

# Changes for 2025 Summer season – Update

## III GAME RULES

19. Intentional Walks – Prior to each game, each team may designate and highlight on all submitted lineup cards, one player...either roster player or sub...as a protected player. Each manager is responsible for notifying the umpire who that player is, prior to the first pitch of the game. Any lineup submitted that does not have a protected player highlighted will not be modified once the lineup has been taken to the scoring tower. The first time a protected player is walked in a game - either intentionally or unintentionally - the managers will notify the umpire, who will make note. In any and all subsequent at bats of that protected player during the game, if a player is walked without being thrown at least one strike, the player will be awarded first base on the walk and then be awarded second base as well. All baserunners who would be forced to advance, would do so. If a protected player leaves the game due to injury, illness, emergency, ejection, etc., the sub replacement player would assume the protected player status and that players walk status at that point.

## Changes for 2025 Summer season

### I. EQUIPMENT

Only the following are allowed: ~~rubber~~

- Rubber spikes or sneakers; ~~regulation~~
- Regulation-sized gloves; Any player may wear gloves or mitts. ~~and bats~~
- Bats that have been approved by Senior Softball-USA.
- Team shirts and hats that build team spirit, unity, and fun are encouraged.
- ~~Any player may wear gloves or 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")~~  
For personal safety, the Division 3 Board mandates and requires pitchers to use a pitching screen and adhere to the requirements defined in "IV DEFINITIONS – Paragraph 5".

### II. PLAYERS

#### C. LINEUPS:

3. Players should notify their manager of their presence 40 minutes prior to their own game time. Managers must submit one copy of their lineup 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time to the Board Member on duty or note the number of subs needed on the appropriate substitution sheet located outside the snack bar. Once that copy is submitted to the board member on duty it becomes the official lineup for that game. Note (1): ANY TEAM MEMBER NOT IN THE LINEUP ARRIVING AFTER THE SUBMISSION OF THAT LINE UP, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THAT GAME. ~~A~~Note (2): ANY TEAM MEMBER LEFT IN THE LINEUP THAT SHOWS UP AFTER THE START OF THEIR GAME WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY AT THAT TIME. If a team member that ~~is~~is in the lineup, and does not show, the team will play with 10 players for the duration of the game, provided they have a minimum of 8 roster players in the lineup, and the opposing team will

NOT provide a catcher or defensive player. Additionally, the team will incur an out each time the absent player is scheduled to bat. The Board Member In-Charge will, prior to the start of the game, have Team Managers provide “updated” line-up sheets for the score keepers and opposing manager-, as soon as possible after all subs have been assigned.

#### D. SUBSTITUTES:

3. Any team needing a “pitching sub to replace their team’s designated pitcher, may recruit any certified pitcher (including sub pitchers) that season of the same or lesser rating to replace their designated pitcher. If no pitcher of the same rating is available, see #93a below, or they may have a roster player pitch and get a non-pitching sub of the same rating as the absent designated pitcher. (Note: Any player on the line-up card at any time during the game may pitch for that team, including assigned subs.)

3a. If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same or lower rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. 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.

7. 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.

- a. Subs will be assigned in order of playing fields beginning with field 1 visitors and will continue sequentially through the fields (i.e. field 1 home, field 2 visitors, field 2 home, etc.)
- b. Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at that same level and priority.
- c. Allocate” A” subs (\*If needed, see NOTE: below) in pill draw order to open “A” roster spots in the above dugout order for P2, P3 and P4 subs in that order (A for A).

\* NOTE: Teams will be allowed to recruit any non-pitching “A” player (roster or sub player) to replace a missing non-pitching “A” player on their roster. A team that selects an “A” roster player to sub in a game for them, may not recruit that same player again for the remainder of the regular season. A team that recruits an “A” sub only player on the active sub list to replace a missing “A” player, will be allowed to recruit that same player twice in a season. (This transaction will be handled the same as recruiting a replacement pitcher, an email will be sent to the Board member in charge of Pitcher/Sub Recruitment. The recruitments will be closely monitored and tracked by that board member; however, managers are expected to also track their “A” sub recruitment for that season.

#### E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

7. Accordingly, the replacement player chosen or assigned to a team ~~will have a time period of 2 play dates must report to join that team-~~ as soon as possible, any game(s) missed once selected will count towards the missed game allowance as indicated in paragraph 5 of “Section II. Players: A: Qualifications”. ~~If this doesn’t occur that player cannot commit to the missed games allowed for the remaining games that are left,~~ 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

## 6. WHEN SLIDING IS OPTIONAL:

A player may slide into second or third base or when returning to any base. A player may not slide into first base or the home scoring plate. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding. If in the umpire's judgement a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out. If in the umpire's judgement the runner fails to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play the ball will be declared dead and that runner called out. All base runners except the batter/runner will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If in the umpire's judgement the runner's collision with the defensive player involved in the play negates a double play, the umpire may award a second out. The runner closest to home will be called out.

Sliding should only be done to legally and safely obtain a base. If the play has already been made at the base, (defensive player has made the force out), there should be no reason for the runner to slide. Going down into a slide short of the base to avoid a throw is okay. Sliding should not be done to break-up or negate any defensive play being made on another runner. When sliding the player must slide into the bag NO hook slide to either side of the bag is legal nor is sliding past the bag... If the offensive players legs/arms go into a defensive player or anywhere other than the base, (Automatic Out),

~~\*\*Note\*\*If in the umpire's judgement there was no play being made on the runner, and the runner went past the bag but there was no one tending the base, then no out shall occur for an illegal slide-(2-19-24)-. ALL PLAYS ARE STILL FORCE PLAYS!-(11-26-23)~~

19. Intentional Walks – Teams may designate one player on their team as a “protected player” each game (sub players included). That protected player may only be intentionally walked one time each game, any subsequent intentional walk will result in that player being awarded second base with any runners on base advancing 2 the number of bases that allow the intentionally walked player to get to second base if necessary. (Example...runner on first and third, 2<sup>nd</sup> intentional walk issued, runner on first goes to third, runner on third scores.) If a team does not designate a “protected player” in a game prior to the start of the game, players may be intentionally walked at any time. NOTE: The protected players name should be clearly noted or highlighted on all copies of that team's lineup cards.

20. Outfield Gates - Maintenance access gates on either side of the outfield shall remain open at all times during games. Any batted fair ball which goes through the gates will be ruled a ground rule “triple”. If the fielder unintentionally deflects, kicks, carries or otherwise knocks a ball through the gate, all base runners will advance three bases. However, if a defensive player intentionally deflects, kicks or carries a batted ball through the gate, all base runners will be awarded one additional base, thus, all base runners scoring

## III. DEFINITIONS:

### 5. PITCHING SCREEN: The following rules apply:

a. Pitchers must use the competition type protective screen (Smaller Screen). ~~The team using the screen is responsible for the placement and removal of the screen.~~ The screen does not negate the wearing of an approved face mask. (NOCSAE approved) ~~if~~ if the ~~Competition~~competition type screen was not available for any reason ~~that, then,~~ the larger ~~pitcher~~pitcher practice screen would suffice.

b. The screen will directly face home plate ~~within one to three~~no more than 4 feet in front of the pitching ~~box.~~ ~~If a pitcher chooses to use the full depth of the ten-foot pitchers' box, then the screen must be positioned in the one to three foot limits of where he chooses to pitch.~~

~~b.——The screen may be positioned anywhere~~from the halfway point to the outer left side of the pitching rubber ~~for a right handed pitcher to the outer right side~~edge of the pitching rubber ~~for a left handed pitcher. These lines are extended to the rear on the glove side of the pitcher that is pitching. The screen does not have to be moved back if the pitcher pitches from the back of the pitcher's box should the pitcher want to pitch further back in the pitcher's box.~~

~~The screen must be placed to the left of a right-handed pitcher, and to the right of a left-handed pitcher to maximize the pitcher's safety.~~

c. Any batted ball striking any portion of the screen as observed by the umpire will be declared a dead ball, no pitch. All rules governing a dead ball no pitch will apply. All thrown balls hitting the screen are alive and play continues.

d. Any pitch delivered with the screen not in a legal position will be declared "Illegal Pitch" (Ball). If a pitcher refuses to place the screen in the correct position, the umpire will notify the player's manager and remove the pitcher from pitching.

e. ~~If a~~ pitcher ~~chooses to use a screen, then he~~ MUST step "completely" behind the screen by the time each pitched ball reaches the plate. Failure to do so will result in the umpire calling each pitched ball an "Illegal Pitch" (Ball).

f. ~~A pitcher is ineligible to field any hard driven ball that is hit up the middle (umpire judgment). Penalty for doing so will be a "dead ball single" for the batter and all runners will advance one base.~~ A pitcher will be allowed to field ~~a slow rolling grounder or pop-up with no penalty~~ any batted ball as long as he has stepped behind the screen after releasing the pitch as noted in "e" above. (umpire judgment).

# Changes for 2025 Winter season

## II. PLAYERS

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

4. ~~4.~~ New players who indicate that they ~~are~~ want to be a Pitchers in ~~D-3~~D3 must be evaluated and certified by the Board. If pitchers are coming from a higher or lower division, they will ~~be added to the Certification list for R3. Pitchers coming from R4 will need to~~ be evaluated, certified as well D3. The Board has the right to evaluate any pitcher coming from any division.

The Pitcher Evaluation Process is as follows:

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Step 1: Players who want to pitch in D-3 must first go through a preliminary tryout which consists of pitching a simulated game from the mound to a catcher with a player standing in the batter's box while a board member (or certified umpire) acts as the umpire. The simulated game will be three innings in which the pitcher moves on to the next inning after recording three strike outs. The pitcher's base on balls (walks) will be recorded as well. The board members observing this process will decide if the applicant meets this test satisfactorily. If so, the applicant will be allowed to pitch either as a roster player or sub for the remainder of that season.

Step 2: After the initial season is complete the applicant's performance ~~will~~may be evaluated by the board and a decision will be made whether or not the applicant is certified as a pitcher in D-3. If so, no further evaluation is necessary. If not, the applicant will be notified he is not eligible to pitch in D-3 either as a roster player or sub.

5. ~~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~~home team ahead or five innings with the Visitor team ahead) in ~~at least 75% the specified number of the regularly scheduled regular season~~ games as indicated in ~~a given season the~~ \*Missed Games Allowance Scale below. A player who does not play ~~at least 75% in the specified number of the regularly regular~~ 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. Any game missed will be counted.

Note\*\* If a game injury is after the 5th inning it would be a complete game therefore it is not considered an injury missed game.

#### \*Missed Games Allowance Scale:

With 23 or more games, a player may miss 6 ~~games~~, 7<sup>th</sup> game out.

With 19-22 games, a player may miss 5 games, 6<sup>th</sup> game out.

