

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE RULES WILL BE ADDED IN RED AND IN PARENTHESES, AND WILL SUPERSEDE NATIONAL RULES IN TEXAS)

SENIOR/MASTERS Player Rankings: (If player is on more than one of our NCS rankings list, we will go by highest ranking)

*If a player is not listed on our NCS ranking's list, we use the current year's HIGHEST SSUSA or NCS team roster a player has played on to determine ranking.

New teams to our program: You must enter our highest division unless you can supply documentation supporting players ranking (ie a nationally recognized senior program rating, a tournament roster, etc.)

If not on a current SSUSA roster we will revert to previous years highest SSUSA team player has played on.

AA - (NO MAJOR PLUS or MAJOR players, USSSA Conference or C [Last 3 Seasons] or higher ranked rostered players allowed)

AAA: 3 Major players max allowed on team roster (No MAJOR PLUS players, USSSA conference or C or higher ranked/rostered players allowed)

(NO MAJOR PLUS players, USSSA B [Last 3 Seasons] or higher ranked rostered players allowed)

MAJOR: 3 is the Max for MAJOR PLUS players, USSSA conference or C or higher ranked/rostered players allowed on roster.

(3 is the Max for MAJOR PLUS players, USSSA B (Last 3 Seasons) or higher ranked/rostered players allowed on roster.)

MAJOR PLUS: No roster restrictions (Bring Your Best)

*Protest and illegal players are not always cut and dry - We will also use common sense rule (As things do fall through the cracks sometimes -Tournament Directors decision will be final)

Determining your team level of play:

Any Conference Players in USSSA program may not play below the Major Plus (**MAJOR**) division without counting as a Major Plus (**MAJOR**) player.

Any players ranked C or higher per our NCS adult rules/ranking system will be considered Major Plus (**MAJOR**).

55 & Over MAJOR PLUS players can play as a 40 & Over MAJOR Player but can't play AAA – 50 & Over MAJOR PLUS players still count as MAJOR PLUS for 40 & Over teams.

supply documentation supporting players ranking (ie a nationally recognized senior program rating, a tournament roster, etc.) New teams to our program: You must enter our highest division unless you can

No Sandbagging - We do not need to wait for a protest before removing illegal teams or players from our events!

ROSTER: Because on-line roster may show approved -This just means you have at least 10 people added- This Does Not Mean Your Team Is Legal - You still have to follow our rankings system!

All rosters must be on-line with NCS to play our program _please print roster and have players sign and turn into us at the fields before you play your 1st game each tournament.

(This rule will be enforced beginning in April 2022 for Senior Softball Texas Style)

NO TEAM JUMPING - Players can only play on one team per age division per weekend.

Example: You can play 40's and 50's - You Can't Play 40 AAA and 40 Majors the same tournament.

- **ROSTER PROTESTS REQUIRE \$150 CASH AND MUST BE REQUESTED BEFORE THE END OF THE GAME (We suggest not waiting to protest)**
- These are the types of protests that we allow:

*Protest and illegal players are not always cut and dry - We will also use common sense rule (As things do fall through the cracks sometimes -Tournament Directors decision will be final)

- **Only manager/coach can make protest and has to still be in the tournament, not eliminated!.**

· **Checking (1) player that you know is ranked higher than the allowable player matrix** (i.e., a protest of a "Major Plus" player playing illegally in the "AAA" division. You would point out the player in question. We would ask for their ID and then check the player to see if they are legal or not based on our rules and rankings system)

· **Checking (4) chip players that you know are above the allowable limit of chip players** (i.e., a protest of a team having too many "Major Plus" chip players playing in the "Major" tournament. You would point out the (4) players in question. We would ask for all their ID's and then check each of them to see if they were counted as chip players based on our rules and rankings system)

· **Full roster ID check to see if all players are listed on the roster before the first game** (this is NOT an online player ranking protest) (i.e., a protest to prove a player playing in the game is not on the roster that is posted on-line at playncs.com. We would pull the roster and ask for all the ID's for the players on the opposing team to make sure they are all listed on the roster)

SENIORS:**1. General**

1.1 These rules are specific to Senior play. Directors may need to amend a specific rule due to requirements outside their control, if this is needed amended rules will be posted prior to the start of the tournament and distributed to managers prior to the first game of the event. Rules will not be changed during a tournament unless it is a health, safety or government directive.

