

Franklin Senior Softball League- Rules Summary 2025

-Game time: Fridays 6:15 until mid-May then 6:30-Sundays 9:30-15-minute grace period.

-Minimum number of players to start a game is 8 with one team loaning the other a catcher. Teams can loan each other players. All attending players must be included in batting order unless injured. Managers can choose to be excluded and can enter the game at any point as a pinch hitter or as the last batter in the order.

-Free substitution in the field is allowed but the batting order must be kept the same. Players arriving after the first pitch are placed at the bottom of the batting order. For players announced as leaving a game early there is no penalty for their spot in the order.

-Maximum of 7 players positioned on infield dirt. Players can be thrown out at 1B from the outfield.

-One designated runner from home per game-not transferable. In addition, players age 75+ are also entitled to a designated runner from home. A team must use a minimum of 3 different players as runners before they can be used a second time.

-Arc Pitching-Distance is 50 feet. Legal pitch must be between 6 and 12 feet

-Strike Zone: Ground level wooden strike zone 21" x 35". Batter is out after first foul with 2 strikes. Any foul ball caught by the catcher even with less than 2 strikes is an out. Foul ball does not have to rise above batter's head. Fielder only needs to be in contact with any part of the wooden strike zone to make a play.

-Full game is 7 innings-Mercy rule 15 runs after 5 innings.

-Five run limit per inning when tied or leading. The team behind in the score can catch up and score 5 more runs. No limit in the 7th inning. Five run limit applies to both teams in the first inning.

-No Home Run limits

- Bats: must have ASA or USA approved label-no exceptions-No Seniors Bats.**
- No Sliding or headfirst diving into or back to a base.**
- Second home plate used- no tag plays at home, runner tagging or going to the vicinity of the wrong home plate is out.**
- Unlimited courtesy runners once a batter reaches base but before a pitch to the next batter - a team must use 3 different players as courtesy runners before they can be used a second time - no substitution for an Injured runner.**
- Force plays at all bases however, runners can still be tagged out.**
- Runners can overrun 2B & 3B safely but must return to the base before advancing. A runner caught in a run-down play must be tagged out. Same for a runner rounding a base too far and trying to return safely.**
- Avoid Collisions-runners can run around a base or stop short of the base to avoid a collision and will be called safe. Runners must try to avoid the fielder.**
- Infield Fly Rule used in all league games.**
- Commitment line is used halfway between 3B and home plate.**
- No limit to the number of walks per inning.**
- If a protective barrier for the pitcher is used, any batted ball that hits the barrier is a dead ball and no pitch. Any thrown ball during a play that hits the barrier is a live ball.**
- Ground Rules at Lower Inman Field: Any fair ball reaching the outfield tree line is considered "all you can get". Any fair ball hit to right field that bounces into the tall reeds is a ground rule double.**
- All conferences between an umpire and the two opposing teams should include both managers or their designated representative only.**