With 15-18 games, a player may miss 4 games, 5<sup>th</sup> game out.

With 11-14 games, a player may miss 3 games, 4<sup>th</sup> game out.

With 7-10 games, a player may miss 2 games, 3rd game out.

With 5-6 games, a player may miss 1 game, 2<sup>nd</sup> game out.

With 1-4 games, no games may be missed.

6. When a player is placed on a team from the Replacement List, he will be governed by all the rules in paragraph 5 above and the 75% rule for the remainder regarding number of the games for that season can be missed. (Ex. 10 games left he could only miss 2 games, 3rd game out-.)

7. It is each manager's duty to promptly inform the Division Board Commissioner when a player misses too many games and must be replaced or if a team member sustains an injury and informs his manager that he cannot finish the season. See Notes (1) ~~(2)~~ and ~~(32)~~ below.

Note (1): The penalty for failing to inform the Board is as follows:

\*\*1st Offense – Warning Issued ~~for 1st Offense~~

\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – Suspended from managing the remainder of the that season and all of the next season they manage (if he is appointed manager again) for 2nd Offense chosen)

\*\*3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Permanently removed as a manager in D-3 for 3rd Offense D3.

Note (2): When a player (who was removed from a roster due to injury or illness) returns, he will be added to a sub list of players. That player cannot sub for or against his former team and may NOT sub for any team until he misses the minimum required ~~amount~~ number of games using the table above.

#### B. DRAFT:

1. ~~—1.~~ The division Board will assign managers at the start each season. They will be chosen from a list of volunteers from the Application (sign-up) forms and must meet all manager qualifications and the manager selection process set forth in the Division 3 Bylaws. Player information will be presented to the managers prior to the draft. Managers will randomly draw for draft position. All playing managers will draft 10 players. All non- playing managers will draft 11 players. All managers will draft a team of (3) A players, (5) B players and (3) C players in any order they ~~so~~ choose. When managers who are also board members are rated at the seasons rating meeting, they will leave the board meeting for the amount of time the other board members need to evaluate their draft position for that season's draft.

2. ~~—2.~~ Players when signing up for the draft will put down their preferred position on the draft form. They will put down what position they want to play but cannot put down "Any, IF or Rover". Players refusing to play on a team or players refusing to play where their manager assigns them, with the exception of "Pitcher" ~~—~~, will be barred from playing or substituting for the remainder of that season. If such an event occurs after the fourteenth (14th) game of the season, they will be barred from playing or substituting for the remainder of that season plus the ~~amount~~ number of games of the next season in which they wish to play to equal 14 games. ~~Players returning to the league in mid season under these circumstances shall be placed at the end of the Replacement Player List.~~

#### C. LINEUPS:

1. ~~3.~~ Players should notify their manager of their presence 40 minutes prior to their own game time. Managers must submit ~~two copies~~ one copy of their lineup 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time to the Board Member on duty or note the number of subs needed on the appropriate substitution sheet located outside the snack bar. Once that copy is submitted to the board member on duty it becomes the official lineup for that game. ANY TEAM MEMBER NOT IN THE LINEUP ARRIVING AFTER THE SUBMISSION OF THAT LINE UP, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THAT GAME. A team member that IS in the lineup, and does not show, the team will play with 10 players for the duration of the game, provided they have a minimum of 8 roster players in the lineup, and the opposing team will NOT provide a catcher or defensive player. Additionally, the team will incur an out each time the absent player is scheduled to bat. The Board Member In-Charge will, prior to the start of the game, have Team Managers provide "updated" line-up sheets for the score keepers and opposing manager.

#### D. SUBSTITUTES:

1. Substitute players will be selected to play when teams have between Eight (8) and ten (10) roster players. A team having only seven (7) players will forfeit.

~~1. Players may sign up as only a "Non Pitcher" substitute or "Pitcher Only" substitute. Players who sign up as anything other than a "Non Pitcher" or "Pitcher Only" substitute will not be considered as potential substitutes for that game. Players who sign up as a "Non Pitcher" substitute and picked to substitute as a "Non Pitcher" will NOT be allowed to pitch that game.~~

~~3. Any team needing a "Pitcher Only" sub, and none are available, may pick a "non Pitcher" sub (or a roster player) to pitch until a "Pitcher Only" sub is available. If a "Pitcher Only" sub becomes available, the team manager has the one time option of (a) selecting the "Pitcher Only" sub. (the previously selected "non Pitcher" sub will leave the game) or (b) not selecting the "Pitcher Only" sub and therefore keep the "non Pitcher" sub. A "Pitcher Only" sub may be replaced by the manager after delivering one pitch in the first inning if need be and replaced by any player in the line up.~~

~~4.~~

~~2. All players who have a signed application on file to play that season as a roster player or sub only player may sign up as a substitute.~~

~~3. Any team needing a "pitching sub to replace their team's designated pitcher, may recruit any certified pitcher (including sub pitchers) that season of the same or lesser rating to replace their designated pitcher. If no pitcher of the same rating is available, see #9 below, or they may have a roster player pitch and get a non-pitching sub of the same rating as the absent designated pitcher. (Note: Any player on the line-up card at any time during the game may pitch for that team, including assigned subs.)~~

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

P1: A player that is not picked for ~~only~~ the 9:00 game (first game of the day) who stays around to be a sub for the remaining games: that day until they are picked to sub in a game.

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 (roster player) and wishes to sub in a game his team is not involved in- ~~An, or an~~ injury ~~subssub~~ who has played 4less than five (5) full innings in a prior game that day.

P4: A player who has already subbed that day.

Note 1: In the event a team is not scheduled to play, or his game has been cancelled on any regular season game day (and does not have Announcing duty) roster ~~payers~~players on that team will be classified as P2's for subbing purposes.

~~Note 2: A player who is a Board Certified pitcher may sign up to sub as "Pitcher Only". If he is chosen to sub as a Pitcher, he MUST pitch the entire game unless he is removed due to an injury or ejection, or must leave due to an emergency. He CANNOT play any other position during that game.~~

~~Note 3:~~ Substitute players refusing to play on a team or refusing to play where their manager assigns them with the exception of "Pitcher", will be barred from substituting for the remainder of that season.

8. ~~-8.-A player may only substitute once a day unless there are not enough substitutes to fill needs. A substitute Pitcher will bat before any other substitute players on that team).~~

9. ~~-9. Prior to the start of the season, each manager will designate one (1) player as their pitcher for the season. If during the season the designated pitcher is not present at a game, 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. (both roster pitchers and sub pitchers). If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same or lower rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. 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.~~

10. ~~13.-If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 7. 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, roster players who sub before their game will not be pulled for their scheduled game until the game, they are subbing in, is finished~~  
~~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.~~

~~Note: 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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense the manager shall be removed from managing in D-3.~~

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. 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. Non-~~playing~~Playing and Playing roster players will have priority over sub only players. (P-1 status will ~~will~~ not be used during the tournament. (3-30-24)

Note\*\* The order in which subs will be drawn is:

1. Non-~~Playng~~Playing roster ~~subs~~ players.
2. Playing roster players.
3. Subs that played in the season prior to the tournament.

#### E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

~~1-1.~~ 1. When a substitute player wishes to become a roster player, he will declare such to the current Board Member in charge of Replacement Players. The Board Member in charge of Replacement Players will keep track of all such declarations by name, skill category (A/B/C), Pitcher Only/Non-Pitcher positions, and date of declaration. A replacement player will not be considered to be put on a team unless he has been on the replacement list for at least 48 hours.

~~2-~~ 2. The Board Member in charge of Replacement Players will not divulge the names of players on the Replacement List. (Except as stated below.) The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers and their proxies MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List. -except as stated below.-

3. When a team needs a replacement (non-pitching) player to replace one that can no longer play, prior to the start of the season ending tournament, due to injury/health issues, family related emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances. (i.e... change in work schedule after the season starts). The Manager will contact the Board Member in ~~Charge~~charge of Replacement Players and state by email indicating his requirement need(s)- as soon as he is advised by that player of the need to leave the team. All (non-pitching) replacement player ratings (A / B / C) will be handled in the same manner. When a team needs a replacement player (for example a B rated player), the manager will be provided the entire waiting list of B replacement players. The manager will select a player from this list. If only one player is on the list, that player will automatically be placed on the team requesting the replacement player. When multiple teams are requesting a replacement player of the same rating, and one becomes available, the team first requesting a player may select the player. If the player is not selected by this team, the player will next be offered to the next team requesting a player. This process will continue until a team has selected the player. If no team selects the player, the player will be placed on the first team requesting a replacement player. Note: if no replacement player is available and, a team may go down one level if there are no replacement players on the A or B replacement list(s). If chosen, that player would then maintain the same rating as the player he replaced. If the original player returns and can play prior to his being replaced, he may rejoin his team until a replacement player is available. When the replacement player is available, the original player is removed from the team immediately and put on the sub list but not put on the replacement list, and the replacement player is added to the roster. ~~The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers and their proxies MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List.~~

4. When ~~an~~ a team requires a replacement pitcher, (A, B or B-Pitcher is required by a Manager, an C rating) all available Pitcher~~pitchers~~ on the ~~Replacement List~~ replacement list of the same rating (who selected Pitcher as their first or second choice on their application) will be placed on offered to that team ~~from the Replacement List in that~~

~~skill category (A or B list) and in the order. If there is only one eligible pitcher on the list, they reside on the list, will be assigned to that team. If there are no Pitcherspitchers available in the A or B 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, if available. That pitcher would then maintain the same rating as the pitcher he replaced. If the manager declines to go down a level to obtain a pitcher, he will need to get a sub pitcher until a replacement pitcher of the same level becomes available.~~

~~2. When a team requires a C pitcher, all available C pitchers on the list will be offered. If no pitchers reside on that list, they will need to get a sub pitcher until a replacement becomes available.~~

~~6. In all cases of a request for a replacement player is available in that skill category (A or B list), the Manager can go down "one level" to obtain a player.~~

~~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 pitching or pitching) Managers will have 48 hours of receipt of the C player list to select an available replacement list. If the Manager fails to make a selection within the allotted time period, player or pitcher off that list or he will be assigned the player who has been on the Replacement Listlist the longest.~~

~~7. 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.~~

~~6. When a Manager requires a "Non-Pitcher" Replacement player, he will only be offered "non-pitchers" (of the skill category required) from the Replacement List.~~

~~7.~~

~~8. When a replacement player or pitcher has been assigned to a team, the name of the replacement that player will be provided to all board members and managers by e-mail email in a timely manner.~~

### III GAME RULES

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 is made on a base the 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.**

#### 6. WHEN SLIDING IS OPTIONAL:

A player may slide into second or third base or when returning to any base. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding. If in the umpire's judgement a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out. If in the ~~umpiresumpire's~~ judgement the runner fails ~~to~~ to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play the ball will be declared dead and that runner called out. All base runners except the batter/runner will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If in the umpire's judgement the runner's collision with the defensive player involved in the play negates a double play, the umpire may award a second out. The runner closest to home will be called out.

