

SUN CITY SENIOR SOFTBALL COED LEAGUE RULES 2024

Amended: January 24, 2025

COED LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

General

The Coed League was created to allow players to play softball in a mixed environment.

The Coed League will be open to all leagues and players, preserving the Vision of the Coed League.

The Coed League will be governed by SSUSA rules except as modified by the Sun City Coed League Committee (SCCLC). Other provisions may also apply.

If appropriate, the SCCLC will utilize ASA rules for clarification of SSUSA rules only.

Code of Ethics To conduct ourselves as ladies and gentlemen, and at all times to do the right thing.

Vision

An equal balance of men and women

League Committee Mission Statement:

The League Committee will represent and be the spokes group for the Coed League. The committee will supervise and manage all activities related to the League. The committee will provide leadership and direction for the league and maintain an effective line of communication between all persons and groups involved in the day-to-day operations of the League.

Coed League Committee Structure

1. The League Committee will be composed of the Chairperson and volunteer league members in good standing. The number of members may change yearly.
2. The Chairperson of the committee shall be appointed by the Sun City Senior Softball League President. The Chairperson shall serve at the discretion of the League President, a maximum of 3 years. The Chairperson may resign, be removed by the SCSL President, by unanimous vote of the committee approved by the SCSL President.
- C. The Chairperson shall present committee members to the Sun City Senior Softball League Board for final approval. Committee members may serve until he or she decides to resign or is removed by the Chairperson with approval by the SCSL League President.
3. The Chairperson shall have the option of appointing a Secretary responsible for meeting minutes and for maintaining all records relative to the League.
4. The Chairperson of the Coed League is prohibited from being a team manager while serving in that capacity.

Coed League Committee functions and duties, which may be accomplished by the Chairperson or designated to committee members, included:

1. *_Attend Sun Cities Senior Softball Board meetings, report league activities to and update the Board on issues relative to the operation of the league.*
2. *Conduct player surveys and collect player availability data.*
3. *Determine the number of teams for each session and select players as per the player placement process.*
4. *Create a rating system to give all COED players an A, B or C rating.*
5. *Organize and implement a team drafting process for session play.*
6. *Prior to the draft, box all pitchers so each manager will be able to select a designated pitcher.*
7. *Prior to the draft, box all female and male participants rated in the A category to ensure team equality in the selection process.*
8. *Publish team rosters and schedules.*
9. *Assign returning and new players to teams after original team rosters are complete.*
10. *Establish, publish, and enforce all rules.*
11. *Select team managers as per the Coed League manager selection process.*
12. *Maintain an up to date Coed League master player roster.*
13. *Provide information/team scores to the press and to Angels in the outfield.*
14. *Schedule managers meetings to solicit manager input.*
15. *Publish and post league information on bulletin boards and the web site.*
16. *Ensure the playing field, dugouts, and clubhouse are maintained in good order and closed securely post play.*
17. *Facilitate hospitality for players and fans through donuts & coffee.*
18. *In general, represent all aspects of Coed League functions.*

Coed League Play

1. The Coed League will follow ASA and SSUSA Central and National League rules, subject to revisions by the SCCLC specific to the operation of the Coed League.
2. The team rosters shall consist of a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 13 players, except where agreed upon by the SCCLC.
3. The number of female players registered will determine the number of teams, maintaining the current ratio of six (6) male players and a minimum of four (4) female players.
4. Teams shall be filled with a balanced representation of skill, e.g. A, B, C ratings.
5. Teams will be drafted filling rosters from the lowest skill levels up, to meet the minimum number of players per team, maintaining the aforementioned ratio of male and female players.

Rules Governing Games

1. If the first game is canceled due to adverse conditions, all games will be canceled.
2. Game start times to be decided by the SCCLC prior to the start of each session.
3. Games will have seven innings (**exception:** see Mercy Rule) A 60 minute time clock will be used, with play continuing to the end of the current inning when the clock runs out. Other time limits on games will be at the discretion of the Coed League Committee.

4. Delay of game start due to weather/field conditions will result in shortening games to 6 innings. The Mercy Rule will apply through the 5th inning, with the 6th inning as the unlimited inning.

4. Four (4) runs maximum allowed per inning, with the last inning unlimited.

5. No Infield Fly rule.

7. A 130' arc shall be utilized in the outfield, with all outfielders including the Rover, remaining behind the line when a female player is at bat until the ball is hit.

