

# **Palm Beach Senior Softball Association**

## **League Rules Of Play (Updated for Winter 2010)**

*Players shall have reached 55 during the calendar year in which the Winter Season occurs in order to be eligible. Allocation of players by Division is strictly the province of the Board of Directors and/or Ratings Committee or their designees.*

*Players new to the PBSSA will not be placed in any Division or “reserve” until such time as they have participated in sufficient practice sessions to allow an accurate rating of their skills.*

*Players may not participate in League games or practices until registration fees have been paid in full.*

*Players not available on DRAFT DAY may be placed on a waiting or reserve list.*

*A team assigned player who misses 3 consecutive games, or 4 in total, may be removed from the teams’ roster and designated as a “reserve player”.*

*Practice games are restricted to registered players only - i.e. those who have signed the waiver and paid the membership fee. All players participating must be at least 55 years of age.*

*Gold division players may not play in Silver division games.*

*All players, except those opting to wear a protective face mask, must wear the cap provided by the league. The cap’ bill must face forward.*

*Metal cleats are prohibited.*

*Every player MUST furnish his own approved bat for game use.*

*All bats must be inspected and approved by the Board of Directors prior to use in league games or practice sessions. Stickers will be affixed to bats that have been inspected and approved. Players may consult the website [www.pbssa.org](http://www.pbssa.org) for current information or contact a Director.*

*Rain-outs prior to the first pitch are determined by the onsite Directors or by the managers in the absence of a Director. The Board may develop a procedure of telephone relays to provide advance notice to managers and players. Unless notified in advance that games have been cancelled or delayed, managers and players should report to their assigned fields as scheduled.*

*Once the game starts, the umpires are in control of the game and playing conditions.*

*A game must be at least five (5) innings to be considered an official game.*

*A team may not score more than 5 runs per inning except for the last inning when scoring is unlimited.*

*No sliding or base overruns are permitted. Runners MUST give way at second or third base to fielders in the act of playing the ball, e.g. completing a double plays or force outs. Any player who slides or dives into or back to a base is out.*

*Runners may leave a base when the pitch passes the plate, hits the ground or is hit by the batter.*

*Each runner must reach first base by his own efforts. Any player may be replaced by a courtesy runner at his request or by manager’s discretion.*

*A courtesy runner on base when it is his turn to bat will be declared “out”. The courtesy runner will be removed from the base – and not replaced – and take his turn at bat. Such an “out” may be the last out of an inning or game.*

*A game will end due to a “mercy rule” if a team is 15 runs ahead after 7 innings in a 9 inning game or after 5 innings in a 7 inning game.*

*League games may be played on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays at 9:30AM during the Winter 2010 season. Regular games are scheduled for 9 innings. Should 7 inning doubleheader games be required, the first game will begin at 8:30AM with no inning starting after 10:00AM. The second game will begin no more than 10 minutes after the completion of the first game.*

*Should a game be tied at the end of regulation play a “tie-breaker” will be used to determine the outcome. A runner will be placed at 2<sup>nd</sup> base with one out. Play will alternate until a decision is reached.*

*Players are expected and required to report to games in sufficient time to adequately “warm-up” and prepare to play. They are also expected and required to be regular in attendance. They shall notify the manager as soon as possible if they will be absent from a game.*

*Managers will exchange lineups no later than 15 minutes before a games’ starting time. They are to fully discuss absent players, players requesting early dismissal, players who are requesting an exemption from playing defensive innings and other unique factors concerning the upcoming game.*

*Rosters may consist of a maximum of 12, 13 or 14 players as determined by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of each season.*

*A “starting” team will consist of 11 defensive players (12 in the Silver Division if teams are at even strength or have more than 12 players present).*

*Players present must be in the batting order and play defense. There is unlimited substitution.*

*A non-roster player may not be used until he has been rated by the Board and assigned as needed.*

*The Home Team provides one “NEW” ball at the beginning of the game. The Visiting Team provides a “GOOD” back up ball.*

*An umpire’s judgment CANNOT be questioned. Managers may ask the umpire for clarification.*

*The height of a legal pitch is from 6 to 12 feet high as determined by the umpire. A legally pitched ball landing on any part of home plate or the mat is a strike. Distance from the front of the plate to the rear of the mat is 32 ½ inches.*

*The pitchers’ rubber will be 50 feet from home plate. Additionally an area the width of the pitching rubber and extending 6 feet to the rear has been established as a “pitching box”. The pitcher may opt to pitch anywhere within this extended area provided he establishes a pivot foot and makes a legal pitch. (Intent: allow the pitcher to field the position effectively and protect him from injury).*