Sliding should only be done to legally and safely obtain a base. If the play has already been made at the base, (defensive player has made the force out), there should be no reason for the runner to slide. Going down into a slide short of the base to avoid a throw is okay. Sliding should not be done to break-up or negate any defensive play being made on

another runner. When sliding the player must slide into the bag NO hook slide to either side of the bag is legal nor is sliding ~~overpast~~ the bag. If the offensive players legs/arms go into a defensive player or anywhere other than the base, (Automatic Out), **\*\*Note\*\*** If in the ~~umpires~~ umpire's judgement there was no play being made on the runner, and the runner went ~~overpast~~ the bag but there was no one tending the base then no out shall occur for an illegal slide (2-19-24). ALL PLAYS ARE STILL FORCE PLAYS! (11-26-23)

11. Runner Rule: Any player ~~can get a runner~~ may be run for at any time and at any base with that runner having **NO** right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may enter the game only prior to the first pitch to any batter; **the umpire shall prevent entry of a courtesy runner during the at-bat. (Changed 11-6-2023)**  
~~at-bat. (Changed 11-6-2023)~~

A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning. A runner may not run for a player

If he was replaced with a runner earlier in the inning. If a runner has already run once that inning or twice in the game and the opposing team appeals to the umpire then the umpire will check his sheet that he keeps track of the runners on and if found to be correct the ump will call the offending runner out. ~~If the umpire catches a runner being used as a runner after he had already been run for, the umpire will call the runner out without appeal.~~ If it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> out in either case, then the batter that was up will come up to bat the next inning with a new count. All runner rule violations must be an appeal play to the umpire by the opposing manager.

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is not the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. If it is the last out, he will be the ~~lead-off~~ leadoff batter the next inning. A runner cannot be replaced once he has taken possession of the base (unless for an injury to which the runner must leave the game.).

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

~~player.~~

# Changes for 2024 Summer season

1. When the temperatures are at or above 104 degree Heat Index or below 40 degrees as of game time, the Board Member In-Charge will consult the managers of each team and ask them if they want to play the game. If one managers says “NO,” then the game is cancelled and is recorded as a cancelled game. (No Forfeit). If one player does not want to play, then the team may get a sub. The game that player didn’t play in will be charged against him as a missed game.

2. When the forecasted wind chill is below 50 degrees at 9:00am, games will be delayed to 10:00am, 11:30am and 1:00pm.

## I. EQUIPMENT

Only the following are allowed: rubber spikes or sneakers; regulation-sized gloves; and bats that have been approved by Senior Softball-USA. Team shirts and hats that build team spirit, unity, and fun are encouraged. Any ~~player~~players may wear gloves, ~~but only the catcher and the first baseman may use~~ or 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”)

## 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 75% of the regularly scheduled games in a given season. A player who does not play at least 75% 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. Any game missed will be counted.

Note\*\* If a game injury is after the 5th inning it would be a complete game therefore it is not considered an injury missed game.

6. When a player is placed on a team from the Replacement List, he will be governed by all the rules above and the 75% rule for the remainder of the games for that season. Ex. 10 games left he could only miss 2 games, 3rd game out.

### C. LINEUPS:

4. A team with fewer than eight (8) players will not be allowed to select substitutes and MUST forfeit the game. If a team has eight (8) roster players present, the manager may receive a maximum of three (3) substitutes, and then play with eleven (11) players. No more than three (3) substitutes will be allowed on any team for any game, seasonal or playoffs- (except in 4, a, \*\*Note\*\*). Players should not start a game if they know they will not be able to complete it. Decisions regarding the batting order and defensive assignments are the exclusive responsibility of team managers

b. \*\*Note\*\* If the team is waiting for a replacement player from the waiting list of his rating and there is none then this will not count against him when losing an additional roster player. He may get a sub at this point This

would also allow the team to get 4 subs at the start of the game due to the fact that no replacement is available for one of their players.( 2-19-24 )b. If a team has only 8 players and receives 3 subs prior to the game and subsequently one of their subs is required to leave the game, the team MAY receive an injury sub.

e. No team will be allowed to play with less than 10 players under any circumstance.

#### D. SUBSTITUTES:

3. Any team needing a “Pitcher Only” sub, and none are available, may pick a “non Pitcher” sub (or a roster player) to pitch until a “Pitcher Only” sub is available. If a “Pitcher Only” sub becomes available, the team manager has the one time option of (a) selecting the “Pitcher Only” sub ~~who will pitch the remainder of the game.~~ (the previously selected “non Pitcher sub will leave the game) or (b) not selecting the “Pitcher Only” sub and therefore keep the “non Pitcher” sub. A “Pitcher Only” sub may be replaced by the manager after delivering one pitch in the first inning if need be and replaced by any player in the line up.

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 he may 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. A player that was late arriving for his game cannot sub for another team the rest of the day.

10. If a player becomes ill or injured, is ejected, or must leave due to an emergency ( not a scheduled appointment), a substitute will be chosen from the injury substitute list. Once the manager of the team needing the substitute notifies the Home Plate Umpire that a substitute is needed, it becomes official and the next player of same level from the injury substitute list is in the lineup. If there are no subs on the injury list, the Board member in charge will make an announcement asking for a sub of the same ranking as the injured player. If this injury substitute is picked to play the following game, he will do so under the guidelines listed below (see paragraph 13). If no one on the substitute list is available, a substitute will be chosen from players available. If a sub is injured, ill or ejected or must leave due to an emergency, he will be replaced by a player with the same rating as the player he was subbing for. The substitute player inherits the runner stats for the player he is subbing for. ~~The~~The substitution and reason for said substitution will be made by the on-duty Board member.

16. During the division tournament, ~~substitution procedures~~During the division tournament, substitutions will be ~~the same on a skill level basis. Players chosen first as substitutes will be roster players during the regular current season, except non.~~ 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. 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. Non-playing roster players will have priority over sub only players. (P-1 status will/will not be used during the tournament. (4-6-233-30-24)

Note\*\* The order in which subs will be drawn is: 1. Non-Playing roster subs 2. Playing roster players. 3. Subs that played in the season prior to the tournament.

### III GAME RULES

#### 6. WHEN SLIDING IS OPTIONAL:

A player may slide into second or third base or when returning to any base. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding. If in the umpire's judgement a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out. If in the umpires judgement the runner fails to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play the ball will be declared dead and that runner called out. All base runners except the batter/runner will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If in the umpire's judgement the runner's collision with the defensive player involved in the play negates a double play, the umpire may award a second out. The runner closest to home will be called out. Sliding should only be done to legally and safely obtain a base. If the play has already been made at the base, (defensive player has made the force out), there should be no reason for the runner to slide. Going down into a slide short of the base to avoid a throw is okay. Sliding should not be done to break-up or negate any defensive play being made on another runner. When sliding the player must slide into the bag NO hook slide to either side of the bag is legal nor is sliding over the bag.. **If the offensive players legs/arms go into a defensive player or anywhere other than the base, (Automatic Out),** \*\*Note\*\*If in the umpires judgement there was no play being made on the runner, and the runner went over the bag but there was no one tending the base then no out shall occur for an illegal slide (2-19-24).

ALL PLAYS ARE STILL FORCE PLAYS! (11-26-23)

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. A runner who gives himself up at second or third base and that is in close proximity to the base and the defensive player drops or bobbles the ball and in the umpires judgement would have been safe then the runner shall be deemed safe.**

13. Teams are limited to five (5) runs per inning except in the 7th or later innings of the game, in which a team can score an unlimited number of runs. A team behind by more than five runs in any inning prior to the 7th ~~inning, can score "Five runs Plus 1" run in an effort to catch up.~~ inning, can score "Five runs Plus 1" run in an effort to catch up.} (Exception, a home team trailing by 21 or more runs may score enough runs to get within the "Mercy Rule" of less than 15 runs.) (3-30-24)

15. When the score is tied after seven innings, teams start each inning with a runner on second base. That base runner is the last player at bat from the previous inning. If the game is tied in the bottom of the 7th inning or later bottom innings and there are runners on base and the batter hits an "Over The Fence" homerun, all the runs will count in the stats. (Ex.) Game is tied 12-12 in the bottom of the 7th, runners on first and second, batter hits an OTF homerun. All runs crossing the plate will score Final score would be 15-12. (3-30-24)

16. If a team is leading by 15 or more runs after the 5th inning (4 and a half innings if the home team is ahead), the game will be considered complete. If the Visiting team is ahead by 15 or more runs after the 5th inning, the Home Team must bat in the bottom of the inning-.} If the Visiting team is ahead by 21 or more runs, the home team will be allowed to score enough runs to get within the "Mercy Rule" of less than 15 runs. (3-30-24)

18. Game stoppages: All games that are stopped before the 7<sup>th</sup> inning but past the 5<sup>th</sup> inning for whatever reason, (Injury, inclement weather, managers quitting) will count as a complete gamegoing back to the last completed inning.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS:

5. PITCHING SCREEN: The following rules apply:

a. Pitchers ~~may~~must use at the competition type protective screen- (Smaller Screen). The team using the screen is responsible for the placement and removal of the screen. The screen does not negate the wearing of an approved face mask (NOCSAE approved) if the Competition type screen was not available for any reason that the larger pitcher screen would suffice.



# Changes for 2024 Winter 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~~75% of the regularly scheduled games in a given season. A player who does not play at least ~~70~~75% 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~~75% rule for the remainder of the games for that season. Ex. 10 games left he could only miss ~~3~~2 games, ~~4<sup>th</sup>~~3rd game out.

For example:

~~With 22-23 scheduled games, a player may miss 7 games, 8th game out.~~

~~With 19-21 scheduled games, a player may miss 6 games, 7th game out.~~

~~With 16-18 scheduled games, a player may miss 5 games, 6th game out.~~

~~With 14-15 scheduled games, a player may miss 4 games, 5th game out.~~

(changed 11-6-2023)

### C. LINEUPS:

4. A team with fewer than eight (8) players will not be allowed to select substitutes and MUST forfeit the game. If a team has eight (8) roster players present, the manager may receive a maximum of three (3) substitutes, and then play with eleven (11) players. No more than three (3) substitutes will be allowed on any team for any game, seasonal or playoffs. Players should not start a game if they know they will not be able to complete it. Decisions regarding the batting order and defensive assignments are the exclusive responsibility of team managers

a. If a team has only 8 players and receives 3 subs prior to the game and subsequently they lose one of their roster players due to injury, ejection, illness or emergency, they may NOT receive another sub and ~~would be required to forfeit the game. EXCEPTION: if a team loses an additional roster player for injury, illness or emergency after the completion of 5 innings of play,~~ the team may elect to continue play with 10 players: or forfeit the game. However, the opposing team will NOT supply a catcher or defensive player. The injured player will be scratched from the line-up and ~~NO~~an out will be incurred when it was his turn to bat. (11-6-2023)

b. If a team has only 8 players and receives 3 subs prior to the game and subsequently one of their subs is required to leave the game, the team MAY receive an injury sub.

c. If a roster player leaves the game for other than injury, ejection, illness or emergency, leaving the team with only 7 roster players, the team would then be required to forfeit the game.

d. If a roster player leaves the game for other than injury, ejection, illness or emergency and the team still has a minimum of 8 roster players remaining, the team may continue to play with 10 players. However, the opposing team will NOT provide a catcher or defensive player and the team will incur an out each time the absent player is scheduled to bat.

