

Valley of the Sun Senior Women's



Handbook 2019

VALLEY OF THE SUN SOFTBALL LEAGUE

HISTORY / PHILOSOPHY / ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

The Valley of the Sun Softball League was formed to provide women 50 and over desiring to play softball an opportunity to participate in a league focused on fun, participation and enjoyment.

The Valley of the Sun League was formed in October 2000 in preparation for the 2001 season. Two divisions were organized. Division A would be a higher competitive division with Division B emphasizing recreation and fun in a more relaxed atmosphere. Charter members are Monte Vista, Resort, Sun Lakes and View Point in the B Division with Southern Bells and Waldo's in the A Division.

(This is the original wording of the final draft when this league was formed. Over the years the wording has been changed slightly to eliminate the reference to the A Division).

For the 2009 season the league had 10 teams: Canyon Vista Vixens, Desert Stars, Fountain of the Sun Sparklers, Monte Vista Rookies, Resort/Rock Shadows Red Socks, Stingers, Sun Lakes Swingers, Sunland Springs Village Scorpions Valle Del Oro Valley Girls and View Point Gems.

For the 2012 season Monte Vista dropped out and Sunland Village East Panthers joined the league. Sun Lakes changed their name from Sun Lakes Swingers to Sun Lakes Sluggers.

For the 2015 season the league has 8 teams: Canyon Vista Vixens, Fountain of the Sun Sparklers, Resort/Rock Shadows Red Socks, Stingers, Sun Lakes Sluggers, Sunland Village East Panthers, Valle Del Oro Valley Girls and View Point Gems.

For the 2018 season the league has 9 teams: Canyon Vista Vixens, Fountain of the Sun Sparklers, Queen Creek Crush, Resort/Rock Shadows Red Socks, Stingers, Sun Lakes Sluggers, Sunland Village East Panthers, Valle Del Oro Valley Girls and View Point Gems.

For the 2019 season the league has 8 teams: Canyon Vista Vixens, Fountain of the Sun Sparklers, Resort/Rock Shadows Red Socks, Stingers, Sun Lakes Sluggers, Sunland Village East Panthers, Valle Del Oro Valley Girls and View Point Gems. The Queen Creek Crush has many players unable to play, so they are out for this season - planning to return in 2020.

This HISTORY is a fact and cannot be changed!

The new proposals for the **ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES** are as follows:

Each year at the mid-season meeting, the group of managers will select one of their members to serve as chairperson and one as secretary/treasurer for the following year. Each team will have one vote in this selection. This person will preside at the meetings and distribute all paperwork. The secretary/treasurer will be responsible for taking minutes and be accountable for all the funds. The treasurer's report will be submitted to all managers at the end of the season. The elected chairperson must have at least two years' experience on the board prior to nomination.

For the 2003 season it was voted that the chairperson and secretary/treasurer term would be two years.

Dues are \$25.00 per team per year. Date due will be determined by the treasurer. Non-payment of the yearly fee will result in elimination from the league. Rosters will be exchanged between teams the first time the two teams meet. Addition(s) may be made at any time and it shall be each team's responsibility to give their opponents an updated roster. Managers are responsible for each player's eligibility. If it is found that a team played with an ineligible player, the team will forfeit the game.

League waiver forms must be submitted to the secretary/treasurer prior to the first scheduled game, and a copy to the opposing team at first game scheduled. Updates need to be sent to the secretary/treasurer as soon as possible, and to the opposing team prior to playing. All players and non-playing personnel must sign the form before engaging in any league activity on any diamond. Managers will make a copy of their team's waiver form and maintain in the respective files. This waiver will remain in effect as long as the member remains with the team. Players are responsible for their own liability and health insurance.

The scheduling format will be a minimum double round robin with each team playing a home and away game in January, February and March. After the master schedule is established teams may schedule other games both inside and outside the divisions. If league standing are kept, the manager of the home team must call in the score to the chairperson within twenty-four hours of the completion of the game.

ASA (American Softball Association) umpires are recommended. Two umpires are recommended for each game. Each home team will supply and reimburse their own umpire(s).

A mid-season meeting will be held to evaluate the first half of the season and to make changes for the second half.

A standard drawing of the league softball dimensions along with standardized ground rules are attached in the back of the manual.

