

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

NCS SOFTBALL FOR SENIORS - RULES

PLEASE PRACTICE GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP... WE TAKE THIS VERY SERIOUSLY!

SANDBAGGERS BEWARE! We will kick you out if not playing in the proper division. Read our Rankings

Page and come legal.

Manager/Coach: You are responsible to follow our website, read our RULES and EVENT INFO page in case of changes to the events you have entered.

Make sure the team you created in our playncs.com website has a valid email address and a cell phone number as we will also email and/or text updates from time to time.

Some tournaments and tournament directors require upfront payment so make sure your team shows as "confirmed" after you have paid. If you are not showing confirmed, please contact the listed Director **ASAP!**

DO NOT spend money on flights, hotels rooms, and car rentals before paying your ENTRY FEE and before confirming you have an official spot in the tournament. Please check the tournament website's EVENT INFO page or with the tournament director of the event you are playing in to confirm entry.

FYI - There are certain NCS directors and tournaments that will have special or different rules and awards depending on the region/location and type of tournament. Please check the tournament website or directly with the tournament director for event specific rules.

Some of our special events include but are not limited to:

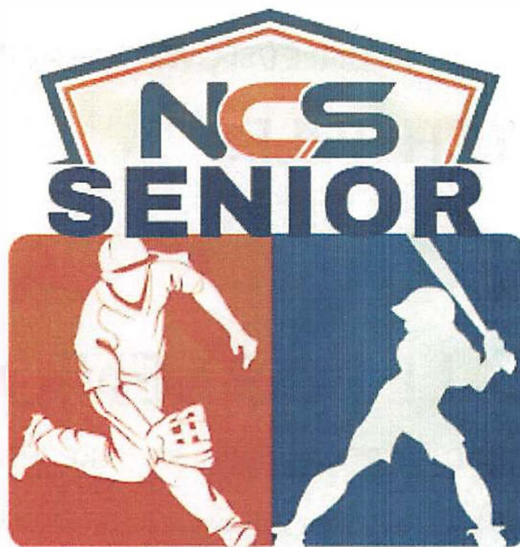
States, Nationals, Las Vegas Worlds, Toys-4-Tots, Dublin Dirty, Boneyard Blast, etc.

Most of these events sell out fast so get payment in before we are sold out or you may not make it into the tournament.

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

Always check the EVENT INFO page regularly for tournament updates. Always double check brackets regularly for any changes for the event you enter.

***** NEW FOR 2024 *****



COED SOFTBALL

Women must be 35 &

over Men must be 40

& over

Must play with either an equal amount of women as men or more women than men

(3) Home runs per game plus equalizer. Home team can't go ahead (ON HR's) in

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

the open inning This new division is per the player's request and is designed for recreational purposes.

THIS IS NOT WIN AT ALL COST! At any time, to balance the playing field, NCS reserves the right to add a run spot at any event at any time.

We want this to be a safe and fun option for all of our teams and players.

Pitchers must wear protective helmet, not just a mask, and we strongly encourage wearing shin guards and a chest protector.

Women will not be allowed to pitch but can play any other position on the field.

If playing infield, women players must wear protective mask and we strongly encourage wearing shin guards and a chest protector.

We will use the 11" 44/375 Stamped NCS Dudley ball for the women and a 12" 44/375 Stamped NCS Dudley ball for the men.

RANKINGS SYSTEM

Make sure your team is legal! Read info here and email me back if you have questions

<https://www.playncs.com/slowpitch/rankings> (<https://www.playncs.com/slowpitch/rankings>)

PRE-TOURNAMENTGUIDELINES

TEAM REGISTRATION

Teams must register annually here at our website. Once you are registered, you as the manager can create and edit your team(s). The annual \$60 registration fee is non-refundable.

- Teams must add an online roster before they play in their first event

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

TOURNAMENT WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Should your team withdraw for any reason once the team has been entered, the cancellation/withdrawal must occur prior to the tournament being "SOLD OUT" or prior to the brackets being worked on by the director of the tournament you are playing.

WHICH EVER COMES FIRST!