1.2 These are general rules of play. For Specific rules for Masters (35+), Women's and Co-ed f(See above).

1.3 We will not charge individual player fees. A yearly team registration of \$50. Is required for play.

1.4 Teams will be required to submit an on-line roster prior to the first tournament played yearly. Teams may be required to supply documentation supporting players ranking (ie a nationally recognized senior program rating, a tournament roster, etc)

2. Age Divisions & Classifications

2.1 Age Divisions. A valid government picture ID will serve as proof. Players must have ID available at games if questioned by tournament officials.

A. Masters - 35 & 40 plus.

B. Seniors - 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 & 85 plus.

C. Exceptions -

70 Rec/AA are allowed four 69 year olds, AAA two 68 year olds

75 Rec AA are allowed four 74 & two 73 year olds. AAA are allowed four 74 year olds

80 & 85 All classifications are allowed four 79 & two 78 year olds

2.2 Classifications.

A. Major Plus - Run limit per half inning will be seven. Home Run limit will be seven over the fence. Home runs over the limit will be outs.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – MAJOR PLUS is 9 Home Runs over the fence.)

B. Major - Run limit per half inning will be five. Home Run limit will be five over the fence. Home runs over the limit will be outs. Major teams are allowed to have three Major Plus players.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – MAJOR is 6 Home Runs over the fence.)

C. AAA - Run limit per half inning will be five. Home Run limit will be three over the fence. Home runs over the limit will be outs. AAA teams are allowed to have three Major players.

D. Rec / AA - Run limit per half inning will be five. 1 home runs will be allowed. Home runs over the limit will be outs Rec/AA teams are allowed three AAA players.

E. Directors can move a team to another classification or make them run spot after pool play to balance competition

3. Equipment

3.1 Bats

Any legal adult or senior stamped slowpitch bat is allowed

3.2 Balls

A. A Dudley ball shall be used, or Senior Rock Ball.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – ANY .44/375 Ball may be used. The COR and Compression must be stamped on the ball by the manufacturer and be legible.)

No Stadium balls or 47 core ball is allowed.

B. Additional balls may be purchased from the director based on stock on hand.

C. If a tournament uses a different ball than what is listed above it will be listed at event page.

3.3 Protective equipment -

A. Pitchers - Must wear a face mask covering protecting eyes, nose and mouth at a minimum. Pitchers are strongly encouraged to wear shin guards and chest/heart protection

B. Infielders - Highly recommended to wear the same as a pitcher and encouraged to play at back of infield.

C. No Metal Cleats

4.0 Playing Field - (see diagram)

3.1 Base Distance shall be 70'

3.2 Home Plate strike zone mat shall be used 21' x 36' at a minimum (plan on a big mat with NCS Seniors)

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE will use a 24" x 36" strike mat.)

3.3 Scoring line shall be in line with the first base line and shall begin 6 inches from outside edge of home plate towards back stop. A player shall be out if they cross thru batters box unless avoid a collision at home.

3.4 Pitching box shall begin fifty feet from home and extend eight feet towards second base the width of pitching rubber.

3.5 Pitching Screen - May be used (team supplied) for 65 Rec/AA, 70 Rec/AA, 75-80 Rec/AA & AAA, all 85 classes. Screen shall be limited to 3' by 6' and placed from the center of pitching rubber toward first or third. A pitcher must retreat behind the screen if used until the ball is struck by batter. Batter will be awarded first base if the pitcher fails to comply if the batter was out by pitcher play. A batted ball hitting the screen shall be deemed a foul ball strike as second strike. A batter shall have 1 batted ball hitting the screen after the second strike be considered a dead ball. A ball hitting the screen from a defensive player shall be considered "live".

3.6 Batters Box shall be 3'x 7'. Batter must have one foot in the box prior to pitch & one foot must be in the box when striking the ball or the player will be called out.

3.7 Commitment Line shall be 30 feet from scoring line towards third base.

(A baserunner who passes the Commitment line must continue to the Scoring Line/Scoring Plate. They may not retreat toward 3rd Base. If they do so, they will be called OUT.