ASA rules will apply except as noted in the Valley of the Sun Handbook.

PLAYING RULES:

1. The minimum age for any player is 50, attained at any time during the playing year. Allow only one woman player age 45-49 (under age 50) on each league team. Managers will have available a certification of age of each team member, if questioned.
2. Games will consist of seven innings. If a tie exists at the completion of the seventh inning, a complete inning will be played to determine if one team is a winner. If the game is still tied after one extra inning, the player who was the last batter will be placed on second base to begin the next half inning. Complete innings will be played.
3. Any batter having two strikes who fouls off a subsequent pitch is out.
4. Team managers (if a woman) will have the option to play or sit out. If, because of injury, a team has fewer than 11 players on the field, the manager may choose to enter the game or the team may play with less than 11 players. She will go in the batting spot where the injured player was.
5. A maximum of (5) five runs will be allowed each inning. Unlimited runs may be scored in the seventh inning. A (12) twelve run rule will be in effect after the fifth inning. If either team is leading by (12) twelve runs after the (5) five innings are completed, the official game is over.
6. Pitchers will pitch from (50) fifty feet. The pitcher may take a position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to (6) six feet behind the pitcher's plate within the (24) twenty-four inch width of the pitcher's plate with both feet firmly on the ground. The pitcher must release the ball within a (6) six foot minimum arc and a maximum of (12) twelve feet from the ground.
7. The game is forfeited if a team has less than (8) eight players. A normal complement of a fielded team is (11) eleven players, but the other team may play with (11) eleven players. Players may be loaned from the opposing team in order to play a league or tournament game. The player borrowed from another team must be of like caliber to the team player being replaced, she must bat at the end of the batting order and she must catch or play right field. No out will be called in the batting order for an injured player that has been removed from the game. (added Feb 3, 2015) The player borrowed from another team must be of like caliber to the team player being replaced, she must bat at the end of the batting order and she must catch or play right field.
8. A maximum of (3) three courtesy runners will be allowed for players unable to run due to injury or illness as identified by the managers prior to the start of the game. If a courtesy runner's turn at bat comes while she is on base, she will be out. The courtesy

runner will be removed from the base and take their turn at bat. Only in the event of an injury may the courtesy runner have a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be a courtesy runner only once per inning. When starting from home, the courtesy runner will begin (3) three feet back from the third base line. (Added 12/01/10 - Courtesy runner from home - if the batter swings and misses the ball, and the runner steps over the line at home plate, the batter is NOT out. It is a swing and a miss and a strike on the batter.) (Added 2/1/11 - When having a courtesy runner from home the batter must move to the back fence, not towards first base, any point after the ball is hit. The batter would be out of the way of the umpire's view while a defensive play is being made.) The courtesy rule should NOT be abused.