- An email sent or voice mail left must be confirmed by the respective tournament director by email. Until the director responds to and/or confirms your cancellation, your team is still in the tournament.
- **Should your team cancel after the specifications listed above, your team is still responsible for the entire entry fee of said tournament unless a replacement team can be found. There will be a \$50 charge to all teams dropping even though a replacement team was found.**
- **Unpaid entry fees will result in the team and each individual player being placed on our associations' Suspended Lists until payment is made in full. Manager is responsible for payment. If player wants to be removed from suspension, they can pay their share of 10% of total amount owed**

*****SPECIAL NOTE*****

In the case of State, Regional, National, NIT, World Series, and/or specialty/signature events brackets may be drawn up to two (2-4) weeks in advance.

In situations such as these specialty events, team withdrawals must occur prior to entry deadline or completion of bracket whatever comes first. We also may use overflow fields within a reasonable distance to our main field of play.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation by notifying all tournament directors well in advance should your team withdraw from a tournament.

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

PAYMENTS

Some of our special events may require a deposit or full payment in advance. These payments are non- refundable unless you withdraw from the event well before the deadline, we cannot get you in the tournament or an agreement is made to refund your money.

- Standard Tournament: All teams must pay any balance owed IN CASH (or by Credit Card, PayPal, Venmo or CashAPP) along with having an on- line roster before taking the field.
- If we do not receive full payment at game time or deadline, you will forfeit... PERIOD! If your roster is not online by the cut-off date, you will owe a \$50 fee for us having to add your roster ourselves.
- If you need roster help, please contact Customer Support at jay.zetz@playncs.com or jp.morgan.aws@gmail.com or smootncs@gmail.com. (or softballtexasstyle2020@gmail.com)
- If you have a credit from a previous event or season: You must enter event of choice and email proper director to apply credit before event deadline or when event of choice is sold out. Don't assume you are automatically confirmed for any tournaments

WHO'S COMING LIST:

Available Spots Example:

12 available spots, that is just an ideal amount of teams for that division. This DOES NOT guarantee we will end up with 12 teams in that division.

If other divisions are filling faster, we won't turn teams down in hopes your 12 team division

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

fills. If you get calls, texts or emails warnings to pay or confirm; please take them seriously if you want to play.

Special Note: (Confirming teams)

- If we reach out to teams and you do not get back to us in a timely manner, we reserve the right to pull you out of any event that you have not made payment for. Please make sure we have your proper

email and cell phone.

Practice Good Sportsmanship with NCS - We take this seriously!

NCS Softball 4 Seniors rules are for players, by players. We welcome your suggestions.

HOME RUN LIMITS

(ALL HOMERUNS HIT OVER THE FENCE THAT ARE OVER THE ALLOTTED AMOUNT FOR THE DIVISION ARE COUNTED AS OUTS!)

AAA – 5

MAJOR – 8

MAJOR PLUS - 12

SENIOR/MASTERS Player Rankings: (<https://playncs.com/slowpitch/rankings>)
(<https://playncs.com/slowpitch/rankings>)(If player has more than one NCS profile ranking, we will go by highest ranking)

*If a player is not listed on our NCS ranking's list, we use the current year's HIGHEST SSUSA or NCS team roster a player has played on to determine ranking.

New teams to our program: You must enter our highest division (**SRSBTXS – New Teams without history must enter at AAA or higher in their respective age group. May request to be reclassified fi they are not competitive after 2 tournaments**) unless you can supply documentation supporting players ranking (ie a nationally recognized senior program rating, a tournament roster, etc.)

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

If not on a current SSUSA roster we will revert to previous years highest SSUSA team roster a player has played on.

AAA: 3 Major players max allowed on team roster (No MAJOR PLUS players, USSSA conference or **B** or higher ranked/rostered players allowed)

MAJOR: 3 is the Max for MAJOR PLUS players, USSSA conference or **B** or higher ranked/rostered players allowed on roster.

MAJOR PLUS: No roster restrictions {Bring Your Best} We do not allow 55 MP teams to play Majors in our World Series/National events.

