ten (10) defensive players, the missing player will be recorded as an out only her first time at bat.
- C. The number of times a player can be used as a substitute for each team during the regular season will be three (3).
- D. The number of times a player can be used as a pinch runner during a game will be three (3).
- E. The minimum number of a team's rostered players required to avoid a game forfeit will be seven (7).
- F. The maximum number of innings a player may sit defensively will be two (2).
- G. Other than a caught fly ball, the batter will be awarded first base if:
 - a batted ball is fielded by an outfielder prior to breaking the plane of the outfield grass, -or-
 - a batted ball, not under control of an infielder, breaks the plane of the outfield grass.Regular force and tag plays remain in effect at all other bases.
- H. **Outfielders must remain in the outfield grass until a batted ball is put into play. Outfielders may NOT come into the infield to assume the role of a 5th infielder to make put outs at any base that under ordinary play would be made by an infielder. Penalty: an immediate dead ball is called, the batter is awarded first base, and all forced base runners advance one base.**
- I. A game will be considered official if four or more complete innings have been played, or if the home team has scored more runs after the completion of at least three and one-half innings.
- J. Using the current player ranking list as provided by the league's Competition Committee, a manager can obtain a substitute from the list starting at a point 3 positions higher than the missing player and ending at the bottom of the list. EXCEPTIONS: Any "D" category player may substitute for any player, regardless of the missing player's rank. Any primary pitcher can substitute for any other primary pitcher, regardless of the missing primary pitcher's rank.

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SECTION 4 • MEN'S A-LEAGUE RULES

- A. The number of times a player can be used as a pinch runner during a game will be two (2).
- B. The number of defensive players for a complete team will be ten (10).
- C. There is no maximum number of innings a player may sit defensively. However, putting a player in the lineup exclusively for offense purposes (i.e., a “designated hitter”) may only be done with the player's willingness to do so.
- D. The minimum number of a team's rostered players required to avoid a game forfeit will be six (6).
- E. The threshold number of a team's rostered players remaining before a substitute can be obtained will be nine (9).
- F. The maximum roster size if one or more substitutes are used will be ten (10).
- G. The number of times a player can be used as a substitute for each team during the regular season will be two (2). However, with a three-team league, the number will increase to three (3) times.
- H. Each team manager may designate one player from the lineup per game to be the “**protected batter**”. This player must be designated at the time the manager submits his lineup to the opposing manager and scorekeeper. The protected batter can be walked (four pitched balls or intentional walk) only once during the game, to include extra innings without penalty to the defensive team. If that player is walked **again** during the game, the player's manager has the option of either:
- Sending him to 1st base (normal base on balls). The next batter comes to the plate. **OR**
 - Selecting another player from the lineup to take first base as the runner, while the batter remains at the plate, starting with a new count. The inserted runner is NOT considered a pinch runner, but an out will be charged if the runner is on based when it becomes his turn to bat.

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SECTION 5 • MEN'S B-LEAGUE RULES

- A. Defensive players for a complete team will consist of eleven (11) players.
- B. The maximum number of innings a player may sit defensively will be two (2).
- C. The minimum number of team rostered players required to avoid the forfeit of a game will be seven (7).
- D. The number of times a player can be used as a substitute for each team during the regular season will be two (2).
- E. Substitutes may be obtained to complete an 11- or 12-player roster for any game.
- F. The number of times a player can be used as a pinch runner during a game will be three (3).
- G. Other than a caught fly ball, the batter will be awarded first base if:
 - a batted ball is fielded by an outfielder prior to breaking the plane of the outfield grass, -or-
 - a batted ball, not under control of an infielder, breaks the plane of the outfield grass.Regular force and tag plays remain in effect at all other bases.
- H. If a team is ahead by 15 runs after four innings, or 10 runs after five or six innings, the game will be declared a complete, regulation game.