

SSUSA OFFICIAL RULEBOOK

2014 Playing Rules Amendments (Changes in bold type)

1.15 • COMMITMENT LINE

A three foot commitment line shall be marked across and perpendicular to the foul line and placed **thirty** feet from home plate. Once a runner has crossed the commitment line he: (a) cannot return to third base; (b) must continue home; **and** (c) can no longer be tagged out by the defensive player; the defensive player must touch the strike zone mat.

1.30 • HEADWEAR

A. Offensive – All **headwear** is **recommended** to be approved by the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) and game officials. Any player may wear a NOCSAE-approved helmet, with or without ear flaps. It must have a bill.

3.4(3) • APPROVED BATS

All bats marked "1.21 BPF" (Bat Performance Factor) or less, SSUSA approved bats, or bats having an ASA 2000 or 2004 stamp are approved for use. Any bat displaying the label "Exceeds 1.21 BPF" is not approved. The rating must be clearly visible on the bat, or it must be obvious to the inspector that the bat is of an age to make it not high-tech. **Any new bats introduced by bat manufacturers must be clearly and permanently marked "Approved for SSUSA Use", or similar, by permanent sticker, etching or imprint.**

3.4(5) • BAT INSPECTION

C. **Umpires and SSUSA/SSWC Staff shall remove from competition for the entire tournament any bat that exhibits significant cracking or other deformity, whether or not arising solely from normal wear and tear.**

5.7 SCORING OF RUNS

- A. One run shall be scored each time a runner **has a foot down beyond or touching** the scoring line **or touches the scoring plate**, after legally touching all bases in proper order.
- B. No run shall be scored if the third out of the inning is the result of:
1. A batter-runner being called out prior to reaching first base or any other runner forced out due to the batter becoming a batter-runner.
 2. A runner being put out by a tag or live ball appeal play prior to the lead runner **having a foot down beyond or touching** the scoring line **or touches the scoring plate.**
 3. A preceding runner is declared out on appeal involving a force play.

NOTE: An appeal may be made after the third out in order to nullify a run.

6.17 • PITCHER'S MANDATED MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Pitchers **are required** to wear a protective **face mask** while pitching. **Pitchers are recommended to wear additional protective safety equipment, comprised of head gear (NOCSAE-approved), heart/chest protection and shin guards.** Pitchers **are not required** to wear the **recommended** safety equipment.

SSUSA makes NO warranty as to the protective qualities of any mandated or recommended safety equipment when used in softball, which may have inherent risks as an impact sport. SSUSA does not make any specific claims as to any safety equipment's performance and will not accept any liability for personal injury. The mandated face mask is designed to prevent injuries to the player's face, but not all injuries can be prevented. Players can still suffer serious injury while wearing any type of face protection.

6.17(1) • RELEASE (INJURY TO PLAYER)

By electing not to wear the **recommended** safety equipment, the pitcher waives any and all claims, individually, and by his or her heirs, and holds harmless Senior Softball World Championships, Inc., its Board of Directors, Senior Softball-USA, LLC, any municipal or park facility employees, their agents or employees and tournament directors and sponsors from and against any and all loss liability, charges and expenses (including attorney's fees) and causes of action of whatever character that may arise for injury that may have been reasonably prevented by the **recommended** safety equipment during participation in SSWC events;

6.17(3) • ASSUMPTION OF INHERENT RISK

The pitcher recognizes that he assumes all risks involved arising from participation in **any SSUSA/SSWC sanctioned** tournament as a pitcher electing not to wear the **recommended** safety equipment, and knowingly undertakes the inherent risks of the sport;

8.1 • TOUCHING BASES IN ORDER

The base runner must touch bases 1st, 2nd, 3rd and **have a foot down beyond or touching** the scoring line **or touch the scoring plate** in that order.

8.3 • BATTER-RUNNER IS OUT

H. When he moves back toward **home plate prior to reaching first base** to avoid or delay a tag by a

fielder. The ball is dead, the batter-runner is out and all runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

8.4(2) • HOME RUN OVER FENCE – MAJOR-PLUS (50+ TO 70+)

In the Major-Plus division for ages 50+ through 70+, a limit of nine home runs. Each home run over the limit is a **dead ball out and base runners cannot advance.**

8.4(3) • HOME RUN OVER FENCE – MAJOR DIVISION

In the Major division, a limit of six home runs. Each home run over the limit is a **dead ball out and base runners cannot advance.**

8.4(5) • HOME RUN OVER FENCE – AA DIVISION

In the AA division, a limit of one home run. Each home run over the limit is a dead ball out and base runners cannot advance.