*Protest and illegal players are not always cut and dry-We will also use common sense rule {As things do fall through the cracks sometimes -Tournament Directors decision will be final)

Determining your team level of play:

Any Conference Players in USSSA program may not play below the Major Plus division without counting as a Major Plus player.

*Any players ranked **B** or higher per our NCS adult rules/ranking system will be considered Major Plus.*

55 & Over MAJOR PLUS players can play as a 40 & Over MAJOR Player but can't play AAA - 50 & Over MAJOR PLUS players still count as MAJOR PLUS for 40 & Over teams.

New teams to our program: You must enter our highest division (**SRSBTXS – AAA or higher for new teams without player history**) unless you can supply documentation supporting players ranking (ie a nationally recognized senior program rating, a tournament roster, etc.)

No Sandbagging - We do not need to wait for a protest before removing illegal teams or players from our events!

ROSTER: Because on-line roster may show approved -This just means you have at least 10 people added- This Does Not Mean Your Team Is Legal - You still have to follow our rankings system!

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

All rosters must be on-line with NCS to play our program. Please print roster and have players sign and turn into us at the fields before you play your 1st game each tournament. (SRSBTXS events – all players must come to the sign in table with ID and receive a wristband)

NO TEAM JUMPING - Players can only play on one team per age division per weekend.

Example: You can play 40's and 50's - You Can't Play 40AAA and 40Majors the same tournament. If on multiple rosters the team you start with per tourney is only team you can play on etc.

INJUREDPLAYERSCOMING OUT OF THE GAME

- *If a player gets injured and needs to come out of the game, their next at bat will be considered an out and all subsequent at bats will be skipped with no out taken.*

ROSTER PROTESTS REQUIRE \$150 CASH ANDMUST BE REQUESTED BEFORE THE END OF THE 3RD INNING (or the end of the inning that the protested player enters the game)

- *These are the types of protests that we allow:*

**Protests and illegal players are not always cut and dry. We will also use common sense when making a ruling (As things do fall through the cracks sometimes. Tournament Directors decision will be final)*

- *Only manager/coach can make protest and has to still be in the tournament, not eliminated!.*
- ' *Checking (1) player that you know is ranked higher than the allowable player matrix (i.e., a protest of a "Major Plus" player playing illegally in the "AA" division. You would point out the player in question. We would ask for their ID and then check the player to see if they are legal or not based on our rules and rankings system)*
- ' *Checking (4) chip players that you know are above the allowable limit of chip players (i.e., a*

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

protest of a team having too many "Major Plus" chip players playing in the "Major" tournament. You would point out the (4) players in question. We would ask for all their I D's and then check each of them to see if they were counted as chip players based on our rules and rankings system)

• *Full roster ID check to see if all players are listed on the roster before the first (bracket) game (this is NOT an online player ranking protest) (i.e., a protest to prove a player playing in the game is not on the roster that is posted on-line at playncs.com. We would pull the roster and ask for all the ID's for the players on the opposing team to make sure they are all listed on the roster)*

SENIORS:

1. General

1.1 These rules are specific to Senior play. Directors may need to amend a specific rule due to requirements outside their control, if this is needed amended rules will be posted prior to the start of the tournament and distributed to managers prior to the first game of the event. Rules will not be changed during a tournament unless it is a health, safety or government directive.

1.2 These are general rules of play. For Specific rules for Masters (35+), Women's and Co-ed (See above).

1.3 We will not charge individual player fees. A yearly team registration of \$60. Is required for play.

1.4 Teams will be required to submit an on-line roster prior to the first tournament played yearly. Teams may be required to supply documentation supporting players ranking (ie a nationally recognized senior program rating, a tournament roster, etc)

2. Age Divisions & Classifications

2.1 Age Divisions. A valid government picture ID will serve as proof. Players must have ID available at games if questioned by tournament officials.

