

NSA MASTERS SOFTBALL

Any softball rules not covered or found in this section will be covered or found in Part I of the current edition of the official NSA Rulebook.

35 & Over Divisions of Play: Open, Upper, Lower & Rec

40 & Over and 45 & Over Divisions will be governed by the 50 & Over Division Rules of Major and AAA. **EXCEPTION:** The 40 & Over and the 45 & Over are still regulated by Part I Rule 3 of the official NSA playing rules.

A player is eligible to play in any particular division if the player's birthday falls within the calendar year. (i.e.—If a player turns 35 years of age on December 31st that player is eligible to compete in the 35 and Over Division for the entire year.) Both competitive and recreation divisions shall be offered with the Tournament Director having the right to combine the two divisions due to the lack of teams. The Executive Director or the National Headquarters must approve any change in the format or the combining of the divisions.

RULE 3 EQUIPMENT

NOTE: Any player using a Senior Bat during any division of play that is not considered a Senior Division Tournament (all participants being 50 yrs old and older per the Official NSA Rule Book) will be suspended immediately on the spot with NO right to an appeal.

SECTION 6 UNIFORM

Ball caps or visors must be alike and must be worn properly. Caps or visors are not a mandatory part of the uniform. All headgear must be of the same predominant color and worn as intended by the manufacturer. Hard plastic visors, bandanas, and handkerchiefs are not approved headgear.

- a) A pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm, or thigh which may be distracting to the batter. Players may wear solid colored undergarments under their uniform shirts or shorts. It is not mandatory that all players wear these undergarments, but if worn they shall not be ragged, frayed, or slit on the exposed areas.
- b) Numbers must be worn on all uniforms. No players on the same team may wear identical numbers.

RULE 5 THE GAME

SECTION 3 MASTERS RUN RULE:

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|-------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| a) Upper Division | Twenty | (20) runs after Three (3) innings |
| | Twenty | (20) runs after Four (4) innings |
| | Twelve | (12) runs after Five (5) innings |
| b) Lower Division | Fifteen | (15) runs after Three (3) innings |
| | Twelve | (12) runs after Four (4) innings |
| | Ten | (10) runs after Five (5) innings |

NOTE: *If the Tournament Director is running a combination tournament, the run rule used will be the Lesser Home Run Rule of the Divisions involved in the combination tournament.*

SECTION 10 CLASSIFICATION

- a) Open Division – No restrictions on player points.
- b) Upper Division – No more than one (1) twelve (12) point value player
- c) Upper Division – No more than five (5) 8-10 point value players
NOTE: *A team can't have one (1) 12 point player and five (5) 8-10 point players*
- d) Upper Division – No more than five (5) players from Class B from another association.
NOTE: *These player(s) are part of the total calculation that includes those with NSA point value*
- e) Upper Division – Any player on the Major Restricted list will carry a twelve (12) point player value.
- f) Upper Division – Any player with a 'B', 'A', 'AA', or on a player watch list from NSA or another association will carry a ten (10) point player value.
- g) Lower Division – No players with eight (8) point value
- h) Lower Division – No more than three (3) 6-7.99 point value players
- i) Lower Division – No Class C or higher players from another association.
- j) Rec Division – ALL players on a Rec Division roster must have a point value that does not exceed 3.5
- k) Rec Division – No class 'D' or higher players from another association.

NOTE: *In the event a player has a NSA history, the points given by playing in the NSA will supersede points from another association.*

NOTE: *Players retain the last Classification Played.*

SECTION 11 HOME RUN LIMITS

- a) Open Division – Six (6) home runs plus the one up home run rule.
- b) Upper Division – Three (3) home runs plus the one up home run rule
- c) Lower Division – Two (2) home runs. Any subsequent HR's will result in an Inning Ending Out.
- d) Rec Division – Zero (0) home runs. Any home run will result in an inning ending out.

NOTE: *Refer to the General Rules for the one up home run rule.*

NSA SENIORS SOFTBALL

Any softball rules not covered or found in this section will be covered or found in Part I of the current edition of the official NSA Rulebook.

40 & 45 & Over Divisions will be governed by the 50 & Over Division Rules of Major and AAA.

EXCEPTION: *The 40 & Over and the 45 & Over are still regulated by Part 1 Rule 3 of the official NSA playing rules.*

RULE 2 PLAYING FIELD

SECTION 4

The Official Diamond will have base distances of 65 feet.

NOTE: *The NSA Senior Division will use a double base at 1st base.*

- a) If the first play is at first base, either from the infield or outfield a runner will be called out for touching the inside of the base.
- b) If the play is elsewhere the inside of the base may be tagged in a continuation toward 2nd base.
- c) A runner running toward 1st base may cross over to the inside of the base to avoid a collision if a wild throw occurs.
- d) The batter-runner or the baserunner can use the inside of the base if they are attempting to get back to 1st base.
- e) If in the judgment of the Umpire, the batter-runner touches the inside bag solely in an effort to avoid collision, the play will be called as though the batter-runner actually touched the outside base.

