

## **2026 Current Rules Hillsborough County Athletics Dept**

Thank you for choosing the adult softball program offered by the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. Our goal continues to be to provide a well-run, affordable, quality softball program in which players have fun no matter what their skill level. Within that goal is our priority to provide to our program participants exemplary customer service – whether in person, on the telephone or via e-mail. It is our desire to constantly improve our program, and we sincerely welcome your comments and suggestions on how we may provide better customer service to teams and ways to improve the program. We recognize that there are multiple levels of skills among our teams as well as different levels of competitive desires and we try to match teams accordingly. Despite how hard any individual competes or how hot the competitive fire burns, it is important to always remember that the adult softball program is a family – based recreation program for all participants. We ask that you and your players keep that perspective in mind before, during and after participation on a nightly basis. Knowing that excellence is our goal in customer service, quality of facilities and in the education of the umpires, we ask you to be our partners in attaining that goal. Your communication with us on any issue of concern allows us to correct problems and work toward our goals of excellence and quality. Again, thanks for choosing HCPRCD adult softball program. Please feel free to email any question of concerns to [www.hcpsportsonline.com](http://www.hcpsportsonline.com)

### **General Program Information**

- The rules, policies, or procedures published in this guide are the official rules of Hillsborough County Recreation Softball. The rules in this guide take precedence over any association's other rules that may apply. These guide rules will be a modification of the official rules published and USSSA their official guide.
- All rules not addressed in this managers guide will fall under the official League game are rules of softball as published by USSSA
- The operation and authority of the adult softball program rest solely on the Athletic Section of the Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department. Any questions regarding the program should be directed to a member of the athletic staff.
- All teams and individual players, upon entering a league or joining a team, agree to abide by the rules, policies, and procedures as stated in this guide. Failure to abide by the rules, polices, or procedures of the program could result in forfeiture of games or suspension of a team or player from league play.
- As a condition of participation in the adult sports program, all players must sign a seasonal consent waiver of release. This waiver can be signed at either the William Owen Pass or Ed Radice complexes depending on where the player is playing. The waiver expires on December 31st of the year it is signed. This is good for any adult sport sponsored by H.C.P.R. & C.D. But each team is required to turn them in every season. For Roster purposes.

- Hillsborough county Parks Does not allow use Alcohol at our facilities. Any Players caught with alcohol with be removed from the park and suspended from league play. Teams and players should be aware of any alcohol found in their dugout will result in a team's immediate forfeit to the game and removal of their team from the league.

- Hillsborough County Bat rules No Senior Only bats are Allowed in regular league play. The exception will be allowed in senior play only. No ASA only bats will be allowed to be used for playing in this league.

If a bat is currently band from USSSA and cannot be used in League play.

- Hillsborough County does not carry any type of insurance on players or their personal property. All players and spectators enter County property at their own risk. Cars could be damaged by hit or thrown balls. The County is not responsible for any loss of personal property or for injury which occurs as a result or participation in the adult sports program.

- It is recommended that each manager/coach be responsible for having a first aid kit.

- In the HCPRCD adult sports program all participants must be at least 18 years old by the first scheduled game in the season of participation.

- For updates, standings, scores, schedules & rainouts, please be sure to visit [hcsportsonline.com](http://hcsportsonline.com)

## **GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

All manager meetings are mandatory. Teams must have a representative present at the managers meeting even if your team has prepaid for the upcoming season a team rep must still be present and sign in at the meeting) HCPRD offers three adult seasons per calendar year. Teams play one night a week from 9 to 12 games scheduled depending on number of teams in your division per season.

Leagues are offered on weeknights and Sundays.

HC Offers three seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall Season Date are TBD:

Field Locations:

West Tampa: Ed Radice Complex (5 Fields)

East Tampa: Williams Owens Pass (4 Fields)

(No Cash or personal checks will be accepted) Sponsor check will be accepted. Credit Cards payments will be accepted online during the open registration window via an online Payment.

