

2014 SSUSA Rules Summary

Pitching Arc

- 6 feet to 12 feet above the ground.
- Illegal Pitches are verbalized and hand signaled in flight.

Batters and Pitcher boxes

- Batters must start with both feet in the box.
- Before starting the pitch the pitcher must take a position with at least one foot in contact with the Pitcher's Box.
- Pitcher's Box is 10 feet long.
- Emphasis on the batters' box is the front and inside lines.

Count

- Starting count is 0-0
- 4balls, 3 strikes
- No foul to give

Double First Base and Scoring Line/Scoring Plate

- Safety base for batter/runner only on initial play. Either offense or defense may use after initial play.
- Must be used.
- Violations are live calls.
- No appeals.
- A runner's foot must be in contact with the scoring line or scoring plate, or over the scoring line and down to score the run prior to the catcher catching the ball.
- A runner shall be called out if he touches or crosses over any portion of the strike mat or the batter's box. The ball remains live.
- All plays at home are force outs.

Commitment Line

- 30 feet from home plate towards 3rd base.
- When a runner has a foot down on or down beyond the commitment line, they must continue home.
- If they retreat back over it, it is a live ball out.

Baserunning

- A runner must make every effort to avoid collisions.
- If in the umpire's judgment, a runner misses a base avoiding a collision, they may be declared safe.
- A base runner may advance on any third strike flyball which is caught on the field of play, fair or foul. The ball is live.

Courtesy Runners

- Any rostered player may be a courtesy runner that is listed on the lineup card.
- A courtesy runner may be used for a base runner at any time, but the same courtesy runner may not be used more than once in an inning. If so, they will be declared out.
- Should a courtesy runner be on base when it is their turn at bat, an out is declared, the base is vacated, and the person due to bat hits.
- Should a runner be determined to be illegal, an out is declared only after they have touched the base.

Defense

- Teams must meet the minimum for their division. It is either ten or eleven players. Should the team be short-handed one, they may continue to play no more than one player short. An out will be declared the first time only for that spot.
- If a player is ejected an out will be declared each time his/her turn at bat comes up.

Line Up cards and Game cards

- Proper game cards are critical.
- You will be given a game card that has been filled in with all the information needed for that game.
- It is your responsibility to complete that card fully as the game progresses.
- Total everything at the end and have the coaches sign to verify the results.

• Pregame

- Check your card for time limits.
- Check your card for an equalizer if used. HRs and runs per inning is always the lower teams.
- Be sure the back is filled out with both lineups, number of players and subs.
- Make sure the pitchers have mandated safety face mask.
- Your game card is official. Exchanged lineups are a courtesy.
- CONFIRM all of this BEFORE you flip the coin.

• During the game

- Record all runs each half inning and announce to both sides.
- Record all substitutions on the back of the card as they occur.
- Track the number of balls hit over the fence, regardless of whether they are home run or outs.

• Postgame

- Total and verify the score with both coaches and have them, you and any partner sign the card.

- Be sure it is accurate and complete.
- Don't forget to rate the teams.

Flip Flop Rule

- In seeding or pool play both teams must agree to it.
- If used, when the visiting team is ahead by 10 runs, and going into the open inning, the home team hits twice. Should they take a lead, the visiting team hits.
- In Bracket (tournament) play, it applies with a 10 run lead and is mandatory.

Home Runs / Runs per inning

- **Major Plus:** 9, outs over the limit, 7 runs per half inning, mercy rule of 15 run lead after 5 innings.
- **Major:** 6, outs over the limit, 5 runs per half inning.
- **AAA:** 3, outs over the limit, 5 runs per half inning.
- **AA:** 1 Only, outs over the limit, 5 Runs per half inning.
- "Hit and sit" now in effect for all divisions.
- **Note:** Any ball hit over the fence must be counted on your card, HR or out. Keep track as you go. A four base award is not included in home run totals.

Open Inning

- In timed games, must be announced when your clock expires. If not announced, another inning be played.
- Watch your clock.
- Make sure both coaches are informed.

International Tie Breaker Rule

- Each team will start with a runner on second base.
- The runner must be the last person who batted the previous inning, whether they made the third out or not.
- No substitute or courtesy runner may be used until that runner has advanced to 3rd base.
- Should the proper runner be unable to continue due to injury, an out is declared, and the next previous out becomes the proper runner.
- All International Tie Breaker innings are open innings.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK, WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.