

Changes for 2021 Winter season

II. PLAYERS

D. SUBSTITUTES:

9. Board Duty members will verify the level of players missing from each team and the level and priority of each sub using lists provided by the Board. At least two players must be missing for a team to get a sub. The lowest level missing player is not replaced.

- A. Draw a pill for each team that needs subs. Sub assignment starts in the dugout of the team with the lowest number.
- B. Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at the same level and priority.
- C. Allocate P1 subs to open C roster spots in the above dugout order according to the pill draw for P1 subs. If P1 players remain, then allocate them to open B and A roster spots until all open roster spots are filled or there are no remaining P1 subs.
- D. Allocate A subs in pill draw order to remaining open A roster spots in the above dugout order for P2, P3 and P4 subs in that order (A for A).
- E. Allocate B subs to any remaining open A roster spots in the same order as 3 (B for A).
- F. Allocate C subs to any remaining open A roster spots in the same order as 3 (C for A).
- G. Allocate remaining B subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 3 (B for B).
- H. Allocate remaining subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 3 (A, C for B).
- I. Allocate C subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 3 (C for C).
- J. Allocate remaining B subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 3 (B for C).
- K. Allocate any remaining subs to any open roster spots in the same order as 3 (A for C).

10. A player may only substitute once a day unless there are not enough substitutes to fill needs. A player who requires a courtesy runner is not eligible to be a substitute. Substitutes must bat after roster members of the team, in the order picked (Exception: A substitute Pitcher will bat before any other substitute players on that team). Players that have previously taken a runner but do not take a runner in their game are allowed to sub in a later game but cannot take a runner in that game.

III GAME RULES

7. Runners shall be called out for contact with a defensive player if, in the umpire's judgment, the contact was deliberate or if the runner could have reasonably avoided contact and failed to do so. If a runner interferes with a defensive player making a subsequent play, the runner closest to home will be called out. If the umpire rules deliberate contact on the part of the defensive player, the runner shall be called safe. Defenders no longer can block a base legally while waiting on a throw to arrive. Now, to avoid being called for obstruction for impeding a runner legally running the bases, a defender must have possession of the ball or be in the act of fielding a batted ball.

8. Players are not permitted to over-run second and third base without being in jeopardy of being called out. A player may over-run first base unless the base runner attempts to advance to second base. A runner who overruns any base when returning to it is liable to be put out. **(No tag of the runner is necessary. The runner is out if the fielder is in contact with the bag.)** A base runner may slide or dive when returning to any base.

11. Courtesy Runner Rule: Only players (not managers) can declare that they require a courtesy runner and they must do so prior to the start of the game. A player, designated as requiring a courtesy runner, has the following options EACH time at bat:

f) All players who do not require a courtesy runner MUST be designated as a courtesy runner by their team manager. Once a player has been used as a courtesy runner twice, they cannot be used again until all players, not requiring courtesy runners, have also run twice. A courtesy runner may only run once per inning. This is whether the courtesy runner is running for a player that requires a runner or if it is for a pitcher that wears equipment, more than a face mask, and there are two outs. ONCE and ONLY ONCE PER INNING.

If during the game a player decides he cannot be a courtesy runner he will be designated as requiring a runner for the remainder of that game. If this occurs in the 6th or subsequent innings, he MUST also receive a courtesy runner for the next entire game he plays in. After consulting with the scorekeepers, the player in the batting order prior to the runner getting a sub, not on base, will be the designated runner. If that runner needed a runner you would go to the next courtesy runner in front of him. This will not be a "Charged Time" to the courtesy runner but the courtesy runner cannot run more than once per inning. The wrong runner stepping on the base does not constitute an OUT. **The inning in which the player that requires a runner comes to bat, dictates whether it was the 6th or later inning.**

IV. DEFINITIONS:

3. INFIELD The infield is that portion of the field in fair territory that includes areas normally covered by infielders.

4. INFIELD FLY A fair fly ball (not including a line drive) that can be caught by **any fielder** with ordinary effort when first and second bases or first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two outs. **Any fielder can catch an infield fly.** NOTE: When it becomes apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare, "infield fly - batter is out", to aid the runners. If the ball is near the foul lines, the umpire shall declare, "infield fly - if fair". The ball is live and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or re-touch and advance after a fielder touches the ball. If the hit ball becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any other foul ball. Failure of the umpire to call "infield fly," does not negate the infield fly. If the error is discovered prior to the next pitch, the infield fly rule may still be called.