~~e.~~ No team will be allowed to play with less than 10 players under any circumstance.

#### D. SUBSTITUTES:

3. Any team needing a “Pitcher Only” sub, and none are available, may pick a “non Pitcher” sub (or a roster player) to pitch until a “Pitcher Only” sub is available. If a “Pitcher Only” sub becomes available, the team manager has the one time option of (a) selecting the “Pitcher Only” sub who will pitch the remainder of the game (the previously selected “non Pitcher sub will leave the game) or (b) not selecting the “Pitcher Only” sub and therefore keep the “non Pitcher” sub. ~~In all cases, the sub will bat last in the lineup.~~

8. A player may only substitute once a day unless there are not enough substitutes to fill needs. ~~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).~~

13. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 7. 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.

Note: 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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense the manager shall be removed from managing in D-3.

16. During the division tournament, substitution procedures will be the same as during the regular season, except non-playing roster players will have priority over sub only players. P-1 status will/will not be used during the tournament. (11-6-23)

#### E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

3. When a team needs a player to replace one that can no longer play, prior to the start of the season ending tournament, the Manager will contact the Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players and state his requirement(s). All replacement player ratings (A / B / C) will be handled in the same manner. When a team needs a replacement player (for example a B rated player), the manager will be provided the entire waiting list of B replacement players. The manager will select a player from this list. If only one player is on the list, that player will automatically be placed on the team requesting the replacement player. When multiple teams are requesting a replacement player and one becomes available, the team first requesting a player may select the player. If the player is not selected by this team, the player will next be offered to the next team requesting a player. This process will continue until a team has selected the player. If no team selects the player, the player will be placed on the first team requesting a replacement player. Note: if no replacement player is available and the original player returns and can play, he may rejoin his team until a replacement player is available. When the replacement player is available, the original player is removed from the team immediately and put on the sub list but not put on the replacement list, and the replacement player is added to the roster. The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers and their proxies MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List.

### III GAME RULES

6. ~~Sliding or diving into any base or scoring plate is not permitted and such players will be called out. Players may slide or dive when returning to any base including the scoring plate.~~ WHEN SLIDING IS OPTIONAL:

A player may slide into second or third base or when returning to any base. A runner must make every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding. If in the umpire's judgement a runner misses a base to avoid a collision, the runner will not be called out. If in the umpires judgement the runner fails to to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play the ball will be declared dead and that runner called out. All base runners except the batter/runner will be returned to their previous base unless forced to advance. If in the umpire's judgement the runner's collision with the defensive player involved in the play negates a double play, the umpire may award a second out. The runner closest to home will be called out.

Sliding should only be done to legally and safely obtain a base. If the play has already been made at the base, (defensive player has made the force out), there should be no reason for the runner to slide. Going down into a slide short of the base to avoid a throw is okay. Sliding should not be done to break-up or negate any defensive play being made on another runner. When sliding the player must slide into the bag NO hook slide to either side of the bag is legal nor is sliding over the bag.. If the offensive players legs/arms go into a defensive player or anywhere other than the base, (Automatic Out),

ALL PLAYS ARE STILL FORCE PLAYS! (11-26-23)

#### 11. Runner Rule:

Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having ~~the~~NO right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may enter the game only prior to the first pitch to any batter; the umpire shall prevent entry of a courtesy runner during the ~~at-bat.~~ at-bat. (Changed 11-6-2023)

A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning. A runner may not run for a player ~~if~~ If he was replaced with a runner earlier in the inning. If a runner has already run once that inning or twice in the game and the opposing team appeals to the umpire then the umpire will check his sheet that he keeps track of the runners on and if found to be correct the ump will call the offending runner out. If the umpire catches a runner being used as a runner after he had already been run for, the umpire will call the runner out without appeal. If it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> out in either case, then the batter that was up will come up to bat the next inning with a new count.

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is ~~not~~the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning. A runner cannot be replaced once he has taken possession of the base (unless for an injury to which the runner must leave the game.).

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that ~~player.~~ player.

17. Field personnel changes cannot be made after the first pitch to the batter. ( NO MORE calling time out and running behind the catcher or across the field to a coaches box or to get on deck!) This does not apply to changing out base coaches on the same side of the field nearest the dugout.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS:

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. In this case the batter is ruled out on the Infield Fly and all runners that reached another base without being put out are safe. (runners may advance at their own risk). If an out occurs at any other base, then the runners are returned to the base they occupied prior to the "infield fly" being called. Batter is the only OUT. (ex. Bases loaded, run scores from third base with no out being made RUN SCORES. Or Bases loaded run scores from third but an out made at second or third, No run scores runners returned to the bases previously occupied.)

# Changes for 2023 Fall season

Prior to the start of the games, if weather conditions (i.e. rain, high heat index, cold temperature, excessive wind, lightning, etc.) are approaching an unsafe situation (or if there is an umpire-called “rain delay”), the Board Member In-Charge, with input from the groundskeeper, fellow Board members, and umpires at the fields, will make the decision of whether the games should be played or cancelled. Only games on the unplayable fields will be cancelled—all other games will restart after a rain delay. If lightning is seen by an umpire or Board Member, all games MUST stop for 20 minutes. If no lightning is seen during the 20 minute delay, all games will resume as scheduled. If lightning is seen again within the initial 20 minute delay, the umpire(s), with input from Board Members present, may either cancel ALL games or choose to restart a subsequent 20 minute delay – sound judgment must prevail. When the Board Member In-Charge makes the decision to play the games, any team who decides not to play will incur a forfeit. If during play it starts to rain with no lightning, and one umpire delays the game sending the players to their dugouts, all play will halt on the other fields. The Board will make a decision on whether to continue play or to cancel games.

## B. DRAFT:

1. The division Board will assign managers at the start each season. They will be chosen from a list of volunteers from the Application (sign-up) forms and must meet all manager qualifications and the manager selection process set forth in the Division 3 Bylaws. Player information will be presented to the managers prior to the draft. Managers will randomly draw for draft position. All playing managers will draft 10 players. All non- playing managers will draft 11 players. All managers will draft a team of (3) A players, (5) B players and (3) C players in any order they so choose.

## D. SUBSTITUTES:

5. 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. Managers can put their subs in the batting order anywhere they choose prior to turning in the line-up. This procedure will be done following the Line Up example given to them prior to the start of the season. A copy of the example line up sheet will be in the binder at the board table.

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

P1: A player that not picked for only the 9:00 game who stays around to be a sub for the remaining games.

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. An injury subs who has played 4 full innings in a prior game that day.

P4: A player who has already subbed that day.

## E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

1. When a substitute player wishes to become a roster player, he will declare such to the current Board Member in charge of Replacement Players. The Board Member in charge of Replacement Players will keep track of all

such declarations by name, skill category (A/B/C), Pitcher Only/Non-Pitcher positions, and date of declaration. A replacement player will not be considered to be put on a team unless he has been on the replacement list for at least 48 hours.

2. The Board Member in charge of Replacement Players will not divulge the names of players on the Replacement List (except as stated below.)

~~3. When a team needs a player to replace one that can no longer play prior to the start of the season ending tournament, the Manager will contact the Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players and state his requirement(s). For skill categories A and B (excluding Pitchers) the player(s) who has been on the Replacement List the longest (by date) will be offered to, and MUST be accepted by, the Manager.~~

3. All replacement player ratings (A / B / C) will be handled in the same manner. When a team needs a replacement player (for example a B rated player), the manager will be provided the entire waiting list of B replacement players. The manager will select a player from this list. If only one player is on the list, that player will automatically be placed on the team requesting the replacement player. When multiple teams are requesting a replacement player and one becomes available, the team first requesting a player may select the player. If the player is not selected by this team, the player will next be offered to the next team requesting a player. This process will continue until a team has selected the player. If no team selects the player, the player will be placed on the first team requesting a replacement player. Note: if no replacement player is available and the original player returns and can play, he may rejoin his team until a replacement player is available. When the replacement player is available, the original player is removed from the team immediately and put on the sub list but not put on the replacement list, and the replacement player is added to the roster. The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers and their proxies MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List.

7. When a replacement player has been assigned to a team, the name of the replacement player will be provided to all board members and managers by e-mail in a timely manner. ~~NOTE\*\* 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, 4<sup>th</sup> game out.~~

### III GAME RULES

#### 11. Runner Rule:

~~— Players (including subs) will no longer have to declare that they need a runner before the gm starts.~~

Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having the right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may enter the game only prior to the first pitch to any batter; the umpire shall prevent entry of a courtesy runner during the at-bat.

A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning. A runner may not run for a player If he was replaced with a runner earlier in the inning. If a runner has already run once that inning or twice in the game and the opposing team appeals to the umpire then the umpire will check his sheet that he keeps track of the runners on and if found to be correct the ump will call the offending runner out. If the umpire catches a runner being used as a runner after he had already been run for, the umpire will call the runner out without appeal. If it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> out in either case, then the batter that was up will come up to bat the next inning with a new count.

17. Field personnel changes cannot be made after the first pitch to the batter. ( NO MORE calling time out and running behind the catcher or across the field to a coaches box or to get on deck!)



# Changes for 2023 Summer season

The Division 3 Board Member In-Charge, in conjunction with Recreation Department Personnel will determine if games are to be ~~eanceled~~cancelled due to weather conditions that would impact the safety and well being of participants. The cancellation will be emailed using the league wide system. When the temperatures are at or above 104 degree Heat Index or below 40 degrees as of game time, the Board Member In-Charge will consult the managers of each team and ask them if they want to play the game. If one managers says “NO,” then the game is ~~eanceled~~cancelled and is recorded as a cancelled game. (No Forfeit). If one player does not want to play, then the team may get a sub. The game that player didn’t play in will be charged against him as a missed game.

