

SUPERSTITION SOFTBALL LEAGUE

MANAGERS

MANUAL OF THE

SUPERSTITION SOFTBALL

LEAGUE

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LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY

The Superstition League was founded for the fun and enjoyment of everyone involved. Any participant who jeopardizes the opportunity for others to have fun and enjoyment may be ejected from a game by the umpire and/or suspended from the League by the Board of Directors.

ADMINISTRATION

The Superstition Softball League will be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a minimum of four (4) members or a maximum of six (6) board members. Each board member shall be a member of the league (must be on a team roster), and upon election at the yearly organizational meeting by a vote of all managers and/or designees, shall serve for two years. The board will select its own officers and arrange staggered terms to ensure a mix of newcomers and those with prior experience. If a vacancy occurs mid-term, the board shall appoint a qualified person to complete the term.

The minimum age for men to be eligible to play on a team is 55 years, and women 45 years old. Age attained anytime during the playing year. Managers will have available at each game a certification of the age of each team member.

Any team manager may question the age of any player at any time before, during or after a game. That player must prove with identification such as a driver's license that he or she is legal.

If a player(s) is discovered not to be of legal age (55) men (45) women that game and other games that player has played in shall be forfeited.

The League board will inform teams of divisional standings on a weekly basis or as requested. Team requesting this information will call or Email the League Secretary.

It shall be the responsibility of the team manager to call or Email the scores of the games played to the Team Statistics board member within three hours following completion of the games. Failure to notify the board member may result in a team penalty determined by the board.

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PLAYING RULES FOR THE SUPERSTITION SOFTBALL LEAGUE

The league complies with the rules of USA Softball.

Games will consist of 60 minutes plus one open inning unless a tie exists at the completion of the open inning. The International Rule for breaking ties will be used. The last batter will be placed on second base. The runner must advance to third base before they can be replaced by a courtesy runner.

If the game has multiple extra innings, if both managers agree, the game can be stopped and continued on another date. The resumed game will start at the next inning following the inning stopped.

All players in the batting order must play at least three innings defensively to count as a game credit towards tournament qualification, therefore, unlimited substitutions are permitted.

Players must be available to play no later than the fourth inning. If a player arrives after the fourth inning is complete, they will not be eligible to play. Players arriving late and entering the game after the first pitch is thrown must be added to the bottom of the batting order.

Team managers and coaches will have the option to play or sit out the whole game provided that the manager informs the umpire and the opposing manager prior to game time.

A maximum of five (5) runs will be allowed each inning for each team regardless of the number of outs. Unlimited runs may be scored during the plus one open inning.

If a team is leading by twelve (12) or more runs after the end of the 5th, that team is declared the winner and the game is over.

League requirements for the pitcher are a protective face mask. Recommended by the league but not required are additional protective safety equipment, comprised of head gear (NOCSAE-approved), heart/chest protection and shin guards.

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PITCHING SCREEN

The Pitching Screen use is optional. While it would definitely be best if both managers agreed to a screen, there are certain instances where one manager wants it and the other does not. An example would be if a pitcher feels he is not capable of avoiding a line drive or hard-hit ground ball he may desire a screen for protection.

When a Pitching Screen is used, the following rules shall apply:

- a. The screen shall be a minimum of 3 feet and a maximum of 4 feet wide and a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 7 feet high.
- b. The screen shall be placed 15 feet directly in front of the pitcher's rubber.
- c. The pitcher **MUST** pitch over the screen thus making sure every pitch is the minimum 6 feet high. A pitch that hits the pitching screen is an Illegal pitch and will be called a ball.
- d. The pitcher **MUST** still wear a mask.
- e. The pitcher **MAY** field any balls hit up the middle at his own risk.
- f. Any batted ball that hits the screen shall be a dead ball.
- g. A thrown ball during play that strikes the pitching screen remains in play.

REQUIRED PLAYERS

The game will be forfeited if a team has fewer than eight (8) players. The normal complement of a fielded team will be eleven (11) players.

SUBSTITUTE RUNNER FROM HOME

Each team will be given the same opportunity to be competitive. The batter that requires a substitute runner from home will be required to use the **last out** or the last out from the inning before if needed.

If in the first inning a batter/runner will require a substitute runner prior to the first out being recorded, the coaches will determine who can substitute run for the batter/runner at the meeting prior to the start of the game. Going forward, the substitute runner will be last recorded out.

The line for the substitute runner for the batter shall be the 3rd base foul line extended behind home plate.

