

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE SAMSPA PLUS 60, 70 & 74 DIVISION**

**SAMSPA follows Softball Canada Rules whenever possible.**

The following notes summarize the exceptions to the standard rule book for the Plus 60/70/74 Division.

### **SAMSPA 2026 PLUS 60, 70 & 74 DIVISION -- Rule Book Exceptions**

#### ***1. Rule Exception – Starting Number of Players & Grace Period for Start of Play:***

This SAMSPA rule book exception allows for a 10-minute “grace” period from the scheduled start time of a game to field a team before a forfeit is declared. The exception also states that teams are allowed to start a game with eight (8) players that are on the team’s roster. The team that is “short” players may choose to “pick-up” players from any other Division provided the player(s) “picked-up” will be within age restrictions as laid out in the 60/70/74 divisions. 60/70/74 divisions age requirements are 60/70/74 or older before December 31, 2026, to create a team of 11. If the team that is “short” players’ elects to play the game with fewer than 11 but not less than 8, the team may bat the number of players they have and **NO** automatic out will apply to the missing batting order spot(s).

\*\*In the event a team at any point reduces to 7 players due to injury or ejection with no available substitutes, the game is immediately forfeited.

\*\*Should any team lose a player due to injury or ejection during the game and is unable to substitute that batting position, that batting position will be ruled an AUTOMATIC OUT for the remainder of the game.

If a team only has seven (7) players from their roster present at game time, the team has the option to “pick-up” three (3) players meeting the age requirement from any other division, but only with consent of the opposing team’s manager. When consent is given, the game becomes official, the umpire will have the game played out, and it will not be deemed a forfeit. When consent is not granted by the opposing team, the game will be “forfeited” by the team that is missing players and the umpires may leave the diamond.

If players on their roster arrive after the lineup has been submitted, the team that has picked up players may choose to replace the picked up players with the late arriving players or may add the late arriving players to the bottom of the batting order. Players may not be added to the bottom of the batting order once that team has gone through the batting order one or more times unless consent is received from the opposing manager.

\*\* ALL players in all divisions, whether they are full time, part time or a one-time player must sign the insurance waiver, which is on the SAMSPA website, located under the Teams tab – Player -Player Waiver.

\*\* No substitute players are allowed during any of the playoff rounds for any team.

## **2. Rule Exception – Strike Zone VS Mat Zone:**

The PLUS 60/70/74 DIVISIONS are ruled strictly by a “mat zone” as determined and enforced by the game umpire. The mat will be made of “wood” or other material that is audible when it is hit by the ball. The dimensions of the mat will be 22 inches wide, 40 inches long and will extend from the front of home plate.

## **3. Rule Exception – Maximum Number of Roster Players:**

SAMSPA allows for a maximum of 25 roster players per team. No substitute players are allowed during the entire rounds of the playoffs. All players must have their date of birth included on the roster. Players not providing a date of birth or not meeting the age requirements of the division will be considered ineligible. No player is allowed to be registered on more than one team in the same division. Open, Plus 40, Plus 50, Plus 60, Plus 70, Plus 74 are all considered separate divisions. Rosters must be in place by May 1st but may be changed until June 1st. After June 1st, NO roster changes are permitted without the approval of the SAMSPA President. Non-rostered players may be used after June 1<sup>st</sup> to assist teams in fielding a team for competition. Non-rostered players are ineligible during the entire rounds of the playoffs.

## **4. Rule Exception – Courtesy Runners:**

SAMSPA will allow unlimited courtesy runners per game; however no runner may run more than once per inning. The Plus 60/70/74 Divisions also allows a courtesy runner for the batter from behind the home plate at the designated starting spot. The runner used is considered a courtesy runner and the courtesy runner rule applies (i.e. no more than once per inning either from home or any other base). The courtesy runner may be any player in the lineup (i.e. does not have to be the last out). When using a runner from home and the batter crosses the commitment line after making contact with the ball, the batter will be declared "Out!" The ball is dead. Base runners may not advance nor be put out.

## **5. Rule Exception – Uniform Policy:**

The uniform policy now adopted states that at a minimum of 7 players in the lineup must have matching jerseys. Otherwise, the opposing team, prior to the start of the third inning, may declare to the umpire that they are playing the game under protest. If the protest is upheld, the

game will be considered a forfeit. All players on the field at the time of play are encouraged to have matching jerseys, pants and hats, but only the jersey rule will be enforced. All teams will have until June 1st to comply with this rule unless an extension is granted by the President.

All hats or caps will be worn with brims facing forward while play is happening on the diamonds. At the umpire's discretion, individuals may be asked to remove headwear or may eject the player from the game.

#### **6. Rule Exception – Scoring of Runs:**

The maximum number of runs allowed to be scored by a team in an inning is five (5). The exception is that the seventh (7th) or last inning will be considered an open inning with unlimited scoring until three-outs are recorded or the home team has scored the winning run.

All runs will be scored by players crossing (i.e. any part of the player's body touching the ground) a "scoring line" or a "home safe line". The home plate is not live. Runners will be called out if they touch any part of the home plate or mat.

Baserunners cannot be tagged between the "commitment line" and the "scoring line". Once the baserunner crosses the "commitment line", it becomes a "force play". For the baserunner to be called out, the catcher must be touching the mat with the ball before the baserunner crosses the "scoring line".

#### **7. Rule Exception – Homerun Rule:**

There is a maximum of seven (7) homeruns allowed per team per game. Any homerun batted after a team has exceeded their allotted number of seven will be considered an "OUT".