Also when the temperature reaches 104 heat index all umpires will mandatorily have both teams take a 5 minute break after the bottom of the fourth inning. ~~All players must listen to WVLG 640 AM for notification of cancellations. Players, managers and umpires must not call the radio station or the Recreation Department to find out if games have been cancelled.~~

Prior to the start of the games, if weather conditions (i.e. rain, high heat index, cold temperature, excessive wind, lightning, etc.) are approaching an unsafe situation (or if there is an umpire-called “rain delay”), the Board Member In-Charge, with input from the groundskeeper, fellow Board members, and umpires at the fields, will make the decision of whether the games should be played or ~~eanceled~~cancelled. Only games on the unplayable fields will be ~~eanceled~~cancelled—all other games will restart after a rain delay. If lightning is seen by an umpire or Board Member, all games MUST stop for 20 minutes. If no lightning is seen during the 20 minute delay, all games will resume as scheduled. If lightning is seen again within the initial 20 minute delay, the umpire(s), with input from Board Members present, may either cancel ALL games or choose to restart a subsequent 20 minute delay – sound judgment must prevail. When the Board Member In-Charge makes the decision to play the games, any team who decides not to play will incur a forfeit.

## II. PLAYERS

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

4. New players who indicate that they are Pitchers in D-3 must be evaluated by the Board. If pitchers are coming from a higher division ~~or cross-division that are certified in their division they~~ will be added to the Certification list for R3. Pitchers coming from R4 will be evaluated. The Board has the right to evaluate any pitcher coming from any division.

### B. DRAFT:

1. The division Board will assign managers at the start each season. They will be chosen from a list of volunteers from the Application (sign-up) forms and must meet all manager qualifications and the manager selection process set forth in the Division 3 Bylaws. Player information will be presented to the managers prior to the draft. Managers will randomly draw for draft position. All playing managers will draft ~~11~~10 players. All non- playing managers will draft ~~12~~11 players.

### C. LINEUPS:

1. Each team shall field a minimum of ~~twelve (12) players. No one may volunteer to be the extra player as all players must rotate on the field. No player will sit out more than one inning. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a forfeit of the game. The game’s pitcher is excluded from rotation~~Eleven (11) players.



3. Players should notify their manager of their presence 40 minutes prior to their own game time. Managers must submit two copies of their lineup, ~~with the players requiring runners~~, 30 minutes prior to scheduled game time to the Board Member on duty, or note the number of subs needed on the appropriate substitution sheet located outside the snack bar. **ANY TEAM MEMBER NOT IN THE LINEUP ARRIVING AFTER THE SUBMISSION OF THAT LINE UP, WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY IN THAT GAME.** A team member that IS in the lineup, and does not show, ~~will be an out each time at bat.~~ the team will play with 10 players for the duration of the game, provided they have a minimum of 8 roster players in the lineup, and the opposing team will NOT provide a catcher or defensive player. Additionally, the team will incur an out each time the absent player is scheduled to bat. The Board Member In-Charge will, prior to the start of the game, have Team Managers provide “updated” line-up sheets for the score keepers and opposing manager.

4. A team with fewer than eight (8) players will not be allowed to select substitutes and MUST forfeit the game. If a team has eight (8) roster players present, the manager may receive a maximum of ~~four~~ three (3) substitutes, and then play with ~~twelve~~ eleven (11) players. No more than ~~four~~ three (3) substitutes will be allowed on any team for any game, seasonal or playoffs. Players should not start a game if they know they will not be able to complete it. ~~Unless there has been an injury, an ejection or an emergency, a team losing a player will be charged with an out when it is the missing player's turn to bat.~~ Decisions regarding the batting order and defensive assignments are the exclusive responsibility of team managers. ~~If a lineup has 12 players, no substitute will be chosen if one player (with exception of the designated Pitcher) leaves for any reason.~~

a. If a team has only 8 players and receives 3 subs prior to the game and subsequently they lose one of their roster players due to injury, illness or emergency, they may NOT receive another sub and would be required to forfeit the game. EXCEPTION: if a team loses an additional roster player for injury, illness or emergency after the completion of 5 innings of play, the team may elect to continue play with 10 players. However, the opposing team will NOT supply a catcher or defensive player. The injured player will be scratched from the line-up and NO out will be incurred when it was his turn to bat.

b. If a team has only 8 players and receives 3 subs prior to the game and subsequently one of their subs is required to leave the game, the team MAY receive an injury sub.

c. If a roster player leaves the game for other than injury, illness or emergency, leaving the team with only 7 roster players, the team would then be required to forfeit the game.

d. If a roster player leaves the game for other than injury, illness or emergency and the team still has a minimum of 8 roster players remaining, the team may continue to play with 10 players. However, the opposing team will NOT provide a catcher or defensive player and the team will incur an out each time the absent player is scheduled to bat.

e. No team will be allowed to play with less than 10 players under any circumstance.

#### D. SUBSTITUTES:

1. Substitute players will be selected to play when teams have between ~~eight~~ Eight (8) and ~~eleven~~ ten (10) roster players. A team having only seven (7) players will forfeit. ~~No catcher or other defensive player will be supplied by the opposing team.~~

3. Any team needing a “Pitcher Only” sub, and none are available, may pick a “non Pitcher” sub (or a roster player) to pitch until a “Pitcher Only” sub is available. If a “Pitcher Only” sub becomes available, the team manager has the one time option of (a) selecting the “Pitcher Only” sub who will pitch the remainder of the game (the previously selected “non Pitcher sub will leave the game) or (b) not selecting the “Pitcher Only” sub

and therefore keep the “non Pitcher” sub ~~(or his roster player) as his pitcher.~~ In all cases, the sub will bat last in the lineup.

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~~ he may 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.

5. 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 of alcohol 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.**

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

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.

Note 1: In the event a team is not scheduled to play or his game has been cancelled on any regular season game day (and does not have Announcing duty) roster payers on that team will be classified as P2's for subbing purposes.

Note 2: A player who ~~indicated “Pitcher” as one of his two position choices on his application form and/or has been evaluated by one or more~~ is a Board Members, Certified pitcher may sign up to sub as “Pitcher Only”. If he is chosen to sub as a Pitcher, he MUST pitch the entire game unless he is removed due to an injury or ejection, or must leave due to an emergency. He CANNOT play any other position during that game.

Note 3: Substitute players refusing to play on a team or refusing to play where their manager assigns them with the exception of "Pitcher", will be barred from substituting for ~~a team (not their own team) for~~ the remainder of that season.

7. 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.

~~a. Draw a pill for each team that needs subs. Sub assignments start in the dugout of the team with the lowest number.~~

a. Subs will be assigned in order of playing fields beginning with field 1 visitors and will continue sequentially through the fields (i.e. field 1 home, field 2 visitors, field 2 home, etc.)

b. Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at that same level and priority.

c. Allocate "A" subs in pill draw order to open "A" roster spots in the above dugout order for P2, P3 and P4 subs in that order ( A for A ).

~~P4 subs in that order ( A for A )~~

d. Allocate "B" subs to any remaining open "A" roster spots in the same order ( B for A ). If a B player is required to sub for an A player, the manager may choose the B player he wishes from the list of B subs prior to drawing pills for B subs.

e. Allocate remaining "B" subs to remaining "B" roster spots in the same order ( B for B ).

f. Allocate "C" subs to any remaining open "B" roster spots in the same order ( C for B ). If a C player is required to sub for an B player, the manager may choose the C player he wishes from the list of C subs prior to drawing pills for C subs.

g. Allocate remaining "C" subs to remaining "C" roster spots in the same order. ( C for C )

h. All teams will play with ~~12~~11 players, unless there are not enough subs available.

~~If a team is still missing an "A", "B" or "C" player, that team will play with 11 players.~~

9. Prior to the start of the season, each manager will designate one (1) player as their pitcher for the season. If during the season the designated pitcher is not present at a game, 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. (both roster pitchers and sub pitchers). If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. 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~~refer to paragraph D.3. above for options regarding obtaining substitutes. If more than one team needs a pitcher, the assignments will be made by a random drawing of numbered pills. Only board evaluated pitchers may participate in this drawing.~~

10. If a player becomes ill or injured, is ejected, or must leave due to an emergency, ( not a scheduled appointment), a substitute will be chosen from the injury substitute list. Once the manager of the team needing the substitute notifies the Home Plate Umpire that a substitute is needed, it becomes official and the next player of same level from the injury substitute list is in the lineup. If there are no subs on the injury list, the Board member in charge will make an announcement asking for a sub of the same ranking as the injured player. If this injury substitute is picked to play the following game, he will do so under the guidelines listed below (see paragraph 13). If no one on the substitute list is available, a substitute will be chosen from players available. If a sub is injured, ill or ejected or must leave due to an emergency, he will be replaced by a player with the same rating as the player he was subbing for. The substitute player inherits the runner stats ~~and the rotation stats~~ for the player he is subbing for. The substitution will be made by the on-duty Board member.

12. No substitute will be allowed for a player who leaves the game for reasons other than an emergency, (not a scheduled appointment), injury or ejection. When that player's turn to bat comes up, the team will be charged with an out.

13. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 7. 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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense the manager shall be removed from managing in D-3.~~

~~An exception 14. would be in the case of a shortage of needed substitute pitchers. Managers~~ If adequate subs are available for all missing players, they will be assigned by priority of teams as per Paragraph 7, above.

15. If there are not adequate subs available, subs will be assigned as needed to bring all teams to a minimum of 10 players. In the case where a team is required to play with 10 players due to inadequate amount of subs available, the opposing team will provide a catcher for the shorted team. We would hope that in this case the supplying manager and player would have the integrity to give his best effort of play for the opposing team.

~~16. may approach Board certified pitchers of the same or lesser rating as the pitcher they are replacing to sign up as pitching substitutes only. (both roster pitchers and sub pitchers). If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. 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.~~

~~14.~~ During the division tournament, substitution procedures will be on a skill level basis. Players chosen first the same as substitutes will be roster players during the current regular 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.

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 of their ranking.

Rankings to be used are from the beginning of the current season for, except nonplaying roster players and the replacement list. Players ranked as 'A players' will only be substituted for 'A players'. When both teams playing need more than one player at the same evaluated level, the placement of players will be on an alternating basis beginning with the team that has the lowest pill

If a manager has between 8, 9, 10, or 11 players, he must obtain only that number of subs required to bring his team total to twelve (12) and the subs must be equal to the skill level of his missing roster players. Exception: if a manager has 10 players and one of his missing players is his designated Pitcher, he may obtain 2 subs (one Pitcher only sub of the same rating as his pitcher and one non-pitcher sub of the same rating). If a manager has 8 or 9 players and is missing his designated Pitcher, one of his subs can be a Pitcher only sub.

If a manager has 11 players, he will obtain a 12th player equal to the skill level as his missing roster player.

If possible, all tournament teams will compete with 12 players unless circumstances say otherwise.

