

Prescott Senior Softball Supplemental Playing Rules (Rev 2; May 2016)

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 : Each team may hit three over-the-fence home runs per game. Each subsequent over-the-fence “home run” is a dead ball out and base runners may not advance. (Effectively adopts SSUSA Rule 8.4(4) “Home Run Over Fence — AAA Division”.)

— Field Dimensions (‘B’ 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.”)

The Commitment Line shall be placed 20 feet from home plate. (Modifies SSUSA Rule 1.15 “Commitment Line” which states that the “commitment line shall be ... placed thirty feet from home plate.”)

— 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.)

— Special ‘B’ Division Base Running Rules :

A) In the ‘B’ Division, tagging is not required on plays on advancing runners. However, tagging is permissible with the exception of plays made at home plate. Runners advancing toward second or third base will be called out if a defensive player holds the ball while touching the base before the runner touches the base. The defensive player must properly complete the play (touch the base, not drop or mishandle the ball) or the runner shall be declared safe. This is not a “force play” unless the advancing runner is advancing as a result of a batter becoming a batter-runner and before the batter-runner or a preceding runner has been put out.

B) 1. Runners, when advancing, are permitted to over-run second and/or third bases without liability to be tagged out.

B) 2. If the runner makes an obvious motion to advance, he may be tagged out.

B) 3. If an advancing runner over-runs a base, then wants to advance, he must re-touch the base before advancing. If he fails to re-touch, he will be declared out. The ball remains alive.

B) 4. A runner may only over-run a base without liability while advancing. In returning to a previously occupied base, over-running the base carries full liability to be tagged out.

C) 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.

Noteworthy Rule Changes for 2016 — Summary

SSUSA changed made very few changes to playing rules for 2016. The only one that may affect PSS play extends “hit and sit” treatment to four-base awards. Batter-runner and runners on base are not required to touch any base or bases. Previously, “hit and sit” pertained only to over-the-fence home runs.

Differences Between SSUSA and ASA Rules

In addition, certain SSUSA rules differ from those published by the American Softball Association (ASA). Since PSS games were played under ASA rules in recent seasons, the following differences between SSUSA and ASA rules are noteworthy. This list is not comprehensive, and summary rules presented are not definitive. The definitive source in all cases remains the Official SSUSA Rulebook (including amendments).

1) If a batter-runner en route to first base stops and retreats toward home plate to avoid a tag, he is automatically out, the ball is dead, and all runners must return to bases occupied at the time of the pitch.

2) A base runner attempting to score is out if he touches the strike mat or runs through the batter’s box.

3) The entire strike mat at home plate is deemed to be fair territory.

4) If a base runner misses a base as a result of attempting to avoid a collision with a fielder, he may be ruled safe if, in the umpire’s judgement, he would have been safe had he not attempted to avoid the collision.

5) If a player is forced to leave a game for reasons other than an ejection by an umpire, and there are no available substitutes, an out will be declared the next time his spot comes up in the batting order. In subsequent times through the batting order, his position will be skipped with no penalty. If a player is ejected by an umpire, and there are no available substitutes, an out will be declared each time his spot comes up in the batting order.

Note: The preceding section was compiled in April 2014. Subsequent changes in ASA rules have not been monitored.

Revision History

Rev. 1 (October 2014) :

Added :

— 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.)

Deleted :

E) A team may use only one 'A' rated player as a courtesy runner in a game. That player may run once each inning, but no other 'A' rated player may serve as a courtesy runner for that team.

(Deleted from "— Special 'B' League Base Running Rules")

Rev. 2 (May 2016)

Amended:

Definition of PSS Official Softball to reflect adoption of 0.52 COR / 300 psi specifications.

Field Dimensions to reflect adjust 'I' Division base path distances and Commitment Line to SSUSA standard 70 feet and 30 feet, respectively.

Special 'B' Division Base Running Rule (A) to specify that not all plays on advancing runners are "force plays".

Special 'B' Division Base Running Rule (C) to specify that sliding/diving while advancing to any base is not permitted.

Deleted:

Reference to “veer off” rule removed to from “Special ‘B’ Division Base Running Rules”. The “veer off” rule applies to all PSS play, and, therefore, is not a “Special” rule pertaining to the ‘B’ Division.

Summary of Noteworthy Rule Changes for 2014

Added:

Summary of Noteworthy Rule Changes for 2016

Note clarifying anecdotal nature of section on “Differences Between SSUSA and ASA Rules”