SECTION 5

The Official Diamond will have a pitching box fifty-three (53) feet from home plate and extending back three feet perpendicular to the pitcher's mound towards second base.

SECTION 6

A strike mat will be used in all senior play and will measure 21" wide by 35" long including Home Plate

RULE 3 EQUIPMENT

NOTE: *For every Division contained inside the cover of this Rule Book All equipment must be 100% conforming, 100% of the time. The NSA reserves the right to approve or reject any softball related equipment for its intended use in the NSA Program. Equipment does not merely need to meet industry standards, but must meet NSA Standards before approval for its use is granted. If, should the NSA believe in any way shape or form that a particular piece of equipment is dangerous and/or not acceptable for fair play, the NSA reserves the right to ban such equipment immediately.*

Refer to Part 1 of the Official Playing rules for complete information concerning all equipment.

SECTION 1

The Senior Division 50 years old and older divisions may use the Senior bats. The BPF may not exceed 1.21. Seniors MAY NOT use Senior Bats in any tournament or league that is NOT a Senior (all participants 50 & Over) tournament or league. Anyone caught using a Senior Bat in anything other than Senior Competition will be suspended for one (1) year immediately on the spot with no right of Appeal.

SECTION 2

The official softball shall be a smooth-seamed, raised seam, concealed-stitched, or flat-surfaced ball. The center of the ball may be made of either long fiber kapok or mixture of cork and rubber, and/or machine wound, with a fine twisted yarn and covered with latex or rubber cement. Or it may be made of other materials approved by the NSA. The cover of the ball shall be optic yellow, tanned horsehide, cowhide or any other materials approved by the NSA, cemented to the ball by application of cement to the underside of the cover and sewn with one black waxed cotton or black linen thread and a Second Contrasting waxed cotton linen thread to be determined by NSA to form a dual colored stitched softball. The solid core ball must be stamped with the official NSA logo that contains the maximum C.O.R. and compression standards. The ball MAY NOT bear any other logos except for the NSA official logo unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director or the President of the NSA. Maximum C.O.R. is .44, Maximum Compression for NSA Senior softballs is 400 pounds with no tolerance.

NOTE: *The men's division will use the twelve (12) inch softball. The women's division will use the eleven (11) inch softball.*

SECTION 6

Players must wear visible numbers of a minimum of six (6) inches in height with no number being identical on the same team.

SECTION 7

Pitchers MUST wear a protective face mask while pitching and must wear the mask consistent with the manufacturer's intended usage of their product.

EFFECT: If the player refuses to wear a protective mask, they will be removed from the pitching position

RULE 4 PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTIONS

Any non-player who is not yet considered an adult, may not be between the fences or boundaries that are considered the playing field without a NOCSAE approved helmet with a NOCSAE approved face mask properly attached. Any youth division bat boys/bat girls who are the teams official bat boy/bat girl or who are team members serving as bat boy/bat girl must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet with a NOCSAE approved face mask properly attached. The coach/manager or player representing the team is responsible for insuring that the non-player be in compliance with the batting helmet rule or age rule.

PENALTY: The player, non-player, bat boy or bat girl will put the helmet on or be removed from the playing area.

SECTION 1

- a) A team is allowed 10 players on defense in the 50+, 55+, 60+ and 65+ divisions.
- b) AAA and AA team is allowed 11 players on defense in the 65+ Division.
- c) A Team is allowed 11 players on defense in the 70+ and 75+ division.

- d) A team is allowed 15 players on offense in the 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ and 70+ and 75+ divisions.

RULE 5 THE GAME

Softball is a contact sport, played with Composite, Aluminum, Wood and other approved materials in the design of approved bats and softballs. The game of softball can be a dangerous sport to participate in. In playing the game of softball, the player and the parents of the youth players participating in the game of softball assume for themselves and for the youth children participating in the game of softball the risk of serious injury or possible death. By agreeing to be placed on an NSA roster, the participants or parents of participants understand these risks. To reduce the risk of Injury, the National Softball Association HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY PLAYER wear protective equipment!

SECTION 1

National Softball Association Senior teams 50+ to 70+ must participate in a NSA sanctioned tournament to be eligible to advance to the NSA World Series. All teams and their rosters will be subject to the National Senior Softball Ratings.

The NSA Senior Softball Program will use a three (3) to five (5) tournament game format.

- a) If a five (5) game format is used, the tournament format will consist of a three (3) game pool play and then a double elimination championship bracket.
- b) Teams must play in pool play to participate in the bracket play. Failure to participate in the pool play (round robin) will result in elimination from the tournament and a last place finish.

SECTION 2

In the 50+ to 70+ age divisions: When the game has been played 60 minutes (1 hr.), the home plate umpire will notify the teams that they will finish that inning and play one (1) additional inning. No time limit will be played in the Semi Final, Championship and IF Game. A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings. A full seven (7) innings need not be played if the home team (the team 2nd at bat) scores more runs in six innings or before the third out of the seventh inning.

