

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

The Harris County Senior Softball League (HCSSL) plays under official Senior Softball - USA (SSUSA) rules, as modified by the changes and additions in this document. Note that SSUSA rules specific to organizing official tournaments (e.g., geographic regions, age, groups, categorization and rating of teams by skill categories, roster registration requirement, etc.) are not applicable to HCSSL League play.

These rules will remain in force until officially revised and communicated by the HCSSL Board of Directors.

1. PLAYING FIELD

1.1 CATCHER'S BOX

There is no requirement that a catcher's box be physically marked on the field. (*Reference SSUSA #1.11*)

1.2 BASE DISTANCE AND COMMITMENT LINE

Bases on Field # 1 (United/American) are set 70 feet apart, with a commitment line 30 feet from home plate. Bases on Field # 2 (Continental/National) are set 65 feet apart, with a commitment line 20 feet from home plate. (*Reference SSUSA #2.4 and # 8.8*)

2. PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

2.1 UNIFORM SHIRTS

For the summer season (no such restriction for winter), each player must wear an unmodified current year sponsor's shirt in all scheduled and playoff games – no shirt at field, player will be declared ineligible. This is not an ejection. If discovered during the game, the umpire will correct the problem the next offensive half-inning either by the player getting a shirt, his team replacing him either with an available roster player or by obtaining a pickup player selected by the opposing manager. Player will not bat, or play a defensive position, until he has a suitable shirt. Pickup players must also wear their current year HCSSL sponsor's shirt during the summer season.

2.2 BATS

The rules and guidelines of Senior Softball-USA in determining the legality of bats will be followed, meaning that any bat marked 1.21 BPF or below is approved for play. (*SSUSA # 3.4(4)*). The penalty for deliberate use of altered or illegal bats will be ejection from the League for the balance of the season.

2.3 BALLS

- A. Only HCSSL furnished balls will be allowed.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

2.4 GLOVES

A softball glove or first baseman-type mitt may be used by any defensive player. (*Reference SSUSA 3.6*)

3. PLAYERS AND SUBSTITUTES

3.1 PICKUP PLAYERS

A. A team with less than six players must forfeit the game. Exceptions:

The six player minimum is reduced by the number of players from the team attending senior softball tournaments. This exception is in effect from the Tuesday before a tournament through the Monday following a tournament. Note, no game will be cancelled or rescheduled as the result of players playing in tournaments.

If the average team roster size in the division is less than twelve players, a team with at least five players need not forfeit and may pick up the necessary pickup players.

For the winter season, the minimum is waived and all teams may pick up players as necessary.

B. A team with enough of its own players not to forfeit a game may pick up other eligible players in this order:

1. Tryout Players: Both new players and late-signup returning players, who have not been assigned to a team, are allowed a maximum of four automatic/priority games, one per night, as a tryout period. *During their tryout period, these players are still pickup players and all pickup player restrictions, except that they may play any defensive position, remain in effect.* Please note that a tryout player may play two games in one night if chosen for the second game from the general pool of players, per # 3 below. In the second game, *all of the usual pickup player restrictions apply.*

2. Players from bye teams: Players from bye teams do not have preference unless a division elects to grant them a preference. This preference must follow the preferences for players during their tryout period.

3. Other eligible players: Other players, only from that same division, are to be drawn by number from a line-up ten minutes prior to start of the game in which pickup players are needed. This includes players not yet assigned to teams who have completed their tryout period.

C. As pickup players are drawn, they are to be assigned to teams as follows:

1. If one team requires more pickup players than the other team, pickup players are drawn for that team until both teams require the same number of pickup players.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

After that, the following pickup players drawn are to be assigned to alternating teams until both teams have either reached their legal number of players or there are no more pickup players to be drawn, whichever comes first.

