

West Metro Senior Softball

2022 National Division Summer Rules

- Two, 7-inning games; one extra inning if tied after 7 innings.
- Flip-flop if home team is behind by 5 or more runs in the last inning.
- 5 run limit per half-inning for innings 1-6.
- Play two innings at a time innings 1-6; one inning at a time for 7th inning and 8th if needed.
- 7th inning is open. When the score is tied at end of the seventh, one extra inning is played. Last batter out in the 7th starts extra half inning on second. 8th inning is also open.
- 10- 12 defensive players in the field.
- If 12 players, the 2 short fielders / rovers start each play on opposite sides of a mid-field line from home to second to the outfield. Shortstop and 2nd base play on opposite sides of second.
- 3 balls, 2 strikes count and one Courtesy Foul allowed.
- Hit ball that strikes the screen: First one is “inert”- a no pitch, play continues with same count; subsequent hit screens are strikes. (i.e. a “courtesy hit screen”)
- No home run limits.
- If walked, batter can advance to first base or get a pinch runner and bat again.
- Pool players are added to rosters to balance team numbers, managers decide.
- If one team has more players than the other, they will give players to balance the team sizes within one player. (Choice of three.) The goal is to have both teams play with close to the same size roster. However, if a team with a large roster wants to keep all players they can do so.
- Player can only pinch run once per inning. Runner on base when it is his turn to bat is out.
- Batters must advance themselves to 1st base, and then a pinch runner is allowed.
- Pitching screen required or must use mask and shin pads.
- Top of screen is 12 feet from rubber.
- Pitcher must face batter and pause before pitch. A quick pitch when the batter is not ready is a no-pitch.
- Arc on pitches- minimum 6 ft. to maximum 12 ft. Pitching screen is 7 ft high.

Rules can be modified if opposing managers agree. This should be done in specific situations, not permanently changing the rules. E.g. bases slippery due to rain; a runner can step near a bag.