

2015 USSSA Fastpitch Thirteenth Edition Playing Rules Changes

Rule Book Revision

Rule books to be printed on a two year cycle.

Overall: References to “he” and “his” were replaced to make rule book non gender specific.

Rule Changes

- 2.1 Penalty for removing batting helmet; subsequent violations: coach ejected; player restricted
Comment: Clarify penalties for coach and player.
- 2.5 Player Equipment: Coaches Wristbands (Play Indicator) are Legal
Comment: Explicitly states that wristbands to decode signals, such as the type quarterbacks wear, are legal.
- 5.5.A **ADD** If a courtesy runner is used in the first half inning for the starting pitcher or catcher who does not pitch or catch to start the first inning then the player who was a courtesy runner is considered a substitute.
Comment: State effect if courtesy runner used for player who never pitches or catches.
- 6-1-I **ADD** No tacky or sticky substances can be used as a substitute for a powdered drying agent.
Comment: Disallow substances that may deface the ball.
- 11.2.Z A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not bring the rule book (hard copy or electronically) onto the playing field while the game is in progress to discuss/dispute the umpire(s) ruling and/or decision.
Comment: Explicitly state accepted ruling
- 12.2 **ADD** Any youth player who is restricted or ejected shall remain in the dugout/bench area.
Comment: Youth players should be properly supervised at all times.

Editorial Changes

- 2.6 Prohibited Equipment **ADD** Any equipment deemed distracting or dangerous by the Tournament Director or Umpire shall be prohibited.
Comment: Explicit statement of current interpretation.
- 2.8.C 0 and 00, 1 and 01 are examples of different numbers.
Comment: Clarifies that “0” and “00”, etc are not the same number for purposes of non duplicating numbers rule
- 3 BATTER **ADD** The batter has completed their time at bat when they become a batter-runner or put out.
Comment: Define completed time at bat.
- 6.1.L **ADD** A pitcher returning to pitch in the same half-inning shall not be allowed warm-up pitches.
Comment: Explicit statement of current interpretation.
- 8.13 When a runner is obstructed section was **REWRITTEN** for clarity.
Comment: Section was rearranged and rewritten to make current rule and interpretation more understandable.
- 8.18.J Runner out if left too soon on a caught fly ball or missed base **ADD** if properly appealed.
Comment: Rule was missing the statement that defense had to appeal for the runner to be out.
- 8.18.N **NOTE2:** When a runner is hit with a fair batted ball after it is touched or has passed an infielder, except the pitcher, and the Umpire judges that another infielder had no opportunity to make a play, the runner is not out and the ball remains live.
Comment: Explicit statement of current interpretation.
- 14.12.R Rectify any situation in which an Umpire’s decision that was reversed has placed either team in jeopardy. **ADD** “delayed or” to reversed
Comment: Explicit statement of current interpretation.
- 14.13 **ADD** Base Umpires’ basic duties.