*Should adverse windy conditions influence the ability of both pitchers to throw strikes, the umpire, with concurrence of the Directors present, may restrict calls to “strikes only”. Walks would be eliminated.*

*The commitment line is twenty (20) from home plate. Once a runner crosses the line he may not re-cross in the direction of third base. Violation results in an “out”.*

*The scoring home plate is 10 feet from the corner of home plate closest to third base into foul territory at a 90 degree angle to the third base line. A foot down on the scoring plate is the same as a foot down on home plate in terms of scoring a “run”. A runner that has passed the commitment line but has not reached the scoring plate is “out” if a defensive player in possession of the ball touches home plate (Effect: all plays at home plate become a force out), or a runner runs into a defensive player with or without the ball in the umpire’s judgment.*

*An extra first base is provided is provided for use by the batter-runner. The defensive player uses the original first base for all put-outs.*

*Time is automatically out when the pitcher has the ball and is within 10 feet of the pitchers’ mound.*

*A time-out is not required to insert a courtesy runner as long as the umpire has been notified before the inserted runner touches the base. The original runner remains on the base until the courtesy runner arrives.*

*A courtesy runner is considered in place upon touching the base.*

*A player ejected from a game by the umpire must also “sit out” one additional game at which he is physically present. If the ejection results in the TEAM having fewer than 9 players the game is “forfeited” at that point. Should the game continue an “out” shall be recorded each time the ejected player is scheduled to bat.*

*Ejections by the umpire, unsportsmanlike conduct, or conduct detrimental to the league may result in corrective action up to and including expulsion. Unacceptable conduct may include, but is not limited to, leaving the field arbitrarily without permission of the manager, physical contact with another person, improper language, excessive criticism of opponents or teammates and ethnic or racial slurs or comments. The Board of Directors has the responsibility to act at its’ discretion to insure that all participants adhere to the Code of Conduct.*

*Reasonable accommodation will be made to players with documented medical conditions that prevent them from fully participating in our program provided they apply to the Board of Directors. Such accommodation must take into consideration the ability of the player to perform in such a way as not to be harmful to him or others.*

*The league follows ASA playing rules that apply to Seniors with the exceptions found in the GENERAL RULES and Division appropriate SUPPLEMENTAL RULES.*

*Currently the Division appropriate SUPPLEMENTAL RULES address:*

- 1. Walks permitted per inning (Silver and Gold)*
- 2. Ball/strike count (Silver and gold)*
- 3. Courtesy Runners (Silver and Gold)*
- 4. Infield Fly Rule (Silver and Gold)*
- 5. Balancing of Players present (Silver)*
- 6. Assignment of Reserve Players (Gold)*
- 7. Short-handed Batting Order (Gold)*

#### *Silver Division Supplemental Rules*

##### **WALKS PER INNING:** (3)

*Subsequent to the 3<sup>rd</sup> walk, batters will hit until they strike out, hit the ball in fair territory or hit a foul fly ball that is legally caught by a fielder.*

*If a pitcher cannot or will not throw strikes after the third walk, he will be warned by the umpire. If the situation continues, he will be removed from the mound but will remain in the game at another defensive position.*

##### **BALL/STRIKE COUNT:** (4/3)

*Four (4) balls will constitute a Walk.*

*Three (3) strikes will constitute a strike Out.*

*No COURTESY foul.*

##### **INFIELD FLY:**

*The infield fly rule will NOT be in effect.*

##### **Foul Tip/Fly:**

*A batter will not be out on a foul tip/fly unless the ball goes over the batter’s head and is legally caught by a defender.*

##### **COURTESY RUNNERS:**

*A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time, but the same courtesy runner may not be used more than once per inning . Any courtesy runner found running more than once per inning will be called out (Appeal Play).*

*A runner who is replaced with a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the inning.*

*A courtesy runner may not be replaced by another courtesy runner except for injury causing removal of the original courtesy runner permanently from the game.*

*A courtesy runner on base when it is his turn to bat will be declared out. The runner will be removed from the base and a second courtesy cannot be substituted. The courtesy runner called out does not lose his turn at bat.*

*A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base. If a courtesy runner is determined illegal, he will be called out upon touching the base and no other courtesy runner is allowed. The original runner may not now return as the runner (Appeal Play).*