A. Masters - 35 & 40 plus.

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

B. Seniors - 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 & 85 plus.

C. Exceptions -

- 70 Rec/AA are allowed four 69 year olds, AAA two 68 year olds
- 75 Rec AA are allowed four 74 & two 73 year olds. AAA are allowed four 74 year olds
- 80 & 85 All classifications are allowed four 79 & two 78 year olds

***** The new player / age cutoff is October 1st *****

FOR EXAMPLE: A 49 year old can start his 2025 season as a 50 & Over player after October 1st, 2024

3. Equipment

3.1 Bats

Any legal adult or senior stamped slowpitch bat is allowed

3.2 Balls

A. The NCS STAMPED DUDLEY BALL will be used. If we have enough balls, we will supply each team with 2-4 balls. If not, be prepared to bring your own NCS STAMPED DUDLEY BALLS. (SRSTX – Balls only have to be Dudley balls. They do not have to have the NCS stamp. We will normally have NCS stamped balls for sale at the tournament, based on availability)

Teams must provide 2 legal balls and give to home plate umpire before each game starts and make sure the umpire has 2 of your balls at all times throughout each game. **(SRSTX – Teams control their own balls)**

Teams please write your team name on all your balls.

B. Additional balls may be purchased from the director based on stock on hand.

C. If a tournament uses a different ball than what is listed above it will be listed at event page.

3.3 Protective equipment

A. Pitchers - Must wear a protective helmet not just face mask!. Pitchers are strongly encouraged to also wear full, shin guards, wrist guard and chest/heart protection. **This is whether a pitching screen is used or not!**

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

B. Infielders - Highly recommended to wear the same as a pitcher and encouraged to play deep in the infield.

C. No Metal Cleats

4.0 Playing Field - (see diagram)

3.1 Base Distance shall be 70'

3.2 Home Plate strike zone mat shall be used 21' x 36' at a minimum (plan on a big mat with NCS Seniors) **(SrSBTXS – 24" x 36" mat is standard at our events. SWING THE BAT!)**

3.3 Scoring line shall be in line with the first base line and shall begin 6 inches from outside edge of home plate towards back stop. A player shall be out if they cross thru batters box unless to avoid a collision at home.

3.4 Pitching box shall begin fifty feet from home and extend eight feet towards second base the width of pitching rubber. **(If using a pitching screen, pitcher must have one foot in contact with the pitching rubber)**

3.5 * NEW FOR 2024 *** Pitching Screen (safety option)** - May be used (team supplied) for all senior divisions. The screen shall be limited to 4' by 7' and must be touching any part of the pitching rubber going towards first or third. If a pitching screen is used, the pitcher must toe the rubber and retreat behind the screen and does not have the option to field the batted ball except for the following exception... if there is an infield fly situation, the pitcher can catch a pop-up in the infield.

- If the pitcher does touch the batted ball first, the batter will be awarded first base and in a force situation, all other runners will advance one base as well. Also, if the pitcher does touch the ball first and it is in the umpire's judgement that a runner from second and/or third would have scored had the pitcher NOT touched the ball first, the umpire may award the runner(s) home.
- A batted ball hitting the screen shall be deemed a foul ball strike. A ball hitting the screen from a defensive player shall be considered "live".

3.6 Batters Box shall be 3'x 7'. Batter must have one foot in the box prior to pitch & one foot must be in the box when striking the ball or the player will be called out.

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

3.7 Commitment Line shall be 30 feet from scoring line towards third base.

4. GamePlay

4.1 **Mixing Ages /Divisions - If more than one upper level team is entered into the tournament - they will usually be seeded into their own championship / playoff bracket after pool play if not we may use a run spot throughout the event. Division with less than six teams at Director's discretion receive a prorated prize package. Teams may not turn down the run spot without our on site directors approval.**

SRSBTXS – If missing divisions, 1st choice will be to mix by Class (50 Majors with 55 Majors, etc). If that is not possible, we will mix by Age and Class. Homeruns will be adjusted as follows: Both teams will receive the Lower Home Run Limit. The Higher classed team will receive Doubles up to their Home Run Limit. Runners advance Only if forced. (Example: 50 Major and 50 AAA area mixed. Both teams would be allowed to hit 5 Home Runs. The Major team would be allowed to hit 3 Home Runs that would count as Doubles. Any additional Home Runs by either team would be OUTS).

