

**USA SOFTBALL OF MONTANA**  
**MASTERS +35 and MASTERS +45 PLAYING RULES:**

Teams playing in the Masters division will follow the rules of USA Softball Men's Masters Division (**note: use 1-1 count to start at bat**) with the following additions:

(a) All players at the State Tournament on the official team roster, entered in the scorebook, must play and bat in batting order for that game. If a player is pulled from the lineup because of injury there will be no penalty, except (e). If a player is ejected for unsportsman-like conduct during a game an out shall be called every time that player is to come to bat.

(b) A runner may be used by any player reaching 1st base, but if the substitute runner is on the bases when his time at bat comes up, he is out at the plate.

(i) A substitute runner may not be used for the batter/base runner after the first pitch to the next batter. Exception: an injured runner can be substituted for at any time. The injured player cannot return to the game.

(c) A player may be a substitute runner for only one (individual) player per inning. An appeal play. Effect: the runner is out.

(d) All players must play at least one inning in the field on defense by the end of the 4th inning. Appeal play. Effect: player is ejected. If player is at bat, the player is out

(e) If a team chooses to play only 10 players at the start of the game and one of its players is injured, the team cannot replace him with another player that was not on the original starting line-up and must play under the short-handed rule. An out must be taken for the removed player when it is his turn to bat. If a team drops below 9 players a forfeit shall be called.

(f) The 20 run rule at the completion of 3½ or 4 innings and the 12 run rule at the completion of 4½ or 5 innings apply at the State Tournament.

(g) No pinch runner allowed for pinch runner (except in case of injury). Appeal play. Effect: runner is out.

(h) No Stealing

(h) Home run rule: three plus one home run rule. If both teams have reached the limit of home runs, either team is allowed to hit an additional home run to go one home run ahead of the opposing team. The one more home run can be hit in the bottom of the last inning to win the game. Any excess home runs will be declared outs only.