

Section 1. GENERAL:

- 1-1 All rules and/or principals not specifically addressed in the following league rules and amendments will be specified in the current NSA National Softball Association rulebook.
- 1-2 Any rule, situation or incident not covered will be reviewed and decided by the League Executive.
- 1-3 Appeals and protests will be reviewed by the League Executive for further actions.
- 1-4 Rules will not be revised during the season unless absolutely necessary.
- 1-5 Recommendations for rule changes may be submitted to the League Executive for consideration.
- 1-6 All rules must be strictly adhered to. Umpires or team reps do not have the right to waive or change these rules.
- 1-7 Rules that are RSPA specific and are different from NSA rules will be indicated by **“***RSPA***”**.
- 1-8 Rules that are new or changed for 2025 will be indicated by **“***NEW 2025***”**.

Section 2. THE GAME:

- 2-1 All games will be seven (7) innings. Home team does not bat in the bottom of the 7th inning if ahead.
Exception: In playoff series where it is a best of two games, total run series, an equal number of innings must be played.
- 2-2 Once an inning starts, it must be completed (exception: safety).
- 2-3 A game may be called in the middle of an inning for safety reasons only (darkness, weather, possible injury, etc.). The score will revert back to the last completed inning. If the outcome of the game is in question and if the outcome of the game is significant in the standings, the League Executive may (at their determination) reschedule the game to be continued from where it was left off.
- 2-4 **GAME: FOUR (4) complete innings required for a complete game, 3-1/2 innings if home team is ahead. ***RSPA*****
- 2-5 **TIE SCORE:** Game will be played until a winner is determined, unless the game is called because of time (during regular season), darkness, weather, safety, possible injury, etc. Ties may occur in regular season. No ties in playoffs.
- 2-6 **TIE BREAKER RULE** will be used with tie score in extra innings or any inning past the time limit.
The inning will be started with the last batter as a baserunner on second base.
The inning will be started with one (1) out. (as per RSPA rules).
- 2-7 **INCOMPLETE GAMES** will be replayed from the start. The League reserves the right to continue a game from the point where it was left off. Suspended games or protested games will be played from the point of interruption.
- 2-8 The umpire will decide if the game can be played. **PLAY RAIN OR SHINE.**
- 2-9 **RSPA RAIN OUT POLICY:** Unless otherwise informed, all teams must show up "rain or shine".
Only the umpire can call the game at the diamond. **DO NOT CALL** to see if the game will be played!
In extreme situations, teams will be e-mailed by 4:00 pm to cancel games and info will be posted on the web site.
- 2-10 **GAME START TIME** will be as per the League schedule. Standard game start times will normally be 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm and/or 9:30 pm. League Executive retains the right to adjust game start times if necessary.
Game start time is "game start time". **Home team must have bases placed by game start time, or risk default.**
- 2-11 **GRACE PERIOD** of ten (10) minutes (umpire's time and discretion) will be allowed from the official game start time. If a time limit is in effect, the grace time will be deducted from the game time.
- 2-12 **TIME LIMIT:** There are no time limits on games on unlit diamonds (*exceptions – double-headers, late scheduled start).
Doubleheaders will be scheduled on unlit diamonds from the second week of June to the middle of July.
Time limit will be in effect.
On lit diamonds and in playoff games, if a time limit is in effect, 1-1/2 hour game slot, no new inning will start after **ONE (1) HOUR AND FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES.** (*exceptions on late games DH with start 8:30 pm)
- 2-13 **DEFAULT:** In the event of a default, the score will be recorded as 7-0 (one run per inning).
- 2-14 **DEFAULT FINE:**
 1. A team will be fined \$25 for the first game default; \$50 for the 2nd game default; \$100 for the 3rd game default and may be brought before the League Executive for further action.
 2. The default fine will be reduced by \$25.00 if the League is notified 24 hours in advance.
 3. A default fine may be waived by the League Executive in exceptional circumstances.
 4. All default fines and late payment fines will be strictly enforced.

