

# Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI)

## League Rules

### League Operation

Member communities in the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) must share in the cost of league operations. When a community elects not to share in those costs, they will be removed from the League pending a review by the Operations Committee (OPCOMM) and a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Member Communities must have a representative present at scheduled League, or special meetings called by the President.

### Section I: Game Schedules and Times:

**1.1** Regularly scheduled League games are played on Tuesdays and Fridays. **When only one game is scheduled, the starting time is 10:00. (Multiple Games) The first game will start at 9:30, the second game will start at 11:00 and the third game will start at 12:30.**

**1.1a.** The highest division team will play the first game, and each succeeding lower division team will play games accordingly based on the scheduled start times.

**1.2** Makeup games due to inclement weather will automatically be rescheduled to the next available makeup date and become official once posted. **When the schedule has no available makeup dates remaining, doubleheaders may be required to fill out schedules by the Webmaster. All doubleheaders will be 6 innings in length once scheduled.**

**1.3** A decision to postpone a game because of inclement weather should be made, if possible, on the morning of the scheduled game day unless approved by the divisional representative. Games postponed will be reported to the webmaster for rescheduling to the next available makeup date. **Scheduled games will have priority over makeup game dates. \*\***

\*\* Regarding weather-related game delays, postponing, or cancellations, the League President or his designated authority is the only authority to make **league-wide** decisions regarding delays, postponements, and cancellations. It may **do so before the scheduled game day.**

Otherwise, the decision to delay or postpone a game is a local decision by the home team. **Such a decision is a game-day decision. Park Reps or managers are not authorized to delay or postpone a scheduled game before the game day without the Division Reps' consent.**

**1.4** When a team leaves the field before or during a scheduled game without just cause, that community is subject to a \$50.00 fine and manager suspension for (2) two games. All fines and suspensions related to **(1.4)** are subject to appeal and review by the division representative and Operations Committee (OPCOMM) if needed.

**1.5** Team(s) failing to show up for a scheduled game without prior notification to the divisional representative and opposing manager, will be fined \$25.00, subject to appeal to the divisional representative and Operations Committee (OPCOMM) if needed within 48 hours of the scheduled game.

**1.6 Teams dropping from the league without justifiable cause during the scheduled playing season will be subject to a \$100.00 fine, which is reviewable by the Executive Board. That team will be placed back into the same division for the next playing season if they apply for reinstatement.**

**1.6 (a) Communities who have dropped a team(s) during an SFSSI playing season will pay an additional \$100.00 fee per team if reinstated back into the alignment process.**

**1.7** Team(s) forfeiting a game must have the manager notify their divisional representative with reason and cause before the scheduled game. Team(s) forfeiting multiple games (**two or more**) during the season will be subject to review by the Operations Committee (OPCOMM) for reason and cause.

**Section II: Rosters: See Section XV: Addendum to 2.3 (b), (c)**

**2.1** The Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) are mandating that each community in the league conduct an **annual pre-season draft requiring** that every player in each community must be placed on an appropriate team within that community with the highest-rated skilled player(s) assigned to the highest competing team in each division in the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI).

**2.1 (a)** Communities adding a player(s) **during a playing season** must place that player(s) on their highest-rated team playing within their community, in accordance and consistent with league rule.2.1. When a player's ability places him/her at a level above their highest-rated team that player(s) ability must be reviewed by the opcomm before or during that playing season.

**2.2** There is no limit to the number of players allowed on a team roster if the players meet the requirements listed herein. The penalty for violating **2.1** will be forfeiture of any game(s) won during that violation period.