4.2 **Batters will start with a 1 & 1 count with no waste foul up to 50 and over division. 55 and overs and older divisions will be granted a waste foul. (SRSBTXS – All divisions 50 and over will have a waste foul)**

4.3 **Caught foul balls in the field of play shall be considered live and players may advance after catch.**

4.4.1 **Runners must stay within 3 feet of baseline or be called out.**

4.4.2 **Players may only retreat to a base on a caught ball or in a run down. Players retreating in a force out situation will be called out.**

4.4.3 **The retouch rule is in effect. Runners at first or third can stand/start just off the bag in foul territory when the ball is hit. On a ground ball, they can continue to the next bag without re-touching. On a fly ball, runner must re-touch the bag before advancing.**

4.5 **Infield fly rule. Catchable ball at umpire's discretion.**

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

4.6 Sun in pitcher's eye, umpire's discretion. Pitchers may move up to 3 feet with the side of the box. Must pitch the entire inning from that position only.

4.7 Designated Home Run Hitter. We DO NOT Use This Rule for NCS

4.8 All plays at the plate will be force outs only. (NO TAG PLAYS)

4.9 **Pitch/Batter Rules** - No intentional infield hits/poopies allowed

A. Pitching arch will be a minimum of six feet and a maximum of twelve feet from the ground. Pitchers have 8 Feet behind rubber to pitch from, unless using the optional pitching screen.

8. Pitchers must present the ball then in one underhand continuous motion deliver the ball to the plate. Pitchers can pitch from no more than 8 ft behind rubber

C. Once batter is set in the box the pitcher has 5 seconds to deliver. Batter has 5 seconds to get set in the box!

D. Pitcher/Batter will have a ball/strike called if exceeding rule C.

D. Each team will get a maximum of 3 offensive and 3 defensive timeouts per game of up to thirty seconds.

E. Pitchers must face forward while delivering pitch.

F. Batters will start with a 1 & 1. No foul to waste on third strike for 35/40/50's with Waste foul for 55 & Overs. **(SRBTXS – All Divisions 50 & Over will have a waste foul)**

G. If a screen is used it cannot be moved/removed once pitch is delivered. A new pitcher may remove the screen.

4.10 Managers time out. 3 per game on offense and defense no more than 30 seconds in length.

4.11 Catchers must have at least one foot within the width of the plate and stand no closer than one foot behind the batter's box.

4.12 Defensive Players

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

- 35's to 65's can play up to 10 players. 70/75's can play up to 11 players. 80 and up can play up to 12

Players (SRSBTXS – 65's may play with 11 defensive players to match SSUSA)

- Teams may start a game with at least 8 players

- Teams may not compete with less than eight players at any time

4.13 Teams may bat up to any amount of players on roster.

4.14 A player will be deemed illegal if not on an official roster and be called out when challenged by the opposing team. Team may also forfeit the game.

4.15 If a player in batting order leaves the game and there is no replacement his next at bat only will be an out.

4.16 Batting out of order must be challenged prior to the first pitch of the next batter. Penalty batter will be called out.

4.17 Pinch Runner-Any player on a game roster may pinch run

4.18 Sliding: No sliding at first base or scoring line unless the player is trying to avoid contact. Umpires discretion.

4.19 Safety bag at first base must be used unless they are trying to avoid collision. Umpires discretion. The player is out if it's determined that the safety bag should have been touched..

4.20 Reentry Rule-A starting player removed from the lineup may reenter the game one time. A substitute may not reenter the game after being removed.

4.21 Flip Flop Rule: Will be invoked in game when there is a 12-run differential in favor of the visiting team at the start of the "open inning:" If the visiting team is ahead by 12 or more runs, the home team will remain at bat. It will be an open inning. If the home team fails to tie or go ahead of the visiting team, the game ends and the visiting team wins. If the home team ties or goes ahead, the visiting team takes its turn at bat. FliP- FloP- is not used in Pool Play when playing for seedings. **(SRSBTXS – Pool games may end in a tie, as this can be used for seeding purposes)**

4.22 Run Rule- 15 runs after 5 inning - does not need to reach open inning. **(SRSBTXS – There is no**

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

Run Rule. If either team is ahead by 12 or more runs after 4 innings, the next inning will be the Open Inning. If it is the Visitors who are ahead by 12 or more runs, the Flip Flop rule will also be in effect.)

