

CO-ED PLAYING RULES

2023-2024

These are the official rules for Co-Ed competition in the Senior Softball World Masters Championships and qualifiers.

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SECTION 16

CO-ED PLAYING RULES • The following rules supplement the Official SSUSA playing rules for men's and women's 40-Masters play.

16.1 • ROSTERS FOR CO-ED PLAY

- A. A legal team consists of 10 to 20 players.
- B. All international male players must be at least 40 years old as of December 31 of the year they compete. All international female players must be at least 21 years old as of December 31 of the year they compete. All International players must present valid identification before participating.
- C. American and Canadian team players: All male players must be at least 40 years old as of December 31 of the year they compete. All female players must be at least 30 years old as of December 31 of the year they compete. American and Canadian players must fully register and possess a valid SSUSA National Identification card.
- D. Each American and Canadian team must be comprised of players who live within the same statistical metropolitan area.

16.2 • DEFENSIVE RULES

- A. Ten players constitute a defense. At least four shall be female and no more than five male. At no time will six men be permitted on defense simultaneously.
- B. Teams may start with nine players or drop to nine during the game as long as at least four are female. Teams cannot play with eight or fewer players.
- C. Pitchers may be either male or female, but the catcher must be the opposite sex.
- D. Teams shall have four outfielders and four infielders but may play one short in either the outfield or infield if the line-up starts with or drops to nine.
- E. When a woman bats, infielders shall remain in their normal defensive positions and outfielders shall remain behind the 200-foot line until the ball is hit. EFFECT: The penalty shall result in the batter being awarded first base. Runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch unless forced to advance. NOTE: This is a judgment call by the umpire, who shall immediately declare "dead ball" when the violation occurs.
- F. A female batter-runner may not be thrown out at first base if the throw originates from an outfielder. PENALTY: Batter-runner will be awarded third base.

16.3 • BATTING RULES

- A. The lead-off batter may either be a man or a woman.
- B. The batting order must alternate between sexes until all the players in the group with the fewest players have batted. A team may bat a maximum of one more men than women.
- C. Two female or male players may bat consecutively only after all alternating hitters has been completed.
- D. If a player leaves the game due to injury or ejection and no substitute is available, an automatic out will be declared each time that position comes up to bat, unless the preceding batter walked. NOTE: The game may end on an automatic out.

16.4 • WALKS

- A. A male batter who receives a base on balls, whether intentional or unintentional, will be awarded two bases.
- B. A female batter following a walked male batter has the option of taking her at-bat or accepting a walk.
- C. Runners on base at the time of a walk advance only if forced.

16.5 • HOME RUNS – Co-Ed teams are allowed six home runs per game. Each home run over the limit is a dead ball out and base runners cannot advance.

16.6 • SOFTBALLS

- A. Men hit the 12-inch official SSUSA softball. Women hit the 11-inch official SSUSA softball.
- B. Play must stop and time be called by the umpire before a ball may be rotated out.
- C. If a batter hits the wrong ball, the batter has the option to keep the result of the play or re-hit with the count the same as it was before that pitch. Runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.