All sponsor checks in the amount of 350.00 are made payable B.O.C.C. (Board of County Commissioners)

Sanction Fee's If applicable - \$ 30.00 made out to Tampa USSSA (USSSA FEE IS ANNUAL) \*\* If required for that season. A bad check fee of \$40.00 will be assessed for each dishonored check (Ordinance 77-2S)

No team or individual will be allowed to participate until all checks have been made good and all fees have been paid (by money order or cashier's check or credit card)

## ***Casual Profanity:***

It is the desire of the Athletic Office to create an atmosphere at all softball games in which any member of the family (regardless of their age) can be comfortable. Is defined as audible profanity not expressly directed to any Individual. The penalty for casual profanity is an out. If a team is on offense, the next batter is out. If a defensive player is guilty, the first batter for his/her team the next half inning is out. If there are multiple infractions, there may be multiple outs. A maximum of three (3) outs per team will be penalized in a game. The fourth infraction will result in a game ending infraction and will result in a forfeit.

## ***Threats & Fighting***

Verbal threats or Physical threats of violence made against umpires, or another player are taken seriously and are prohibited. Threatening an umpire or another player with violence or verbally attacking will cause the player or spectators to be ejected from the game and or the Field. The player may also be suspended from league play for the remainder of the season or for a period determined by the league up to and including two years from the date of the incident. If the player or spectator does not leave the complex, including the parking lot, they will be trespass on by Hillsborough County Sherriff department.

## ***Ejections:***

Umpires may remove any players or spectators from participation for any act they deem unsportsmanlike and may require the ejected participant to leave the premises before the game continues. A player or spectator may be ejected before, during or after a game. If a player is ejected from a game, they are suspended for the rest of that night. And can't play on any other field for that night. If an umpire writes up an incident report, there will be a minimum of 1 week or more suspension for that player for all teams that player may play for. This is determined by The Athletic Office. A player can even be ejected after a game has ended. They made be ejected from the complex. Please be advised that if a player is ejected from a game the team's manager may also be ejected from a game if the umpire feels the manager was not addressing the situation in hand. Any player, manager or spectator who refuses to leave the field after the ejection Is subject to being trespass off the county fields and will in result in their game being forfeited.

## ***Suspensions:***

The Athletic Office has the sole authority to suspend players and spectators determine the length there for players/ spectators who commit unsportsmanlike acts. The manager will receive either written or verbal notification (both when possible) of a player's suspension. Once suspended, a player may not participate in any team in HCPRC play. If a participant plays while suspended, both the players and the manager will be subject to disciplinary action. If the player plays under an assumed name (one other than their own), both player and the persons responsible for putting the name on the line-up card shall be suspended from all HCPRCD play. Any player who fights or incites a fight will be suspended for a minimum of one season. Participants ejected from unsportsmanlike conduct acts will be automatically placed on suspension. Also, Any Player caught with alcohol will be removed from the park and suspended from the league.

## ***Protest:***

**YOU MUST INFORM THE UMPIRES THAT YOU ARE PLAYING THAT GAME UNDER PROTEST Before the Game has ended. (Before the last out has been made no exceptions.)**

You must make sure that the Umpire writes that your team is protesting this game on the score card, or the protest will not be accepted. All protests of rule interpretations or player eligibility must be filed in writing or email to [info@hcsportsonline.com](mailto:info@hcsportsonline.com) with the athletic office within 24 hours of the contest (by the close of the next business day). Only the team manager can protest a game with an umpire.

Umpire judgement calls made on the field by an umpire are typically not reversible.

If a protest happens in a playoff game the head umpire should contact the athletic staff immediately. Inform the staff member on site

## ***Alcoholic Beverages:***

It is against the law to drink alcoholic beverages on County property (Ordinance 97-14). Players caught drinking on County property will be immediately ejected from the game or removed from the facilities and face a suspension. Violators are also subject to arrest by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

## **MANAGER CARDS AND ROSTERS:**

All managers and Players must fill out a complete roster and Waiver form which is held in the county office at the facilities.

