

SSUSA National Rules Committee 2017

Rule Book Amendments to Date • **New Language** / Deleted Language

Revised • December 15, 2017

§3.4(7) • PENALTY FOR USING AN ILLEGAL BAT

~~D. — The tournament officials will request the owner of the bat to surrender it for forwarding it to SSWC headquarters. A player's failure to voluntarily surrender the bat to tournament officials will result in an immediate minimum of one year suspension from play. There will be a subsequent hearing to determine if additional sanctions against the player shall be imposed, and if the bat will be returned to the player or destroyed.~~

[sub-section deleted as redundant]

§3.6 • GLOVES

Gloves **and mitts** may be worn by any player. ~~, but mitts may be used only by the catcher and first baseman ...~~

[remainder of section is unchanged]

§4.3(2) • MEN'S DIVISIONS AGE 70+ AND ABOVE AND WOMEN'S DIVISIONS AGE 50+ AND ABOVE

A. For men's 70+ through 80+ and women's divisions age 50+ and above – Eleven players constitute a team. However, a team may start a game with no fewer than ten players. An eleventh player on the roster may be added any time during the game, batting in the last (11th) position. Until the (11th) position is filled, an out will be declared only the first time that position comes to bat.

B. For Men's 85+ and older divisions – Twelve players constitute a team. However, a team may start a game with no fewer than eleven players. A twelfth player on the roster may be added any time during the game, batting in the last (12th) position. Until the 12th position is filled, an out will be declared only the first time that position comes to bat.

§5.1 • GAME TIME

B. Teams must be present and ready to play thirty minutes prior to the stated game starting time. ~~A forfeit may be recorded against the offending team at the Tournament Director's discretion.~~

§5.5(3) • MERCY RULE FOR **40+ 50+ THRU 70+ MAJOR-PLUS (ONLY)**

If a team is ahead by 15 or more runs at any time after five innings have been completed, or four and one-half innings with the home team ahead, the game shall be declared a complete regulation game.

[only the rule section header changed]

§6.2 • PITCH COUNT

Batters are allowed 4 balls and/or 3 strikes. All batters start with a 0-0 ball/strike count. EXCEPTION: ~~On a trial basis for the 2017 season,~~ **All** men's and women's 40-Masters divisions will be allowed only 3 balls and/or 2 strikes, and all batters will start with a 1-1 ball/strike count. There will be NO "waste foul" available to a batter after there are two strikes in the count.

[subject to change after 01/09/18 committee telephone call meeting]

§6.17 • PITCHER'S MANDATED MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Pitchers must wear a protective face mask **that covers, at a minimum, the area of the face from above the eyes to the lower part of the chin** ~~and all~~ while pitching. **and All pitchers must** wear the mask consistent with the manufacturer's intended usage of their product.

§7.6 • BATTER IS OUT

A. When a batter enters the batter's box with, or is discovered using, an altered bat. The batter is also ejected from the game **and the tournament.**

B. When the batter enters the batter's box with, or is discovered using, an illegal bat. The batter is also ejected from the game **and the tournament.**

[to fix inconsistency with §3.4(7)A.]

§8.5(5) • COURTESY RUNNER OFFICIALLY IN THE GAME

A courtesy runner must report to, and be acknowledged by, the umpire. **A courtesy runner may enter the game only prior to the first pitch to any batter.** A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base. If a courtesy runner is determined illegal, he will be called out upon touching the base and no other courtesy runner is allowed. The original runner may not return as the runner. An illegal courtesy runner on base is committing a continuing violation and may be called out upon appeal at any time while on base or, if he scores, prior to the first pitch to the next batter.

§13.1(1) • DIVISIONS OF THE SSWC

- A. Major-Plus division – Comprised of teams that compete to determine the World Champion, Major-Plus division. A Major-Plus team rating is determined by the Senior Softball-USA Ratings Committee. Major-Plus division teams:
2. **Major-Plus teams in the age groups 40+ through 70+ have** ~~Have~~ a seven-run limit per inning, except for the final inning of the game in which each team may score unlimited runs.

[to include men's 40-Masters rule change]

§13.1(2)C. • PLAYERS MUST PLAY IN REGIONS –

- C. Players who have been issued a “snowbird ID card” are not eligible to appear on the roster of Major-Plus division teams aged **40+ 50+** through 70+.

However, Major-Plus teams (ONLY) in the **40+ 50+** through 70+ divisions may select two players from ~~east/west~~ **the same side** of the Mississippi River ~~depending on~~ **as** the home state of the team. Major Plus Teams from Eastern or Western Canada may select two players from the other Canada region.

§13.1(3) • TEAM REGIONS OF SSWC

- A. Bordering States Rule (See list of states and bordering states and provinces on pages 76-77):
- All men's **40+ 50+** to 70+ teams may be comprised of players from their home state or neighboring states (See illustration). **See also §13.1(2)C.**