#### Examples:

- ~~1. If there are a lack of subs for each team and one team needs a "C" sub but there are none, then that team will play with only 11 players even if the opposing team has 12 players. The team with 12 players will then use a rotation.~~
- ~~2. If there are 2 teams on the same field that need a "C" sub to fill out their teams, but there is only 1 "C" sub signed up, then neither team will get a sub and the teams will play with 11 players. This would also apply if the two teams needed like ranked players.~~  
~~Ex. B for B, A for A.~~
- ~~3. If one team needs an A and the opposing team needs a B player and there is only a B player signed up, then the team that needed a B will get the B player. The opposing team will play with the 11 players they have not getting a player of the same ranking.~~

~~Note: Players who have not subbed on any given day will have priority over those who have subbed~~sub only players.

#### E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

3. When a team needs a player to replace one that can no longer play prior to the start of the season ending tournament, the Manager will contact the Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players and state his requirement(s).

~~All replacement player ratings (A / B / C) will be handled in the same manner. When a team needs a replacement player (for example a B-rated player), the manager will be provided the entire waiting list of B replacement players. The manager will select a player from this list. If only one player is on the list, that player will automatically be placed on the team requesting the replacement player.~~

~~When multiple teams are requesting a replacement player and one becomes available, the team first requesting a player may select the player. If the player is not selected by this team, the player will next be offered to the next team requesting a player. This process will continue until a team has selected the player. If no team selects the player, the player will be placed on the first team requesting a replacement player.~~

For skill categories A and B (excluding Pitchers) the player(s) who has been on the Replacement List the longest (by date) will be offered to, and MUST be accepted by, the Manager. Note: if no replacement player is available and the original player returns and can play, he may rejoin his team until a replacement player is available. When the replacement player is available, the original player is removed from the team immediately and put on the sub list but not put on the replacement list, and the replacement player is added to the roster. The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List.

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.

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.

7. When a replacement player has been assigned to a team, the name of the replacement player will be provided to all board members and managers by e-mail in a timely manner. NOTE\*\* 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, 4<sup>th</sup> game out.

### III GAME RULES

2. A runner advancing to HOME will be called out if he touches or crosses over any portion of the batting platform.

#### 11. Runner Rule:

Players (including subs) will no longer have to declare that they need a runner before the gamegm starts. Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having the right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner.

A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning. ~~A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base. may not run for a player~~

~~If the courtesy he was replaced with a runner touches the base or the courtesy runner on base has exceeded his limit to run and the opposing manager appeals to the umpire prior to the completion of the current batter, that courtesy runner will be declared out. If this is the third out, the current batter will lead off the following earlier in the~~ inning.

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is not the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. If it is the last out, he will be the lead off batter the next inning.

~~If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning.~~ A runner cannot be replaced once he has taken possession of the base (unless for an injury to which the runner must leave the game.).

~~A courtesy runner may not receive a courtesy runner, except for injury. The injured courtesy runner may remain in the game and must take a courtesy runner for the remainder of the 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.~~

~~If the injured courtesy runner is a sub, he must come out of the game immediately. The injured sub would then be replaced by the next player on the sub list.~~

~~If a batter gets on base and is replaced with a courtesy runner, that batter may not be a courtesy runner later in that same inning.~~

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

#### IV. DEFINITIONS:

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. In this case the batter is ruled out on the Infield Fly and all runners that reached another base without being put out are safe. (runners may advance at their own risk).

#### 15. RUNNER HIT BY BATTED BALL:

1) If the runner is hit by a fair batted ball while on the base and before it passes the nearest infielder (excluding the pitcher) it is a dead ball and the batter-runner is awarded first base without liability to be put out and all runners advance one base only if forced.

2) If the runner is hit with a fair batted ball while on the base after it passes the nearest infielder (excluding the pitcher) it is a live ball. (this part would only happen if the infield was playing way in to try to stop a run from 3rd base)

3) If a runner is hit by a fair batted ball while off the base and before it passes an infielder (excluding the pitcher), the ball is dead and the hit runner is declared OUT. The batter-runner is awarded first base without liability to be put out and all runners advance one base only if forced.

4) If the runner is hit by a fair batted ball while off the base and after it passes an infielder (excluding the pitcher) it is a live ball. (this would be if a runner was running behind an infielder who misses or boots the ball) NO OUT.

**Exception: A fair batted ball that deflects off a pitcher's glove, equipment, or body and then strikes a base runner, is a live ball and the base runner is NOT out due to the deflection.**



# Changes for 2023 Winter season

## II. PLAYERS

### E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

3. When a team needs a player to replace one that can no longer play prior to the start of the season ending tournament, the Manager will contact the Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players and state his requirement(s). ~~For skill categories A and B (excluding Pitchers) the player(s) who has been on the Replacement List the longest (by date) will be offered to, and MUST be accepted by, the Manager. All replacement player ratings (A / B / C) will be handled in the same manner. When a team needs a replacement player (for example a B rated player), the manager will be provided the entire waiting list of B replacement players. The manager will select a player from this list. If only one player is on the list, that player will automatically be placed on the team requesting the replacement player.~~

When multiple teams are requesting a replacement player and one becomes available, the team first requesting a player may select the player. If the player is not selected by this team, the player will next be offered to the next team requesting a player. This process will continue until a team has selected the player. If no team selects the player, the player will be placed on the first team requesting a replacement player.

Note: if no replacement player is available and the original player returns and can play, he may rejoin his team until a replacement player is available. When the replacement player is available, the original player is removed from the team immediately and put on the sub list but not put on the replacement list, and the replacement player is added to the roster. The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List.

~~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.~~

~~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

### 11. Runner Rule:

Players (including subs) will no longer have to declare that they need a runner before the game starts. Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having the right to refuse

a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner. A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning. A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base. If the courtesy runner touches the base or the courtesy runner on base has exceeded his limit to run and the opposing manager appeals to the umpire prior to the completion of the current batter, that courtesy runner will be declared out. If this is the third out, the current batter will lead off the following inning.

~~—A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning.~~

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is not the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. ~~If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning.~~

If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning. A runner cannot be replaced once he has taken possession of the base (unless for an injury to which the runner must leave the game.).

A courtesy runner may not receive a courtesy runner, except for injury. The injured courtesy runner may remain in the game and must take a courtesy runner for the remainder of the 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.

If the injured courtesy runner is a sub, he must come out of the game immediately. The injured sub would then be replaced by the next player on the sub list.

If a batter gets on base and is replaced with a courtesy runner, that batter may not be a courtesy runner later in that same inning.

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

# Changes for 2022 Fall season - Updated

## II. PLAYERS

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

1. Substitute players will be selected to play when teams have between ~~seven~~eight (8) and ~~ten~~eleven (11) roster players. A team having only seven (7) players will forfeit. No catcher or other defensive player will be supplied by the opposing team.

## III GAME RULES

1. Double Bag rule - BATTER-RUNNER REACHING FIRST BASE. Each batter must reach first base without the aid of a courtesy runner. A double bag shall be used at first base, the double portion of the bag being in foul territory abutting first base. If there is a "Legitimate and Realistic" play on a batter-runner going to first base, the batter-runner must touch only the Orange Bag extending into foul territory- (This is completely umpire judgement). His touch of the White Bag or BOTH Bags will result in being called out, except in the umpire's judgment, the batter-runner is avoiding a collision. This is NOT an appeal play. Important: The defending player has only the white base, in fair territory, to make the putout; his touch of only the bag in foul territory, or both bags simultaneously (umpire judgment), during the put-out at first base, will not result in an out. After making the put-out at first base, any subsequent touch of the Orange bag by the defensive player will NOT result in the batter-runner being called safe. After the batter-runner becomes a base runner, the defensive player may use either portion of the double base to record a put out. The base runner is allowed to utilize either the white bag OR the orange bag, or both, while on 1st base. The practical effect is that the two bases are 'merged' for both offensive and defensive purposes once the batter runner becomes solely a base runner.

# Changes for 2022 Fall season - Updated

## II. PLAYERS

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

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

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.

Note 1: In the event a team is not scheduled to play or his game has been cancelled on any regular season game day (and does not have Announcing duty) roster players on that team will be classified as P2's for subbing purposes.

Note 2: A player who indicated "Pitcher" as one of his two position choices on his application form and/or has been evaluated by one or more Board Members, may sign up to sub as "Pitcher Only". If he is chosen to sub as a Pitcher, he MUST pitch the entire game unless he is removed due to an injury or ejection, or must leave due to an emergency. He CANNOT play any other position during that game.

Note 3: Substitute players refusing to play on a team or refusing to play where their manager assigns them with the exception of "Pitcher", will be barred from substituting for a team (not their own team) for the remainder of that season.

10. If a player becomes ill or injured, is ejected, or must leave due to an emergency, a substitute will be chosen from the injury substitute list. Once the manager of the team needing the substitute notifies the Home Plate Umpire that a substitute is needed, it becomes official and the next player of same level from the injury substitute list is in the lineup. If there are no subs on the injury list, the Board member in charge will make an announcement asking for a sub of the same ranking as the injured player. If this injury substitute is picked to play the following game, he will do so under the guidelines listed below (see paragraph 13). If no one on the substitute list is available, a substitute will be chosen from players available. If a sub is injured, ill or ejected or must leave due to an emergency, he will be replaced by a player with the same rating as the player he was subbing for. The substitute player inherits the runner stats and the rotation stats for the player he is subbing for. The substitution will be made by the on-duty Board member.

13. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 7. 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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense 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. (both roster pitchers and sub pitchers). If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. This is done on a game by game basis. ~~Recruited pitchers are exempt from the runner rule. If they normally get a runner they will be able to get one in the game they are subbing in.~~ 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.

# Changes for 2022 Fall season

## II. PLAYERS

### C. LINEUPS:

1. Each team shall field a minimum of ~~ten (10) players. A team with more than eleven (11) players will have one extra player.~~ twelve (12) players. No one may volunteer to be the extra player as all players must rotate on the field. No player will sit out more than one inning. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in a forfeit of the game. The game's pitcher is excluded from rotation.

4. A team with fewer than ~~seven (7)~~ eight (8) players will not be allowed to select substitutes and MUST forfeit the game. If a team has ~~seven (7)~~ eight (8) roster players present, the manager may receive a maximum of ~~three (3)~~ four (4) substitutes, and then play with ~~ten (10)~~ twelve (12) players. No more than ~~three (3)~~ four (4) substitutes will be allowed on any team for any game, seasonal or playoffs. Players should not start a game if they know they will not be able to complete it. Unless there has been an injury, an ejection or an emergency, a team losing a player will be charged with an out when it is the missing player's turn to bat. Decisions regarding the batting order and defensive assignments are the exclusive responsibility of team managers. If a lineup has 12 players, no substitute will be chosen if one player (with exception of the designated Pitcher) leaves for any reason.