### ***Rosters & Waiver***

- Before each season a NEW Roster must be turned in by the 1st Game. Any Roster that does not have all the requested information filled out properly will not be accepted. All signed Rosters and waivers must be turned in to the umpire the night of the first game NO EXCEPTION!! Any roster changes must be made in person In the Athletics office; Rosters can be changed any time during the season\* Players must meet a minimum qualification to qualify for playoff Roster
- Managers are responsible for their players making sure that the players sign their names on the roster and the waivers Forms clearly if the name is not printed clearly the player will not be eligible for play. If a manager allows a player who has not signed a roster & waiver to play that manager will be held accountable and is subject to be suspended. There will be a Roster Limited of 20 per Roster player.
- If players have not signed a waiver, they will not be allowed to play if for any reason. For whatever reason if the roster is not turned in by a team any challenge of a roster player will automatically result in a forfeit.
- A player can be on only 1 Roster per Division (Players may be in as many leagues as they want but can be on only 1 roster in each division). NO EXCEPTIONS, **A Player must have played in 2 Regular season games to Qualify for playoff eligibility.**
- Make sure you communicate all schedule changes to your team. Please Check the website daily for changes.
- Thru the season, the managers should check with Athletic Staff for early registration dates, changes in schedules for any rain outs. Usually, the rainouts will be replayed in the order which they were rained out after the regular season game the same time slots, also you may visit the web site for a lot of this information. The athletic staff reserves the right to reschedule or change times or nights to make up any cancelled or rainout games.

## **Bat Rules:**

- Bats must have at least a USSSA fingerprint stamp. 1.20
- Any bat that is currently banded by USSSA will not be allowed to be used in this league Play.
- ASA Only Stamp bats are banned from League Play
- No Senior Bats are allowed in Regular league games (They are allowed in Senior Games Only)

Regardless of player age.



### **LEAGUE RULES:**

A pre-game conference is a meeting involving the umpires, coaches and or team captains at home plate. The meeting should begin approximately five minutes prior to the start of the game. The purpose of the pre-game conference is to exchange and check each team's lineup cards and as well as a coin flip to determine who is the home and away team and to discuss ground rules.

- All batters come to the plate with one ball, one strike. No Courtesy Fouls
- Time limit on all games is one hour (60Min), no inning will begin after the time Limit has expired unless the game is tied. After seven innings or time limit exceeded the teams are tied there will be a Texas - tie breaker put into play. There are no tie games. The Playoff Games Will Have the standard Game Time limits, Championship Game has a Time limit of 70 minutes. No new inning will start after this allotted time.
- The following run rules are in effect for all games 20 Runs 3 after 15 runs after 4 Innings 10 after 5 innings
- A Coin flip will determine which team is home and way for every game regular season games. The playoff's higher seed will be the home team.
- All levels of men's and women & co-ed play teams may use the extra hitter (EH). In a league play a team may bat up to 14 hitters.
- In all league games, a team may drop below the number of players with which they Began the game and continue to play provided that the number of players does not Drop below 8 players. However, if a team drops a player the team must take an out every Time the player is due up to bat unless the team has an additional player on their bench to Sub for that player.
- If a team loses a player to injury and does not have an available player to sub on the Bench and wants to use a pickup player you must check with the opposing Teams manager to allow you to pick up that player and sub for the injured player.