**BALANCING OF PLAYERS PRESENT:**

*A starting team will consist of 11 fielders (12 in the Silver Division if both teams have that number). Teams must have a minimum of 9 players to avoid a forfeit. If one team has more than 11 and the other only 9 or 10, the team that is short will borrow from the other team. The borrowed player will play a field position and hit for their new team. If a team is shorthanded and the other team has 11 or less, the short team receives a defensive player only. That player **MUST** be the last batter, excluding the pitcher, from the previous inning. If both teams are short, they catch for each other. Each player may be lent only once per season until all players have been lent once. Managers may not refuse the specific individual offered if his team is short.*

*No designated hitters. Everyone must play the field and bat in-turn. All team members, including those on the bench, will bat in-turn. Failure to conform will result in forfeit. Removal of an injured player or previously (pre-game) approved early departure will not result in an automatic out when it is time for his at-bat. His turn will be by-passed. There is unlimited substitution. In the Silver Division each player **MUST** play at least three (3) innings in the field in a nine (9) inning or in a seven (7) inning game.*

*The following procedure will be used in the Silver Division as per Borrowed/Substitute Players when teams are short. This will provide maximum playing time by minimizing the need for splitting of games and assumes that each player can be lent only once until all players have been lent to an opposing team.*

<i>If Team A/B has</i>	<i>If Team B/A has</i>	<i>Formula</i>	<i>Team A/B</i>	<i>Team B/A</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11 + Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10 + Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>9 + Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9 + Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>9+ Defensive Catcher</i>	<i>9 + Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11 + Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>10+ Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>10+ Defensive Catcher</i>	<i>10+ Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Becomes</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>11+ Defensive Catcher</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Remains</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>

**Gold Division – Supplemental Rules**

**WALKS PER INNING: (4)**

*Subsequent to the 4<sup>th</sup> walk, batter will hit until they strike out, hit the ball into fair territory or hit a foul fly that is legally caught by a fielder.*

*If a pitcher cannot or will not throw strikes after the 4<sup>th</sup> walk, he will be warned by the umpire. If the situation continues, he will be removed from the mound but will remain in the game at another defensive position.*

**BALL/STRIKE COUNT: (3/2)**

*Three (3) Balls will constitute a Walk.*

*Two (2) Strikes will constitute a Strike Out.*

*A “courtesy” foul will be allowed on the second strike.*

*This format may also be known as “1-1” inasmuch as the batter starts out with 1 ball and 1 strike.*

**INFIELD FLY:**

*With runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with less than 2 outs the Infield Fly rule is in effect. Runners may advance at their own risk.*

**COURTESY RUNNERS:**

*Courtesy runners may be placed on any base at any time.*

*A player may be used as a courtesy runner no more than 2 times per game.*

*A team may not use more than 2 courtesy runners in any inning.*

*A courtesy runner must “hail” the umpire upon touching the base.*

*A courtesy runner cannot be replaced by another courtesy runner except for an injury that disqualifies him from play during the remainder of the game.*

*A player replaced by a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for the remainder of the game.*

**RESERVE PLAYER ASSIGNMENT PRIORITY (ADVANCE AND ON-SITE)**

*To cover known and reported absences (Advance)*

*To assist short-handed teams (9 players are needed to prevent a forfeit). A reserve may be added to bring the total number of players to 10. (On Site)*

*To allow teams to play at even strength. (On site)*

*To prevent the “Plus 2” automatic out situation from being used. (On Site)*

*Managers are to contact the designated Director to obtain services of a Reserve Player in advance. The Director will contact the Reserve player and inform the manager if the request has been approved.*

*An advance assignment of a Reserve player may be shortened if the Reserve player is needed to fill an unforeseen absence according to assignment priority.*

**SHORT-HANDED BATTING ORDER (PLUS 2):**

*If a teams’ batting order is two (2) or more hitters under the number in the opposing teams’ order at the beginning of the game, an out will be recorded in the last spot in the order.*

*Reserve players may be included in the batting order based on availability.*

*If a player is ejected, or voluntarily leaves the field without pregame permission and that action causes a “Plus 2” situation and “out” will be recorded each time the absent player(s) is due up for the remainder of the game.*

**MINIMUM DEFENSIVE PLAYING TIME**

*A player may not be required to “sit” two (2) or subsequent defensive innings until all players on his team have “sat” one (1) defensive inning.*

**Rule Under Review.....**

*A player temporarily physically restricted must request the Senior Director on site if he desires to serve as a “Designated Hitter” prior to the game. The Director shall consult with the managers, develop information and rule at his discretion. A “Designated Hitter” must take all his turns at bat in the batting order and may be used as a “Courtesy Runner” but MAY NOT PLAY A DEFENSIVE POSITION (INCLUDING CATCHER) DURING THE GAME. The status of “Designated Hitter” expires at the conclusion of the game.*