NOTE: For §8.4(2) through §8.4(5), the home run batter may **return directly to the dugout**; all other runners **may return directly to the dugout.**
EFFECT: **The practice known as “hit and sit” is permitted in SSUSA sanctioned events.**

8.6 • SLIDING OPTIONAL - AVOIDING COLLISIONS

Sliding or diving into first base or the scoring line **or scoring plate** is permitted only to avoid a collision with a defensive player. This is an umpire's judgment call and is not subject to protest or appeal. A player may slide or dive into second or third bases, or when returning to any base. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding or diving. If in the umpire's judgment a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out. If in the umpire's judgment the runner fails to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play, the ball will be declared dead and that runner called out. All base runners except the batter will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If in the umpire's judgment the runner's collision with the defensive player involved in the play negates a double play, the umpire may award a second out.

8.8 • COMMITMENT LINE

A commitment line **thirty** feet from the scoring line **or scoring plate** will be used. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner is committed to advancing to the scoring line **or scoring plate** and may no longer be tagged out. EFFECT: Tag of the runner by a defensive player will not be allowed. The runner will be called safe and the ball remains live. NOTE: If a runner re-crosses the commitment line in an attempt to return to third base, he will be declared out and the ball remains live.

8.9(1) • NON-FORCE SITUATION

A base runner may be retired at the strike mat in a non-force situation. The defensive player must have possession of the ball while touching any portion of the strike mat after the runner has passed the commitment line, but does not yet have a foot down on or **down** past the scoring line **or down on the scoring plate.**

8.9(2) • CROSSING OR TOUCHING STRIKE MAT OR BATTER'S BOX

The runner shall also be called out if he touches or crosses over any portion of the strike mat **or the batter's boxes.** The ball remains live.

8.10 • SCORING LINE AND SCORING PLATE

A base runner's foot down on or **down** past the scoring line **or down on the scoring plate** prior to the ball being received by a defensive player touching the strike mat results in the scoring of a run.

12.1 • SENIOR SOFTBALL-USA HALL OF FAME

One player and one special category selection are inducted each year into the Senior Softball-USA Hall of Fame. Players must be **60** years or older and represent the best of the sport over an extended period including playing, sportsmanship and character.

14.2(4) • AGE ELIGIBILITY AND GROUPING

- B. **For the 2014 season**, men's 80+ age division teams may draw seven players aged 78 or 79; including not more than three 78 year olds. (EXAMPLE: 80+ teams may have four players aged 79 and three aged 78). **For the 2015 season, men's 80+ age division teams may draw three players aged 79. For the 2016 season and thereafter, men's 80+ age division teams must be comprised only of players aged 80 or older.**
- C. **For the 2014 season**, men's 75+ age division teams may draw five players one year younger than the minimum age. (EXAMPLE: 75+ teams may have five players aged 74). **For the 2015 season and thereafter, men's 75+ age division teams must be comprised only of players aged 75 or older.**

14.2(6) • TRANS-GENDER ATHLETES

Men are not permitted to compete on women's teams in SSUSA sanctioned events, but on occasion the eligibility issue of trans-gender athletes arises. To ensure that no athlete is excluded from the opportunity to participate, that the safety of women players is protected, and to maintain fairness in competition, the SSUSA has adopted the standards used by the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) to govern the eligibility of trans-gender athletes.

- A. Generally, under the IOC guidelines, all trans-gender athletes must have:**
- 1. Undergone hormone replacement therapy for at least two years;**
 - 2. Be legally recognized as the sex in which they desire to compete; and**
 - 3. Have had "sex reassignment" surgery in order to compete in their authentic gender.**
- B. Challenges or protests as to the eligibility of an athlete under this provision shall be treated as any other player eligibility issue, such as appropriate residency or minimum qualifying age. The trans-gender athlete will be asked to provide suitable documentation under the IOC standards in support of eligibility prior to participation, or in the alternative and at the sole discretion of the tournament director, may be allowed to participate in the tournament pending the provision of suitable documentation within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the tournament.**
- C. Any and all costs or expenses of providing the suitable documentation in support of meeting the IOC standards vest solely with the trans-gender athlete and shall not be the responsibility of the SSUSA.**