2. If both teams require the same number of players, the first player drawn goes to the home team and after that the following pickup players drawn are to be assigned to alternating teams until both teams have reached their legal number of players or there are no more pickup players to be drawn, whichever comes first.
3. In the summer season (no such restriction in the winter season) a team may pick up at most one more first or second round draft choice than has been picked up by the other team, unless no other players are available. When a 2nd first or second round draft choice is drawn, that player will immediately be assigned to the team not having picked up the 1st first or second round draft choice. If the 2nd first or second round draft choice is to be assigned to a team that has its legal number of players, that 2nd first or second round draft choice will not be assigned to either team and will not be allowed to play in that game.

D. There are limitations on players eligible to serve as pickup players:

1. Any player, otherwise eligible to be a pickup player, who is not prepared to take the field immediately may not stand on the line to be drawn as a pickup player.
2. No player will be allowed to play more than two games in one night, typically one with his own team and one as a pickup player, unless no one else is available.
3. During the playoffs, only players permanently assigned to teams in the division are eligible as pickup players.
4. Before summer season playoffs begin, division coordinators and managers will identify "listed players" meaning the top "impact players" for each division. The list may include up to 20 percent of the division players. The intent is to be roughly comparable to first and second round draft picks, but with additions and/or deletions reflecting actual season experience. This list should be in alphabetical order before being distributed or posted.
Listed players are not eligible as pickup players during the playoffs.

E. A manager, if physically able to play, may not pick up a player in his place.

F. On offense:

1. Pickup players must be placed at the bottom of the batting order in the same order they were selected.
2. The maximum number of bases that a pickup player is allowed in an at bat, is one base. Each time the pickup player comes to bat, they shall tell

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

the umpire that they are a pickup player. The umpire will announce in a clear, loud voice the maximum number of bases allowed for this batter. Runners already on base can advance only one base from the base they were on at the time the ball was hit. A baserunner attempting to advance beyond that maximum will be at risk to be tagged out until they return to the base to which they were allowed. Should the runner touch the next base past the one allowed or cross over (or step on) the commitment line they will be automatically called out by the umpire. This is a delayed dead ball and subsequent runners may also be called out for trying to advance past the base they were allowed.

- G. On defense, during the summer season (no position restriction during the winter season) the positions of pickup players, not necessarily in the order selected, will be as follows:
1. Based on the number of pickup players selected, defensive positions are to be filled in the following order; catcher, right field, right center, left center, left field, rover (if appropriate), first base, second base, third base, shortstop, pitcher.
 2. If a team has an injured roster player, that player may play catcher with permission from the opposing manager. In the National division, no approval is necessary for any roster player to serve as catcher.
- H. Should a player arrive on the field after the game has begun and a pickup player was selected for him, he may not enter the game until the pickup player has completed one turn at bat. The late-arriving player will be inserted in the lineup where his pickup player batted. Exception: If the game was started early and the player reports to the umpire prior to the scheduled start time, then the player can replace the pickup after the end of the next half inning.
- I. Any pickup players bumped by a late-arriving roster player after the game has started will be the players used, in the order they were originally picked, for substitutions due to a team losing a player during a game. In the situation where players are drawn for both teams, one substitute may not bump a substitute from the other team simply because he was drawn before that player. The last player selected will be the first player bumped by a late-arriving roster player.
- J. A team must have a minimum of nine (ten in National) in order to play a game. Even when a team has enough of its roster players to avoid an automatic forfeit, if there are not enough pickup players to get them to nine (ten in National), that team must forfeit. If both teams are in that situation, both are treated as having forfeited the game. A team playing with only nine players (ten in National) must take an automatic out the first time the tenth player (eleventh in National) would otherwise have come to bat. (Reference SSUSA # 4.3)