- 2-15 **MERCY RULE:** Mercy rule of 15 runs after 4 complete innings (or 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead) or 10 runs after 5 complete innings (or 4-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead). *****NEW 2025 NSA*****
- 2-16 **POINT STRUCTURE:** A win is worth 1 point, a tie is worth 1/2 point and a loss is worth zero points. Standings may use a weighted point system or division record in order to rank teams for the playoffs.
- 2-17 **HOME TEAM** for regular season games will be decided by the schedule.
For playoff games, the team with the higher standings will have choice of first home or away, with all other games in the series alternating home and away.
- 2-18 **BALLS AND STRIKES:** The umpire will be responsible for determining BALLS and STRIKES.
A strike-zone mat (Worth WO-WSPM) or board will be used with the home plate area **NOT CUT OUT**. *****RSPA*****
Mat with the cut out will be allowed with the cut out over the homeplate and the homeplate will be a strike.
A legally pitched ball that hits the mat or the homeplate before it hits the ground, will be called a strike.
- 2-19 **THIRD STRIKE FOUL RULE** is in effect.
The batter is declared out if he/she hits a foul ball or foul tip with two (2) strikes.
- 2-20 1-1 COUNT: Batters will NOT start with a 1-1 count.**
- 2-21 **HOME RUN RULE “MATCH PLUS TWO”** is in effect in all fenced parks or parks with a designated out of play area. At no time during a game will the number of home runs (over the fence or out of play) hit by one team be more than two (2) more than the number of home runs hit by the opposing team. When a home run is hit, that is in excess of the number allowed, the batter will be declared OUT. (see also “Ground Rules”) *****RSPA*****
- 2-22 **WALK OFF HOMERUN:** Walk off home run will be allowed if EITHER team REQUESTS it. No out called for untouched base. Out called if touched first base with bat in hand. Out called if baserunner touches homeplate, mat or board after running the bases.
- 2-23 **INNING MERCY RULE:** 6 run maximum runs per inning mercy rule (unless more than 6 runs are required to avoid a mercy), even if a home run is hit that would put the max over 6 runs. The last inning is open.

Section 3. THE PLAYING FIELD:

- 3-1 **BASES** will be set at **SEVENTY (70) feet** from the back of homeplate to the outside of the base. *****NEW 2025*****
No defensive player (other than pitcher and catcher) can stand closer than **70 FEET** (amended rule) *****RSPA*****
- 3-2 **PITCHING ZONE:** The "Pitching Zone" is 24 inches wide by **10 feet long**, running 50 feet from home plate to 60 feet from home plate. The pitch must be delivered with the pivot foot within the pitching zone. *****NEW 2025 NSA*****
- 3-3 **COMMITMENT LINE:** **Twenty (20) feet** from home plate. Base runner must continue once any part of his body is over (and on the ground) past the commitment line. *****RSPA***** (contrary to NSA rules)
- 3-4 **SCORING LINE** at home plate must be crossed with a portion of the foot on or over the line and on the ground.
Force out at home plate.
- 3-5 **150/175 FOOT RULE:** The 150/175 foot rule (Ontario only) will **NOT** be used in RSPA. Outfielders may be positioned anywhere in fair territory in the outfield, but not closer than rover depth. No defensive player (other than pitcher and catcher) can stand closer to the batter than **70 FEET**. (amended rule). Five-man infield is **NOT** allowed. *****RSPA*****
- 3-6 No outfielder may make a force out on the batter-base runner at first base, nor may an outfielder relay the ball in order to make a force out on the batter-base runner at first base. Once the batter-baserunner has rounded first base they may be thrown out. There is no penalty for attempting to throw the batter-baserunner out. *****RSPA*****
- 3-7 **FIVE MAN INFIELD:** Five man infield **IS NOT ALLOWED**. All "outfielders" must be in the outfield or at "rover" depth. A player will be deemed an "outfielder" if they are playing a defensive position that would be on the grass on a normal softball diamond (umpire's judgement). *****RSPA*****
- 3-8 **ENCROACHMENT RULE:** No defensive player can stand any closer than **70 FEET** in fair territory *****NEW 2025***** as each pitch is delivered. (amended rule). *****RSPA*****
- 3-9 **SPECIAL GROUND RULES:** Ground rules for specific parks / diamonds should be reviewed before each game by the umpire and the team representatives. All ground rules are subject to change. Additional ground rules may be applied as a result of temporary field conditions, weather, etc.

