

2009 Softball Rule Book



Let's Play Ball!

Men	60+, 65+	October 5-9, 2009
Women	50+ - 70+	October 8-10, 2009
Men	50+, 55+, 70+	October 12-16, 2009
Men	74+	October 13-16, 2009

Welcome Players, Managers And Fans

Welcome to our 23rd Annual Huntsman World Senior Games. As we continue to grow and the popularity expands, we are challenged not just to maintain, but also to improve the quality of this tournament and to enhance your experience in St. George. We always are eager to see those of you who have been here before – some for more years than we can remember. But we also are eager to impress our new teams, many of who have come because you heard it was a great tournament. Have a great time and good luck.

Our team of volunteers and officials are here to see that the tournament runs smoothly and that you have an enjoyable time. Please respect their efforts and show good sportsmanship toward them and your fellow athletes.

May you have success and feel pride in your accomplishments.

Executive Committee & Protests

Bill Given	- Tournament Director	George Regopoulos	- Umpire-in-Chief
Dan Mertlich	- Assistant Director	John Peters	- Sports Coordinator
		Doug Bergen	- Softball Facilitator

Softball Committees & Field Directors

Stan Mosley	Tom Duce
Marge Shakespeare	Lowell Walker
Brad Hafen	Denise Wilstead
Frank Mitchell	Don Hilts
Lloyd Cooper	Keith Jorgenson
John Whatcott	Terri Rosenberg
Dave Burriel	MaryJo Hafen
Valerie Nielsen	Gaile Sandberg
	Jim Robertson

Sportsmanship:

In keeping with our goals of friendship, peace, health and friendly competition, we are asking Managers/Coaches to emphasize the need to show respect for opposing players and loyal fans. Inappropriate language and behavior have no place in these Championships. If such language and/or behavior is observed, the players and/or fans will be asked to leave. Fighting will not be tolerated. In such an occurrence, the game will be forfeited by both teams and no medals will be awarded. The teams will be suspended from the HWSG for at least one year.

Roster:

It is strongly recommended that all teams have a minimum of 12 players on their rosters. Managers need to provide each player with the team number so that they have it to complete their individual registration. As they register, they will automatically be added to your team's roster. You will be able to monitor your roster on-line and watch it grow as your players register. After September 1st only "emergency" changes can be made. To make an "emergency" change, the team manager must call the HWSG office and speak directly to Diane Knickerbocker. Changes will not be permitted at the manager's meetings.

Huntsman World Senior Games Softball Rules – 2009

All games will be played under current AFA rules except as noted below. For a complete list of rules visit the AFA website at www.afaslowpitch.com. AFA rules and tournament specific rules to note are:

1. All persons who are age 50 as of December 31, 2009 are eligible to play. Burden of proof of eligibility rests with each player and his/her manager. Any player who fails to verify his/her age to the satisfaction of the Rules & Protest Committee will be disqualified along with his/her manager, and the game will be forfeited.
2. All Players must play in at least 1 round robin game to be eligible to play in the tournament.
**Note: If a player is playing in multiple age groups he/she must play in 1 round robin game in each age group.
3. Teams may start and finish with as few as 9 players. However, an out must be taken in the 10th batting position until such a time as an additional player arrives. No game will be delayed to accommodate a late arriving player.
4. All players are required to have a 6" number of contrasting color, vertical and sequential on the back of the uniform.
5. Players may be added defensively as they arrive as follows: up to 10 players for 50+, 55+, 60+ and up to 11 players for 65+, 70+ and 74+. Women's teams may use up to 11 players defensively.
6. Teams may bat an unlimited number of players in a game, providing each player is legally on that team's roster.
7. **All line-ups cards are required at least 15 minutes prior to game time or team may risk forfeiture.** All sites will have a table where line-up cards are to be turned in.
8. If a player is ejected from a game and no substitute is available, the game will be forfeited.
9. In **round robin games** there will be a **55-minute clock**. The umpire will notify both teams when time has expired. Upon expiration of time, the current inning will be completed and the following inning will be a final (unless tied) and will be an "open-run" inning.
10. **Bracket games** will have a **60-minute clock** including semi-finals and finals.
11. A 5-Run Rule will be used each inning except when an inning is declared an "open-run" inning by the umpire. **The 5-Run Rule will be used throughout the tournament.** If a team is about to be "mercy ruled", the 5-run rule will be extended to allow the team to get 1 run under the mercy rule. Example: fifth inning, team is losing 24 to 5, the team that is losing would be able to score 8 runs and the inning would be over.
12. A mercy rule of 12 runs after 5 innings will apply to all games, including finals.
13. The **International Tie-breaker** rule will be used.

14. **A strike-zone mat/plate will be used.** Any part of the mat/plate touched during a play at the plate will be considered a legal touch by a defensive player.
15. The allowable **pitching arc** shall be **6 to 12 feet**. A **pitching box of 50 to 56 feet** will be used for all games. A pitcher may deliver the ball from anywhere in the pitching box.
16. A no collision rule will be used. A runner will be called out for contact with a defensive player if, in the umpire's judgement, the contact was deliberate or the runner could reasonably have been expected to avoid contact.
17. A team's starting line-up only may re-enter the game in their original place in the batting order.
18. **Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are prohibited!**
19. The batter-runner must touch the orange base if there is a play at first base, either from the infield or the outfield. Failure to do so will result in the batter being called out. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the batter touches the inside bag (instead of the orange bag) solely in an effort to avoid a collision, the play will be called as though the batter actually touched the orange base.
20. Players may run as courtesy runners once per inning. Once a courtesy runner touches the bag where he/she is to be the replacement runner, he/she is deemed to be "in the game" and normal substitution rules apply. Courtesy runners may not run for courtesy runners.
21. All bats must be approved by the AFA. All bats stamped by the manufacturer and meeting the 1.20 bpf standard will be considered a legal bat with the exception of the Miken Ultra I which is not considered legal for play.
22. Altered bats are not acceptable. Violators and their team will be ejected from the game and will be reported to the AFA National office where further disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with AFA's policy on altered bats.
23. **Each player must have his/her HWSG badge and a picture ID with him/her at all times. We will be checking everyone's ID prior to your first game and once more during the tournament. Players must check-in at the Dixie Center prior to playing their first game. Players will not be allowed to play if they have not checked-in or if they do not have both IDs with him when asked at any time during the tournament.**
24. Base stealing will not be permitted.
25. We will be using the "Flip Flop" rule.

All Managers' Meetings are Mandatory:

Men	60+, 65+	Sunday	October 4th	7:00 pm
Women	50+, 55+, 60+, 65+	Wednesday	October 7th	7:00 pm
Men	50+, 55+, 70+	Sunday	October 11th	7:00 pm
Men	74+	Tuesday	October 13th	At Canyons Complex

(Note: 74+ Managers' Meeting will meet at the Canyons fields prior to 1st game)

All Managers' Meetings (except 74+) will be held at the
Dixie Center – Entrada Room
1835 Convention Center Drive
St. George, Utah