4.23 Tie Game - will begin the extra inning(s) using the International Tie Breaker (1TB) until a winner is determined. When using the 1TB a courtesy runner cannot be used for the runner placed on 2 base until the runner has advanced to 3 base.

4.24 Uniforms: Players and coaches wear a shirts or jersey so they are easily identified as a team. Any decision on uniforms is handled by the tournament officials and is not subject to team protest. If event is in the cold season this rule may not be mandatory. **(SRSBTXS – Teams should make an effort to dress alike. Not having uniforms is not a reason for protest).**

4.25 Line-ups: Tournament officials will provide line-up cards if needed. Official line-ups must be submitted to the opposing team and scorekeeper (if available) prior to the last inning of the preceding game and given to the umpire prior to game.

4.26 Courtesy Runners –

- a. Teams are allowed 3 Courtesy Runners per Inning (Unlimited in the Open Inning).**
- b. Any player on the team roster may be a Courtesy Runner. The same person may only be a Courtesy Runner one time per inning.**
- c. A Courtesy Runner may only be inserted before a pitch is thrown to the current batter.**
- d. No substitutions may be made for a courtesy runner. If the batter due to bat is on base as a courtesy runner, an out will be taken on the base that players occupies and the player will bat in their regular spot in the order. It is the responsibility of the coach to know who is coming up to bat when putting a courtesy runner in the game.**

5 Bench area:

A. Only rostered players and official NCS coaches are allowed in the dugout. All players must stay in dugout or out of play area. Only one on-deck hitter allowed out of the dugout.

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

B. No alcohol, sunflower seeds, or smoking/vaping/chewing tobacco of any kind in the dugout or field of play

C. No disruptive music allowed including being too loud, vulgar, etc. The director may ask you to turn off, turn down, or change the music at any time. Failure to comply will result in ejection from park and/or team forfeit.

D. If defensive team has a player or bat outside dugout and gets hit by thrown ball, the ball is dead and all runners advance one base

E. If offensive teams batter or bat gets hit by a thrown ball the closest runner to Homeplate is out

F. Teams must clean up the dugout after each game {remove garbage etc.}

G. Poor Sportsmanship will not be allowed! NO F Bombs, NO Throwing the Bat, NO Taunting, etc

6 Forfeit Time: Game time is forfeit time. Teams should be prepared to immediately start a game once the preceding game is completed and teams clear the dugout. Teams are required to be ready to play up to 15 minutes early.

7 Game Length:

A. Bracket play is 60 minutes plus the open inning/ Playoffs game will be 65 minutes plus the open inning

(SRSBTXS – Pool play games will be 50 minutes plus the open inning)

B. Championship game will be 70 minutes or 7 innings plus the open inning

- Exceptions may be required due to unforeseen events (ie weather, field restrictions, time constraints, emergencies, etc).

8 Infield Practice: No infield practice will be permitted once the game starts. Warm-up is allowed in designated areas only. Teams may warm-up in the outfield grass if time permits.

9 Seeding - In a bracket-only type event, a Coin Flip will determine the home team throughout the event until the Championship Game. The undefeated team will always have the choice to take visitor or home but if the bracket goes to an "if" game, there will be a

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

coin flip to determine the home team.

If a division starts with POOL PLAY, the pool play portion of the event will have a coin flip to determine the home team in each game. Once the division gets into the bracket portion, the higher seed in the WINNER'S BRACKET will be the home team. Once teams lose and enter the LOSER'S BRACKET, they lose their seed and a coin flip will always determine the home team. The undefeated team in the Championship Game will always have the choice to be visitor or home. If the game goes into the "if" game, a coin flip would then determine the home team.

