

USA SOFTBALL OF NORTH DAKOTA

PLAYING RULES FOR MEN'S MASTERS 50/60 STATE TOURNAMENTS

- 1) Teams have the option to bat all players in the opening line-up. Team managers must inform umpires at pre-game conference how many players will be in batting order. Teams have the option to make substitutions, pinch-hit, etc., per USA Softball rules, if substitute players are available. USA Softball re-entry rules and shorthanded rules also apply. When batting everyone, in the event of an ejection, an out is declared each time the ejected players spot in the batting order is scheduled to hit. Should a player leave the game due to injury, the **FIRST TIME** the injured player is scheduled to bat, an out will be declared. Thereafter, the spot in the order will be skipped without penalty. The injured player may not return for the remainder of the game.
- 2) Unlimited courtesy runners. The same player cannot be used as a courtesy runner more than one time per inning. A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another courtesy runner or pinch-runner. If a courtesy runners turn at bat, he is removed from the base, an out is declared and the player takes his turn at bat. A courtesy runner may be replaced due to injury, however, the injured player may not return for the remainder of the game. If batting everyone, the injured players next at bat is an out, per rule #1.
- 3) No sliding or diving by base runners. Any base runner sliding or diving will be called out. What constitutes a slide or dive on a particular play shall be at the judgment of the umpire.
- 4) Runners must avoid contact with fielders. In the event of contact, the runner shall be called out. Exception: Should a throw take a defensive player into the path of the base runner, no out will be declared. This is a judgment call by the umpire.
- 5) Base runners may run either inside or outside, but within three feet of second or third base to avoid contact with a fielder. The base runner shall be called safe if he crosses the parallel plane of the base prior to the fielder catching the ball and touching the base. The base belongs to the fielder. A path three feet inside or outside the base belongs to the base runner, to avoid contact. The baserunners foot must be on the ground to be called safe.
- 6) Base runners may overrun second or third bases. If overrunning a base, the runner must return to touch that base, prior to advancing to the next base. This is an appeal play, similar to missing a base.
- 7) All defensive plays are force-outs. A defensive player may step on the base or tag the base runner, except at home plate. At home plate the defensive player must possess the ball and touch home plate prior to the runner crossing the scoring line. A defensive player cannot tag a runner on a play at home.
- 8) The base runner must use the scoring line. Any base runner touching home plate or entering the right handed batters box will be called out. This is not an appeal play, the umpire makes this call when it occurs.
- 9) The scoring line shall be an extension of the first baseline, beginning at the back corner of the right-handed batters box.
- 10) A commitment line shall be drawn on the third baseline, halfway between third base and home plate. If a base runner passes the commitment line he may not return to third base.
- 11) Wood bats must be constructed completely of wood. No composite or metal handles, no composite wood. The barrel of the bat may not exceed 2.25 inches in diameter. In metal bat tournaments, all USA Softball approved bats are allowed (**NO SENIOR BATS**).
- 12) Home run rule 3 per game. Bases will not be run on over the fence homeruns.

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- 13) Extra Innings: The USA Softball tiebreaker rule will be used for extra inning games. The last player to bat in the previous inning will be placed on second base at the beginning of all extra innings. A courtesy runner may not be used in this instance.
- 14) Pitchers box: Two lines will be extended from the ends of the pitching rubber, backward 6' toward 2nd base. The pitcher may release the pitch from any distance, as long as at least one foot is in contact with the rubber or inside the pitching box.
- 15) If a team begins the game with 9 players, they will NOT be required to take an out in the 10th spot of the batting order. A 10th player may be added at anytime.
- 16) Per USA Softball Senior rules, the pitching arc will be 6' to 12'. A 19" x 34½" rectangular strike mat should be placed with a short edge along the front of home plate and extending behind the plate. Only legal pitches landing on the mat would be called strikes.
- 17) Hitters begin with 1-1 count.
- 18) Maximum 5 runs per inning may be scored. The 7th inning and all extra innings will be open innings, with unlimited scoring.
- 19) A substitute player may be inserted in the lineup in place of a "tie-breaker runner" who starts an extra inning on second base.
- 20) If the 5-run limit prohibits the home team from getting within the run ahead rule for that inning, then the game shall be declared final with the visiting team winning by the score of the game at that time.

Rosters and Eligibility

- a) Registered 50/60 teams may pick up not more than three players for state or invitational tournaments. Pick-up players must meet the 50/60 age requirements and be rostered members of an USA Softball of North Dakota sanctioned team. Tournament managers must be informed of pick-up players prior to the team's first game.
- b) Make-up teams and/or teams combining or adding 4 or more players, must pay a \$25 sanction fee as a new team, in addition to the tournament entry fee. The sanction fee and completed roster are due at the State Office by July 1.
- c) 50/60 teams may carry up to 20 players, including pick-up players.
- d) At all USA Softball of North Dakota Masters 50/60 State Tournaments, the host city is required to have available at the softball complex, an automated electronic defibrillator.