Section 4. EQUIPMENT:

- 4-1 **BATS:** RSPA recognizes **BOTH** the USSSA & ASA 2004 bat testing methods. *****RSPA*****



All RSPA approved bats must carry the USSSA stamp “thumbprint” and/or the ASA 2004 logo. (NSA and SPN allow **ONLY** bats with the USSSA (“thumbprint”) stamp).

- Titanium bats are illegal. Hardball bats are illegal. Wooden bats are illegal.
- 4-2 **ILLEGAL BAT:** Any player stepping into the batters box with a non-approved bat will be **DECLARED OUT**. (not ejected from the game). *****NEW 2025 NSA*****
- 4-3 **OFFICIAL BALL:** The official RSPA League ball for 2025 will be the Louisville Slugger NSA Canada 12" COR.52/300 Softball Optic Yellow- LSSB52CALYL. Balls are supplied by the League. *****NEW 2025 NSA*****
- Teams may use up Worth "Hot Dot" balls. All other balls are illegal.
 - If balls are not picked up by June 8, the team will forfeit their supply of balls. *****RSPA*****
- 4-4 **BALLS:** Home team must supply one **NEW** (unused) League approved ball plus one used ball in good condition for a spare.
- If both game balls are lost, the home team must supply alternate balls.
 - Used balls are returned to the team at the end of the game.
 - Suitability of balls will be in the umpire’s discretion.
 - Failure to supply game balls will result in home team assessed an “equipment fine” of \$10.00 for failing to supply necessary equipment.
 - The League will supply the balls to the teams.
 - If balls are not picked up by June 8, the team will forfeit their supply of balls. *****RSPA*****
- 4-5 **BASES:** Home team must supply bases complete with pegs, and including a safe-base.
- a. Bases **MUST** be of regulation size, and in good condition, or not damaged, complete with pegs.
 - b. Double base (safe-base) for use at first base must be one piece only; no split/folding bases allowed.
 - c. Home team must place and peg down bases before scheduled game start time.
 - d. Bases are to be measured and secured at the proper distance, by game time (up to and including grace time).
 - e. **Bases will be set at a distance of 70 feet.** *****NEW 2025 NSA/SPN*****
 - f. If home team does not supply and place base in the allocated time, the visiting team must supply and place bases complete with pegs, and a safe-base. If visiting team is required to supply and place bases, they will have the option of home field advantage, and the home team will be assessed an “equipment fine” of \$10.00 per incident.
 - g. If neither team has bases complete with pegs, and including a safe-base, a **DOUBLE DEFAULT** will be declared and **DEFAULT** fines will be assessed against **BOTH** teams.
 - h. For a double-header, the home team for the first game of the double-header, must place and leave the bags, for both games if they are staying at that diamond, unless stated otherwise on the league schedule.
- 4-6 **PITCHING MAT or BOARD:**
- The official pitching mat is the Worth WO-WSPM orange pitching mat or a wooden board may be used if available. ***** RSPA *****
 - **DIMENSIONS:** 24” x 36”, with the vee **NOT CUT OUT** to fit around the homeplate. *****RSPA*****
 - Mat with a cut out will be allowed with cutout over homeplate and homeplate is a strike. See below.
 - **MATERIAL:** Must be rubber or soft plastic or wood.
 - **WEIGHT:** Must be weight/thickness not to be blown by the wind.
 - Home team must supply and place a League approved pitching mat or board.
 - If home team does not have a pitching mat available, the visiting team must supply one.
- If no pitching mat is available, **BOTH** teams will be assessed an “equipment fine” of \$10.00 for failing to supply necessary equipment. The game will proceed, with the umpire calling balls and strikes without the aid of a mat.
- Old pitching mat with the cutout may still be used, just place it over the homeplate.
 - **The homeplate and strike zone mat/board is considered foul territory.** *****NEW 2025 NSA*****

4-7 SCOREBOOKS: *RSPA*****

1. Both teams must have and must complete League approved game score books. *****RSPA*****
2. Game score books are supplied by the League to the teams.
3. Scoresheets must be completed and must include both teams batting orders, including substitutions. Batting orders must include full names (first and last names). *****RSPA*****
4. Scoresheets SHOULD be signed by the umpire.
5. Game scoresheets must be maintained by the team and must be made available to be submitted to the League Executive at any time upon request. Scorebooks may be collected and reviewed before the playoffs.
6. Scoresheets: Teams **MUST** submit photo of all scoresheets for PLAYOFF games. *****RSPA*****

4-8 SHOES: NO METAL CLEATS are allowed.