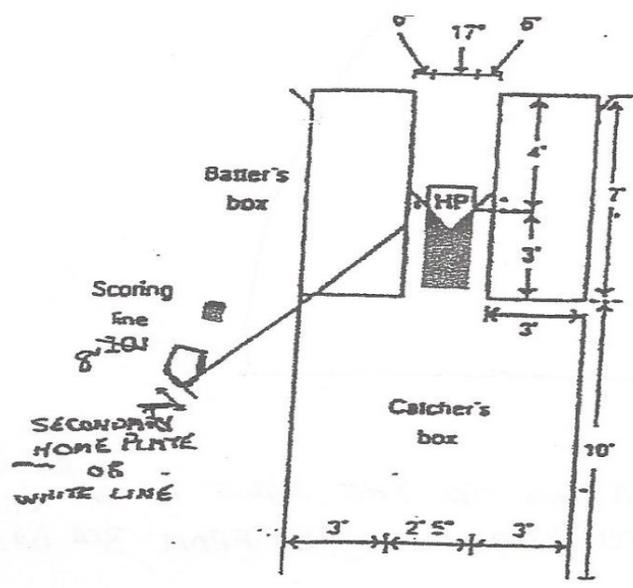
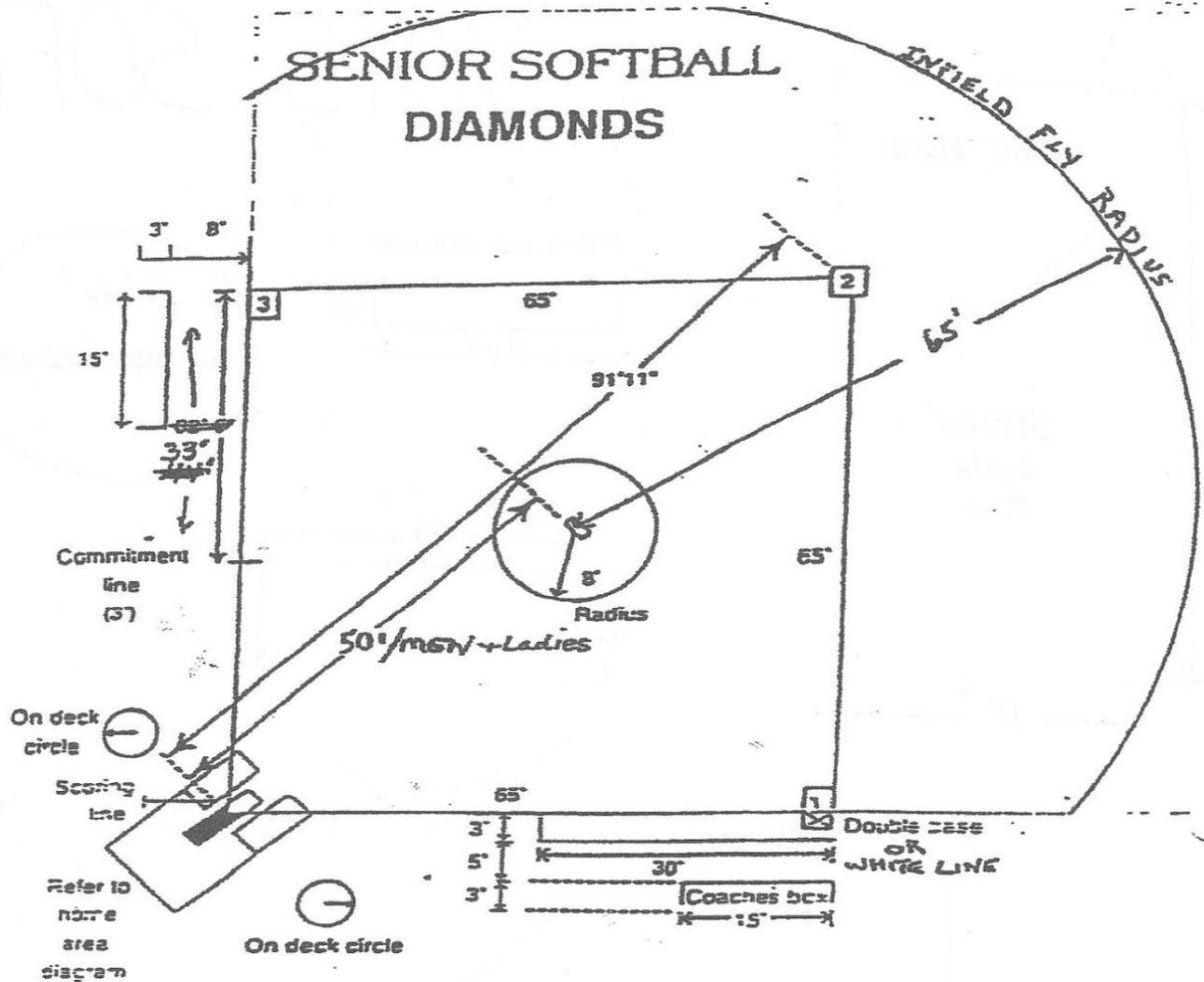
9. A line perpendicular to the base path will be drawn (45) forty-five feet from the third base to home plate. A runner crossing this commitment line must continue home. If the line has not been crossed, the runner may return to third base at the risk of being tagged out.
10. A secondary line or home plate will be placed (8) eight feet into foul territory from the primary home plate. The runner must cross the line or touch the secondary plate prior to the catcher's receiving the ball. (Changed 12/4/13 - The catcher must have her foot on the strike game mat.) A catcher cannot tag the runner for an out. A runner coming home must not touch the batter's box or she will be called out.
11. There will be an extra base next to the regular first base. In a close play, the fielder touches the main base and the runner must touch the orange or extra base.
12. If a play is not being made at first base, the runner has the right to the base. The first baseman cannot interfere with the runner. The runner turning towards second base runs the risk of being tagged out. The runner may advance to second base without going back to touch the regular first base (white base).
13. All runners must be touching a base until the pitched ball is hit or has reached home plate. Leaving the base prior to this will result in the runner being called out.
14. The ball is in play and runners may advance until the umpire calls time out.
15. A runner who slides or dives into a base will be called out.
16. A batter who bunts will be called out.
17. An infield fly is a fair ball that can be caught with ordinary effort by an infielder when the first and second, or first, second and third bases are occupied before two are out. Runners may advance at their own risk.
18. To compensate for problems with high winds, the official rules will be changed to include a provision that both team managers can mutually agree to instruct the umpire to expand the strike zone and/or eliminate walks.
19. There will be no roster player limit. Non-playing coaches and managers must be listed. Individual parks may have their own limits.