EXCEPTION: A runner may retreat to 3rd Base to tag up on a caught fly ball.)

4. Game Play

4.1 **Mixing Ages /Divisions** If more than one upper level team is entered into the tournament – they will be seeded into their own championship / playoff bracket after pool play if not we may use a run spot throughout the event. Division with less than six teams at Director's discretion receive a prorated prize package.

4.2 Batters will start with a 1 & 1 count. Foul ball after the second strike will be an out.

4.3 Caught foul balls in the field of play shall be considered live and players may advance after catch.

4.4 Runs must stay within 3 feet of baseline or be called out.

4.4 Players may only retreat to a base on a caught ball or in a run down. Players retreating in a force out situation will be called out.

4.5 Infield fly rule. Catchable ball at umpire's discretion.

4.6 Sun in pitcher's eye, umpire's discretion. Pitchers may move up to 3 feet with the side of the box. Must pitch the entire inning from that position only.

4.7 Designated Home Run Hitter. WE DO NOT Use This Rule for NCS/AWS

4.8 All plays at the plate will be force outs only. (NO TAG PLAYS)

4.9 Mixed Division/Classification games. Lower Division/Classification Home Run over fence limit, Over the fence balls up to upper divisions limit shall be a single and players on base will move to the next open base. Home Runs past upper division total will be outs.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE will use the Upper Team Home Run Limit for BOTH Teams in Mixed Divisions)

4.10 Pitch/Batter Rules

No Intentional infield hits/poopies/bunts - Will result in a called out!

A. Pitching arch will be a minimum of six feet and a maximum of twelve feet from the ground. Pitchers have 8 Feet behind rubber to pitch from.

B. Pitchers must present the ball then in one underhand continuous motion deliver the ball to the plate. Pitchers can pitch from more than 8 ft behind rubber

C. Once batter is set in the box the pitcher has 5 seconds to deliver. Batter has 5 seconds to get set in the box!

D. Pitcher/Batter will have a ball/strike called if exceeding rule C.

D. Each teams will get a maximum of 3 offensive and 3 defensive timeouts per game of up to thirty seconds.

E. Pitchers must face forward while delivering pitch.

F. Batters will start with a 1 & 1. No foul to waste on third strike.

G. If a screen is used it cannot be moved/removed once pitch is delivered. A new pitcher may remove the screen. (70 & Over ONLY)

4.11 Managers time out. 3 per game on offense and defense no more than 30 seconds in length.

4.12 Catchers must have at least one foot within the width of the plate and stand no closer than one foot behind the batter's box.

4.13 Defensive Players -

A. Up to 10 players. 70 and up 11. 80 and up twelve.

B. Teams may start a game with 9 players

C. Teams may not compete with less than eight players at any time.

4.14 Teams may bat up to any amount of players on a game card/roster.

4.15 A player will be deemed illegal if not on an official card/roster and be called out when challenged by the opposing team. Team may also forfeit the game.

4.16 If a player in batting order leaves the game and there is no replacement his next at bat only will be an out.

4.17 Batting out of order must be challenged prior to the first pitch of the next batter. Penalty batter will be called out.

4.18 Pinch Runner - Any player on a game card/roster may pinch run one time. Penalty, out when challenged.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – 3 Courtesy Runners may be used per team per inning. The Courtesy runner may be anyone on the Team roster and need not be in the game. They should be listed on the lineup card. The same player may only be used as a Courtesy runner one time per inning.)

Once a Courtesy Runner takes their position on the base, they are considered in the game and may not be substituted for. EXCEPTION: IF an injury occurs, the Courtesy runner may be replaced, but that player may not play defense, run or bat for the remainder of the game.

If a player is on base as a Courtesy Runner when it is his turn to bat, the Courtesy runner is removed from the base, an out is awarded to the Defense and the player takes his normal turn at bat.

4.19 **Sliding:** No sliding at first base or scoring line unless avoiding contact. Umpires discretion.

4.20 Safety bag at first base must be used unless to avoid collision. Umpires discretion. Player out.

4.21 Reentry Rule - A starting player removed from the lineup may reenter the game one time. A substitute may not reenter the game after being removed.

