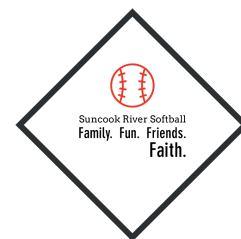


Suncook River Softball Rules 2023 FINAL

Coaches:

1. The home coach is responsible for the game ball, bases, checking mound distance, 3rd base ½ way mark, pregame prayer, and ground/field rules (i.e. foul vs. out of play lines, field obstructions, etc.).
2. Games start on time at 6:00pm with a grace period decided upon by coaches.
3. Home coach determines if a game is canceled due to weather & must call the other team's coach to let them know; phone agreements about canceling a game are permitted. Try to make cancellations by 5:00pm.
4. Coaches/book keepers are required to check in at the end of each inning to confirm run count.
5. Coaches are responsible for working out any issues in a game. Players are NOT to get involved in a dispute but will bring their concerns to their coach. Players who refuse to follow this rule will face the possibility of being asked to leave their team and the league.



Equipment (see equipment rules for specifics about bats & balls):

1. No metal cleats allowed.
2. Only appropriate footwear is acceptable, which means the footwear covers the entire foot and is designed for activity. Dress shoes, flip flops, or Crocs (or other similar types) are not acceptable.
3. Only official softball bats are allowed and must meet the league's requirements/restrictions (see equipment rules).

Hitters:

1. Everyone bats in one continuous order for the whole game.
2. If the batter hits the catcher or umpire with the bat, they get one warning. Additional infractions will result in an out.

Runners:

1. Runners can not leave the base until the ball is hit. If the runner leaves the base during a swing without a hit, the runner is called out, except in the case of foul balls. No leading, no stealing, and no bunting.
2. A hit must leave the immediate batter's box to be considered a fair ball.
3. Players who are physically able to play a defensive position can play in the game. Pinch runners are allowed if needed. The pinch runner must be a player who is of similar speed.
4. Players who slide into first base or home plate will be called out. The runner is out at home without a tag if the defensive player has control of the ball and tags home plate before the runner touches/crosses the extra home plate.
5. 3rd base has a commit line halfway down, and once the runner crosses the commit line, they CANNOT be tagged out; they can only be thrown out at home plate (catcher is on the catcher's plate). They CAN be tagged out by a defensive player BEFORE the commit line if the player has not yet crossed it.
6. When a play is attempted at home plate, the catcher/fielder's position is ON home plate & the runner's position is ON the extra home plate. Calls at home are made by the umpire or 1st base coach in the absence of an umpire.
7. If A 3rd base runner crosses the commit line on a pop fly and the ball is caught, the runner is out.

Fielders:

1. There is an encroachment line in the outfield of 130' from the back side of the pitcher's mound & field markers will be used for each game. Outfielders may not encroach on the line until AFTER the ball is hit.
2. Defense may move the short fielder to any spot in the outfield at any time. The short fielder can not play in the infield.
3. A caught pop foul is considered an out if the ball goes over the head of the catcher/fielder. All other foul balls are considered an out if caught in foul territory.
4. A pop fly OUT OF PLAY is a foul ball, regardless if it's caught or not, and runners CANNOT advance. A pop fly in foul territory is a 'live' ball once caught, and runners CAN advance after tagging up.

Players:

- Adult players are preferred. The minimum age to play is 14 years old.
- There is a maximum of 10 players on defense, with a minimum of 3 female players, on the field at all times.

Variations:

1. Missing 1 female player - batting order holds 10th spot for missing female player & an out is recorded each time that spot comes up & only 9 players are on the field.
2. Missing 2 female players - open spaces in the batting order are in the top 10 batters & only play 8 players in the field
3. 8 players - if both coaches agree to not forfeit & female player rules still apply

Umpires:

1. Umpires call all foul balls, including out of play calls. Catchers call foul balls in the absence of an umpire
2. Strikes are called by the umpire when the pitch meets the minimum 6ft arc and lands anywhere on either the plate (black part included), the orange mat, or if the batter swings & misses. Catchers call balls/strikes in the absence of an umpire.
3. In the absence of an umpire, 1st & 3rd base coaches umpire the bases, not the foul lines. 1st base coach umpires 1st base & home plate. 3rd base coach umpires 2nd & 3rd base.

Miscellaneous:

1. All players play at their own risk. All spectators attend at their own risk.
2. Under NO conditions will a pregnant woman be allowed to play.
3. Pitchers must start each pitch at a minimum distance of 49' feet from the front of home plate.
4. The game consists of 7 innings. Extra innings can occur when there is a tie at the end of the 7th inning, as long as both teams can still produce a full team.
5. Maximum of 6 runs per team per inning, except for the last inning, where there is no limit to the number of runs that can be scored by either team.
6. In order for a player to be eligible to participate in the end of season tournament, he or she must have played in at least half of the regular season games. Coaches must be prepared to show previous batting order lineups to the commissioner for approval.
7. 5 Innings constitutes a full game in the event of a shortened game due to weather.
8. Subs must be a player of similar skill and of the same sex. Coaches are responsible for choosing an appropriate sub.
9. Intentional Walking: All pitches must be thrown with the intention of being hittable. Attempts at blatant intentional walking are not considered good sportsmanship and will be addressed by the Commissioner to the Coaches. Intentional walking will result in the batter being placed on second base. This would advance runners only by force. **Coaches have the right to address a concern with other coaches.**
10. Infield Fly Rule: Infield fly rule does NOT apply to this ministry. Fielders are expected to make a real attempt to catch fly balls in the in field. Intentionally dropping a fly ball in order to get a double play or gain an advantage in the play is not considered good sportsmanship. **Coaches have the right to address a concern with other coaches.**

Volunteer Umpires:

Teams are asked to provide a minimum of 2 people to umpire for other games during the week, unless umpires have already been assigned.

By participating in this league, all players and coaches agree that calls made by an umpire are accepted and not disputed. Coaches are allowed to approach umpires for discussion, but understand that the umpire has the final call.