3.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

- A. Only ten players (eleven in National) may play on defense but there are no restrictions on substitutions on defense. Defensive substitutions may be made at any time.
- B. All players in the batting lineup must play a minimum of two innings on defense, or three innings if the game goes six or more innings. If the player arrives late or is injured during the game, his manager shall not be required to play him any number of innings. Managers are encouraged to play all players at least one-half of the game. The opposing manager may protest a violation of the three inning rule. If the protest is upheld, the offending team shall forfeit the game.
- C. A manager, unless injured, must play if the team is short of players and may not sit out the game in lieu of a pickup player. A manager, unless injured, who is not playing must substitute for an injured player on his team.
- D. There is no requirement that teams submit lineup cards to the umpire or to one another. (*Reference SSUSA # 4.2.A*)
- E. There is no requirement that a substitute, inserted into the game in place of another player, officially announce his presence to the umpire. (*Reference SSUSA # 4.6*)
- F. There is no limit on the number of times a player can be removed from a game for another player, then re-enter the game. (*Reference SSUSA # 4.6*)

3.3 EJECTIONS

- A. Only managers are allowed to discuss any violations or infractions of the rules with the umpires.
- B. A player ejected from a game must leave the game and facilities within five minutes and will automatically be suspended from some number of his team's next playable games. However, if the player does not respond to the umpire's instructions to leave the game and/or facilities, it becomes his manager's and team's responsibility to control him and if they cannot or will not do so, the umpire may declare a forfeit.
- C. Offensively, the ejected player's team must take an automatic out in the lineup spot of the ejected player. Defensively, the team may insert an available roster player in the place of the ejected player, but is not allowed to pick up a supplemental player for that purpose if no roster player is available. If the manager has not been in the lineup, but is able to play, he may be inserted as an available roster player for defense and should then be added at the end of the batting lineup.
- D. The Rules Committee (the Division Coordinators, the Rules Director and another volunteer Board Member) will review the circumstances of each ejection and determine the severity of the ejected player's actions and the duration of his suspension. As a starting point, an ejection for a flagrant act brings a six playable game suspension, and for a non-flagrant act a three playable game suspension. The Division Coordinator of the

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

player's division will not have a vote on the length of the suspension.

Flagrant acts include:

1. Outburst of profanity or obscene gestures directed at umpires, players or spectators.
2. Display of hostility directed at umpires, players or spectators, including verbal threats of a physical nature.
3. Fighting, violent and/or threatening behavior.
4. Swinging or throwing bats, or other equipment, in a disrespectful or violent manner and/or destruction of HCSSL or Harris County Park property.
5. A violation of HCSSL's sexual harassment policy (as documented in HCSSL's Administrative Policies).

Non-flagrant acts include:

1. Result of ejection for arguing with umpires. Umpires will first issue a warning to both the player and his manager prior to an ejection.
2. Outburst of profanity not directed at anyone.
3. Throwing a bat that doesn't hit or threaten people or equipment may in some cases be considered non-flagrant.

- E. A "playable game" is defined as a game played by the suspended player's team. Rainouts and byes are excluded. A suspended player, ineligible to play in his team's game, is likewise ineligible to take game night batting practice or participate as a pickup player in any other game while suspended.
- F. Other than the infrequent exceptional case where an ejection is determined to have been inappropriate, any ejected player must serve at least a three game suspension.
- G. An ejected player that uses threatening gestures or threatening and abusive language will be subjected to additional disciplinary action to include additional game suspensions and/or a permanent ban from HCSSL for more egregious actions. These additional disciplinary actions are to be determined by the Board of Directors.
- H. A player ejected a second time within one calendar year will be suspended from his team's next twelve playable games and must then appear before the Board of Directors for reinstatement.
- I. A suspended player attempting to play during his suspension will be banned from further play until reinstated by the Board of Directors.
- J. A suspended player attempting to play while suspended, or re-entering the grounds after being told to leave, does not automatically result in a forfeit for his team. (*Reference SSUSA # 4.8*) However, if the player does not respond to the umpire's instructions to leave the game and/or facilities, it becomes his manager's and team's responsibility to control him and, if they cannot or will not do so, the umpire may declare a forfeit.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

- K. A suspended player, while he cannot play or coach, is welcome to attend his team's games or those of other HCSSL games as a spectator, so long as he exhibits no inappropriate or disruptive behavior while there. However, if the suspended player exhibits inappropriate or disruptive behavior and does not respond to the umpire's instructions to leave the game and/or facilities, it becomes his manager's and team's responsibility to control him and, if they cannot or will not do so, the umpire may declare a forfeit.