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If a substitute runner from home crosses the extended 3rd base foul line on a missed swing the batter is out.

A line extending perpendicular to the first base foul line and 5-foot from the right side of home plate will be the designated line a batter cannot cross if using a substitute runner.

If the batter runs towards and crosses the 5-foot line with both feet, with the intent of running to first base, the batter/runner is out and all on base runners will be returned to the base they were at prior to the at bat.

The substitute runner does not have to stop at first base.

COURTESY RUNNERS

Courtesy runners are allowed and may enter the game at any time after the batter/runner reaches first, second, or third base.

If the courtesy runner's turn at bat comes up while on base, the courtesy runner is "out". If the result of the courtesy runner being called out is not the third out of the inning, the courtesy runner will then come to bat. Only in the event of an injury to the courtesy runner may the courtesy runner be replaced on base.

The batter must reach first base before a courtesy runner can be assigned.

An individual may be a courtesy runner only once per inning.

(Exception) If the batting line up bats around in a half inning, the courtesy runner may run more than once that half inning.

HOME RUN LIMIT

There is no homerun limit set by the Superstition Softball League.

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EQUIPMENT STANDARD

No steel cleats are allowed.

No wooden bats are allowed.

Metal or composite bats shall comply with USA Softball standards for softball bats. The bat **MUST** say 'USA' or 'ASA' to be considered an approved bat. Use of a non-approved bat will result in forfeiture of the game and possible suspension of the team from the Superstition Softball League for the season.

The home team must furnish one new 12" optic yellow .52 core, 300 compression softballs and one very good softball to the umpire prior to the start of each game.

All jerseys must have numbers of at least four (4) inches tall on the back part of the jersey garment.

The pitcher's box consists of the area from of the pitcher's plate extending back 10 feet allowing the pitcher to pitch from anywhere in the 10-foot box with maintaining at least one foot contacting the pitcher's box.

USE OF 11" SOFTBALLS FOR WOMEN ONLY

A women will be given the choice of using an 11" optic yellow, .44 core, 375 compression softball or the standard 12" optic yellow, .52 core, 300 compression softball. **ONLY** women will be allowed to use an 11" softball.

If an 11" softball is used, it must be supplied by the team requesting its use. The 11" softball must be presented to the umpire prior to the women's first pitch taken and each time it will be subsequently used throughout the game.

Whichever softball is used (11" or 12") for the women's first pitch, that sized ball will be used for the entirety of the at bat. The 11" softball will be taken out of play and returned to the team when a male batter comes up to bat.

If a team is planning on using an 11" softball during the game, the umpire and the opposing coach should be notified prior to the start of the game. If the opposing coach wishes for his team to practice with the 11" softball either before the game or before any inning, the team requesting its use must supply the opposing coach with an 11" softball.

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GROUND RULES FOR PLAYING FIELDS

Resort

Home run rule at the Resort 1) any ball hit off the steel fence is a ball in play. 2) Any ball hit into the screen above the steel fence is a home run. 3) Any ball hit over the screen to the left of the painted pole in center field is an out. Any two balls hit over the screen left of the painted pole by one player during a game is ejected from play that game only. 4) Any ball hit over the screen to the right of the painted pole is a home run. As a result of this rule, we are telling all players visiting the resort for softball to park behind the compound fence, located in the gravel parking lot north of the field, not behind the right field fence. Parking is at vehicle owner's risk and The Resort and Resort tenants will not be responsible for damage to vehicles. Parking is at your own risk. Any batter can request a pitcher to move either left or right at any time prior to the first pitch.

Superstition Sunrise RV

Any ball hit over the screen between the far left and far right poles be it fair or foul, is a dead ball out and the hitter is done for the day. Runners do not advance. Any ball hit over the left field screen (between the poles, fair or foul) is an out and the batter is done for the day.

The team manager will have the option to either sit the player the rest of the day with no further penalty to the team or the manager may opt to retain the ejected ball player for DEFENSE ONLY, but an out will be recorded each time the ejected player(s) spot comes up in the batting order.

View Point

Note: *The area we are referring to runs from the pole in the middle of right field, that is painted red and goes to the right field foul post and beyond in foul territory. This rule is made to protect Viewpoint residents in the Northpoint pool area.*

Any ball hit that clears the secondary screen to the right of that painted post will be an out.