8. Use of a pitching screen is optional and must be properly positioned, depending on screen used. The pitcher will then deliver his/her pitch over or around the screen as per screen usage rules.

a. Pitchers may play defensively from that position.

b. A ball hit into the screen will always be considered a **DEAD BALL**. No limit on **DEAD BALLS**.

c. A Ball thrown into the screen is a live ball (whether screen is on or off the playing field).

9. Batter starts with a one (1) and one (1) count with one to waste.

10. Courtesy Runner: (CR) may run any number of times but just **once per inning and three times per game**, and only after a batter has reached first base. A pitcher who needs to put on protective gear may also request a CR.

11. A male batter who receives a base on balls, whether intentional or unintentional, will be awarded two (2) bases. If the following batter is a female they have the option of batting or accepting a walk to first base.

12. Flip Rule/5 Run Rule: If the visiting team is ahead by five (5) runs or more after the last inning has been declared, the home team will clear the bases and continue to bat in the top of the last inning. If the home team does not tie or go ahead, the game is over. In the event the home team ties or goes ahead the visiting team will get their last at bat.

13. Tie Games will stand as played.

14. Mercy Rule: If a team is ahead by 12 runs after the 5th inning or 10 runs after the 6th innings the game is over.

15. If a female player may NOT be thrown out at 1st base if the throw originates from the outfield. The defensive player may continue to throw out runners at 2nd or 3rd or home on balls batted through or over the infield. The Rover is considered to be an outfield position.

PITCHER'S MANDATED MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

SSUSA 2014 Playing Rules Amendment.

Pitchers are required to wear a protective face mask while pitching.

Pitchers are encouraged but not required to wear additional protective safety equipment, comprised of heart/chest protection and shin guards. If a team pitcher refuses to wear a pitcher's mask the team will forfeit the game.

Equipment Rules

Men will use 12" and women will use 11" ball. A new game ball of each size will be used for each game if possible. No banned bats (see ASA banned bat list) will be allowed during Co-ed League play.

"A" rated male players will use aluminum bats.

Team Duties and Responsibilities

1. HOME TEAM PREPARES FIELD for each game.
2. Umpires for each game will be provided by the Chief Umpire.
- 3.. Each team will provide a Scoreboard Operator and Scorekeeper.
 - a. Visitors of game 1 supply the scoreboard operator and scorer for the second game.
 - b. Visitors of game 2 supply the scoreboard operator and scorer for the third game.
 - c. Visitors of game 3 supply the scoreboard operator and scorer for the first game.

Manager Duties and Responsibilities:

- A. Managers must file incident reports for any player's injuries. Concussion Protocol will be followed in all incidents involving the head is struck or fall where the head makes contact with the ground
- B. All managers (or their Representative) must attend all Coed League Manager meetings.
- C. All managers must arrange for score sheets for each game.
- D. Managers are responsible for distribution and collection of uniform shirts for each session.

E. Manager of teams playing last will secure the field, store equipment, and lock facilities as needed.

Team Play

1. Prior to a team assignment all non-rated players must attend a Green Team to obtain a rating unless otherwise specified by the Co-ed League Committee
2. Team Rosters will show the rating of each player.
3. If team strength is 11 or 10, but the 4 female minimum can't be met, the team must obtain a 4th female from the sub list or from another team.
4. All female players on a team must play on the field and bat each inning. A male player may sub in only in the case of injury obtained during play.
5. There will be no penalty against a player who quits, is asked to leave by a manager, transfers or is traded.
6. Batting line-up must alternate males and females until all women have batted at which time two or more males may bat in succession. No women may bat back to back in the batting order, e.g. 11 players: M F M M F M F M M F .
7. If sunlight interferes with the Batters vision the Pitcher may be requested to move, but no more than 3 feet on either side of the Pitcher's box. In the event of a Pitcher/Batter disagreement the Plate umpire will make the call.
8. All rostered players must play a minimum of 3 Defensive innings.

Substitutions:

1. Eligible only from rosters/teams playing the same day.
2. Pitchers may be substituted regardless of rating.
3. Men's A rating may only sub for an A rating. Men's B rating may sub for an A or B rating.

Men's C rating can sub for any rating. Any woman can sub for any woman.