4. THE GAME

4.1 STARTING TIMES

- A. The game begins when the umpire says "Play ball", not at the first pitch.
- B. On nights when three games are scheduled (typical of the summer season), games begin at 6:30, 7:40 and 8:50 pm. When only two games are scheduled (typical of the winter season), games begin at 6:30 and 7:45 pm. Divisions may elect to change the two game starting times to 7:00 and 8:15 pm.
- C. The game clock for the first game of the evening shall start at the published game time. The umpire may grant a grace period on the start of play with the approval of both managers with no delay in the start of the official game clock. The game will still end per the "Length of Game" rule below. (*Reference HCSSL # 4.2*)
- D. If the previous game runs over the time limit, the umpire will instruct both teams to hustle and will instruct the scorekeeper to start the clock for the next game as soon as possible to the scheduled game time.
- E. If a game finishes early, the next game may start early but only with the agreement of both managers. Otherwise, the clock will start at the scheduled game time.

4.2 LENGTH OF GAME

- A. A game will be seven innings or limited by time as follows:
 - 1. The game clock begins with 55 minutes if three games are to be played that evening or 60 minutes if two games are to be played and counts down.
 - 2. Once the game clock shows one minute left in the game, that inning (sixth or less) will be finished and then one more final inning will be played (unlimited time). If after the last inning the game is tied, the game will end in a tie. No regular season game may go beyond seven innings regardless of the time remaining.
 - 3. Playoff games cannot end in a tie and there is no time limit for playoff championship

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

games.

4. The Board may adjust the 55 or 60 minute game time in order to stay within the guidelines of Harris County Bayland Park curfew.
 5. In the National Division only, the first and second inning will be played as one inning with six outs on defense and offense. At the end of three outs or five runs by the visiting team, the bases are cleared and another three outs or five runs are completed. At this point the sides are switched and the home team completes their six outs in the same way. The remainder of the game is played in the regular manner.
- B. Once the game clock has started, it should only stop due to weather conditions, power failure or injury. The stoppage should last no longer than 20 minutes. The 20 minutes will be an aggregate of all three games. If at any point, the game cannot be resumed after 20 minutes, all subsequent games will be canceled. All prior games will count in the standings.
- C. The umpire is responsible for keeping track of the time. There is no need for the umpire to announce the time remaining, other than when time expires, so long as the scoreboard clock is working and visible. (*Reference SSUSA # 5.11*)
- D. A manager may not declare outs in order to complete an inning. Batters must take their turn at bat to complete an inning.

4.3 GAME DELAYS

- A. All pre-game batting practice must stop ten minutes prior to the first scheduled game time.
- B. Players should hustle on and off the field between innings.
- C. Throwing the ball around the infield after a putout is not allowed. The batter shall be awarded a ball for each throw that delays the game.
- D. A ball hit out of play will not be returned to the game until there is a break in play.
- E. A pitcher has 10 seconds to release next pitch after receiving the ball, or after the umpire indicates "play ball". The umpire will call a ball when the pitcher fails to do this. The first pitch of an inning should allow time for the pitcher to don his protective equipment.
- F. A batter has 10 seconds from the end of the prior play to enter the batter's box. The umpire will call a strike if the batter fails to enter the box within this time. The first batter of an inning should allow time for him to come from the outfield and/or to remove a pitcher's protective equipment.
- G. Courtesy runners should be in place within the 10 seconds for the batter to enter the

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

batter's box. The umpire will call a strike if they fail to do this.