**2.3** Players must be residents of a Member Community, Sister Community, grandfathered from a Membered Community, or player(s) from outside a community whom the Executive Board has approved. If a player(s) moves from one Membered Community to another, they can complete the season with the current Community. The same with a player(s) moving to a Non-Membered Community. **Player(s) living in one Membered Community may not play for another Membered Community team.**

**a. Grandfathered Player:** This is defined as a past resident who lived in a Membered Community for at least three years before moving from that Membered Community to a Non-Membered Community. The Executive Board must approve this request which will be in effect until that player stops playing softball in the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) or moves back into a Membered Community. Approved Grandfathered player(s) do not need approval on an annual basis. **Refer to 2.3(d)**

**b. Sister Community:** A Community(s) not having a team in the Sun and Fun League but have a player(s) that could provide a Membered Community with enough player(s) to field a team competing in the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI). The Executive Board must approve these Communities and their players annually. **Refer to 2.3(d)**

- c. **Outside Player(s):** Are player(s) not from a Sister Community, not Grandfathered from a Membered Community, but the random player(s) that could help a Membered Community or Club Team field a team competing in the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI). **Player(s) must be approved by the Executive Board on an annual basis and must be 55 years of age during the calendar year the season ends**
- d. **Players(s) must be 55 years of age during the calendar year the season ends. An exemption to 2.3 (d) is as follows: Player(s) from a membered community only, not a sister community or outside or Grandfathered player(s), who are age 50 when the playing season starts, not beyond the season start date and the remainder of the current season, a maximum of 4 players will be allowed to play but must be placed on teams according to their highest skill level.**

**2.4** New player(s) may be added to a roster until the March 1<sup>st</sup> cutoff date as follows:

- a. The divisional representative is notified before that player(s) begins play.
- b. **A signed Sun and Fun League Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) Contract** is sent to the divisional representative before that player(s) begins play.
- c. **A signed Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) Release Liability Waiver** is sent to the Vice President before that player(s) begins play.
- d. **A signed Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) Pitcher Liability Waiver** for each pitcher must be kept by their manager or acting manager. Refer to: **Section VII, Uniforms and Protective Equipment 7.2.**

**2.5** Each team must submit a roster for distribution at the October meeting listing each rostered player to their divisional representative and every manager in their division, including the league's Vice President.

- a. Once the rosters are submitted at the October meeting, they are frozen. Player(s) movement beyond that meeting will follow the league Player movement rules. **(3.1)**
- b. **An exemption to 3.1 relating to Club Teams is as follows: The addition of a player(s) during the playing season to ensure the viability of that team will need the approval of the Division 1 representative and a majority of teams playing in Division 1.**
- c. Team rosters are frozen on March 1<sup>st</sup> of each season, with no player(s) added after this date.

### **Section III: Player Movement**

**3.1** Movement of a player(s) to a lower division during the playing season will require the following:

- a. A request from the community to move the player(s) to a lower division and the reason.
- b. The approval of both impacted divisional representatives.
- c. Approval of the League President
- d. Approval of a majority of the Executive Board members.

**3.2** Movement of a player(s) to a higher division during the playing season will require the following:

- a. Player(s) moving upward must be approved by the division representative receiving the player(s) before that player(s) game participation.
- b. The movement to a higher division is per game (1) unless approved by the division representative receiving the player(s).
- c. The player(s) moving up must be the eleventh (11) player to fill out the lineup and must be in the offense lineup (bat).
- d. An exception to **3.2 (c)** is made for a community team requesting a pitcher when the requesting team needs one to play a scheduled game. This pitcher will be the twelfth (12) player and must be in the offense lineup (bat).

**\*d.1.** Unless this pitcher is coming from a higher division team to a lower division team. **(The downward movement of a pitcher from a higher division, i.e., D1 to a lower division i.e., D6 as an example).** A pitcher may move down from a higher division team as a substitute but will not bat. A DH will be allowed to hit for the substitute pitcher. If no DH is available, an out will be recorded after the last batter in the lineup.

#### **Section IV: Team Movement Seasonal:**

**4.1** When it becomes necessary to reposition a team(s) into another division (higher-lower) the Operations Committee (OPCOMM) will meet and make a recommendation to the Executive Board which must approve the recommendation by a majority vote.