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

~~2. —1.~~ Substitute players will be selected to play when teams have between seven (~~7~~) 8 and ten (~~10~~) 11 roster players. A team having only seven (7) players ~~can only select a maximum of three (3) subs and will play with 10 players.~~ forfeit. No catcher or other defensive player will be supplied by the opposing team. ~~A team having eleven (11) players cannot select a sub.~~

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.)~~

6. 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 and has subbed in less than 3 games. \*\*see note 3 below\*\* (6-8-22)~~

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.

Note 1: In the event a team is not scheduled to play or his game has been cancelled on any regular season game day (and does not have Announcing duty) roster payers on that team will be classified as P2's for subbing purposes.

Note 2: A player who indicated “Pitcher” as one of his two position choices on his application form and/or has been evaluated by one or more Board Members, may sign up to sub as “Pitcher Only”. If he is chosen to sub as a Pitcher, he MUST pitch the entire game unless he is removed due to an injury or ejection, or must leave due to an emergency. He CANNOT play any other position during that game.

~~Note 3: A P-1 sub after 3 games played will be reclassified as a P-2. Also, the sub will be rated on his ability by the manager whose team he is playing for and the opposing manager as well. He will then either remain a “C” player or be moved up to a higher rating by the Board’s determination. (6-8-22)~~

7.- 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. P-1s can only sub for B and C players. (6-8-22)~~

a. Draw a pill for each team that needs subs. -Sub ~~assignment starts~~assignments start in the dugout of the team with the

4. lowest number.

5. b. Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at ~~the~~that same level and priority.

~~A. c. Allocate P1 “A” 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 roster spots until all open roster spots are filled or there are no remaining P1 subs.~~

~~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).~~

d. Allocate “B” subs to any remaining open “A” roster spots in the same order as 4 (~~B~~ (B for A))

7. e. ~~Allocate remaining “B” subs to remaining “B” roster spots in the same order (B for A).~~B )

8. f. ~~Allocate “C” subs to any remaining open A “B” roster spots in the same order as 4 ((C for A).~~B )

~~B. g. Allocate remaining B “C” subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 4 (B for B).~~

9. ~~Allocate remaining subs to remaining B “C” roster spots in the same order as 4 (A, (C for B).~~C )

~~C. Allocate C subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 4 (C for C).~~

~~D. Allocate remaining B subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 4 (B for C)~~

~~11. Allocate any remaining subs to any open roster spots in the same order as 4 (A for C).~~

h. All teams will play with 12 players, unless there are not enough subs available.

If a team is still missing an “A”, “B” or “C” player, that team will play with 11 players.

i. No “A” player will replace a “B” or “C

j. No “B” player will replace a “C”

k. No “C” player will replace an “A”.

10. If a player becomes ill or injured, is ejected, or must leave due to an emergency, a substitute will be chosen from the injury substitute list. Once the manager of the team needing the substitute notifies the Home Plate



Umpire that a substitute is needed, it becomes official and the next player of same level from the injury substitute list is in the lineup. If there are no subs on the injury list, the Board member in charge will make an announcement asking for a sub of the same ranking as the injured player. If this injury substitute is picked to play the following game, he will do so under the guidelines listed below (see paragraph ~~15~~13). If no one on the substitute list is available, a substitute will be chosen from players available. If a ~~P-1~~ sub is injured, ill or ejected or must leave due to an emergency, he will be replaced by a player with the same rating as the player he was subbing for. Example: P-1 sub in for a B player has to leave the game, a B injury sub will replace him. The substitution will be made by the on-duty Board member. ~~(6-8-22)~~

13. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 97. above), an announcement will be made over the PA soliciting additional substitutes ~~to fill the same level of the injured or missing player. If a player of the same level is not found, the Board member will go up or down one level first then another level after that until the position is filled. (Ex. If a C player is needed then the board would go C first then B then A to get a sub. If an A player was needed it would be the opposite.)~~

14. 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.

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 of their ranking.

Rankings to be used are from the beginning of the current season ~~(unless P-1 'C' players have been reevaluated)~~ for roster players and the replacement list. Players ranked as 'A players' will only be substituted for 'A players'. When both teams playing need more than one player at the same evaluated level, the placement of players will be on an alternating basis beginning with the Visiting team. P1s will be C sub only players. team that has the lowest pill

~~During the tournament, if a manager has only seven (7) players, he may only obtain a maximum of 3 subs equal rank of any three of his missing roster players (He MUST play with ten (10) total players). If a manager has 8 players he may only obtain the max 3 sub players to bring his team to 11 total.~~

~~If a manager has between~~

If a manager has between 8, 9, 10, or 11 players, he must obtain only that number of subs required to bring his team total to twelve (12) and the subs must be equal to the skill level of his missing roster players. Exception: if a manager has 10 players and one of his missing players is his designated Pitcher, he may obtain 2 subs (one Pitcher-only sub of the same rating as his pitcher and one non-pitcher sub of the same rating). If a manager has 8 or 9 players and is missing his designated Pitcher, one of his subs can be a Pitcher-only sub.

#### E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

3. When a team needs a player to replace one that can no longer play prior to the start of the season ending tournament, the Manager will contact the Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players and state his requirement(s). For skill categories A and B (excluding Pitchers) the player(s) who has been on the Replacement List the longest (by date) will be offered to, and MUST be accepted by, the Manager. Note: if no replacement player is available and the original player returns and can play, he may rejoin his team until a replacement player is available. When the replacement player is available, the original player is removed from the team immediately and put on the sub list but not put on the replacement list, and the replacement player is added to the roster. The Board Member in Charge of Replacement Players will NOT answer any questions from Managers. Managers MUST refrain from asking players to add their names to the Replacement List.

### III GAME RULES

## 11. Runner Rule:

\_\_\_\_\_ Players (including subs) will no longer have to declare that they need a runner before the gm starts. Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having the right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner.

\_\_\_\_\_ A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning.

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is not the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning. A runner cannot be replaced once he has taken possession of the base (unless for an injury to which the runner must leave the game.).

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

# Changes for 2022 Summer season – Updated

## II. PLAYERS

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

1. Substitute players will be selected to play when teams have between seven (7) and ten (10) roster players. A team having only seven (7) players can only select a maximum of three (3) subs- and will play with 10 players. No catcher or other defensive player will be supplied by the opposing team. A team having eleven (11) players cannot select a sub.

7. 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 and has subbed in at least 4 less than 3 games ~~or less if re-rated.~~  
. \*\*see note 3 below\*\* (6-8-22)

Note 3: A P-1 sub after 43 games played ~~or less~~ will be reclassified as a P-2. Also, the sub will be rated on his ability by the manager whose team he is playing for and the opposing manager as well. He will then either remain a "C" player or be moved up to a higher rating- by the Board's determination. (6-8-22)

8. 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. P-1s can only sub for B and C players. (6-8-22)

1. Draw a pill for each team that needs subs. Sub assignment starts in the dugout of the team with the lowest number.
2. Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at the same level and priority.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. Allocate B subs to any remaining open A roster spots in the same order as 4 (B for A).
6. Allocate C subs to any remaining open A roster spots in the same order as 4 (C for A).
7. Allocate remaining B subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 4 (B for B).
8. Allocate remaining subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 4 (A, C for B).
9. Allocate C subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 4 (C for C).
10. Allocate remaining B subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 4 (B for C)
11. Allocate any remaining subs to any open roster spots in the same order as 4 (A for C).

11. If a player becomes ill or injured, is ejected, or must leave due to an emergency, a substitute will be chosen from the injury substitute list. Once the manager of the team needing the substitute notifies the Home Plate Umpire that a substitute is needed, it becomes official and the next player from the injury substitute list is in the lineup. If this injury substitute is picked to play the following game, he will do so under the guidelines listed below (see paragraph 15). If no one on the substitute list is available, a substitute will be chosen from players available. The substitute If a P-1 sub is injured, ill or ejected or must leave due to an emergency, he will be replaced by a player inherits with the courtesy running stats from the replaced same rating as the player. If the replaced he was subbing for. Example: P-1 sub in for a B player required a courtesy runner, this will have no

~~effect on the substitute player as the substitute player can be utilized as a courtesy runner.~~has to leave the game,  
a B injury sub will replace him. The substitution will be made by the on-duty Board member. (6-8-22)

# Changes for 2022 Summer season – Updated

## III GAME RULES

### 11. Runner Rule:

Players (including subs) will no longer have to declare that they need a runner before the gm starts. Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having the right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner.

A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning.

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is not the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning.

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

~~Pitchers who wear protective equipment (more than a mask) will be required to get a courtesy runner when on base with 2 outs. This will be a “no charge” runner. The pitcher must go directly to his dugout and start putting his equipment on.~~

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

## IV. DEFINITIONS:

### 14. BATTING POSITION

A. The batter must have at least some portion of both feet on or inside of the batter's box at the start of the pitch. A batter who steps out of the batter's box or steps on the strike mat at any time during the pitch and then hits the ball, fair or foul, shall be called out. Steps out means touching the ground completely outside of the batter's box. The batter's box is the entire platform for the enforcement of this rule. Off the platform is “out of the box”. The batter's box will use the inner lines. If you step completely over them and hit the ball, you are out.

# Changes for 2022 Summer season

## D. SUBSTITUTES:

9. 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.~~

15. 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.

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 of their ranking.

Rankings to be used are from the beginning of the current season (unless P-1 'C' players have been reevaluated) for roster players and the replacement list. Players ranked as 'A players' will only be substituted for 'A players'. When both teams playing need more than one player at the same evaluated level, the placement of players will be on an alternating basis beginning with the Visiting team. P1s will be C sub only players.

During the tournament, if a manager has only seven (7) players, he may only obtain a maximum of 3 subs equal rank of any three of his missing roster players (He MUST play with ten (10) total players). If a manager has 8 players he may only obtain the max 3 sub players to bring his team to 11 total.

## III GAME RULES

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

~~e) 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:~~

~~(d) 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.~~

~~(d) 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.~~

~~(e) 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.~~

~~(f) 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.~~

~~If the managers do not agree to allow a courtesy runner, the injured player will be immediately replaced by the next available substitute on the sub list. All players are required to run to first base, including batters that are walked and batters who need a courtesy runner.~~

~~(g) 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.~~



~~If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn at bat, he will be out on the base and bat in his normal place if he is not the third out. If he is the third out, he will bat in the lead-off position the following inning. An exception to this rule is that if the courtesy runner is the “last available” runner on the roster, and he is on base, and it is his turn to bat, he is NOT out. The manager may replace him with a legal substitute and he may bat. Managers may be required to produce their line-up cards showing that their substitute runners were utilized correctly. Announcers will mark the appropriate box on the score sheet (next to a player’s name) when a player is used as a courtesy runner.~~

~~(h) A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base. If the wrong courtesy runner touches the base and the opposing manager appeals to the umpire prior to the next legal pitch the runner is out.~~

~~(i) A courtesy runner may not receive a courtesy runner, except for injury. That injured courtesy runner may remain in the game and must take a courtesy runner for the remainder of the 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. If the injured courtesy runner is a sub, he must come out of the game immediately. The injured sub would then be replaced by the next player on the injured sub list.~~

~~(j) 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 a courtesy runner has already run that inning he may not run for a pitcher after two outs and utilizing protective equipment. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Base with two (2) outs. If the Pitcher was on any base other than 1<sup>st</sup> 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.~~

#### A. (12) Runner Rule:

Players (including subs) will no longer have to declare that they need a runner before the gm starts. Any player can get a runner at any time and at any base with that runner having the right to refuse a runner when his manager wants to send in a courtesy runner.