- H. Attempting to get a courtesy runner after a ball or strike has been called will result in the runner being called out.

4.4 WARM-UP

- A. Infield and outfield practice will only be allowed in the first inning. Each ball thrown on the infield or outfield after the first inning that delays the game, unless allowed by the umpire due to injury, will be called a ball on the batter.
- B. A new pitcher will be allowed three pitches and no more than one minute to warm up.

4.5 RUN RULE

If the visiting team is ahead by 15 runs or more at the end of fifth or the end of any later innings, or if the home team is ahead by 15 runs or more after the end of 4 ½ innings, or any later ½ inning, the umpire shall declare that the game is over.

4.6 FLIP-FLOP RULE

As a time control measure, if the visiting team is leading by ten or more runs, as the final inning of a game is about to be played, the home team will bat first in the final inning.

4.7 TIE GAMES

- A. Games ending in a tie, after seven innings or time limit, will not be completed later. Each team will be credited with one-half game in the win and loss columns in the standings.
- B. Playoff games cannot end in a tie. A playoff game, tied after seven innings or time limit, will continue until one team is ahead after the completion of a subsequent inning. Per International Rules for handling tie games, the last batter to bat in the previous inning will be placed on second base as each inning begins. A courtesy runner may be used after the runner has advanced one base.

4.8 REPLAYING INCOMPLETE PLAYOFF GAMES

Any playoff game that has not reached five innings, or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead, will be replayed from the beginning if it does not reach the time limit due to acts of God or power failure. The game will continue until there is a winner.

5. PITCHING REGULATIONS

5.1 PITCHER SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Pitchers are required to wear a protective face mask while pitching, which includes batting

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

practice as well as games. Pitchers are encouraged, but not required, to use other personal safety equipment such as chest protectors and shin guards.

5.2 PITCHER PROTECTION SCREEN

- A. **The pitcher protection screen must be used by all pitchers in all Divisions.**
- B. The screen is intended purely as a safety mechanism for pitchers, not to be employed as an additional defensive player. Therefore, the back, inside foot of the screen is to be placed within three feet of the front of the pitcher's rubber and aligned with the edge of, or within the 24 inches width of the pitcher's rubber on the pitcher's glove side. The face of the screen must be parallel to the front of the batter's home plate. Pitches must be delivered around the side of the screen, not over the top on the screen.
- C. A batted ball striking the screen is a dead ball and is treated as though no pitch had been delivered. A thrown or deflected ball striking the screen during active play remains in play.

6. **BATTING**

6.1 BALL-STRIKE COUNT

The ball-strike count on the batter is treated as a division option to be made by each division's managers at the beginning of each season and used for the duration of that season. The options are:

- A. A 1 and 1 count. Each batter starts his at-bat with a one ball and one strike count. When the count reaches two strikes, one courtesy foul ball will be allowed. A second foul ball will result in the batter being called out. This is the default option, unless a division's managers choose to use a 0 and 0 count.
- B. Each batter starts with a no ball and no strike count. There is no courtesy foul ball with two strikes.

6.2 LINEUP

- A. Managers may or may not play, at their own discretion, if the team has more than ten players (eleven in National). This determination must be established at the beginning of the game. However, if a player is injured during the game, the manager may enter the game to make a full defensive team (ten players, eleven in National).
- B. If a team is batting more than ten (eleven in National) and a player has to leave the game, unless due to an ejection, that spot in the batting order will be scratched and no out is declared. An ejected player's spot in the batting order becomes an automatic out each time it comes up.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

- C. If a team has to go to nine players (ten in National) due to injury, emergency, etc., anything other than an ejection, it will immediately add a pickup player who will take the departing player's spot in the batting order and play in the field under pickup player defensive rules. If there was a pickup player previously bumped from the game by the arrival of a roster player, and if he is still available to play, he fills the vacant spot. (Reference HCSSL # 3.1.H) Otherwise, the opposing manager selects a pickup player from available players.
- D. If a player is lost due to being ejected see HCSSL 3.3.C.