Changes for 2020 Fall season

II. PLAYERS

D. SUBSTITUTES:

9. The substitutes with the lowest numbered pill (by category) will be placed on the Visiting team until they have all the needed substitutes. The Home team, in the same game, will get the substitutes with the next lowest numbers until all substitutes needed have been satisfied. This process is for each category of substitutes. In case of more than one game, the same procedures will be conducted for each game based on those signed up to play and player category. (P1s will be assigned across the board until they are done, then the other subs (P2s and P3s) as needed to fill the vacancies left.)

E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

4. When an A or B Pitcher is required by a Manager, an available Pitcher on the Replacement List (who selected Pitcher as their first or second choice on their application) will be placed on that team from the Replacement List in that skill category (A or B list) and in the order they reside on the list. If there are no Pitchers available in the skill category required, the Manager can go down “one level” to obtain a pitcher. **When an A or B Player is required by a Manager and no player is available in that skill category (A or B list), the Manager can go down “one level” to obtain a player.**

11. Courtesy Runner Rule: Only players (not managers) can declare that they require a courtesy runner and they must do so prior to the start of the game. A player, designated as requiring a courtesy runner, has the following options EACH time at bat:

(4) All players who do not require a courtesy runner MUST be designated as a courtesy runner by their team manager. Once a player has been used as a courtesy runner twice, they cannot be used again until all players, not requiring courtesy runners, have also run twice. A courtesy runner may only run once per inning. This is whether the courtesy runner is running for a player that requires a runner or if it is for a pitcher that wears equipment, more than a face mask, and there are two outs. ONCE and ONLY ONCE PER INNING.

If during the game a player decides he cannot be a courtesy runner he will be designated as requiring a runner for the remainder of that game. If this occurs in the 6th or subsequent innings, he MUST also receive a courtesy runner for the next entire game he plays in. After consulting with the scorekeepers, the player in the batting order prior to the runner getting a sub, not on base, will be the designated runner. If that runner needed a runner you would go to the next courtesy runner in front of him. This will not be a “Charged Time” to the courtesy runner. But, the courtesy runner cannot run more than once per inning. The wrong runner stepping on the base does not constitute an OUT.

Changes for 2020 Summer season

II. PLAYERS

A. QUALIFICATIONS

5. To provide fairness in the division, for a team, and for players who wish to join a team, a roster player must agree to play at least four and one half innings (with the Home team ahead or five innings with the Visitor team ahead) in at least 70% of the regularly scheduled games in a given season. A player who does not play at least 70% of the regularly scheduled games in a given season will become ineligible, removed from a team's roster, and replaced by a player wishing to join a team. **When a player is placed on a team from the Replacement List, he will be governed by the 70% rule for the remainder of the games for that season. Ex. 10 games left, he could only miss 3 games, 4th game out.**

D. SUBSTITUTES:

7. Substitutes will be drawn 30 minutes prior to game time by the Board Member In-Charge (or other Board Member). Managers from all teams must be present at the designated area when substitutes are drawn for their game or for the opposing team requiring players. The Board Member In-Charge will then notify managers and scorekeepers of the substitute players.

Division 3 softball does not condone consumption by a player prior to the game that he will play in. This includes a game day sub or injury sub. Team managers have the right to refuse to accept an injury sub or game day sub if he has consumed alcohol prior to the game.

E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

5. When a Manager requires a C Player (Pitcher or non-Pitcher), ALL available C players on the Replacement List will be offered to the Manager. **The Manager will choose the C player that he wants within 48 hours of receipt of the C player replacement list. If the Manager fails to make a selection within the allotted time period, he will be assigned the player who has been on the Replacement List the longest.**

Accordingly, the replacement player chosen or assigned to a team will have a time period of 2 play dates to join that team. If this doesn't occur, said player will be removed from the list. The Manager will then be given a choice of the remaining players and repeat the process again.

