

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 website. "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 League umpire coordinator. Clinics will be held in member community who volunteers to sponsor these clinics. The umpire coordinator or their appointed proxy must be in attendance to conduct, support and certify that the clinic follows league guidelines pertaining as outlined in the league and playing rules.
- 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 a **Semi-Annual Basis**. Any significant changes to rules pertaining to Safety, or the League which could impact game conditions will be communicated throughout the playing season.

Section II: Umpire Guidelines.

1. Umpires in the Sun and Fun must adhere to the Sun and Fun Conduct and Sportsmanship Guideline as outlined in (Section of the League Rules, when officiating in games and they must hold managers, players, coaches, and unruly fans to this guideline prior to, during and post-game.
- 2.2 Abuses of the Conduct and Sportsmanship Guideline by managers, players, and 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.
- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 The game umpires must keep control of the game and should a disruption occur by any player, coach, or fan(s) that impedes the flow of the game, those umpire(s) have the right to stop the game and award a forfeit against the team involved.

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 requires that two umpires are used as outlined in **Section 6.4.1 of the league playing rules**.

Section IV: Umpire Pre-Game Review

Note: The pre-game review by the umpire will include but not be 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 the legality of the being used meets the USA/ASA bat standard layout in Section V: Bats and Balls, 5.1 thru 5.13. Check for ownership for each bat.
- 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 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 Umpire 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 the 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 Umpire Review Board is needed.
- 5.6 When the Umpire 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. If a second complaint against that umpire(s) within a two (2) year period, and not resolved by that community the Umpire Review Board will determine what course of action to be taken.
 - c. A third complaint against an umpire(s) within that same Two (2) year period could result in a suspension for 2 years if so, determined by the Umpire Review Board.
- 5.7 Suspension(s) are subject to review and appeal by the Operations Committee within 48 hours of the suspension(s).

Revised,

August 15, 2023

Jim Milligan, Secretary-Treasurer
