

## 2019 USSSA FASTPITCH RULES CHANGES

### ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE:

- 1) ILLEGAL PITCH PENALTY - reduced to a ball on the batter w/ no runner advancement (unless forced on ball four) - only ASA will be using the "old" rule
- 2) INAPPROPRIATE BATS:
  - i) changes the violation from hitting the ball to ENTERING THE BOX with such a bat
  - ii) in all cases, the batter is declared out
  - iii) if it is merely an illegal bat, first offense is a team warning; subsequent offense player is restricted and coach ejected
  - iv) if it is an altered or non-approved bat, player and coach are ejected
- 3) UNUSED SUBS WHO COACH SAYS ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE - will be disqualified for the game (the same as is done for Roster Batting)
- 4) RUNS SCORING ON GAME-ENDING DEAD BALL - all awarded runs will count in a "walk-off" situation on ground-rule doubles and balls thrown out of play (not just home runs)
- 5) ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR PITCHERS TO FACE ONE BATTER - unless they were Courtesy Run for in the top of the first inning
- 6) EXPANSION OF THE ILLEGAL PLAYER RULES COVERAGE - previously, illegal players who were BASE RUNNERS were not covered, only illegal players who are batters - the rule change addresses this
- 7) RELOCATION OF DP/FLEX RULE VIOLATION TO THE ILLEGAL PLAYER RULE - changes the violation of inserting the FLEX into the offensive lineup for someone other than the DP to an ILLEGAL PLAYER, as is the case in FED and ASA
- 8) LIBERALIZATION OF PITCHER WARMUP RULES - clarifies pitcher may continue to warmup (in excess of 5 pitches) if umpire is still performing admin duties
- 9) CLARIFICATION ON RUNNERS LEAVING BASES DURING A DEFENSIVE MEETING WHICH IS NOT CHARGED CONFERENCE - required runners to remain in the vicinity of their bases during defensive meetings NOT charged

10) UNIFORMS - clarifies that TD's and state directors may allow variances in style due to religion, inclement weather, etc

11) 8U RULES - to be conformed to those used in Gulf Shores at the World Series, which is the highest level of play for that division

TENTATIVELY ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE - AWAITING ACTION BY ATTORNEY

12) ADA RULE TO REPLACE WHEELCHAIR RULE

13) TINTED EYE SHIELDS ON BATTING/CATCHING HELMETS - will be prohibited

TO BE HANDLED AS A USSSA POLICY STATEMENT ON GAME-DAY DECORUM AND EVENT MANAGEMENT - statement from committee addressing:

- i) expectations of fan behavior
- ii) limitations on when noisemakers may be used
- iii) limitations on when walkup music may be played
- iv) statement on music played between innings re: consideration of adjacent fields

CONSIDERED BUT NOT APPROVED AT THIS TIME:

1) LIBERALIZATION OF ON-DECK BATTER PLACEMENT - considered and failed due to lack of support

2) VERBAL INTENTIONAL WALKS - considered and failed due to lack of support

3) PROGRESSIVE TIEBREAKER FORMAT - considered and tabled