

RSMSPL PLAYING RULES -- In-House Rules 2023

1. Pitching – a legally delivered ball with an arc of 6 feet minimum to 12 feet maximum from the ground, striking any part of the home base plate before it touches the ground is a strike.

Wooden home base plate size is 24" by 36". The pitching distance is a range from 50 to 60 feet.

2. Female batters are allowed to bunt, infielders must remain outside the 1st – 2nd and or 2nd – 3rd baselines until the ball is contacted. Outfielders are to position themselves not closer to the infield than 5 paces from the outfield fence. Rover(s) may position themselves anywhere in the outfield. (See also Rule 18 below) Coaches and Umpires are encouraged to monitor this more closely. (2023)
3. If a male batter is walked he is awarded first base, but if followed in the batting order by a female batter, the male batter is awarded 2nd base. The ball is dead. The female should be in the on deck circle and must bat. Existing base runners advance only if forced to do so.
4. a The batter is out on any foul ball or foul tip that is caught by a defensive player. On caught foul balls, base runners may tag up and advance at their own jeopardy. Caught foul tips need NOT be of a certain height as a prerequisite to being an out.
4. b The batter is out on any third strike foul or foul tip whether or not it is caught by a defensive player. Note: on a third strike foul ball that is caught and which does not retire the side, base runners may tag up and advance as per [4. a] above.
- 5.a A commitment Line will be drawn between 3rd base and Home Base at a distance of 20 feet from Home Base. A base runner who touches or goes past the Commitment Line must continue towards the Scoring Line. If the base runner, having touched or crossed the Commitment Line and attempts to return to 3rd base, he or she will be called out.
- 5.b There is to be no tag on the runner by the catcher or other defender, between the commitment line (as described above) and the home scoring line. If the baserunner is tagged, they will be considered safe. The catcher or other defender must be in contact with the home base plate with the ball before the runner crosses the line at home to register an out. Tagging runners in all other situations is allowed. (2023)
6. A base runner over-running 2nd or 3rd base is liable to being tagged out.
7. Sliding into bases is not permitted. Runners may slide or dive, when returning to a base. Runners sliding, when advancing to a base, shall be called out.
8. Runners shall be called out for contact with a defensive player, while he/she is making a play on a batted ball.
9. If the umpire rules deliberate contact by a defensive player on a runner, the runner shall be called safe. (2023)
10. Any player, at their sole discretion, may request a Courtesy Runner to run the bases for him/her due to injury or inability to run. Such Courtesy Runner may commence their role from home or any of the bases.

Note: It is not within the league philosophy for the coach of a team to encourage a player to request a Courtesy Runner in order to gain a competitive advantage with a more proficient runner on base. (2023)

- 10 a. The Courtesy Runner shall be the most recent (last) out or next previous out if the 'last' out is not available for the same reason. It is recommended that team managers and umpires discuss, before the game commences, which batters require a Courtesy Runner. (2023)
- 10 b. A Courtesy Runner from home must start 6 feet behind the extension of the 3rd base line toward the screen. Note: while not a change, emphasis to be placed on the start line being 6 feet behind the extension of the 3rd base line.
- 10 c. The batter shall be called out when a Courtesy Runner from home runs before the ball is hit. (2023)