#### **Section V: Team Alignment Process:**

**5.1** The Operations Committee (OPCOMM) has the responsibility to align divisions and teams within those divisions using the **following criteria as a guideline:**

- a. Each divisional winner based on season record, including tiebreakers **(5.2)** moves up one division.
- b. The team finishing last within a division moves down one division.
- c. A community team finishing first in consecutive years playing in the highest division **may** have to be split into two (2) separate teams in the same division, **at the discretion of the operations committee (opcomm).** The teams will play in that division the following season. A community without multiple teams (one team) will not be held to this standard.
- d. The rules governing the alignment process are the standard for team movement. Communities can appeal to the Operations Committee (OPCOMM) before the alignment process.

#### **5.2 Tie Breaker Process for Determining First Place:**

- a. First tiebreaker: Head-to-Head competition

- b. Second tiebreaker: Fewest runs allowed in head-to-head competition.
- c. Third tiebreaker: Least number of runs scored against for the season.
- d. Fourth tiebreaker: Flip of the coin

#### **Section VI: Equality:**

All communities, teams, and players within the Sun and Fun Tri-County Senior Softball League (SFSSI) will be shown equality regardless of what division they are playing in. Divisions are rated in progression from D1 being the highest skilled to D6 being the lowest skilled based on safety and ability.

#### **Section VII: Uniforms and Protective Equipment:**

- 7.1** Teams are required to wear a matching shirt and hat. The shirt must have a number on the back 6" high with no duplicate numbers. The hat must be worn with the bill always worn forward, with an exemption given to all players deciding to wear protective head equipment.
- 7.2 SFSSI encourages pitchers to use the recommended safety protective equipment comprising of the head, face, and legs or the use of a pitching screen. The Sun and Fun Tri-County Senior Softball League's Pitching Liability Waiver is required by all pitchers, pitching in a scheduled Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) game. This waiver must be in the possession of their manager or acting manager and must be presented to the home plate umpire before the game starts.**
- 7.3** Failure to follow the required uniform rules outlined will result in a warning by the umpire and if not followed, could result in a violation of the Conduct and Sportsmanship Guideline.

#### **Section VIII: Protests:**

- 8.1** Misinterpretation of a Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) rule:
  - a. Must be made before the next pitch or on the last play of the game before the umpire(s) leave the playing field. The team manager or acting manager must make the protest.
- 8.2** Illegal Substitution(s)
  - a. Must be made while the player is in the game and before the umpire(s) leave the field after the game ends.
- 8.3** Ineligible Player(s)
  - a. Can be made anytime during or after the game has been completed to the umpire(s) opposing manager or acting manager and to the divisional representative within 48 hours.
  - b. When the divisional representative is not able to resolve the protest the manager of the protesting team must notify the league Vice President who chairs the protest committee in writing or by email detailing the reason for the protest.

- c. A league fee of \$20.00 will be paid to the league for any protests refundable if the committee upholds the protest.
- d. A protest committee member who is also a member of the team filing the protest, he/she will be replaced by the protest committee chairperson.

#### **Section IX: Rules Violations:**

- 9.1 Violation of league rules may result in forfeiture of games(s) and if not resolved promptly could result in removal from the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI).
- 9.2 When an umpire removes a player(s) from a game, the manager of that team must notify his/her division representative within 48 hours. The division representative must contact the manager of each team. When the divisional representative cannot resolve the violation in question, he/she will notify the President of the League within 24 hours.

#### **Section X: Summer League:**

- 10.1 The Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) will support a summer league and provide scheduling if needed. Summer League play will commence in May and end in August. The Operations Committee (OPCOMM) will oversee summer league play. The President will appoint a summer league chairperson.

#### **Section XI: Field Layout:**

- 11.1 Community fields and those communities using public facilities must be laid out by the Sun and Fun League Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. field diagram found on the league's website.
  - a. The runner's line will be 8' behind the line from the 3<sup>rd</sup> base to the home plate when field configurations allow. Fields that do not have sufficient room to allow for the configuration must place the runner's line as far back as possible.

#### **Section XII: Reporting Guidelines:**

- 12.1 The home team is responsible for reporting game results by email to the Webmaster at **marybub@ssoftball.net** on game day no later than 6:00 p.m. Include in your report the sponsors, community, division, umpires, home plate, base(s), and game stats for the home and visiting teams. The reporting guideline is on the website under the document section.
  - a. The visiting team must provide the home team with their game stats immediately following the conclusion of the game.

