

Bradenton Senior Softball
Tuesday and Thursday American League Rules
January 2021 (as of 11/01/21)

Note – ASA rules shall apply except for the special league rules listed below.

1. Teams must start with 9-12 players. All players must play 2 innings in the field unless one player is designated as an EH (Extra Hitter) before the game. The EH can only be utilized in the field if the team falls to 10 defensive players. If, due to injury or emergency, a team falls to 10 players the manager may pick up a player from the bye team or substitution list who happens to be available at the park. The replacement player must be at the same or lower ranking as the player being replaced. If no player is available the team may play with a minimum of **nine** players. The other team WILL NOT supply a player.
2. Substitutions - Managers not able to start with 12 players should recruit a **comparable** player from the bye team or substitution list. A #1 rated player may be replaced by a #1 player or lower. A #2 player may be replaced **only** by a #2 player or lower. Likewise for #3 and #4 players. **Substitutions may be acquired after the Tuesday or Thursday games for the following week, not before. The team in the lowest place will have first choice.**
3. Players not able to play both games must inform the manager so a replacement can be obtained for both games.
4. A player arriving late must go to the bottom of the batting order. If the team is playing with more than 10 players and he has missed his first at-bat he must wait until the second game. If there are ten players he can join at last bat.
5. A player leaving the game early other than due to injury or emergency shall be considered an out his next time at bat, but not subsequent times that his bat position comes up.
6. **Any disputes or appeal of rules will be handled by the umpires and team mangers ONLY.**
7. All bats are allowed except any bat that has been altered or damaged.
8. Pitching arc - the ball shall be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground, while not exceeding a maximum height of 12 feet from the ground.
9. Use of the pitching screen is mandatory for safety reasons. There will be a black line painted in the middle of the secondary mound. The edge of the screen will be placed on this line on the first base side for right-handed pitchers and on the third base side for left-handed pitchers. Pitchers must remain behind the secondary mound until the ball is hit. Each time a pitcher is called for violating this rule the batting team manager will have the option of letting the play stand, or having a no pitch called and doing the play over.
10. No **Courtesy Runners** from Home Plate. Courtesy Runners can only be used for an injured or chronically ill (e.g. COPD) player on the bases, not just a slow runner. Prior to game start managers shall notify each other of up to TWO players who will need a courtesy runner. In the event of an on-field injury that player will also be allowed a runner. Anyone can be a courtesy runner, however if the courtesy runner is on base when his time comes up to bat he will be out. **Managers should have a courtesy runner in**

place when the batter needing a runner comes up to bat. The batter needing a runner must stop at first base and not make a turn toward second, or he will be an out. A courtesy runner cannot be replaced by another courtesy runner except if he becomes injured.

11. The batter starts with a 1 and 1 count and is allowed one foul ball after two strikes.
12. Any player walked once per game has the option of walking again or continuing the at-bat. If the player chooses to continue, the at-bat pitch count will continue and not start over again. The pitcher is expected to throw strikes and not waste time throwing a lot of balls.
13. Batters must tag the outside base at first when a play is made at first. Fielders must tag the inner base. When running to home the runner must continue once the commitment line is passed and must touch the 2nd home plate.
14. The catcher must be touching **any part of home plate** and cannot tag the runner for an out. The play is considered a force out. If the force out is the third out of the inning, any runs that came in prior to this out will count as runs scored.
15. The batter/runner may slide into first base only to avoid collision. Otherwise it is an out. Runners sliding into home plate will be called out.
16. Runners must avoid a throw from third or second base by sliding or running out of the base path. It is the umpire's discretion to call a double-play if the runner does not yield.
17. Fielders not having the ball cannot block a base and must give part of the bag to the runner or the umpire can use his discretion to declare the runner safe.
18. There is no restriction as to where infielders and outfielders must play.
19. The infield fly rule will apply at umpire's discretion. It should be a catchable ball and should be called while the ball still in the air.
20. Passed ball rule – An “out of play” is pipe to pipe on the entrance to the dugout. The runner will advance two bases if thrown by an infielder and three bases if thrown by an outfielder from where the runner/batter was **at the time of the pitch**. However if a batter hits a ball and has rounded 2nd base **when the ball goes out of play** he will get home plate.
21. There is a 5-run maximum for the batting team during innings 1-6. The 7th and extra innings are unlimited.
22. Mercy rule - A 12 run lead after 5 or 6 innings ends the game.
23. Extra Innings – The last out from previous inning starts from 2nd base. Pitch count remains as in regular game.
24. The bye team shall try to provide 4 players to umpire and should be prepared to play if needed.
25. Managers may not recruit new players for their team and cannot play any player who is not on the team roster or from the bye team or sub list. In the event that a player is unable to complete the rest of the season the manager may contact the league coordinator for a comparable replacement if one can be found. Otherwise replacement players must come from the bye team or sub list.