

**YVSSA**  
**Yakima Valley Senior Softball Rules of Play**  
**Revised January 15, 2020**

Bases will be 70' apart. There will be a double first base, one for the defensive player to use, and one for the runner to use. If there is no play at first base, the runner may use either base.

There will also be a separate scoring plate or line, to be offset 8' from home plate. Both of these features are to provide separation between the runner and defensive players,

There will be a runner "commitment line" located along the third base running line, at a point 20' back from home plate. Once a runner crosses that line, they cannot go back to third base and cannot be tagged out because the defensive player is then limited to touching the plate.

A runner that does not cross the scoring line or base before a defensive player touches home plate with control of the ball, will be called out. A runner will be called out if they cross into the batter's boxes or mat area.

Per ASA /USSSA rules: For seniors, a strike mat measuring 17" X 32 1/2" dimension and is the strike zone, with a ball arc of 6' minimum to 12' maximum.

Pitchers safety screens are in use, and the pitcher is required to get behind the screen after releasing the ball. The pitcher may field any ball defensively after coming out from behind the screen. A batted ball hitting any part of the screen is a dead ball/no hit situation, and therefore has no effect on batter count.

Batters will start with a 1 ball & 1 strike count. Second foul ball, after two strikes, batter will be out.

Runners may slide into second or third bases. Runners must attempt to avoid contact with defensive players. Slide or get out of the way. Runners interfering with defensive play will be called out, and defensive players may not impede runners when not fielding a hit ball. Umpire's judgment will rule here. Base coaches will not physically assist or touch a runner in any manner, unless time is called.

Substitute Runners: Depending on how many players each team has on any given night, the rules for substitute runners will be subjective and decided by all three coaches during the game. Substitute runners may be installed once the runner stops at a base, and time is called.

A substitute runner may have a substitute only if they are injured. Runners should not be replaced, because they are slow runners. If a batter is injured or impaired, a substitute runner may be allowed from home plate, starting from behind home plate, and with the approval of all three coaches. The umpire must acknowledge the request, and once the substitute runner touches the base, they cannot come back out. If a substitute runner's time at bat comes up while they are on base (under local 5 on 5 rules) a substitute runner (the last out) may be inserted and the runner will be allowed to bat.

The on-deck batter is to remain in the warm up box and will be responsible to pick up the bat of the previous batter before batting.

Each inning will consist of 3 outs or 5 runs, whichever occurs first. The last inning may be designated as an "open" inning by the umpire. Three outs will conclude that inning.

All players on a team must bat, as listed in their current official roster sheet, turned in to the scorekeeper at game time. Free roster substitution will be allowed.

Yakima Senior Softball will only allow the use of ASA certified bats, with a rating of 1.2 BPF or less, umpires decision is final. No bats are allowed with any modifications of any kind, or those with a rating higher than 1.2 BPF. Any player using an illegal bat at any YVSSA function, whether at practice or in a game, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors.

There will be 2 sizes of softballs: for the men a 12" yellow ball with 300# compression and a .52 COR, and the women will use an 11" yellow ball.

We will be playing under the "five x five x five" format, with three teams of five in the game at one time.

Team 1 will start at bat, with all players in the lineup batting.

Team 2 will start in the infield (4) positions and will provide the pitcher.

Team 3 will start in the outfield and will provide the catcher. (In games without an umpire, catcher will call balls & strikes.)

There is a limit of 2 home runs for the men and 2 home runs for women per game. After a limit is reached, each subsequent home run for that team will be considered a dead ball single, with runners advancing 1 base, only as "forced" by a following runner.

A ball that hits the foul pole and goes over the fence in fair territory is a home run. A ball that would not have otherwise gone over the fence, but is inadvertently tipped over by a defensive player before it hits the ground, would be a home run, but not counted in the team's 2 run limit. A ball that hits the ground and goes over the fence in fair territory will be "ground rule" double and all runners will be awarded the base they were advancing to at the time the ball goes over, plus 1 base. Subject to interpretation by the umpire.

Any batter who hits the ball into the outfield, whether it's a direct hit or deflected by the infielder, will not be thrown out by the outfielder while advancing to first base. The ball must first be thrown to an infielder, who may then throw to first base.

Game scoring will be as follows: Game winner will receive 2 points, second place team will receive 1 point, and the last place team no points. If the first and second scores are tied, each of those get 1 & 1/2 points. If the second and third team are tied, they each get 1/2 point and the winner gets 2 points. If all scores are tied, they all get 1 point. All games will consist of 3 points total.