

CITY OF SPARKS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
2019 SENIOR SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL
50+, 60+, 65+, 70+ AND 75+ LEAGUES PLAYING RULES

1. League play will be governed by the 2020 USA Softball rulebook. The exception to this are as covered below.
2. Slow pitch teams may start with nine players and add a 10th player anytime during the game when an eligible player arrives. If a player is injured during the game and there are no legal substitutions, you will be allowed to continue with nine players. This applies only to injuries. If a player is ejected from the game for misconduct and you have no substitutes, the game is a forfeit.
3. **NEW** - 50+ and 60+ Players may **no longer** overrun at second and third base. Players may slide at their discretion.
4. 65+, 70+ and 75+ players may overrun any base or slide at their discretion. A player who overruns a base must turn to the right to not be tagged out and makes no attempt to go to the next base, but must return to that base before advancing. Except at first base, the player does not have to retouch first base to proceed to second base.
5. A commit line 20 feet from home plate is used. Once a player passes the commit line he becomes a force out at home plate. The defensive player must touch home plate for the out and have the ball in his possession. The defensive player cannot tag the runner.
6. A ten-foot scoring line coming off the third base side of home plate will be used. Players must cross this line to score. The runner will be called out if he touches home plate or runs through the batter's box.
7. A five run mercy rule is in effect for each inning of the game, except for the last inning which has no limit.
8. Courtesy runners will be allowed and can be any player but only used one time per inning. If the courtesy runner's spot comes up in the batting order and that player is still on base it becomes an out at the plate.
9. To avoid a forfeit, teams may pick up a player(s) from any other team that is not on the starting line up if mutually agreed by player(s) and both team managers.
10. **METAL CLEATS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**
11. The orange portion of the double first base may only be utilized by the batter-runner and the white base only by the first baseman (defensive player). The runner may use the white base or orange base after passing first and may use it to take a turn for 2nd on a hit that goes through the infield and there is no play at first.
12. At the beginning of each half inning, or when a pitcher relieves another, not more than one minute may be used to deliver not more than 3 warm-up pitches, all of which must be delivered underhand and at a moderate speed. No overhand or fast pitches are allowed. First violation, batter gets a ball and a warning. Second violation, pitcher is removed from pitching position, but may play another position.
13. There will not be any infield practice taken prior to games. Practices and warm-up must be done on the grass.

14. **BLOOD RULE:** A player, coach, or an umpire who is bleeding or who has blood on his uniform will be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment can be administered. In a reasonable length of time, the individual will not have to leave the game. The length of time considered reasonable is left up to the umpire's judgment. Uniform rule violations will not be enforced if a uniform change is required.

The umpire will:

- A. Stop the game and allow treatment if an injured person would affect the continuation of play.
- B. Immediately call a coach, trainer or other "authorized person" to the injured player.
- C. Apply the rules of the game regarding substitutes, re-entry, and shorthanded player, if necessary.
15. A team may bat more than 11 players. If your team loses a batter in the line-up due to an injury you may drop that player from the legal line-up without penalty. If a player is ejected from the game that players spot in the line-up will become an out, if the ejection results in going from 10 to 9 or 9 to 8 players the game will be forfeited.
16. The City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Department leagues will be using the USA Softball banned bat rules. Use of any of the bats on the banned list is prohibited. The City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Department, reserves the right to ban any equipment at any time that they deem necessary for the safety of their participants.

Use of an illegal bat listed on the USA Softball banned bat list, or use of a bat that is not recognizable because name/description have been removed will result in a 2 year suspension from ALL USA Softball play as well as a 30 day suspension of the coach/manager responsible for the team. Violators will be immediately ejected from the game, if no substitute is available the game will be a forfeit. Use of an altered bat will result in a lifetime ban from all USA Softball play. The City of Sparks reserves the right to test any bats, at any time. Refusal will result in immediate suspension. The umpire will be checking. The list of banned bats will be posted at the ball fields or can be located at www.asasoftball.com . The City of Sparks will not be allowing the use of ASA Senior bats.

17. **The pitching height for the senior divisions has not changed and will remain at 6ft-12ft.**

Pitchers do not have to have a foot on the pitching rubber or line to throw a pitch. The pitcher may stand anywhere from the pitching rubber up to 6 feet back within the pitching rubber width to release the ball. There will not be a box painted or chalked and decisions will be up to the umpires discretion. If the pitcher is outside of this area an illegal pitch will be called. All other USA Softball pitching rules apply.

Seniors will not start with a 1 and 1 count.

18. **NEW – The City of Sparks will now use the flip/flop rule in all Senior divisions. If the home team is behind by 10 or more runs at the beginning of the open inning, they will be allowed to bat at the top of the open inning. If they do not tie or take the lead, the visiting team will not bat in the 2nd half of the open inning.**

19. All players must be the minimum age of the division they are playing in by December 31, 2020. Exceptions must be brought to Recreation Manager, Tony Pehle for players that had previously been allowed to play in 2019. No other exceptions.