Any player hitting a ball over the screen in the described zone twice in the same tournament or on the same league day will be ejected for the duration of the tournament or league games that day. There will be no substitution allowed of the ejected player in the game in which the second infraction occurs and each subsequent at bat for the ejected player will be recorded as an out. The players team will finish the game with only 10 defensive players.

Only a previously submitted rostered player/substitute will be allowed to replace the ejected player for subsequent games in a tournament.

Any ball hit that clears the secondary home run screen to the right of the painted pole is an out. A ball which hits the foul pole or a foul ball hit above the height of the secondary screen is an out. A ball which hits the secondary screen and bounces over the screen is a home run.

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View Point (continued)

NO SLIDING RULE

1. There will be no sliding in Division 3 and 4.
2. First infraction is an automatic out.
3. Second infraction is an ejection out of the game.
4. Teams may substitute a player.

Canyon Vista

No ground rules provided

Anthem

No ground rules provided

ROSTERS

Team rosters will be frozen and presented to the league secretary before the fourth (4th) league playing date of the season. Rosters shall be completely filled out with all form information being required. All information must be legible.

A team which does not submit a roster with the league secretary before the fourth (4th) league playing date will forfeit all subsequent games until the roster is received by the secretary. If a person who is not on the frozen roster participates in a game, said game will be an automatic forfeit.

A player cannot play on more than one team within the Superstition Softball League.

If a player qualifies to play on the 70 and over (age requirement) league within the Superstition Softball League, this will allow this player to play on two teams under the umbrella of the Superstition Softball League.

Rosters will be limited to seventeen (17) players.

Non-playing coaches and managers must be listed on the roster but will not be counted in the seventeen (17) player limit.

Individual parks may have their own roster limits which will be honored by the Superstition Softball League but will not exceed seventeen (17) players.

Teams may submit a player limit exemption for the board to review.

To be eligible to play in the end of season tournament, a player must have played in at least six games played by their team during the current season. There are no exceptions to this rule.

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RULES OF BEHAVIOR

Any team that is fifteen (15) minutes late for a game in the league end of season tournament will forfeit the game and is eliminated from the tournament.

A manager, coach, or player shall not before, during, or after a game:

Threaten, lay a hand upon, shove or strike an official or league official.

Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent of an official's decision.

Physically or verbally, attack any player, official, league official, or spectator.

Refuse to abide by an official's or league official's decision.

Throw a bat or kick dirt at any time in anger.

Any member of a team ejected from the game will be suspended for the following game and can be placed on probation for the rest of the season.

A team which forfeits two games in league play cannot play in the end of the season tournament.

Any team that forfeits a game in the leagues end of season tournament will be out of the tournament.

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COST OF PLAY

A charge of \$125.00 or premium fee of \$250 (no home field) per team will be assessed prior to the start of the first scheduled game to help offset seasonal administrative costs incurred by the Executive Board performance of their required duties and use of assigned fields.

The home team must pay \$30.00 cash per game for umpires provided by the Superstition Softball League prior to the start of the game.

Any umpire driving to Florence shall receive an additional \$5.00 per day. The Superstition Softball League will pay the extra \$5.00. Any umpire living in the Florence area will not receive the additional \$5.00.

LIABILITY WAIVERS

The League liability waiver is included on the team roster and must be signed by all players and non-playing team participants prior to engaging in activities on any field utilized by the league. The waiver will remain in effect as long as the player remains with the team. Players that have not or do not sign the waiver on the roster will not play.

PROTESTS

Protests will be handled through USA Softball Rules as follows:

Alleged rules violation must be protested to the umpire and opposing manager immediately upon completion of the protested play prior to the first pitch to the next batter. Position of all players involved, inning in which the event under protest happened and score of the game should be noted before the game is resumed.

A written report will be filed and signed by both managers and the umpire will provide a separate report through the UIC and delivered to the League board (any member or Rules Coordinator) within 24 hours. The league will uphold or deny the protest within seventy-two (72) hours.

RULE REVIEW

Rules will be revisited every three (3) years. Refinements and or changes proposed by the Superstition Softball League Board between periodic reviews will be analyzed to determine if they are in the best interest of the league and may be deferred or approved for presentation to the League Managers for their approval or disapproval.

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DRH retyped 11/29/16, DRH amended 12/6/19, RWH retype. Format changes. Clarified and added rules. BP/RWH Added No Slide Rule at Viewpoint; Changed ball used to 52 core; RWH Changed words associated with waiver being included on Roster instead of being separate. Editorial changes.