III GAME RULES

8. Players are not permitted to over-run second and third base without being in jeopardy of being called out. A player may over-run first base unless the base runner attempts to advance to second base. A runner who overruns any base when returning to it is liable to be put out. **If a runner, while trying to stay in contact with or "hold" a base, should pull his foot off the base, the defensive player is required to tag the runner as opposed to the runner being a force out because the defensive player still has his foot on the base. This is the only instance where a runner MUST BE TAGGED. This rule does not apply to a base runner making a turn or rounding a base.** A base runner may slide or dive when returning to any base.

Changes for 2020 Winter season

I EQUIPMENT

Only the following are allowed: rubber spikes or sneakers; regulation-sized gloves; and bats that have been approved by Senior Softball-USA and do not exceed 1.21 BPF. Team shirts and hats that build team spirit, unity, and fun are encouraged. Any player may wear gloves, but only the catcher and the first baseman may use mitts. Pitchers are not allowed to wear gloves of ANY sort on their pitching hand. Players are permitted to wear any protective equipment they feel necessary. **It is mandatory that Pitchers wear a NOCSAE-approved protective face mask while pitching and to wear the mask consistent with the manufacture's intended usage of their product. Pitchers may also use pitching screens, if available. It is not mandatory that both pitchers must use a screen if only one pitcher elects to do so. (also see "IV DEFINITIONS")**

III GAME RULES

8. Players are not permitted to over-run second and third base without being in jeopardy of being called out. A player may over-run first base unless the base runner attempts to advance to second base. A runner who overruns any base when returning to it is liable to be put out. If a runner, while trying to stay in contact with or "hold" a base, should pull his foot off the base, the defensive player is required to tag the runner as opposed to the runner being a force out because the defensive player still has his foot on the base. This is the only instance where a runner MUST BE TAGGED. This rule does not apply to a base runner making a turn or rounding a base. A base runner may slide or dive when returning to any base.

11. Courtesy Runner Rule: Only players (not managers) can declare that they require a courtesy runner and they must do so prior to the start of the game. A player, designated as requiring a courtesy runner, has the following options EACH time at bat:

a) A player may stop at first, and after the umpire declares the play dead, the player MUST get a runner before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter. If a player does not get a runner before the following batter completes his turn at bat and the opposing team manager alerts the umpires of this infraction, the runner is to be declared out and all runners and batters are to be returned to their status before the infraction was discovered. Completing a turn at bat is to be interpreted as before the 2nd batter following the player who needs a runner receives the first pitch.

Example: A player needing a runner gets a hit with a player already on first base creating a first and third situation. The player fails to get a runner. The following batter hits a triple, two runs score. Before the next batter receives the first pitch the opposing manager alerts the umpires of the infraction. The player who failed to get a runner is declared out, all runners are returned to the bases they occupied and the hitter who followed the player needing a runner must bat again with the same ball/strike count prior to getting the hit. If the player who needed a runner is the third out the inning ends and the following batter is first up in the next inning with a 0-0 count.

c) If a player reaches a base beyond first and then feels he cannot continue, he will be allowed to get a runner with the following conditions:

(1) The newly injured player MUST leave the game at that point and if his team then has less than 11 players the team will get an injury sub who would then be the runner.

(2) If the team has 12 players, the newly injured player MUST leave the game and gets a runner from the team roster in accordance with our current rules.

b) A player may advance to any base beyond first base, however once the play has been ruled dead, the player MUST remain on the base he has occupied and may NOT get a runner.

A player who declares he needs a runner before the game is now governed by all the same rules as a player who does not require a runner. Example: the player will NOT be declared automatically out by making a turn toward second base. He is treated as a regular runner and if he makes a turn, he is in jeopardy of being thrown out as is the case with every runner. He cannot declare he will take a runner until the umpire rules the play dead. While the ball is live, he may choose to advance at his own risk as any other runner would.

Changes for 2019 Fall season

16. During the division tournament, substitutions will be on a skill level basis. Players chosen first as substitutes will be roster players during the current season. If enough roster players are not available, sub-only and players evaluated during the current season by the Board based on their play during the season will be eligible to be subs for tournament play. Substitutes will be at the same player ranking as the replaced player, if available. If a like ranking player is not signed up as a substitute, then the next lower ranking is to be used.