**Sportsmanship (Fair Play): The ability of a player(s) to win or lose graciously.**

#### **Section XIII: Conduct and Sportsmanship Guidelines:**

- 13.1 Softball played under the rules of the Sun and Fun Senior Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) must be played in a manner that is enjoyable for all players, umpires, and fans at all games

scheduled by the Sun and Fun League. Unfortunately, sometimes there are lapses in good sportsmanship that detract from the game and fan experience this League was created to provide. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated, and the following sections of this guideline will be strictly enforced.

- 13.2** A player(s) shall not make insulting remarks or actions to or about the members of his team, another team, umpires, or spectators. This includes but is not limited to; taunting, inappropriate gestures, inappropriate language to or about another player(s) or team(s), vulgar language, temper flare-ups, combative displays, prolonged arguments with umpires, players, or spectators, and other acts not covered in this guideline but still considered poor sportsmanship that reflects negatively on the Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI).
- 13.3** Any disagreements with an umpire(s) decision will be handled through the team manager or acting manager who is also subject to these guidelines. A player(s) who does not adhere to this guideline can be removed from the game and suspended from playing **Three (3) Consecutive Games**. The player(s) may not appear in uniform on the field nor sit with the team in the dugout during the suspension.
- 13.4** When a player(s) is suspended a second time in a playing season for violating these guidelines the player(s) will be suspended from playing **Fourteen (14) Consecutive Games** and possibly the remainder of the season. Game suspensions carry over to the next playing season if not completed.
- 13.5** It is the responsibility of the community representative, manager, or acting manager to ensure these guidelines are reviewed and followed by each team member before each playing season.
- 13.6** When a team manager or acting manager fails to take necessary and immediate action to ensure these guidelines are followed it will be the community representative's responsibility to ensure the guidelines are followed.
- 13.7** All suspensions are subject to review by the Operations Committee (OPCOMM) within 7 days.

#### **Section XIV: Home Field Ground Rules:**

- 14.1** The home team sets the ground rules for their field.
- 14.2** Public Fields used by communities may have special requirements or rules that need to be followed.
- 14.3** Pitcher protection nets will be provided to the visiting team for batting practice.
- 14.4** The home team must provide scoreboards. When an electronic scoreboard is not available or inoperable the umpire and scorekeeper for the home team in conjunction will keep the score.
- 14.5** The home team must provide bat racks with a minimum of fourteen (14) slots.
- 14.6** The home plate (Batter's Box) dimensions: Width 3' each side of the strike plate and 7' in length
- 14.7** The strike plate dimensions: 19" W X 34-1/2" L

## **Section XV: Addendum's**

### **Addendum to Rosters, Section II, subsets 2.3 (b) and (c)**

#### **Sister Communities:**

Sister communities as defined in League Rules, Section II: Rosters, a subset (b) will remain in effect with the following stipulation: The Member Community currently using a sister community or requesting the use of a sister community must have 50% plus 1 of all players from that community on the current or future rosters to use a sister community.

The size of the combined membered community and its sister community may not exceed the largest membered community in the league.

#### **Outside Players on Community Teams:**

Players currently listed on a Membered Community as an Outside Player(s) as defined in League Rules, Section II: Rosters, a subset (c) are frozen as of 2/3/22 and are allowed to continue playing until they choose not to. Membered Communities with current Outside Players will not be allowed to replace any existing players with new Outside Players once a player(s) exits the community. An Outside Player who has exited a community may not return to that community or another membered community's roster.

### **Section XIV: Pre- or Post-Season Tournaments**

The Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc. (SFSSI) does not sanction, or does it partner with any member or non-member community when it comes to pre-post-season tournaments and thus has no place in the affairs of these communities. Tournament hosting Communities are not sanctioned to reference the SFSSI rules for tournament play invitations.

Revised and updated,

July 1, 2024

Jim Milligan, Secretary-Treasurer