- 10 d. When a Courtesy Runner is being used as a runner from home, the batter will be called out (and the ball is dead) if the batter crosses a perpendicular line 12 feet from home base on the first base line. All commitment lines are to be drawn by the home team prior to the start of each game. (2023)
11. A game can be started/played with fewer than 11 players subject to discussion/agreement of both teams' coaches. If a player is injured and there is no substitute available, that player can be removed from the game without penalty. The game may continue with the injured player's name scratched from the batting line-up.
12. Defensive players must play the same defensive position throughout an inning unless an injury occurs. Infield defensive players may not change positions between batters unless a change is deemed necessary by an infielder for safety reasons. An exception to this rule is permitted when the team coach removes a pitcher from the role, normally because the pitcher is struggling to pitch strikes. Such a pitcher may not return as a pitcher for the duration of the inning. (2023)
13. If a base runner steps off the base after the pitched ball crosses the plate or hits the ground, and no contact of the bat with the pitched ball is made, the runner is NOT called out. If the base runner steps off any base PRIOR to the pitched ball being hit or crossing the plate or hitting the ground he/she shall be called out.
14. All players MUST wear appropriate footwear being running shoes or rubber/plastic cleats. Metal cleats, sandals, flip flops etc are not acceptable as footwear
15. All base runners attempting to score a run must do so by touching the Scoring Line or by placing one foot on the ground past the Scoring Line in foul territory. The base runner should run on an angle from 3rd base to the Scoring Line (away from home plate) to avoid a collision with the catcher. Runners will be called "out" if they touch home plate or cross over the home plate in fair territory. Discretion or a Warning MAY be given for first offence or on an "over the fence" home run.
16. Each team umpires their own team when at bat.
17. Continuous Batting Order. Teams will create a batting order for the first league game. The player listed on the batting order after the last out of the game will become the lead off batter for the next game. If that player is not present, he/she will be scratched from the line up and the next person in the batting order will become the lead off hitter. Players picked up as substitutes as permitted by Rule 20 below will be placed at the bottom of the batting order for that game. Teams are allowed to adjust their batting order twice a Season, if necessary but the same practice shall apply. The goal of this rule is to even out the number of opportunities to bat over the season among all players. (2023)
18. The defensive positioning allows for 5 outfielders two of which are designated as Rovers. Rovers may position themselves anywhere in the outfield but cannot be on the infield prior to the ball being hit. For the purpose of this rule, the outfield is considered to be anywhere in the grassy area of the playing surface including the portion of the foul ball territory beyond an extension of the 1st to 2nd and 2nd to 3rd base lines. All other portions of the playing surface are considered to be infield. (2023)
19. The umpire shall call TIME when the base runners cease to try to advance and a fielder has control of the ball in the infield. It is not necessary to return the ball to the pitcher for TIME to be called. If a ball is no longer alive and in play as determined by the umpire having called TIME, base runners must return to the last base touched prior to TIME being called.
20. Substitute players are allowed to be picked up if a team does not have a minimum of 11 players or a pitcher. All substitute players MUST be registered players from the league. Any substitute players must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. (2023)

When picking up players, every effort should be made to pick up a player of similar ability as the missing player, including a female for a female if possible.
21. Home Run Rule. Each team is allowed to hit 3 home runs each game without penalty. Any player from such team who hits a subsequent home run will, by rule, be granted 2nd base, a ground ruled double. Whether forced or not, any base runners shall advance two bases; i.e. runners on first shall advance to 3rd base and second and third base runners shall advance home. For the purpose of this rule, a home run is a fair ball hit over the outfield fence. Inside the park home runs will not be considered as home runs for the purpose of this rule. (2023)

We play using the Infield Fly rule which, for clarity, is repeated below:

An Infield Fly is a fairly batted fly ball (not a line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ORDINARY EFFORT when first and second, or when first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two out. Any defensive player, who positions him/herself within the infield area, will be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule. (bearing in mind Rule 18 above. 2023) If a fairly batted ball is declared an infield fly by the umpire, the batter is out. The ball is alive and the base runners may advance at their own risk but are in jeopardy and must tag up if the ball is caught.

We should also remember that this is a mixed league with both male and female players. We need to be mindful of our language and actions around other players, as we don't want to make other players uncomfortable in any way. We are guests at these ball diamonds and must follow our hosts' rules prohibiting smoking anywhere in the ball park and prohibiting consumption of sunflower seeds in the dugouts. Please bear in mind that the Ball Park and its neighboring parking lots are City of Regina property and are considered as public spaces. As such, consumption of alcohol on these premises is prohibited by law. (2023)