6.3 BATTING ORDER

- A. All team members present for a game are included in the batting order, which means the batting lineup may include more than ten players (eleven in National).
- B. The scorekeeper shall, or the defensive team may, alert the umpire to an attempt by the offensive team to bat out of order, including the situation where the scheduled batter is on base as a courtesy runner for someone else.
- C. A courtesy runner on base when it is his turn to bat will be declared out and will then take his turn at bat. A second courtesy runner cannot be substituted.

6.4 HOME RUNS

There is no limit to the number of home runs a team may hit during a game. (Reference SSUSA # 8.4 (2) thru (5))

7. ON-BASE SITUATIONS

7.1 COURTESY RUNNERS

- A. It is the runner's option whether he wants a courtesy runner to run for him.
- B. The home plate umpire will give the courtesy runner time to get to the base, but will not delay the game for the manager to select a courtesy runner. If a courtesy runner is not inserted immediately on completion of a play, then he may not be inserted until after the next batter has completed his turn at bat.
- C. After a walk, the batter/runner may proceed directly to the dugout without touching first base and the designated courtesy runner should go immediately to first base.
- D. Pickup players cannot be used as courtesy runners during the summer season. There is no such restriction during the winter season.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

- E. If the team has an injured player, for example with a sprained wrist, that does not want to play defense or bat but still wants to be a courtesy runner, that player will be allowed to run for one of his teammates.

7.1.1 COURTESY RUNNER FROM HOME PLATE

In the National Division, a batter may have a courtesy runner run for him from home plate.

- A. Use of a courtesy runner from home plate is at the discretion of the batter. The manager may ask a player if he would like a courtesy runner when he bats prior to the beginning of the game, but he cannot tell the player that someone will run for him.
- B. Once a player has been designated as using a courtesy runner from the plate, that player must have a courtesy runner every time he bats.
- C. The courtesy runner from the plate may be any team member. A different team member may be used each time the batter come to the plate. The courtesy runner, unless injured, may not be replaced by another courtesy runner.
- D. To designate the courtesy runner's starting position, a 6 to 8 foot chalk line will be placed corresponding to an imaginary line even with the middle of the base runner's home plate and extending about 8 to 10 feet starting behind the batter's box towards the visitor's side screen.
- E. The courtesy runner from the plate may begin to run as soon as the batter swings. Courtesy runners may not stand further back from the start line in order to get a running start.
- F. The courtesy runner from the plate shall be treated as a pickup player and may only advance one base. All other rules regarding pickup players running shall apply.

7.2 CONTACT

It is the base runner's responsibility to avoid both contact with and or interference with a defensive player and may be called out for either. However, the defensive player shall not block or impede the runner from making contact with the base. If this occurs, the runner shall be determined safe, even though the runner does not touch the base.

Sliding or diving into first base or the scoring plate/line is permitted only to avoid a collision with a defensive player. This is an umpire's judgment call and is not subject to protest or appeal. A player may also slide or dive into second or third bases or returning to any base. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding or diving. If, in the umpire's judgment, a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, and would otherwise have been safe, the runner will not be called out.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

7.2.1 INTERFERENCE WITHOUT COLLISIONS

If in the judgment of the umpire, a runner, without making contact, interferes with a defensive player making a play, the ball will be declared dead and that runner called out. All base runners except the batter will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If in the judgment of the umpire the runner's interference with the defensive player involved in the play negates a double play, the umpire may award a second out.

7.2.2 AVOIDING COLLISIONS

If in the judgment of the umpire, the runner fails to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play, the ball will be declared dead, that runner called out. All base runners except the batter will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If the potential for a double play existed, the umpire shall award a second out with the most advanced runner being the second out.