Protests/Appeals

1. Only a manager may appeal a call to the umpire. An umpires call is final.
2. Judgment calls such as balls and strikes, runner out or safe, and fair or foul balls, are not grounds for appeal.
3. Interpretation of the rules will be the only grounds for protest and will be settled on the field between the umpires and the two managers and a Coed League Committee member if present.
4. Managers must appeal other violations such as ineligible sub or runner, runner missing a bag, interference, and batting out of order to the home plate umpire. Any situation where a rule is not covered in the existing Coed League rules the two managers and umpire must agree on an ultimate decision.

Ejections:

1. An umpire or Coed League Committee member may eject a player who threatens or uses abusive language directly toward an umpire, player, or spectator.

2. The umpire or Coed League Committee member ejecting a player must submit a written report to the Coed League Committee Chairperson within 24 hours.
3. An ejected player must leave the field /softball complex immediately.
4. An ejected player is automatically suspended from playing in any further games until the Coed Committee reviews the incident and determines a sanction.
5. If player refuses to leave the field /softball complex the player will be suspended for a minimum two or more games depending on the sanction imposed by Coed League Committee.
6. Should a player attack an umpire, player, or spectator, the Coed League Committee will suspend the player from further play pending a decision on disciplinary action. The Sun Cities Senior Softball Board shall review the incident and the recommended Coed League Committee action for a final decision.
7. Grievance – Should a player disagree with the decision of the Coed League Committee they have right of appeal to the Sun Cities Senior Softball Board President.

Duties and Responsibilities of Players:

A. Absentees

1. Managing a team is a difficult job requiring the cooperation of all team members. This includes field positions assigned by the manager for the game. If you are going to be late, or miss a game, notify your manager well ahead of time. Arrive at the field 30 minutes 1/2 half-hour before game

time to loosen up properly and thus avoid unnecessary muscle injuries. Late players who do not notify their Managers are not allowed to play.

2. A player who misses five (5) games per session will be replaced with a sub pool player of equal rating and they will be placed in the sub pool. If the manager wishes, they may replace the player with a lower rated player from the sub pool. If a lower rated player is chosen their rating will be elevated for the remainder of the session consistent with that of the player they are replacing. This condition will also apply to players arriving after the first four (4) games of the season.

A. **Exception:** Managers are exempt from absentee rules.

B. **Exception:** Draft Box Pitchers or replacement pitchers for the draft box pitcher during the session are exempt from the five absentee rules.

Sub Pool

1. The Sub pool is intended for players requesting to be placed in the sub pool, new players (green team), players returning after five (5) absences, and players arriving after the first four (4) games of the season.

2. Managers may request replacement players as follows:

A. The manager must contact the Coed League Committee person immediately "after" the player has a fifth absence. (A bye or rainout does not count as a missed game)

B. The committee member reviews concurs on the sequence of loss in case more than one manager needs a replacement player. The sequence for manager selection would be determined by the actual game date and game time the player missed a fifth game. If these two factors were identical, managers would flip a coin to determine the order of selection.

3. The Coed League Committee member will inform the manager about all new player assignments.

Uniforms

1. The clubs furnish pants, shorts, jerseys, and caps/women's visors. Articles of uniforms are for league or club play only and are not to be used for non-league/club activities. Alterations are not permitted except for temporary "tucks" for fit. Any permanent alterations will result in a charge to the player. Caps/visors, pants, and shorts will be replaced on an exchange basis only, if worn out or damaged by play. All articles of uniform are the property of the club. Any player who resigns his membership must return jersey's pants, and shorts.

2. In support of our sponsors a full league - issued uniform consisting of cap/visor, pants, shorts, and team jersey must be worn so the sponsor's name is clearly visible and shirttails tucked in. With the exception of the umpires, all players, coaches, and managers must wear their league issued uniforms. In case of cold or inclement weather, additional clothing will be allowed.

3. Players will not be allowed to play unless dressed in their properly worn, league issued uniforms. However, players will be given one warning by the umpire to immediately fix the uniform problem or be removed from the game. The team will be charged with an out each time the player would have to bat. The team will continue to play minus the removed player. The respective Coed League Committee member will be notified of repeated offenses and be dealt with accordingly. This rule is for the benefit of the sponsor, for proper newspaper/team pictures and for the professionalism of the SCS.