20. No manager, coach, or player shall:
 - a. Threaten, lay a hand upon, shove or strike an official.
 - b. Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent of an official's decision.
 - c. Physically attack any player, official or spectator.
 - d. Refuse to abide by an official's decision.
 - e. Throw a bat anytime in anger.
21. Judgment calls by an official may not be protested.
22. Alleged rules violations or interpretations must be protested to the umpire and opposing manager prior to next pitch. A protest will be settled by the umpire and both managers.
23. An (11) eleven inch ball with a (44) forty-four core, yellow color will be the official league ball. No steel cleats are allowed. Adopt the ASA Non-Approved current bat list. Any player using a Non-Approved bat will be called out. Home teams must furnish one new softball and one very good ball to the umpire at the start of each game. All jerseys must have numbers. Catcher's mask is recommended.
24. Diamonds lacking outfield fences: Outfield perimeters may clearly be indicated by use of brightly colored cones, white line or other means of identification at a minimum distance of 240 feet from home plate. A ball hit in the air over the markers is a home run. A ball hit in the gap or through an outfielder that rolls past an outfielder to or through the marker is an automatic double.
25. Diamonds with Outfield fences: the ball is in continual play.
26. Fields will be acceptable as set-up with permanent home bases.
27. Fields without rules for the pitching screen:
 - a. If one pitcher wants the screen, the 2nd pitcher has their choice to use or not use the screen.
 - b. The first time a batted ball hits the screen, it is a dead ball.
 - c. The second time the ball hits the screen, it is a strike.
28. All rules will be reviewed at the pre-season meeting. Changes can be made by a majority of the teams voting (one vote per team). Change can also be made at the mid-season meeting.
29. For safety and health purposes, there will be no consumption of alcoholic beverages by any team member or anyone on the field during the softball games. Resulting discipline for such actions will be immediate ejection from the game.
30. ASA Senior rules govern all situations unless otherwise stated.