7.2.3 INTENTIONAL CONTACT

If in the judgment of the umpire, the runner or defensive player intentionally creates contact, that player, in addition to any other penalties required, shall immediately be ejected from the game.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.1 RULES COMMITTEE

- A. The HCSSL Rules Committee is chaired by the Director of Rules and includes at least one player from each division.
- B. Each division also has a division rules committee, made up of the coordinator and managers, which can propose altering the rules under which that division plays. Such rule changes should typically reflect the preference of a clear majority of the players in that division. The division coordinator will submit any changes via the Director of Rules to the Board for its awareness and approval. Before any changes become effective, they must be approved by the Board and communicated to the players.
- C. Any actions occurring off the field of play and not ruled on by an umpire will remain under the jurisdiction of the Board.

8.2 SCOREKEEPER/FIELDWORKER

- A. There are typically two scorekeeper assigned per game, unless the division has a paid professional scorekeeper.
- B. If a player does not fulfill his duty as a scorekeeper/field worker or provide a replacement, he will be suspended for his team's next playable game. If his team does not provide a substitute worker, the team will lose one-half game in the win column of the standings. It

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

is preferred that the replacement worker be from the player's team, but when necessary, the replacement may be from another team.

8.3 PROTESTS

- A. The Division Coordinator will be called to the field to assist the umpire(s) in settling any dispute. If the Coordinator is not available, any Board member may assist. Any Coordinator or Board member playing in the disputed game may not assist in settling the dispute.
- B. Protests are to be made before the end of the game or if on the last play of the game before the umpire(s) leave the playing field. Only managers or acting managers may notify the home plate umpire of their intent to protest. (Reference SSUSA # 1.54)
- C. The home plate umpire is to notify the scorekeeper that a protest has been made and instruct the scorekeeper to note the details of the protest on the score sheet for that game.
- D. The Board of Directors makes the final decision on all protested games. Protests shall be made in writing by the manager (along with a \$15.00 cash deposit) to any Board member within three days after the game in question. The cash deposit will be returned if the protest is won or will be put into HCSSL's general fund if the protest is lost.

9. RULE ADJUSTMENTS FOR WINTER SEASON

This section is a recap of winter season adjustments for convenience purposes only. In case of a conflict between the items in this section and items in prior sections, the items in the prior sections will take precedence.

PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT

2.1 Players are not required to wear a current year sponsor's shirt.

PICKUP PLAYERS

3.1.A minimum number of team roster players is waived and all teams may pick up players as necessary. No game is to be forfeited due to not having sufficient players.

3.1.C.3 Any active player in the division may serve as a pickup player. There is no limitation on first or second round draft picks not being eligible as pickup players.

3.1.G Pickup players may play any defensive position.

7.1.D Pickup players may serve as courtesy runners.

THE GAME

4.1 When only 2 games are scheduled, games are to begin at 6:30 and 7:45 pm. However, each division may elect to change that to 7:00 and 8:15 pm.

HCSSL OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES

ALL DIVISIONS (Rev. 2/1/21)

4.2 The game clock begins with 60 minutes if two games are to be played and remains at 55 minutes if three games are to be played and counts down.

ON BASE SITUATIONS

7.1.D Pickup players may serve as courtesy runners.

RULES ELECTED BY DIVISION OPTION

This section is a convenient recap of rules elected each season by division option, meaning by the managers in each division. In case of conflict between the items in this section and items in prior sections, the items in the prior sections will take precedence.

- A. Whether players from bye teams have preference as pickup players. (See 3.1.B.3)
- B. Game start times for season when only two games are scheduled each night. Options are 6:30 and 7:45 pm or 7:00 and 8:15 pm. (See 4.1)
- C. Initial ball/strike count on batter, whether 1/1 or 0/0. (See 6.1)
- D. Whether to switch from the standard ball/strike count on the batter to “one pitch” (where a called ball becomes a walk and a called strike become a strikeout) for the final “buffer” inning.