

The Sun and Fun Tri County Senior Softball League, Inc.

Umpires Guidelines

The Sun and Fun Senior Softball League has mandated that all Umpires participating in games played in the League must attend a Certified Umpire Clinic sponsored by the Sun and Fun prior to umpiring a scheduled league game.

“Rules” governing Sun and Fun League Umpires are governed by the “Current SSUSA Rule Book” which can be found under the document section on the Sun and Fun League web-site.

“Guidelines” used by Sun and Fun League Umpires begin in Section I.

Section I: Certification

- 1.1 Certification of Umpires in the Sun and Fun is done under the guidance of the Leagues Operations Committee. Clinics will be held by a member community who volunteers to sponsor these clinics. A League Officer or a member from the Operations Committee appointed by the President must be in attendance to certify the clinic and participants in attendance.
- 1.2 Participants completing the certified clinic will be issued a certification card by the league.
- 1.3 Recertification of league umpires will be done on an **Annual Basis** beginning in 2020. Any significant changes in rules pertaining to Safety, or the League that may impact game conditions will be communicated throughout the playing season.

Section II: Umpire Guidelines

- 2.1 Umpires in the Sun and Fun must use the **Sun and Fun Conduct and Sportsmanship Guideline** as outlined in **(Section XIII) of the League Rules**, when officiating in games they must hold managers, players, coaches and unruly fans to this guideline prior to, during and post-game.
- 2.1 Umpires will be held to the same standard **(Section XIII) of the League Rules** as players and fans.
- 2.3 Abuses of the **Conduct and Sportsmanship Guideline** by managers, players, coaches will result in that person(s) removal from the game by the presiding umpire(s). Any manager(s), player(s) or coach(s) involved in a disrupted game must be reported by the umpire(s) to the divisional representation in that team’s division within 24 hours with the divisional representative reporting to the Operations Committee Chairman within 48 hours.
- 2.4 The umpire(s) will inform managers when a fan(s) becomes unruly. Those responsible will be asked to refrain from any and all unruly behavior. If a fan(s) refuses this request they will be asked to leave the area where the game is being played. Abuses of this request should be forwarded to that team’s divisional representative.

Section III: Home Team Responsibility

3.1 The home team has the responsibility to provide **Sun and Fun Certified Umpires** for each game. The league strongly recommends that two umpires are used per game.

Section IV: Umpire Pre-Game Review

Note: The pre-game review by the umpire will include but not limited to the following:

- 4.1** Ensure all bats being used during the game are in the appropriate bat rack or bat warmer which must be adjacent to the on-field bat rack. Once the game has started no additional bats can be placed on the bat rack.
- 4.2** Check all bats to ensure legality of the bat using the ASA bats standard in the League's 2019 revised playing rules: **Section V: Bats and Balls, 5.1 thru 5.13**. Check for ownership for each bat, player or team.
- 4.3** Check all bats for cracks, dents and damaged or lose end caps.
- 4.4** Review ground rules relating to out of bounds plays, or rules relating to under or through fence openings.
- 4.5** Review runner's responsibility, (base or courtesy) as defined in **Section IV: Base Running, 4.2 of the revised league Playing Rules**.
- 4.6** Check for uniform compliance, shirt/hat found in **Section VII: Uniforms, 7.1 thru 7.4** as defined in the 2019 revised league playing rules.
- 4.7** Review the protest procedure if requested as defined in **Section VIII: 8.1 thru 8.3** in the 2019 revised league playing rules.
- 4.8** Enforce game start times ensuring that pre-game infield and batting practice are completed by both teams 10 minutes prior to game start time. Either team may opt out of pre-game infield practice.

Section V: Umpire Review Board

- 5.1** The Sun and Fun League has enacted an Umpire Review Board to resolve all issues and complaint(s) ensuring that all Sun and Fun Certified Umpires are following the guidelines outlined in this document.
- 5.2** This Board will consist of **Three (3)** members from the Operations Committee and chaired by the **Vice President**. Additional members may be appointed by the **Vice President** if needed.
- 5.3** The Review Board will review any complaint(s) filed by a membered community team with regard to a certified umpire's performance or guideline violation.
- 5.4** A complaint(s) must be filed in summary form to the League's Vice President, with copies to the division representative, the umpire(s) in question, and appropriate community representative.
- 5.5** The Vice President will review any and all complaints to determine their validity and then determine if further action by the Review Board is needed.

5.6 When the Review Board determines that a complaint is valid the following steps are required:

- a.** The first complaint against an umpire(s) will be directed back to the community for resolution.
- b.** A second complaint against that umpire(s) within a **Two (2) year** period within that community, the Review Board will determine the course of action to be taken.
- c.** A third complaint against an umpire(s) within that same **Two (2) year** period, that umpire(s) will be suspended for a **Two (2) year** period from umpiring Sun and Fun League games.

5.7 Suspension(s) are subject to review and appeal by the Operations Committee within 48 hours of the suspension(s).

Revised and Approved

November 10, 2019

Jim Milligan, Secretary - Treasurer