- If a team “drops” due to a player’s ejection from the game, the team cannot use a sub for the ejected player and the team must take an out every time the ejected player is due up to bat.\*At the time of ejection there is an extra hitter already in your lineup, that player may assume the fielding vacancy, However the spot of the ejected player will still be an automatic out every time the spot in the lineup comes up to bat. If the team does have an extra hitter in the line prior to the ejection a team may not fill that void in the field. They must play short fielders. And not add another player to the lineup.
- If a team loses a player due to work, and or gets mad and quits, etc. You may sub for That player provided you have additional player on your bench to sub for that player. You may not use a pickup player to sub for this scenario. If you have no available Players on your bench you may continue to play with an out being recorded each time The player is scheduled to bat. If the player who leaves is on base, the base is vacated, and an out is recorded. Please keep in mind that we have approximately 20 teams a night on the fields. So, if possible, please use the website for postponements of the games. If the game has not been postponed via the website One hour before game time. Then the decision to play becomes the umpire’s responsibility to call off the games. Any concerns with the league or it’s Umpires, field quality any general questions should be emailed in to [info@hcsporsonline.com](mailto:info@hcsporsonline.com)

## Pitching Standards:

Slow pitch softball pitchers have the option of releasing the pitch from the pitching Rubber or from an area defined as the pitching area, which is a six-foot area directly behind the rubber. The rubber and the pitching area are both two feet wide. When he releases the pitch, the pitcher must have one foot on the ground either on the rubber or within that six-foot deep box. The pitch must come out underhand and must have an arc to its trajectory. The ball must go up at least 4 feet from the ground and cannot go higher than 10 feet above the ground. ***To be called a strike, the pitch must pass be at least 4 feet high off the ground and must hit the plate or attached mat behind the Plate. \* Pitcher is required to wear a Face mask or helmet while pitching or must use a net. \*\* (Players Must Supply their own equipment)***

\*\* Pitcher safety rule, If the ball is hit back to the pitcher and it goes thru the pitcher’s box and any part of the pitcher body is in the box in the air or on the ground 1 hop or less the batter will automatically be out. Once a Pitcher leaves the box, he is now no longer subject to this rule.

- Rules Allow a pitcher on Any Level to Fake or Deak or Pump a pitch before delivery for 3 sec prior to a pitch A Player cannot pitch behind the back or between the legs on the delivery. This will be deemed an illegal pitch • Each Team will supply their own USSSA Stamped Classic M Or Pro M balls. All must be or below 44.375 Core or 11” classic W balls for women must use appropriate ball per division.

## **Base Running:**

**SAFETY BASE:** First base will have a white & orange safety base. Both bases are active. Are meant for players to avoid contact. Players or Fielder may use either bag to avoid contact and both may be used to retire a base runner. A Home line is considered Home Plate for this league; Player must cross the home line before the reaches the player covering at home plate receives the ball. It is a force play no tags are allowed

- Home line is considered Home Plate.
- Runners must use the home line to score a run. Runners cannot touch the home plate it will be deemed a out. Runners cannot slide into the home line either.
- Runners cannot run out of their direct path to the plate to contact the catcher.
- Runners cannot collide with the catcher if they could have avoided contact at all costs.
- Commitment Line once a runner crosses this line they may not turn back to third base.

**STEALING:** Due to the recreational nature of our leagues, it is our plan to allow stealing only in our Men and Women's Class Upper class.

**PINCH RUNNERS:** Any player in the lineup may be a pinch runner, any player can be used as many times in an inning as needed, please inform the umpire that a player is subbing in for a pinch runner. Only male runners can run for male batters and Female runners for female batters. If the pinch runners are on base when it is their turn to bat the runner becomes an automatic out and must vacate the base to bat. This player may not be subbed out for another runner when it is his or her turn to bat.

**Pick up player are only allowed with permission from the opposing teams manager, For regular season games. Failure to disclose a pickup player will result in a team forfeit.**

**Pick up player must be on county wavier and roster to participate, No exceptions**

**Regular Season - If a team needs a pickup player for the regular season to make 10 for its lineup, it may request from the opposing team to authorize a selected player to be used with the approval of that opposing team's manager.**

**No team may pick up more than 3 players to make ten to play.**

**No Pickup players are allowed! For Playoffs NO EXECTIONS**

Non-Eligible Players

- If a team feels an opponent has a non-eligible player in their lineup, that team's manager Must inform the umpire that they would like to play this game under protest game due to their line-up. Make sure the umpire writes a protest on the official score card. Before the game ended.