Note* A sub or player that has already subbed or will be playing in the second game will only be allowed to play in one game, unless there aren't enough subs of the same ranking on the list. They may still sign up for the game but will only play if there is a lack of subs

Changes for 2019 Summer season

Late arriving subs (non team members)

4. Substitutes need to be signed up 30 minutes prior to game time for the game in which they wish to substitute. (No subs will be allowed on the sub list after this time unless there are not enough to satisfy the number required). If the Board member on duty has the chance to put a sub (not a late arriving team member) in the game to bring that team up to 11 players after the game has started. He shall ask the manager if he wants to continue with 10 players or use a late arriving sub player. (not divulging who the sub is until he has made his choice.)

P1 Change

8. Substitutes will be assigned to teams by a random drawing of numbered pills based on their category as follows:

P1: A newly evaluated player who has never played before, is not in the current season's draft.

P2: A player who is not assigned to a team. A player can only sign up as a P2 sub for 2 straight seasons. After the 2nd season, the player will be designated a P3 sub.

P3: A player who is assigned to a team and wishes to sub in a game his team is not involved in.

P4: A player who has already subbed that day.

Pitcher rating change

15. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 9. above), an announcement will be made over the PA soliciting additional substitutes. These substitutes (roster player or injury sub) may play on any field. However, they will be removed and replaced by the Board Member In-Charge (or acting Board Member) when their scheduled game is to begin. The replacement is final and will take place when the substitute player is in the dugout. Managers must be aware of this stipulation prior to the substitute player being assigned their game. Managers MUST refrain from asking players to sign up to substitute for their team. If a manager is found recruiting players, he will be warned for the 1st offence, suspended for the 2nd offence from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3rd offence the manager shall be removed from managing in D-3. An exception would be in the case of a shortage of needed substitute pitchers, Managers may approach Board certified pitchers **of the same or lesser rating as the pitcher they are replacing**, to sign up as pitching substitutes only. This is done on a game by game basis. If the pitcher that has agreed to pitch for a team does not show up prior to the selection of subs (30 minutes before game time) he will be governed by Rule C; Lineups, paragraph #3.

Reverse direction instead of “turn”

4. 4. There are no rundowns for the sake of safety. A rundown is started when the ball is fielded ahead of a runner (“Fielded” is either a batted ball or a ball thrown by a defensive player making a play on a base runner). **A runner is only allowed to reverse his direction one time when a play is being made on him while advancing to the next base. The runner does not have to go back and re-touch the base that he was returning to if the ball is overthrown on a subsequent play, he may turn and proceed to the next base.**

Notification and recording of injuries in 6th or after

(3) Division 3 players who need a courtesy runner must be designated when the line-up is submitted. This is the manager’s responsibility. If the manager has not designated the player as needing a runner, then the player may not receive a runner. The player is requested to notify the umpire upon approaching the batter’s box that he requires a runner. However, there will be NO penalty for this failure to do so. No other courtesy runners will be allowed except in cases of injury. A player so injured as to need a runner may be allowed to have a courtesy runner when agreed to by both managers. **If this occurs in the 6th or subsequent innings, the newly injured player MUST receive a courtesy runner for the next entire game he plays in. The umpire will notify the board member on duty that a runner was taken in or after the 6th inning and that board member will document on the next week’s game sheet that the player gets a runner.** Any manager who fails to get a courtesy runner for that newly injured player in the next game will be

suspended (cannot play nor manage) in the next scheduled game that he would normally be expected to attend. Because this managerial suspension was not for disciplinary reasons, this will not carry over to the following season.

Pitcher courtesy running

(7) All pitchers utilizing protective equipment that is removed before batting and/or base running other than a mask will be required to take a mandatory “courtesy runner” while on base with two (2) outs. Since this will NOT count as a “Runner Time” against the player, a touch of the bag by an incorrect runner will NOT result in an “OUT”. If however, the Pitcher was designated to need a courtesy runner at the beginning of the game, that “courtesy runner” would count as a “Runner Time” if he replaced the Pitcher at 1st Base with two (2) outs. If the Pitcher was on any base other than 1st Base and there were or came to be two (2) outs, that Pitcher would receive a mandatory “courtesy runner” which would not count as a “Runner Time” against the player. Pitchers who don’t take a courtesy runner but wear more than a mask, may be used as a courtesy runner at any time in the game. (with less than two outs). If they are still on base when the second out of the inning is recorded they shall be replaced with any available runner and this will not count as a “Runner Time” against the new runner.