#### **8. Rule Exception – Time Limit**

All SAMSPA League games have scheduled start times of 3:30pm for Plus 70/74 and 5:00 pm for the Plus 60 Division games and 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm and 9:30 pm for all other Divisions. Exceptions to these times is at the discretion of the Board. Players are expected to be ready to play at their scheduled start time. All games are 7 innings long however, no new inning should start more than 1 hour and 20 minutes after the scheduled start time. At the umpire's discretion (i.e., the game is proceeding at a slow pace), last inning may be called any time after 1 hour and 10 minutes have elapsed from the scheduled start time.

#### **8. Rule Exception – Mercy Rule**

A team may, but is not obligated to, concede a game if they are 15 or more runs behind after 4.5 (visiting team behind) or 5 (home team behind) innings have been played.

### **9. Rule Exception – Flip Flop**

If the home team is behind by 7 or more runs at the start of the last inning and managers of both team's consent, the home team will bat first in the final inning. If the visiting team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the start of the last inning, the flip flop is mandatory.

### **11. Rule Exception – Foul Tip**

Any tip ball caught by the catcher will be out regardless of the number of strikes on the batter. The play will be treated like any other ball caught in foul territory.

#### **Pitcher's Rule**

- If a pitcher is hit by a batted ball, it is considered a live ball (status quo) or, play may be halted at the discretion of the umpire.
  - **Note:** If pitchers feel that playing a strong team could conceivably be dangerous to them, they should either be using the pitching screen or wearing protective equipment.

#### **Use of a Pitching Screen or protective equipment.**

- Optional always - the screen is always available by asking for it at the concession.
- If a ball hits the screen, it is considered a live ball, but the pitcher cannot field the ball. If the pitcher fields the ball, the batter will be declared safe at first and all other runners will be entitled to advance one base (treated like a ball being thrown by the pitcher out of the playing area).

#### **Team Rosters (IMPORTANT)**

Team rosters must include:

- Year of birth. 01,01 can be used for day and month.
- Residence in general terms i.e. St. Albert, Redwater, Edmonton et al.

### **12. Rule Exception – Use of Helmets**

Use of helmets for 2026 will not be mandatory however, SAMSPA very strongly recommends that all players wear an approved (Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE)) batting helmet with two ear flaps while batting, base running and in the on-deck circle."

### **13. Rule Exception – Playoff Tie after 7 innings (extra innings):**

Regular season games tied after 7 innings, remain a tie. Playoff, extra innings will begin with 1 out and runner, (does not have to be last batter) from previous inning at 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

### **14. Rule Exception – Plus 70 Grandfathering players**

1. For 2024 and beyond, each team must have at least 10 players 70 years of age or older. New players added to the roster would have to be 68 years of age or older.
2. New teams entering the Plus 70 Division **would have to meet the age restrictions in place for the year of entry** unless an exception is approved by majority of the teams already part of the Division and the SAMSPA Executive.

### **14a. Rule Exception – Plus 74 Grandfathering players**

1. For 2025, the Plus 74 Division will consist of Two teams (Old Vets and the Old Buzzards +74).
2. All players under the age of 72 on these “Legacy” teams (Old Vets and the Old Buzzards74) on their proposed 2025 roster will be grandfathered. The Old Buzzards 74 have none and in 2026, the Old Vets will have 2.
3. Grandfathered players cannot join another Plus 74 team until they reach the age of 72.
4. New players added to the rosters of these “Legacy” teams must be 72 years of age or older.
5. Should a Plus 74 team fold all grandfathered players remain eligible for play in the Plus 74 Division.

### **Adding New Plus 74 Teams**

1. New teams entering the Plus 74 Division would have to meet the age restrictions in place unless an exception is approved by a majority of the teams already part of the Division and the SAMSPA Executive.
2. The criteria for accepting applications would include:
  - a. For 2025 and beyond, each team must have at least 8 players 74 years of age or older. All other players on the roster would have to be 72 years of age or older.

### **Adding New Plus 74 Division Players**

1. All players 74 years of age and older are eligible.
2. New players under the age of 72 will NOT be accepted.
3. Proof of age (picture ID) may be required by the Director if requested by one of the teams in the Division.

### **15. Rule Exception – Plus 74**

#### **Rule Book Exceptions (74 vs 70)**

1. Implement a 150 foot line via foot markings in the outfield from home plate down both foul lines. Managers are responsible for enforcing this rule, not the umpires.
2. Outfielders on Plus 70 teams must remain outside the line until the ball is struck.
3. The Rover on Plus 70 teams must be on the shale or outside the 150-foot line

when the ball is struck.

4. Infringement of the rule (treated as an appeal play) would mean the batter is awarded first base and all base runners are awarded a base.
5. The box for the runner from home for the 74 team, would be positioned 65 feet from first base in the direction of the backstop.
6. When a Plus70 team is playing a Plus 74 team, the Plus 74 teams will be given 1 run in each of the second through sixth innings.
7. All other Plus 70 Division rule book exceptions would apply to the Plus 74 Division.

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2. Outfielders must remain outside the line until the ball is struck.
3. The Rover must be on the shale or outside the 150-foot line when the ball is struck.
4. Infringement of the rule (treated as an appeal play) would mean the batter is awarded first base and all base runners are awarded a base.
5. The box for the runner from home for the 74 team, would be positioned 65 feet from first base in the direction of the backstop.
6. All other Plus 70 Division rule book exceptions would apply to the Plus 74 Division.

## **16. Rule Book Exceptions - Pitching Distance**

SAMSPA pitching distance remains status quo and a pitching distance of 50 – 60ft is acceptable.