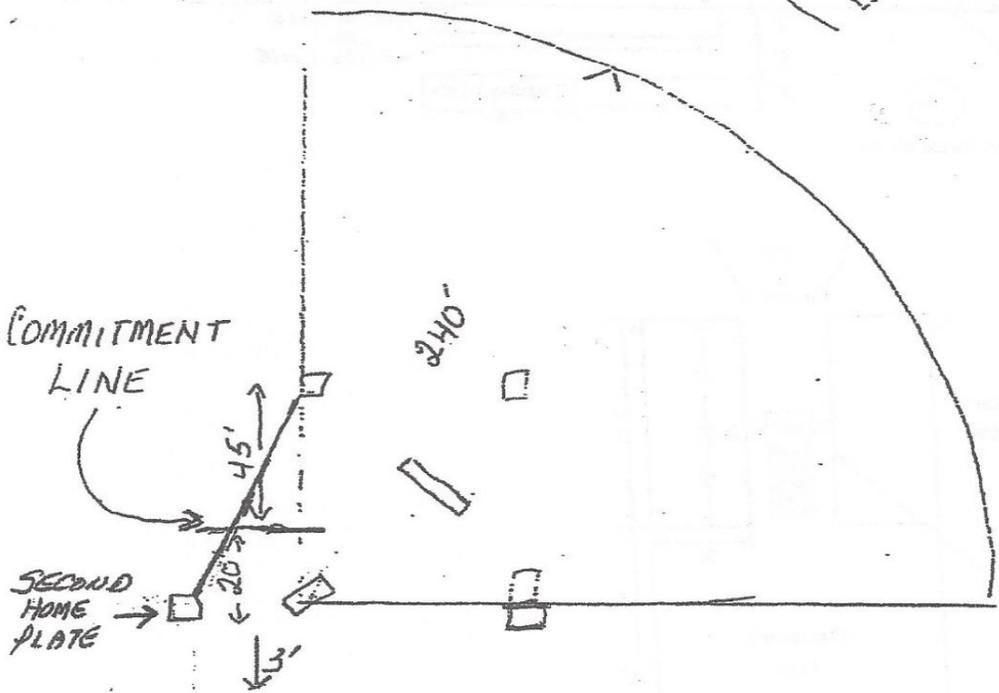
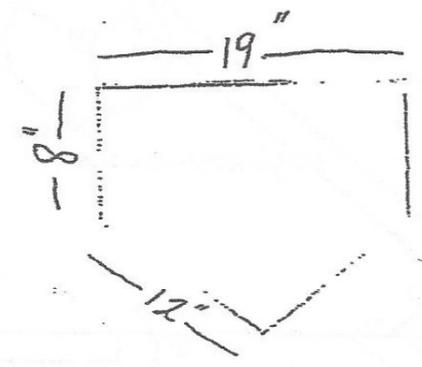
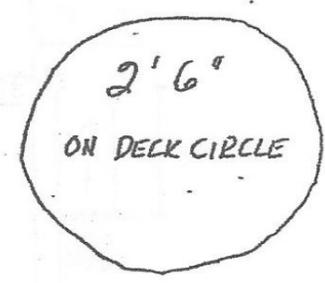
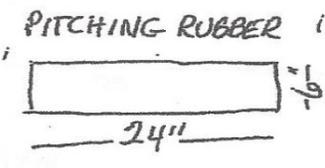
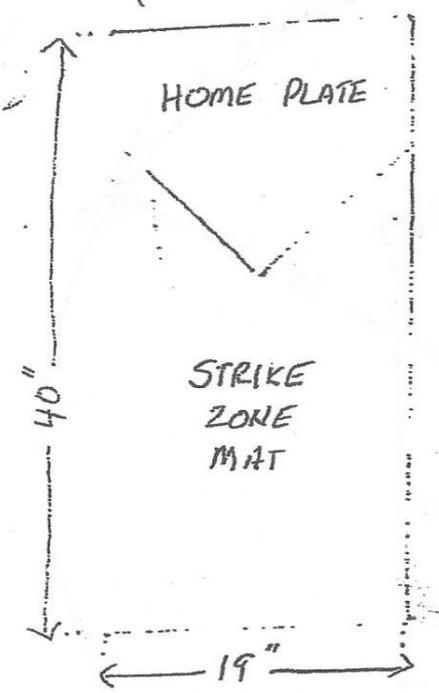
Handbook established and approved, January 2001

- Handbook revised 2004, 2006 and Dec 3, 2009
- Handbook revised Dec 1, 2010 - #9
- Handbook revised Feb 1, 2011 - #9
- Handbook revised Dec 1, 2011 - #1 & #9
- Handbook revised Dec 4, 2013 - #11
- Handbook MASTER COPY added to new computer (Shirley Lutter) Dec 8, 2014
- Handbook revised Feb 3, 2015 - #8 (last sentence added)
- Handbook revised Feb 2016 - last paragraph - Administrative Policies and Rule #4 deleted from Handbook
- Handbook MASTER COPY added to computer (Karen Strickland) Nov 2017
- Handbook revised Dec 2018 - History section updated to reflect 2018 and 2019 participating teams, rule #27 inserted to cover use of a pitching screen at fields without existing rules.
- Handbook revised Feb 6, 2019 to add rule #29 regarding alcoholic beverage consumption during games.

SENIOR SOFTBALL DIAMONDS



VOTS SOFTBALL



RUNNER FROM HOME 3' BACK AND TO THE RIGHT OF 1ST BASE LINE
 COMMITMENT LINE REVISED 2004 45' FROM 3RD BASE
 REVISED 2009