- If batter steps in the box the batter is called OUT (not ejected from the game). *****NEW 2025 RSPA*****
- Defensive player will be asked to leave the field until proper footwear is worn (no penalty).
- A second occurrence will result in player ejection. A third occurrence may result in player suspension. *****NEW 2025 RSPA*****

4-9 UNIFORMS: Team uniforms (matching colour shirt) **WILL BE ENFORCED for 2025.**

1. ALL players **MUST** wear matching tops after the RSPA uniform deadline (June 15) comes in effect.
2. It is recommended that uniform tops have numbers (at least 4" high) visible.
3. It is also recommended that teams adopt a uniform pants/shorts colour.
4. Coaches must also have matching tops as a minimum.
5. **MATCHING** will be interpreted as “having the same body colour and shade and the same sleeve colour and shade”. The **BODY COLOUR** and **SLEEVE COLOUR** do **NOT** have to be the **SAME**.
Stripes will **NOT** be interpreted as a colour and should be ignored when determining if the uniform matches.
6. Uniforms may be as simple as matching colour t-shirts.
7. Uniforms may be covered by outer wear in inclement weather.
8. **UNIFORM DEADLINE:** Uniform deadline is June 15th.
9. **UNIFORM FINE:** For any player participating (offensively or defensively) in a game that is not wearing a uniform top (after the deadline), the team will be assessed a \$10 (ten dollar) fine per player to a maximum of \$100 per night per team.
10. Any player not in uniform for playoff games must submit photo ID. *****RSPA*****
11. **RECOMMENDATION:** Carry extra uniform tops.

4-10 GLOVES: All players may wear a glove or mitt of any size, including a “trapper” style glove.**4-11 JEWELLERY: There is no jewellery rule; jewellery may be worn.**

However, we strongly recommend that all jewellery be removed when playing.

Section 5. PLAYERS & SUBSTITUTES:

5-1 The “standard” line-up shall be regarded as ten (10) players, consisting of 7 males and 3 females (7M-3F).

5-2 Additional players may be added to this line-up by adding one male and one female.
ie: 8M-4F, 9M-5F or 10M-6F, etc.

5-3 A line-up may always add more females. ie: 6M-5F, 4M-6F, 3M-7F, etc.
The line-up may contain an odd number of batters.
You may add an automatic out in the batting order to bat an extra male.

5-4 No restrictions on the batting order. May bat males and females in any sequence. May bat as many males in a row as you wish.

5-5 The line-up may not contain more than four (4) more males than females. Exception: see rule 5-6 below.

5-6 AUTOMATIC OUT:

- A team may play with only two (2) females (ie: 7M-2F or 6M-2F) with a maximum of 7 males.
- The batting order position for the missing third female will be declared an “Automatic Out”.
- If the third female shows up anytime during the game, she may be inserted in that spot in the batting order, replacing the “Automatic Out”.
- A team may add an “Automatic Out” in order to bat an extra male batter.
- An additional batter (male or female) may be added to the batting order, replacing an “Automatic Out”, at any point in the game, as long as the batting order remains legal with the proper male-female ratio.

