

# **First Premier Bank and Sioux Falls Specialty Hospital Over 50 Sioux Falls Softball League Rules - 2026**

**Other than these amendments below all rules will follow the USA Rule Book**

**Over 50 Sioux Falls amendments to USA Softball rules:**

## **Pickup Players:**

- Teams may play with up to 11 players in the field and have unlimited players in the batting order.
- If a team has only 10 players, they may pick up one player from other teams in league to get them to 11 players.
- If a team has only 9 players, they may pick up 2 players from other teams in the league to get them to 11 players.
- No team may pick up more than 2 players for any one game.
- Teams shall not use pickup players in place of rostered players who are available and able to play. If a rostered player who is able to play shows up mid-game, they must be inserted into the lineup to replace any pickup player.
- Substitute players must come from the Sioux Falls Over 50 League.
- Teams can play with as few as 8 players.
- If a team plays with 8, the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> batting positions are outs.
- If a team plays with 9, the 10<sup>th</sup> batting position is an out.
- No outs are taken if a team plays with 10 or more players in the lineup.

## **Pinch Runners:**

- A pinch runner can run for any batter – either from home or after the batter has safely reached base.
- A player can only pinch run once per inning.
- Pinch runners need to be a registered player from the Sioux Falls Over 50 League.
- Pinch runners do not need to be in the lineup but must be listed as a substitute in the scorebook.

## **Substitute Players:**

- A player who arrives to the game after it has started can be added to the roster as a substitute player or as an additional player at the bottom of the lineup.
- The team can add that player only at the bottom of the team's respective batting order. The original batting order cannot be changed except for adding that batter to the bottom of the order.
- If a player comes in as a substitute, he will replace the player he is substituting for and will bat in that position. Any player who is substituted for can only re-enter the game in the same spot in the lineup.

**Batting:**

- Three home runs (over the fence) per team maximum per game. Any subsequent home run hit over the fence becomes a single.
- The single inning run limit will still be 5 runs unless in the open inning. A ball hit over the fence counts towards the team's three home run limit – even if the hitter cannot score due to the 5 run/inning limit.
- Batter must be in the batter's box for a pitch to count.
- Batter count will start with a one ball/one strike count.
- Batted ball that hits the pitching net is a dead ball and no strike or foul is called.

**Pitching:**

- Pitcher shall pitch the ball within 5 seconds of retrieval of ball.
- Pitcher's foot must be touching the rubber during release of the pitch.
- Pitcher can pitch the ball when batter is in the batter's box.
- Pitch must clear the top of the net. It cannot go around the side of the net.
- Pitched ball must touch the rubber mat in some fashion, including corners and sides, to be recorded as a strike.
- Any pitched ball hitting the net is a dead ball and no strike or foul is called.

**Scoring:**

- Runner must "break the plane" of the chalk line located to the side of home plate to score a run. Foot does not need to hit the ground before ball is caught.
- Any runner who touches home plate instead of the chalk line will be called out.

**Chalk Lines:**

- Pinch runner for batter at home must start behind chalk line located behind the umpire.
- Any batter who has a pinch runner and runs past the chalk line midway down the first base line will be out.
- Any runner who has passed the commitment line from 3<sup>rd</sup> base to home cannot return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. This is a force out at home plate and no tag is necessary.
- Any runner who retreats towards 3<sup>rd</sup> base after crossing the commitment line is out when they touch 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

**Time Limit:**

- Scoreboards and/or umpire watch are the official time limits for games.
- When the 55-minute time limit is reached, the next inning to start will be the open and final inning. Unlimited runs can be scored in the open inning.
- For clarification on when an inning starts - if there is any time left on the clock when the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded, the next inning starts.

### **Run Limits/Rules:**

- Maximum of 5 runs per inning 1-5 unless game is in the last (open) inning.
- The last inning is an open inning, and unlimited runs can be scored.
- There is no “10-, 15- or 20-run rule” since we have maximum runs/inning and a game time limit. However, a flip/flop is mandatory if the home team is trailing by 10 or more runs going into the open inning to keep games on schedule. When trailing by 10 or more runs, the home team will bat first in the open inning. Flip/flop only takes place in the open inning.

### **Extra Innings:**

- No extra innings for regular season games. Games will end in ties when either the open inning has been completed or the time limit has expired.
- Extra innings will be utilized during the end of the year tournament.

### **Continued for 2026:**

- League has eliminated the intentional walk rule. A batter who is walked must take first base.
- Every player must be on the team’s roster and participate a minimum of 3 weeks before playing in the year-end tournament. If an injury to a player causes them not to make this requirement, the manager shall consult with the Board for a waiver of the rule.
- Lineup cards will be exchanged before the start of the game. Game will not start until cards are exchanged.

### **New for 2026:**

- A flip/flop is mandatory if the home team is trailing by 10 or more runs going into the open inning to keep games on schedule. When trailing by 10 or more runs, the home team will bat first in the open inning. Flip/flop only takes place in the open inning.
- Age Requirement – Anyone who will be 50 years old, or older, anytime in Calendar Year 2026 is eligible to play in the Over 50 League in 2026. So, if the person was born in 1976 or earlier, they are eligible to play.