## ***Hitting rules:***

The following rules apply if (1) the ball hits a pitcher while in the pitcher's box without touching the ball touching the ground first or (2) a pitcher is injured by a hit ball and removed from the game due to the injury even for just one play:

- The bat will be removed from the game and placed behind the umpire on the fence for the remainder of the game (once a bat is removed from the game it cannot longer be used in that game). • After the game, the Umpire will inspect the bat. If the Umpire does not find an issue with the bat, it will be returned to the owner.
- If the Umpire feels the bat is unsafe due to cracks, or it looks altered, the bat will be tagged and reported to the USSSA and the Hillsborough County Athletic Office. • If the bat is tagged, it will no longer be eligible to be used for playing in our league without written proof that the bat has been properly tested and is safe for play in a USSSA sanctioned game.
- Umpires may request that any bat be removed from play if they feel it is unsafe.
- A bat tagged means: The Umpire will record the Make, Model, Weight, Color, and Bat ID (or SN#). The ID/SN# is sometimes located behind the batters taped handle. The Umpire will also record the owner's Name and Phone number and a brief description of the bat.
- The bat will be immediately returned to the owner once this information is recorded by the Umpire following the game (neither the Umpires or Hillsborough County Athletics will never take possession of the bat after the game has ended).
- If an owner refuses to furnish the information needed to tag the bat or tries to restrict the Umpire from recording bat information as described above, the person will be suspended from play.
- If a player is caught using a bat that has been removed from play and tagged, that player and/or owner will be suspended
- New Rule If the ball is hit through the Pitchers Box in the air or One bounce off the ground the batter will automatically be out.

## ***Co-Ed Rules:***

In coed play, teams will bat using two ball concepts. Male players will hit the 12-inch ball, and females will hit the 11-inch ball. NOTE: If the pitcher throws the wrong ball and the batter hits the pitch, he or she will have the option of taking the result of the play or batting again using the correct ball. \* Women can also choose a Men's Ball to Hit if they would like too. The only rules are you must have at least 3 women always playing anywhere in the field. If you only have 3 women in the field, you may only have 6 males on defense. With a total of 9 players. If a team does not have three girls to start a game, it is a forfeit. In the Batting order you may never bat more than two males back-to-back. If a team is trying to field a team with 10 or more players, it must have at least 4 girls in its line up and in the field. With a maximum of 6 guys in the field. The most males you can have in defense position is 6 - in any scenario.

- Walks or Intentional walks If a walk is issued to a male batter with less than two outs the female must hit, if there are two outs the female batter has the option to take the base automatically Also in coed If there is back-to-back male batter the player is only awarded 1 base.

## ***Miscellaneous:***

- The Batting teams base coach will exchange the male and female balls with the pitcher not the umpire.

Rosters are not turned in by the roster deadline will not be valid. Or if they are not filled out properly, they will not be valid, Missing signature names address will result in no valid roster.

- It is strongly recommended that teams should at minimum keep score for there at bats this resolves any discrepancy That may result in a scoring error. After every half inning the team should verify the score with the home plate umpire.
- If a game gets suspended for whatever reason the athletic office will decide whether to continue that game from its Current place, or to just replay the whole game. After 4 innings the game is official.
- Standing or Scoring correction If you see a scheduling or scoring or standings issue, please contact the Athletic office to inform them. sent an email to [info@hcsporsonline.com](mailto:info@hcsporsonline.com) Email first then follow up with a phone message.
- The Website is not an official county driven site. The Athletic department tries to assist the volunteers with the most accurate information of standings, Rosters and current rules and regulation as possible. • All official Records Standing Rules are kept by the athletic dept. The website is just a tool to help support our league.
- Any unforeseen roster issues that may occur will be dealt with by Hillsborough County athletic office and will be their sole discretion.

Teams that tries to submit multiple rosters or do not turn in a roster in time will be penalized and may forfeit its eligible playoff status.