10 Roster residency:

A. Teams are allowed to draw players from other states.

11 Run Spotting (In national, state or world events this rule may not apply if lower team chooses to play up)

11.5 5 runs per level or age is the norm (In tournaments where we have to combine levels)

11.6 *Run Spotting is mandatory for all teams that are due runs. A team may not take the run spot with approval from the On-Site director.*

11.7A run spot will be given at start of the game not per inning

12 FORMAT/ 3 GAME GUARANTEE: ALL scheduled pool play games count towards seeding in Championship play unless stated otherwise. Ties in the standings in preliminary pool play will be broken by

- o Best record
- o Head-to-head
- o Run differential (MAX of 15 runs per game)
- o Runs allowed
- o Runs scored
- o Coin Flip

- o 3GG: We may use pool play followed by double elim, or our new 3gg bracket with Gold Bracket/ Silver for 0-2 and some 1-2 teams. We may rarely also use play 2 pool

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

play+ single elim - depending on time constraints.

- o SUPREME Single Elimination Playoff Rule: Example 4 teams: If a team backs out due to injury etc. the highest remaining seed after pool play will get the bye and the 2 lower seeds will play with the winner advancing.

17. **Ejection Rule:** Managers are responsible for team conduct. Players, managers and spectators will receive one warning to stop unsportsmanlike behavior (ie questioning calls, pitch, language, etc.). Second occurrence of unsportsmanlike behavior will result in the offending party being ejected from the game. Third occurrence will result in manager and offending party being removed from the game and team will be assessed an out for offensive team, defensive team will be assessed an out at next at bat.

18. **Score Keeping:** Home team and umpire are responsible for keeping score (If visitors have full book kept and home team does not, we will use visitor's book and umpire for official scoring)

19. **Determining your team level of play:**

- A. *Players may play down one age or classification, their rating will remain the same.*
- B. *Players playing down two age levels will count as one classification lower. (example 55 Major plus may play in the 40 Major division but can't play AAA).*
- C. *NCS Player Rankings trump all other promoters Roster Rankings*
- D. *If not rated by NCS, we may go by what your ranking is from any National organization*
- E. *If you are not ranked in any association, you will be considered a Major Plus player in your age group until we have evidence showing otherwise.*
- F. *You may be required to supply a roster from a national promotor confirming players ratings.*
- G. *Players can petition for Re-Class at anytime before October 15th by filling out this form. Player Reclass Petition Form (<https://form.jotform.com/212715517872964>)*
- H. *Any Adult C Conference or rated C or higher player who has played in the adult program in the last 3 years will be considered as a Major Plus player. Any former B or higher*

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

players are automatically considered Major Plus players when starting with NCS.

I. If your team wins our World Series, the following year all players on the team will be classified one level up -AAA World Champs will be Major players and Major Champs will be Major Plus etc.

20. Tournament Delay

A. If any event of delay or suspension of play by an occurrence outside of Directors control (ie weather, disaster, field condition, etc) the game may be resumed at the exact point where it was stopped. It is the manager's responsibility to contact the Tournament Representative at the field for rescheduled game information.

B. We will do everything we can to complete the event due to a delay including modifying game time length, pitch count, format, etc.

C. Once the umpire physically starts the clock or verbally announces the clock has started, the home team must take the field within two minutes and the visiting team must be ready to bat once the pitcher is ready to throw the first pitch. Any team caught delaying the start of the game for any reason will be docked in the following way: (1) run will be docked against the team delaying the start of the game after the 3rd minute (this run does not count against the max five runs for the team receiving the run), an additional run will be docked against the team delaying the start of the game after the 4th minute (this run shall also not count against the max five runs for the team receiving the run), and a forfeit will be called against the team delaying the start of the game at the end of the 5th minute. Also, any team not having at least 8 players to start the game (once the clock starts or once the umpire verbally announces that the clock has started) will be forced to forfeit the game. NCS, our directors, and our officials appreciate your help in helping us keep the games on time so we can provide our players with the best possible playing experience.