- 5-7 A team must field a minimum of eight (8) players to start or continue a game.
A team can start batting with less, but if required to take the field must have the minimum of eight (8) players.
- 5-8 Maximum ten (10) players on the field at any one time. Maximum seven (7) males on the field at any one time.
- 5-9 **ADDITIONAL PLAYERS:** No maximum number of players in the batting order.
- The team must finish the game with the same number of players.
 - If a player is removed from the batting order for any reason, and if there is no substitute available, an automatic out will be declared in that spot each time the player is due to bat.
 - A player in the batting order must bat (or be substituted for).
 - A player **MUST** be on the batting order to play a defensive position.
- 5-10 Players cannot be added to the batting order after the lead off batter has been pitched to a second time through the order. Additional players may be added to the bottom of the batting order until the leadoff batter comes to bat.
- 5-11 **SUBSTITUTION:**
- Starting player may be pulled from the line-up and re-entered once back in the same spot in the batting order.
 - Substitutes may take the place of a starting player.
 - Once a substitute has been pulled from the line-up, he/she may not re-enter the game.
 - All substitutions must be reported to the umpire and the opposing team rep or scorekeeper.
- 5-12 If batting more than ten (10) players, there is unlimited substitution, in and out of the defensive positions, from the players listed on the batting order as long as there is a maximum of 7 males defensively at any one time. Only players in the batting order may field.
- 5-13 **ILLEGAL BATTING ORDER/LINE-UP: ***RSPA rule*****
If a team is discovered with an illegal line-up, with more than four more males than females in the batting order, the following penalty will be applied:
1. An automatic out will added to the bottom of the batting order for every illegal male batter.
 2. If a male batter has just batted, and got on base, at the time of the discovery, that batter will be declared out.
 3. If a male batter is at bat or coming to bat at the time of the discovery, that batter will be declared out.
 4. The umpire may bring any illegal batting order to the attention of the opposing team, and apply the penalty.
 5. The umpire will report all instances of illegal batting orders to the League Executive and further penalties will occur for second and third offences.
 6. A second offence will result in a one game suspension for the team rep or team coach.
 7. A third offence will result in game default, plus a three game suspension for the coach.
- RECOMMENDATION:** Check the other team's line-up before the game starts.
- 5-14 **MALE BATTER WALKED:**
- If a male batter is walked with a male batter following, he will be awarded first base only.
 - If a male batter is walked with a female batter following (or an automatic out for a female batter), the male batter will be awarded first and second base and the female batter following has the option to take her turn at bat or to take a free walk. *****RSPA*****
- 5-15 **COURTESY RUNNERS:**
1. Each team will be permitted a maximum of **seven (7) courtesy runners**, during each game. *****RSPA rule*****
 2. The courtesy runner can be used at any time and must be reported to the umpire.
 3. Any rostered player (in uniform) from the line-up, bench, etc. may be a courtesy runner.
 4. Courtesy runner must be male for male, female for female or female for male. *****RSPA rule*****
 5. You **MAY** use the same courtesy runner more than once **but not twice in the same inning.** *****NEW 2025 RSPA*****
 6. A team pitcher on base with two out is allowed a free courtesy runner if he/she wears protective equipment to allow time to don the protective equipment. *****NEW 2025 NSA/SPN*****
- 5-16 **MINIMUM AGE** to participate is **EIGHTEEN (18)** as of December 31 of that year, or **SIXTEEN-SEVENTEEN (16-17 actual age)** with approval of parent or guardian.
- Player under the age of **SIXTEEN (16)** will be considered on a case by case basis. *****NEW 2025 NSA*****
- 5-17 Players may **NOT** play for more than one team in the same division for playoffs.

5-18 ROSTER:

1. RSPA requires all teams to complete the on-line roster.
This will require all players to complete their information on-line. This will require all players to have an active email address. Players **MUST** complete full name (first and last), sex, date of birth, postal code and a valid email address.
Teams must indicate which players are league players, and players on the roster that only plays tournaments with the team.
Tournament roster may be different from league roster.
2. All teams must submit a playoff roster before the playoffs listing eligible players. *****RSPA*****
3. The team rep must have a copy of their team roster with them at all games, and must produce them on demand to a League Official or League Umpire.
4. Roster checks will be done at the first games of all playoff series, and for all final championship games.
Roster checks will be performed by umpires, League Executives and/or their representatives.
Roster checks may require photo proof of identification. Any player not in uniform for playoff games must submit photo ID.
5. Teams must maintain scorebooks if required to prove that a player is playoff eligible with a minimum of 5 regular season games.
6. Teams must submit a playoff eligible roster upon request.

5-19 ROSTER DEADLINE:

Deadline for the on-line roster is May 18. League roster changes and additions will be allowed up to July 1.
League approval is required for all league roster changes after July 1. Changes will still be allowed for tournament rosters.