Each team will complete their regular season games. After the 9 weeks of regular season games the top 3 to 4 teams will qualify for a divisional playoff to determine the league winner. The playoffs will consist of 1 week of playoffs (i.e. 7pm Game will be the 2 seed vs 3 seed, the winner advancing to the championship game. The same night: the 8pm Game will be the 1 seed vs 4 seed, the winner advancing to the championship game at 9PM that same night. Or if it is three teams' playoffs then winner of 7pm game would play for Championship at 8pm that same night. (All other teams will be eliminated from playoff play). During the playoffs, rosters will be strictly enforced. All players who participate in the playoffs must have proper ID at the game If Requested by the umpire. Only players who have played in 3 regular season games for the team will be eligible for the playoffs. If there is a playoff protest the head umpire must contact the athletics immediately. All playoff Rosters will be verified by the umpires before each game. •Earphones, Headphone Cell Phones are not allowed to be used during play. There are no Speaker boxes Boom box or Bluetooth speaker Allowed during game play. In between innings and walk-up music is accepted but no music during play.

## **Game Balls:**

The Official Ball Men's (12") The Balls must be Optic Yellow USSSA or GSL Stamped ball allowed. Must be A Classic M or Pro-M USSSA Stamped ball.

Any ball that is currently ban by USSSA is also banned in our League Play.

The Official Ball Women's (11") The Ball must be Optic Yellow. With a USSSA or GSL Stamp Women's Classic W are allowed No other balls are allowed.

## **STANDINGS & PLAYOFFS:**

Each team will play between 9 or 10 depending regular season games depends on number of teams in the division The top three or four teams will enter a playoff based off the division standings 1 seed will play 4 seed and 2 seed will play 3 seed or 2 will play 3 and winner will play 1 in a 4 team division, depending on playoff bracket lay out . Winners meet for the championship.

Tie Breakers: 2 teams are tied in overall record the next tie breaker for 2 teams only will be head-to-head. If the teams have split the regular season game the next tie breaker will be the differential which is the teams scored minus the points against which gives you either a positive number or a negative number depending on the points for and points against. The highest positive number or the lowest negative number if both teams have a negative differential The next tie breaker would be points.

against and then points For and then if still tied the athletic staff will do a coin flip. 3 or more Teams Tied: Head-to-Head does not apply.

## **Divisions:**

Home Runs are Hit and Sit, Players who do not need to advance to the next Base.

When a team reaches its home run limits will be the inning ending.

Only Men's Women's and Coed Elite levels will have steals.

Men's Women's and Coed A, B, C Level will have no steals

**A -Level – A Pitcher Mask or Net is Required - County does not supply equipment.**

Men's A Level – 8 hr.'s No steals.

Women's A Level – 6hrs No steals

Coed A Level – 6hrs No steals Per Sex

**B – Level - A Pitcher Mask or Net is Required - County does not supply equipment.**

Men's B Level – 6 hr.'s No steals.

Women's B Level – 4hrs No steals

Coed B Level – 4hrs No steals - Per Sex

**C – Level - A Pitcher Mask or Net is Required - County does not supply equipment.**

Men's C Level – 4 hr.'s No steals.

Women's C Level – 3hrs No steals

Coed C Level – 4 hrs No steals - Per Sex

## **Senior – Level**

**Unlimited Hr., Typically** innings will be capped with a run 7 limit.

50 min Game time open Last inning.

## **AWARDS:**

Each Season All Awards will be held at William Owen Pass Office for East Side and Ed Radice for the west side It is the responsibility of each winning manager to pick up awards. Awards will be available at the end of Each season at the William Owen Pass Office for the East side, and at the Ed Radice Complex for the West side. The athletic staff will not be responsible for any awards left for over 30 days. Hillsborough county softball official standings may be found on the [www.hcsportsonline.com](http://www.hcsportsonline.com) web site or by calling the athletic office. Each League winning team will receive one team trophy. The trophies will be

purchased by the Hillsborough County Athletic Section. Each winning team of each division will be awarded a Champions trophy. These trophies were purchased by Hillsborough County Athletic office.