21. Team Entries and Cancellations

A. Teams are encouraged to register early. Promoters are encouraged to offer a pay now, pay later or deposit option. Your spot is not guaranteed until payment in full is received. You will be notified if a tournament is nearing a SELL OUT for payment in options above.

B. Should a team withdraw for any reason from our tournament once the team has been

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

entered, the cancellation/withdrawal must occur prior to the tournament deadline, being "SOLD OUT" and prior to the brackets/game times being posted on the association's website or no later than 5:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the tournament, whatever comes first.

- C. Cancellation email must be sent and be confirmed by the tournament promoter.
- D. If a team withdraws after the specifications listed above, the team may be responsible for the entire entry fee unless a fully paid replacement team can be found.
- E. Refunds for withdrawals listed above will be subject to a \$50 fee plus any direct costs of refund or a full credit will be issued for future events by that promoter.
- D. Annual team registration fees are **NON REFUNDABLE!**

22. Team Names

Any team name that is explicit or offensive will be modified by site admin.

We believe in free speech and will allow for an appeal but also run a business that does not want to alienate anyone based on race, sex, gender or religion.

Please consider that team names are on publicly posted schedules and must meet reasonable guidelines.

23. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

NCS Directors have the right to suspend any players or teams from play at anytime for abuse or any unsportsmanlike conduct!

STALLING (NEVER ALLOWED)

- Once the umpire physically starts the clock or verbally announces the clock has started, the home team must take the field within two minutes and the visiting team must be ready to bat once the pitcher is ready to throw the first pitch. Any team caught delaying the start of the game for any reason, will be docked in the following way: (1) run will be docked against the team delaying the start of the game after the

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

end of the 3rd minute, an additional run will be docked against the team delaying the start of the game after the 4th minute, and a forfeit will be called against the team delaying the start of the game after the 5th minute. Also, any team not having at least 8 players to start the game (once the clock starts or once the umpire verbally announces the clock has started) will be forced to forfeit the game. NCS, our directors, and our officials appreciate your help in helping us keep the games on time so we can provide our players with the best possible playing experience.

- Pitchers and batters must be ready to hit/ pitch in a timely manner.³

RAIN OUTS, ACTS OF GOD, and GLOBAL CRISIS

- Any rain out, Acts of God, or Global crisis that causes us to have to cancel an event before or during tournament play will result in a CREDIT based on the games played (i.e. if playing in a \$400 4GG tournament and only (1) game gets played, a \$300 credit will be issued for a future tournament. If (2) games were played, a \$200 credit, and so on. The credit is only good for tournaments run by the same director group and will expire if not used within (2) years of original entry date).
- If the full game guarantee is met for the tournament, no credits or refunds will be given.

PLAYERS BUMPED AFTER WORLD SERIES IN DECEMBER

Rostered players on the 1st Place World Championship Teams in the AAA and MAJOR

SENIOR SOFTBALL TEXAS STYLE / NCS

SENIOR SLOWPITCH RULES – 2024

divisions will be automatically bumped for the following season.

- In the "AAA" division, approximately 10-15% of the top finishing team's players will be bumped
- In the "MAJOR" division, approximately 10% of the top finishing team's players will be bumped
- Keep in mind, even teams that don't play in our World Series are subject to being reclassified at any time if NCS feels you are a strong enough team to compete in a higher division

(Once a game starts, it is considered a played game)

- If the cancellation occurs during the pool play portion of a tournament, no awards will be handed out.
- If a cancellation occurs during the bracket play portion of the tournament, awards will be handled as follows:
 - Awards will be awarded if there is a clear-cut winner of the tournament (i.e., If there is an undefeated team playing a team from the loser's bracket in the Championship game, the awards will be given as 1 for the undefeated team and 2 to the loser's bracket team, etc.)
 - Awards will not be awarded if there is no clear-cut winner of the tournament (i.e., If the bracket has just started and there are multiple games remaining with no clear-cut winner)

X (<https://twitter.com/ncsplay>)

O (<https://www.facebook.com/nationalchampionshipsports>)

@ (<https://www.instagram.com/playncsnow>)

© 2024 National Championship Sports. All Rights Reserved.