5-20 ROSTER MAXIMUM:

A maximum of TWENTY (20) players may be registered on the on-line event/league roster. *** NEW RSPA *******
Exceptions allowed with League approval.

5-21 AWARDS MAXIMUM: League awards will be limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) awards per team.

5-22 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYOFFS:

- A player must participate (be on the batting order) for a minimum of five (5) regular season games in order to qualify for the play-offs.
- A player must be on the official scoresheet. The scoresheets must be available for verification, to be allowed to participate in the Play-offs.
- If a player does not qualify with 5 regular season games, a request may be made for an exemption.
- Teams are responsible for keeping scoresheets and must be available to the League Executive upon request.
- Teams must submit a playoff eligible roster upon request.
- Players may NOT play for more than one team in the same division in the playoffs.

5-23 BLOOD RULE: A player who is bleeding must tend to his/her injury and clean up the wound.
If they are unable to do so within a reasonable time, then they must be removed from the game.

Section 6. MISCELLANEOUS:

6-1 CONDUCT: Any player, coach, manager, team rep, etc. who initiates a fight, an incident, an altercation etc., will be ejected immediately from the game and will be suspended as follows:

- MINIMUM ONE (1) GAME SUSPENSION will be imposed the FIRST time.
- MINIMUM THREE (3) GAME SUSPENSION will be imposed the SECOND time.
- Any player ejected for "UMPIRE ABUSE" will be suspended for an additional THREE (3) games.
- The League Executive will review the status of any individual who has been ejected for a SECOND TIME and will consider expulsion from the League.
- The umpire will be required to write a report on any ejection and upon review of this report, further action/suspension may be imposed by the League Executive.
- These penalties are to be viewed as an automatic ruling and are the minimums.

6-2 EJECTION:

1. Any player ejected from a game must immediately leave the park (not just the field). Failure to do so will result in the team forfeits the game and further player suspension may be imposed by the League Executive.
2. Any player ejected from the game for any reason will automatically be suspended for the next scheduled game. Any player ejected from the game for umpire abuse will automatically be suspended for the next 3 scheduled games.
3. Any player ejected from the game because of a confrontation and/or verbal abuse will be reported which may lead to possible further action/suspension to be imposed by the League Executive.

- 6-3 **SUSPENDED PLAYER:** Any team using a SUSPENDED player, coach, manager, team representative etc., in any capacity related to the playing of a game will forfeit that game and further penalties may be assessed.
- 6-4 **PROTESTS:** A ONE-HUNDRED & SEVENTY-FIVE (\$175.00) dollar protest fee must accompany each protest.
- The protest fee will be refunded ONLY if the protest is upheld.
 - If the protest is found to be invalid, the protest fee will NOT be refunded.
 - Protests must be in writing and must be received by the League Executive within forty-eight (48) hours of the game completion (excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays).
 - The umpire and the opposing team must be notified at the time of the protest and both the umpire and the opposing team representative must sign the game score sheet.
 - The protest must be made before the next legal pitch, intentional walk, or before all defensive players have left the field.
 - Protest will be considered for the misinterpretation or misapplication of a rule, or for player eligibility.
 - Protest will NOT be considered in which the umpire's judgement is questioned (ie: a safe call, ball or strike call, fair or foul call, etc.)
 - CLARIFICATION OF THE APPEAL CAN BE FOUND IN THE NSA RULE BOOK.
- 6-5 **DIVISION STANDINGS:** will be set and may vary from division to division.
- Division standings may vary from division to division, depending on the level of ball, the number of teams, etc.
 - Standard rankings will be based on win percentage. Tier 1 divisions (and others) may be division record first.
 - Division standings and ties may be determined by strength of schedule and/or a weighted point system.
 - Ties in division standings will be decided by:
 1. Record against each other.
 2. Division record.
 3. Strength of schedule.
- 6-6 **PLAY-OFFS:**
- Playoff formats may vary from division to division, depending on the level of ball, the number of teams, etc.
 - Playoff series will be a best of three game series whenever possible.
 - Double knock-out series will use a best of two games, total run series.
In a best of two game series, an equal number of innings must be played.
 - In all play-off series the team with the HIGHER league standing will have the choice of FIRST game HOME/VISITOR decision. Each subsequent game will alternate HOME/VISITOR decision.
If the team chooses to be home team, they must supply and place the bases.
 - In playoff elimination series, teams will NOT be re-ranked, but will face the next team as per the playoff schedule.
7. **GROUND RULES:**
- 7-1 **GROUND RULES:**
1. Ground rules for specific parks / diamonds should be reviewed before each game by the umpire and the team representatives.
 2. All ground rules are subject to change.
 3. Additional ground rules may be applied as a result of temporary field conditions, weather, etc.
8. **NSA RULES NOT USED:**
- 8-1 **NSA RULES NOT USED:**
1. 1-1 count is NOT used in coed divisions. 1-1 count is used in Mens Masters division.
 2. Pitchers mask not mandatory (not mandatory for either NSA or SPN) but highly recommended.
 3. No small ball-big ball. Both male and female will bat the 12" ball.
 4. No restriction on male-female pitcher-catcher combination.
 5. No bunting. No stealing.
 6. Pitching arc to stay 6 to 12 feet arc.
 7. Bat rule to stay same RSPA (allow ASA 2004 bats; no senior bats; no wooden bats).
 8. Commitment line to stay as 20 feet from homeplate (not 8 feet as per NSA).
 9. Homerun rule – stay with match plus 2, after that it's an OUT.