## ***RAIN OUTS / INCLEMENT WEATHER:***

All regularly scheduled games that need to be made up or that are rained out will be rescheduled at the discretion of the athletic office. Please note that only the manager will be given make-up information. Rescheduling of rained out and make up games is done without regard to bad nights, bad times or conflicts with other team's schedules. All the managers will be notified as soon as possible. Usually make up games are made up at the end of the season. After Week 8, the staff will do all that is possible to make up all the games. Some games may not be made up for the following reasons: Due to deadlines to start the next season, Standings that will not affect the outcome of the Champions. [www.hcsportsonline.com](http://www.hcsportsonline.com) will have them posted as well.

## ***Safety Net and Safety Mask:***

Any League that Uses a Protective Pitchers Net (If the Ball Hits Any Part of the Net or the frame It is considered a foul ball) In Upper Leagues Team may elect to not use the net on defense. The Pitcher will be required to wear a mask, if team uses the net, it must be placed in front of the pitching rubber up to three feet in front, The Pitcher will have to retreat behind the net after the pitch. After the ball is put in play, The Net may be knocked down for a play to the plate. If a Player Has 2 Strikes and hits the net the batter is out. The nets are not supplied by the league teams may elect to provide their own for use. A net may not be wider than 4 feet wide. Max of 7 high. All Pitchers not using a net will be required to wear a safety mask or helmet. Players must supply their own equipment.

. \*\* No Equipment is supplied by Hillsborough Country

Calls or concerns should be directed to William Owen Pass for games played at William Owen Pass, Email [Martinco@hillsborougcounty.org](mailto:Martinco@hillsborougcounty.org) Calls or concerns should be directed to Ed Radice for games played at Ed Radice Email [Reidw@hillsboroughcounty.org](mailto:Reidw@hillsboroughcounty.org) For all fields, the Athletic Staff and umpires will determine the playability of all fields up until 1 hour before the start time of the first game of that day. After such time, all teams should report to their scheduled games and the playability of the fields will become the umpire discretion.

**•No dogs or pets are allowed at county complexes. Only Service Animals are allowed.**

## **40+ Over League All standard League rules apply with these Modifications.**

**Commitment Line** A minimum of six (6) foot commitment line shall be marked across and perpendicular to the foul line and placed thirty feet from home plate. Once a runner has crossed the commitment line, he/she cannot return to third base and must continue home, can no longer be tagged out by the defensive player, and the defensive player must touch the Home Plate Mat. The ball remains live.

**Scoring Plate/Line** A base runner's foot down on or down past the scoring line or down on the scoring plate prior to the ball being received by a defensive player touching the Home Plate Mat results in the scoring of a run.

**Game time Limits** Each game will have a 50min clock, after 50 mins each team will play one open inning.

**Capped Innings:** Each Inning will be capped at 7 runs per Inning with the last inning being an open inning.

**Bats:** Age groups 40+ and Above may use any bat Stamped 1.20 BPF Senior. It does not have to be USSSA stamped until they are available. However, it must be from a USSSA licensed manufacturer. May also use the USSSA 220 or 240 USSSA Stamped bats.

**Pitching Screen** (Required to play in this league) - Any batted ball that hits the pitching screen will be treated as a foul ball. If a batter has one strike and hits a batted ball into the pitching screen, the strike total is now two strikes no foul ball to waste as if the batter hit a foul ball. If a batter has two strikes and hits a batted ball into the pitching screen, the batter will be declared dead ball out due to "must be fair after two strikes."

Illegal Pitches – Umpires shall verbally and visually call illegal pitches.

Sliding or Diving Players may not slide or dive into the Home Plate Mat or Scoring Plate/Line. If they do, they are called out.

Player will be asked to Verify their age with a ID to Play in this league.

Any player turning 40 in this calendar year Jan1st – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to play in this league.