A player can be a courtesy runner twice a game and once an inning.

If a courtesy runner is on base when it is his turn to bat, he will be called out on that base and if it is not the last out, he will then have his turn at bat. If it is the last out, he will be the leadoff batter the next inning.

If all players have been used as a courtesy runner, then no courtesy runner will be allowed and all players will have to run for themselves.

Pitchers who wear protective equipment ( more than a mask)will be required to get a courtesy runner when on base with 2 outs. This will be a “no charge” runner. The pitcher must go directly to his dugout and start putting his equipment on.

When in extra innings and the international runner rule is in effect, the batter who made the last out in the previous inning must start at 2<sup>nd</sup> base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

12. Infield warm-ups are allowed while the pitcher is warming up. Once the umpire calls “ball in” all warm-ups must stop.

15. When the score is tied after seven innings, teams start each inning with a runner on second base. That base runner is the last player at bat from the previous inning, ~~not requiring a courtesy runner.~~

#### IV. DEFINITIONS:

6. ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL: Conform to SSUSA rule. An illegally batted ball occurs when the batter hits the ball fair or foul and:

A. The entire foot is completely outside the lines of the batter's box and on the ground.

B. Any part of the foot is touching the strike zone mat.

C. An illegal or altered bat is used.

11. EJECTION: The result of an incident requiring the removal of a player from the game by the umpire. The incident will require the player or coach to leave that field and the grounds for bleacher fence surrounding that field but the remainder of the game. ~~Any ejected player discovered participating constitutes a forfeit. An ejection will result in the player being automatically suspended for the next game in Division 3 and will be subject to further review by the Division Board and/or the Recreation Department.~~ may stay inside the complex at other fields.

Any ejected player discovered participating constitutes a forfeit and will be subject to further review by the Recreation Department.

#### 14. BATTING POSITION

A. The batter must have at least some portion of both feet on or inside of the batter's box at the start of the pitch. A batter who steps out of the batter's box or steps on the strike mat at any time during the pitch and then hits the ball, fair or foul, shall be called out. Steps out means touching the ground completely outside of the batter's box. The batter's box is the entire platform for the enforcement of this rule. Off the platform is “out of the box”.

B. The batter must take his position within ten seconds after being directed by the umpire. EFFECT: The umpire will call a strike. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead.

C. The batter shall not step directly in front of the catcher to the other batter's box while the pitcher is in position to pitch. EFFECT: The ball is dead, the batter is out and the runners may not advance.

# Changes for 2022 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")

## II. PLAYERS

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

4. New players who indicate that they are Pitchers in D-3 must be evaluated by the Board. If pitchers are coming from a higher division or cross division that are certified in their division they will be added to the Certification list for R3. Pitchers coming from R4 will be evaluated.

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

5. Players who have not subbed on any given day will have priority over those who have subbed or will play as a roster player.

7. 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 and has subbed in at least 4 games or less if re-rated.

\*\*see note 3 below\*\*

Note 3: A P-1 sub after 4 games played or less will be reclassified as a P-2. Also, the sub will be rated on his ability by the manager whose team he is playing for and the opposing manager as well. He will then either remain a "C" player or be moved up to a higher rating.

15. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 9. above), an announcement will be made over the PA soliciting additional substitutes to fill the same level of the injured or missing player. If a player of the same level is not found, the Board member will go up or down one level first then another level after that until the position is filled. (Ex. If a C player is needed then the board would go C first then B then A to get a sub. If an A player was needed it would be the opposite.)

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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next

season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense the manager shall be removed from managing in D-3.

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 of their ranking.

Rankings to be used are from the beginning of the current season (unless P-1 'C' players have been reevaluated) for roster players and the replacement list. ~~If no 'C', then 'B' will be used.~~ Players ranked as 'A players' will only be substituted for 'A players'. When both teams playing need more than one player at the same evaluated level, the placement of players will be on an alternating basis beginning with the Visiting team.

During the tournament, if a manager has only seven (7) players, he may only obtain a maximum of 3 subs equal rank of any three of his missing roster players (He MUST play with ten (10) total players). If a manager has 8 players he may only obtain the max 3 sub players to bring his team to 11 total.

If a manager has between 9, 10, or 11 players, he must obtain only that number of subs required to bring his team total to ~~eleven (11)~~ twelve (12) and the subs must be equal to ~~(or lower than)~~ the skill level of his missing roster players. Exception: if a manager has 10 players and one of his missing players is his designated Pitcher, he may obtain 2 subs (one Pitcher-only sub of the same rating as his pitcher and one non-pitcher sub of the same rating). If a manager has 8 or 9 players and is missing his designated Pitcher, one of his subs can be a Pitcher-only sub.

If a manager has 11 players, he ~~has the option of obtaining~~ will obtain a 12th player equal to ~~(or lower than)~~ the skill level as his missing roster player.

If possible, all tournament teams will compete with 12 players unless circumstances say otherwise.

#### Examples:

1. If there are a lack of subs for each team and one team needs a "C" sub but there are none, then that team will play with only 11 players even if the opposing team has 12 players. The team with 12 players will then use a rotation.
2. If there are 2 teams on the same field that need a "C" sub to fill out their teams, but there is only 1 "C" sub signed up, then neither team will get a sub and the teams will play with 11 players. This would also apply if the two teams needed like ranked players.  
Ex. B for B, A for A.
3. If one team needs an A and the opposing team needs a B player and there is only a B player signed up, then the team that needed a B will get the B player. The opposing team will play with the 11 players they have not getting a player of the same ranking.

Note: Players who have not subbed on any given day will have priority over those who have subbed.

# Changes for 2021 Fall season

Participants are reminded that softball is only a game to be enjoyed. Exercise, fellowship, and friendly competition are our goals. Negative comments about fellow players, opponents or umpires are not in keeping with the spirit of the sport. Disagreements between managers and players should be expressed with respect and consideration by both parties, preferably in private. No one should be disparaged or criticized in front of teammates and/or spectators.

If the Manager deems it necessary to remove a player from the field, after warning him about his behavior (language or actions), he shall tell the Umpire of his intentions and ask for a replacement player if the team only has 11 players to start with. If the player was at bat when this occurred the replacement player would inherit the players count at the plate. The Manager would file an incident report at the board table immediately following his game. The use of vulgar language does not require or deserve a warning. The removal of a player will follow the same rules as ejection. (Definitions #11)

## II. PLAYERS

### B. DRAFT:

2. Players when signing up for the draft will put down their preferred position on the draft form. They will put down what position they want to play but cannot put down "Any, IF or Rover". Players refusing to play on a team or players refusing to play where their manager assigns them, with the exception of "Pitcher", will be barred from playing or substituting for the remainder of that season. If such an event occurs after the fourteenth (14th) game of the season, they will be barred from playing or substituting for the remainder of that season plus the amount of games of the next season in which they wish to play to equal 14 games. Players returning to the league in mid season under these circumstances shall be placed at the end of the Replacement Player List. Players signing up and NOT designating the position of "Pitcher" as one of their choices may not be named the designated pitcher. Players may also refuse to play the position of "Pitcher" for their current team manager without consequence. Players refusing to pitch for their team will not be permitted to pitch for any other team for the remainder of that season.

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

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 and has subbed in less than 4 games.

\*\*see note 3 below\*\*

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.

Note 1: In the event a team is not scheduled to play or his game has been cancelled on any regular season game day (and does not have Announcing duty) roster payers on that team will be classified as P2's for subbing purposes.

Note 2: A player who indicated “Pitcher” as one of his two position choices on his application form and/or has been evaluated by one or more Board Members, may sign up to sub as “Pitcher Only”. If he is chosen to sub as a Pitcher, he MUST pitch the entire game unless he is removed due to an injury or ejection, or must leave due to an emergency. He CANNOT play any other position during that game.

Note 3: A P-1 sub after 4 games played will be reclassified as a P-2. Also, the sub will be rated on his ability by the manager whose team he is playing for and the opposing manager as well. He will then either remain a “C” player or be moved up to a higher rating.

15. If there are not enough available substitutes (see paragraph 9. above), an announcement will be made over the PA soliciting additional substitutes to fill the same level of the injured or missing player. If a player of the same level is not found, the Board member will go up or down one level first then another level after that until the position is filled. (Ex. If a C player is needed then the board would go C first then B then A to get a sub. If an A player was needed it would be the opposite.)

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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense 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. (both roster pitchers and sub pitchers). If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. This is done on a game by game basis. Recruited pitchers are exempt from the runner rule. If they normally get a runner they will be able to get one in the game they are subbing in. 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.

# Changes for 2021 Summer season

## II. PLAYERS

### D. SUBSTITUTES:

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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense 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. (both roster pitchers and sub pitchers). If a manager has contacted all roster pitchers and sub pitchers and had no success recruiting a pitcher at the same rating, he must contact the Board member in charge of pitcher recruitment. The Board member will then allow him to go up one level in rating to secure a pitcher. This is done on a game by game basis. Recruited pitchers are exempt from the runner rule. If they normally get a runner they will be able to get one in the game they are subbing in. 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.



# 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.

~~E.B.~~ Draw a pill for each team that needs subs. Sub assignment starts in the dugout of the team with the lowest number.

~~F.C.~~ Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at the same level and priority.

~~G.D.~~ 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.

~~H.E.~~ 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).

~~I.F.~~ Allocate B subs to any remaining open A roster spots in the same order as 3 (B for A).

~~J.G.~~ Allocate C subs to any remaining open A roster spots in the same order as 3 (C for A).

~~K.H.~~ Allocate remaining B subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 3 (B for B).

~~L.I.~~ Allocate remaining subs to remaining B roster spots in the same order as 3 (A, C for B).

~~M.J.~~ Allocate C subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 3 (C for C).

~~N.K.~~ Allocate remaining B subs to remaining open C roster spots in the same order as 3 (B for C)

~~O.L.~~ 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.

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 offense, suspended for the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from managing the remainder of that season and all of the next season (if he is appointed manager again). And if there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense 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. Recruited pitchers are exempt from the runner rule. If they normally get a runner they will be able to get one in the game they are subbing in. 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.

### 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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