8. MENS MASTERS 50+ RULES:

- 8-1 RSPA rules for Mens Masters 50+ division.
- 8-2 Masters 50+ division, all batters will start with a 1-1 count.
- 8-3 **TIME LIMIT:** We will be slotting late games in whenever possible, so time limit will be in effect, Game slot 1 hour-15 minutes; no new inning after 1 hour (60 minutes). *****NEW 2025*****
- 8-4 **ROSTER:** All players must be 50 years of age or turning 50 within the calendar year.
All Masters 50+ teams are allowed ONE underage player turning 49 within the calendar year.
All Masters 50+ teams are allowed ONE underage player turning 47-48 within the calendar year. *****NEW 2025*****
Exceptions may be allowed with Executive approval.
- 8-5 **COURTESY RUNNERS:** Unlimited courtesy runners. Cannot use the same runner in the same inning.
- 8-6 **RSPA 50+ Pitching Screen Rules:**
- A. The screen will directly face home plate within one to three feet in front of the pitching rubber.
 - B. The screen may be positioned anywhere from the outer left side of the pitching rubber for a right handed pitcher to the outer right side of the pitching rubber for a left handed pitcher.
 - C. The screen must be placed to the left of a right-handed pitcher, and to the right of a left-handed pitcher to maximize the pitcher's safety.
 - D. The pitcher SHOULD release the ball with half of his body protected by the screen.
The pitcher MUST release the ball with his pivot foot behind the screen. *NEW 2025*****
 - E. Any batted ball striking any portion of the screen as observed by the umpire will be declared a dead ball, foul ball and will be a strike. If it is a third strike, the batter is out.
 - F. All thrown balls are live and in play. A thrown ball that becomes lodged in the netting of the screen will be declared a dead ball, with runners returning to the last base touched.
 - G. Any pitch delivered with the screen not in a legal position will be declared "no pitch." If a pitcher refuses to place the screen in the correct position, the umpire will notify the player's manager and remove the pitcher from the pitching position.
 - H. Once the screen is in position it becomes part of the field and may not be tipped over or thrown aside to accommodate a throw from the outfield.
- 8-7 **HOME RUN RULE "MATCH PLUS TWO"** is in effect in all fenced parks or parks with a designated out of play area. At no time during a game will the number of home runs (over the fence or out of play) hit by one team be more than two (2) more than the number of home runs hit by the opposing team.
- **Open fields or parks fenced 270 feet or greater:**
When a home run is hit, that is in excess of the number allowed, the batter will be declared OUT.
 - **Parks fenced less than 270 feet:**
When a home run is hit, that is in excess of the number allowed, the batter will be awarded a SINGLE.
 - the batter who hits the homer is awarded a single
 - batters on base only move up if forced to move
 - ie - if a runner on second base he does not move up unless forced.