EXCEPTION: *When the ten (10) run rule is in effect.*

- a) A game that is tied at the end of seven innings or time limit will use the tie-breaker rule in the top of the succeeding inning and continues with each successive inning.
- b) TIE BREAKER RULE: The last batter of the previous inning whose turn at bat had been completed, assumes 2nd base with no outs and the game continues until one team scores more runs at the end of a completed inning (bottom of the inning).

SECTION 3

The NSA Senior Softball Division will have the following run rules:

- a) Twenty (20) Runs after 4 innings and Fifteen (15) after 5 innings.
- b) Senior games will have the following maximum run rule of five (5) runs scored in an inning.

EXCEPTION: *When the last inning is reached or declared or is in the tie breaker; this inning will be an "open run inning" which allows the team unlimited runs scored.*

SECTION 9

Senior Competition shall begin at the age of 50 and will advance each five years thereafter to include the following age divisions of play: 55+, 60+, 65+ and 70+ and 75+. 70 + teams will be allowed to have up to 3 Players 69 years of age on their roster. 75 + teams will be allowed to have up to 3 Players 74 years of age on their roster. Eligibility for all senior players (including 69

year old players playing on a 70 + roster and 74 year old players playing on a 75 + roster) pertaining to age shall be the calendar year. Senior players must have a legal picture identification card (i.e., photo ID, in their possession at all sanctioned events. Senior players may participate with Two (2) teams in a Qualifying and Post Season Tournament on the same weekend. Senior Players may play down in another age division but must maintain the same classification level. (Example: 60+ major could play in either a 55+ or 50+ Major Division, but would not be permitted to play in a 55+ or 50+ AAA or AA Division. An Official Senior Roster shall not exceed twenty (20) players. Rosters will be based upon state boundaries. The Senior Men's and Women's Programs have NO state boundary restrictions.

SECTION 10 SENIOR SOFTBALL TEAM CLASSIFICATIONS

- a) Major Plus
- b) Major
- c) Class AAA
- d) Class AA

SECTION 11 SENIOR HOME RUN LIMITS

- a) Major Plus – Seven (7) home runs plus the one up home run rule. Each home run over the limit will be an out.
- b) Major – Five (5) home runs plus the one up home run rule. Each home run over the limit will be an out.
- c) Class AAA – Three (3) home runs. Each home run over the limit will be an out.
- d) Class AA – One (1) home run. Each home run over the limit will be an out.

RULE 6 PITCHING REGULATIONS

SECTION 1

a) The pitcher must release the ball after coming to a complete stop with one foot or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate or anywhere within the pitcher's box. One foot must remain in contact with the plate/box when the pitch is released with an underhand motion. The ball must be delivered with an arch and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a maximum height of 10 feet from the ground. A step simultaneous with release of the ball may be taken (but not mandatory) in any direction with the non-pivot foot. The pitcher must be facing the batter when delivering the pitch. The catcher must remain within the lines of the catcher's box until the pitched ball is swung at or reaches the plate. If, anytime during the course of the game the pitching distance is found to be in error, the error should be corrected immediately, and the game should continue. THIS IS NOT A POINT OF PROTEST.

RULE 7 BATTING

SECTION 1

The batter shall take his/her position within the lines of the batter's box. In taking his/her position in the batter's box, the batter automatically assumes a one (1) ball and one strike (1) count.

RULE 8 BASERUNNING

SECTION 1

The three (3) foot commitment line shall be marked across and perpendicular to the foul line and placed twenty (20) feet from home plate. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner is committed to advance to the scoring plate.

NOTE: *If a runner retreats across the commitment line, he will be declared out and the ball will remain alive. A runner may retreat across the commitment line to retag base on a caught fly ball.*

SECTION 2

A scoring plate shall be located with its right corner eight (8) feet from the back of home plate. The scoring plate shall be situated on an imaginary extension of the first base foul line. The scoring plate should be anchored to the ground to prevent slippage and changes of position of the plate during the game. The offensive team must always touch the scoring plate when scoring a run. Or facilities that do not have a scoring plate may use a scoring line that is an extension of the first base line. The scoring line should begin at the back line of the right handed batter's box and extend to the fence. If the runner touches home plate or runs through the batter's box, the runner is out and no run shall be scored.

EFFECT: *If the runner touches home plate that runner is automatically out. The defensive team must have possession of the ball and always touch home plate to record the out. If the defensive team attempts to tag the runner, the runner is automatically safe.*

SECTION 9

Sliding is permissible at second base, third base and returning to 1st base. No sliding at home plate or going to 1st base the first time.

EFFECT: *The runner is declared out.*

SECTION 10

Running off or through a base is not permissible in Senior Competition. It is permissible at 1st base and home plate.

SECTION 11 COURTESY RUNNER(S)

In the NSA Senior Division an unlimited number of courtesy runners shall be allowed in all divisions. A courtesy runner may not be used more than once per inning. Any courtesy runner caught running more than once per inning, or when it is their turn to bat will be declared out. If a courtesy runner is on base when it's their time to bat an out will be recorded on that runner on base with the runner being allowed to bat. In all Senior Divisions, the courtesy runner may not run for another courtesy runner, with the exception of a courtesy runner being injured. If a courtesy runner is substituted for illegally, the infraction must be caught before the next pitch.