

Prescott Senior Softball Supplemental Playing Rules (Rev 10; April 2021)

Prescott Senior Softball (PSS) is affiliated with Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA).

Games are played according to the rules set forth in the Official Senior Softball-USA Rulebook (including amendments), subject to the following exceptions and emendations.

(The Official SSUSA Rulebook may be accessed through the PSS website.)

— Official Softball : A 12-inch ball with a COR of 0.52 and a compression rating of no more than 300 psi shall be used. (Replaces SSUSA Rule 3.5 (C), (D) & (E))

— Courtesy Runners in Open Innings : A player may normally serve as a courtesy runner only once per inning. In an “open” inning, however, a player may serve as a courtesy runner once each time through the batting order. (Modifies SSUSA Rule 8.5(1) “Using Courtesy Runners” which states that “the same courtesy runner may not be used more than once per inning.” SSUSA Rule 8.5(2) “Using a Runner on Base”, however, remains in effect. A runner who is replaced by a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning, regardless of whether his team “bats around”.)

— Home Run Rule : At no point in a game may one team have hit more than one more “over-the-fence” home run than its opponent has hit to that point. Any batted ball which would be an “over-the-fence” home run in violation of this limit shall, by rule, be a one-base hit with all runners entitled to advance one base.

— Field Dimensions (‘AA’ Division only) : Bases shall be set 65 feet apart. (Modifies SSUSA Rule 2.4 “Base Distance” which states that “Bases shall be set 70 feet apart for all age groups and divisions.”)

— Ejected Player : If a player is ejected from a game, he may not participate in his team’s next scheduled game (including playoffs). If warranted, the Competition Committee may lengthen the suspension. A lengthened suspension may be appealed to the PSS Board. (Addition to SSUSA Rule 4.8 “Ejected Player”. Rule 4.8 prohibitions against an ejected player’s presence in his team’s bench area and/or stadium grounds apply for the suspension period as well.)

A player who has been ejected from a PSS game must leave the playing fields area immediately, and may not return for the duration of any subsequent suspension. Such ejected-suspended player may not participate in any PSS game in any capacity, including spectator, until the next PSS playing date following the completion of the player’s suspension.

— “Mercy” Rule : SSUSA Rule 5.5(3) is not used in PSS league or tournament play.

— Pitch Count : (‘Major’ and ‘AA’ Divisions) Batters are allowed only 3 balls and/or 2 strikes, and all batters will start with a 1-1 ball/strike count. There will be one “courtesy foul” available to a batter after there are two strikes in the count. (Adopts SSUSA Rule 6.2 (C))

(‘AAA’ Division) Batters are allowed 4 balls and/or 3 strikes. All batters start with a 0-0 ball/strike count. (Adopts SSUSA Rule 6.2 (A)) There will be no “waste foul” available to a batter after there are two strikes in the count.

– Sliding ('AA' Division only) : Sliding and/or diving while advancing to any base is not allowed. A runner who slides or dives will be declared out. The ball remains alive. Sliding and/or diving while returning to a base is permitted.

– “Infield Fly” Rule ('AA' Division only) : Provisions of the “infield Fly” rule (SSUSA Rule 8.3 (I)) do not apply.

– Special PSS Courtesy Runner Rules :

A) A Courtesy Runner (CR) may only be used for a player who requests one. A team's manager and/or other players may not require a player to request a CR, and should not attempt to pressure or otherwise influence a player who has not requested a CR.

B) When a CR is used, all SSUSA rules regarding CRs apply, including the provisions of the tie-breaker rule.

– Defensive Positioning ('AA' Division only) : At the time of any pitch to any batter, there must be at least four defensive players positioned at least 125 feet from home plate.

Summary of Noteworthy SSUSA Rule Changes for 2021

– **Obstruction:** Defenders no longer can block a base legally while waiting on a throw to arrive. Now, to avoid being called for obstruction for impeding a runner legally running the bases, a defender must have possession of the ball or be in the act of fielding a batted ball.