4.22 15 after 5 – does not need to reach open inning

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE does not use a run rule. However, if either team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 innings, the next inning will be the Open/Buffer inning.)

4.23 **Flip Flop:** Will be invoked in game when there is a 10-run differential in favor of the visiting team at the start of the “open inning.” If the visiting team is ahead by ten or more runs, the home team will remain at bat. It will be an open inning. If the home team fails to tie or go ahead of the visiting team, the game ends and the visiting team wins. If the home team ties or goes ahead, the visiting team takes its turn at bat. Flip Flop is not used in Pool Play when playing for seedings.

4.24 Run Rule - 15 after 5 – does not need to reach open inning

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE does not use a run rule. However, if either team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 innings, the next inning will be the Open/Buffer inning.)

4.25 Tie Game - will begin the extra inning(s) using the International Tie Breaker (ITB) until a winner is determined. When using the ITB a courtesy runner cannot be used for the runner placed on 2 base until the runner has advanced to 3base.

(Pool Games may end in a Tie.)

5. **Uniforms:** Players and coaches wear a shirts or jersey so they are easily identified as a team. Any decision on uniforms is handled by the tournament officials and is not subject to team protest. If event is in the cold season this rule may not be mandatory.

(Enforced in State and/or PostSeason Play)

6. **Line-ups:** Tournament officials will provide line-up cards if needed. Official line-ups must be submitted to the opposing team and scorekeeper (if available) prior to the last inning of the preceding game and given to the umpire prior to game.

7. Bench area:

A. Players, coaches, sponsors and a bat person are the only individuals allowed in the bench area. All players must stay in dugout or out of play area 1 on deck hitter

B. No Alcohol, Sunflower seeds or smoking of any kind in the dugout or field of play

C. No disruptive music: Loud, vulgar, etc. Definition, one person complains.

D. If defensive team has a player or bat outside dugout and gets hit by thrown ball the ball is dead and all runners advance one base

E. If offensive teams batter or bat gets hit by a thrown ball the closest runner to Homeplate is out

F. Teams must clean up the dugout after each game (remove garbage etc.)

G. Poor Sportsmanship will not be allowed! NO F Bombs NO Throwing the Bat NO Taunting

8. **Forfeit Time:** Game time is forfeit time. Teams should be prepared to immediately start a game once the preceding game is completed and teams clear the dugout. Teams are required to be ready to play up to 15 minutes early.

9. Game Length:

A. Pool plays 60 minutes to open, 75 minutes to the end of the game. Winner is the team that leads at the end of the last complete inning. Games may end in tie.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – Pool games will be 50 Minutes, complete the inning and play 1 Open, Unlimited Run Inning)

B. Bracket play 60 minutes to open

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – including Championship and If Necessary games)

C. Championship 70 minutes or 7 innings **(See B above)**

D: Exceptions may be required due to unforeseen events (ie weather, field restrictions, emergencies, etc).

10. **Infield Practice:** No infield practice will be permitted once the game starts. Warm-up is allowed in designated areas only. Teams may warm-up in the outfield grass if time permits.

12. Team seeding / Home Team: The home team in pool play will be determined by a coin flip. Brackets will be a choice of higher seed. Unless agreed otherwise or in finals if higher seed has a loss and is playing undefeated team the undefeated team has home team advantage, the team listed first or higher seed will use the third base dugout. The team listed second or lower seed will use the first base dugout. In the event a team plays back-to-back they will not be required to move to another dugout.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – Home Team will be decided by a Coin Flip for ALL Pool and Bracket games, except for the Championship Game. The If Necessary game will go back to a Coin Flip to determine Home Team. A Team giving an Equalizer will automatically be Home Team. The Team receiving the Equalizer may refuse the Equalizer to force a Coin Flip)

13. Roster residency:

A. Teams are allowed to draw players from other states.

14. **Run Spot:** 5 per level or age (In tournaments where we have to combine levels) A run spot will be given at start of the game not per inning. If lower level team plays up in standard event this rule applies - In national, state or world events this rule may not apply if lower team chooses to play up.

(SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE – Run Spots will be given 1 run per inning up to the total number of runs being spotted, including the Open/Buffer inning)

15. **FORMAT:** ALL scheduled pool play games count towards seeding in Championship play unless stated otherwise. Ties in the standings in preliminary pool play will be broken by

- Best record
- Head-to-head
- Run differential
- Runs scored
- Coin Flip

(NCS Bracketing/Scheduling System goes by:

- **Best Record**
- **Head to Head**
- **Runs Allowed**
- **Run Differential**
- **Runs Scored**
- **Coin Flip**

16. **PROTESTS:** The tournament committee will decide all protests. As manager, please be familiar with the rules of the game including proper protest procedure. Any protest of an umpire's rule interpretation must be made before the next pitch in the game. Player eligibility

protests must be made prior to the start of the game. Only managers may address umpires or Directors, all others will be required to stay in dugout or defensive position.

17. **Ejection Rule:** Managers are responsible for team conduct. Players, managers and spectators will receive one warning to stop unsportsmanlike behavior (ie questioning calls, pitch, language, etc.). Second occurrence of unsportsmanlike behavior will result in the offending party being ejected from the game. Third occurrence will result in manager and offending party being removed from the game and team will be assessed an out for offensive team, defensive team will be assessed an out at next at bat.

18. **Score Keeping:** Home team and umpire are responsible for keeping score (If visitors have full book kept and home team does not, we will use visitor's book and umpire for official scoring)

19. Determining your team level of play:

- A. Players may play down one age or classification, their rating will remain the same. Players playing down

(Players may play down one Age group and will be considered one classification lower)

B. Players playing down two age levels will count as one classification lower. (example 55 Major plus may play as a 40 Major player).

C. NCS- Player Rankings Trump all other promoters Roster Rankings

D. If not rated by NCS we may go by what your ranking is from any National organization

E. If you are not ranked you will be considered a Major player in your age group.

F. You may be required to supply a roster from a national promotor confirming players ratings.

G. Players can petition for Re-Class at anytime before october 1st by filling out this form. [Player Reclass Petition Form](#)

H. Any Adult Conference or rated C or higher player will be considered as a Major Plus player. **(Covered earlier for SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE)**

20. Tournament Delay -

A. If any event of delay or suspension of play by an occurrence outside of Directors control (ie weather, disaster, field condition, etc) the game may be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped. It is the manager's responsibility to contact the Tournament Representative at the field for rescheduled game information.

B. In the event the tournament can't be completed within the scheduled time frame and more than forty-percent (40%) of the scheduled bracket games have been completed, the official final order of finish will be determined by the position of the teams in the bracket. The

following procedures will be used to break ties and among teams in the same spot in the bracket:

- Won-loss records except among undefeated teams.
- If only two teams are tied for a position and have played each other, the winner of that game. If still tied pool play tie breakers will be followed
- C. We will do everything we can to complete the event due to a delay including modifying game time length, pitch count, format, etc.
- D. If an event cannot be completed per above the Director will advise teams of a rescheduled or credit towards a future event in a timely manner.
- E. STALLING If director or umpire feels your team is intentionally stalling they can minus runs from your team and or give you a loss and call ball game! (SPORTMANSHIP Is Key with NCS)

21. **Team Entries and Cancellations**

- A. Teams are encouraged to register early. Promoters are encouraged to offer a pay now, pay later or deposit option. Your spot is not guaranteed until payment in full is received. You will be notified if a tournament is nearing a SELL OUT for payment in options above.
 - B. Should a team withdraw for any reason from our tournament once the team has been entered, the cancellation/withdrawal must occur prior to the tournament deadline, being "SOLD OUT" and prior to the brackets/game times being posted on the association's website or no later than 5:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the tournament, whatever comes first.
 - C. Cancellation email must be sent and be confirmed by the tournament promoter.
 - D. If a team withdraws after the specifications listed above, the team maybe responsible for the entire entry fee unless a fully paid replacement team can be found.
 - E. Refunds for withdraws listed above will be subject to a \$50 fee plus any direct costs of refund or a full credit will be issued for future events by that promoter.
- D. Annual team registration fees are NON REFUNDABLE!