

Changes for 2026 Summer season

I. EQUIPMENT

Only the following are allowed:

- Rubber spikes or sneakers;
- Regulation-sized gloves; Any player may wear gloves or mitts. ~~and~~
- Bats that have been approved by Senior Softball-USA-
 - Bat weights will be allowed for warming up but cannot be stored in the field of play.
 - Bat warmers will be allowed to keep bats warm during cold weather.
- Team shirts and hats that build team spirit, unity, and fun are encouraged.
- 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.

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".

III GAME RULES

11. Runner Rule:

~~1.a.~~ Any player 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)**

b. —A courtesy runner will not be considered a runner until that player touches the base that they were requested to go to by the manager and has been documented by the umpires. A courtesy runner touching any other base for any reason, while in route to the assigned base will be considered inconsequential.

c. —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 manager 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 it is the 3rd 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. (SSUSA Rule 8.5 (5) "An illegal runner on base is committing a continuing violation and may be called out upon appeal at any time while on base or, if he scores, prior to the first pitch to the next batter.")

d. 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.).

- e. 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.
- f. 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 2nd base and advance one base before a courtesy runner can be put in for that player.

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.~~ (Exception, a home team trailing by ~~21~~20 or more runs after 4 1/2 innings but prior to the 7th inning may score enough runs to get within the "Mercy Rule" of less than 15 runs.) ~~(3-30-24).~~ (Example. Home team trailing 25-2 after 4 1/2 innings, making them down by 23 runs, they would be allowed score 9 runs to make the score 25-11 to get inside the mercy rule.)

IV. DEFINITIONS:

5. PITCHING SCREEN: The following rules apply:

- a. Pitchers must use the competition type protective screen (Smaller 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, then, the larger practice screen would suffice.
- b. The screen will directly face home plate no more than 4 feet in front of the pitching rubber, from the halfway point to the outer edge of the pitching rubber 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.
- c. The first batted ball of a hitters at bat 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. Any subsequent batted balls hitting the screen during that at bat will be called a strike with the batter being called out if it is the third strike. 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. A pitcher 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. An "Illegal Pitch"(Ball) will also apply to a pitcher that does not pause behind the screen and in a continuous motion after delivering a pitch proceeds past the opposite side of the pitching side of the screen or goes straight backwards before stepping behind the screen.
- f.g. A pitcher will be allowed to field any batted ball as long as he has stepped behind the screen after releasing the pitch as noted in "e" and "f" above. (umpire judgment).
- h. If a pitcher fields or deflects a batted ball and has not stepped behind the screen as noted in "e" and "f" above, a dead ball is called and the batter is awarded a base hit single, and all other runners on base that are forced would advance one base.

13. ANNOUNCERS: On the occasion when there is an odd number of teams in a season schedule, teams will receive a "Bye Day". On the team's "Bye Day", that team will be required to announce all games. For the purpose of scheduling announcers, umpires and scorekeepers from that team, "Bye Days" are not considered a game day off. Each manager will provide their team's Announcerannouncing schedule to the board member in charge of the duty desk one week prior to their team's bye day. If a player is scheduled, but refuses or does not

show up for their duty to Announce, he will be considered absent, and will be given a One Game Suspension for their next scheduled game. This rule will also pertain when an even number of teams in the season schedule requires the Manager to assign individual team members to announce games. It is that team member's responsibility to announce his assigned game. The team member's failure to do so will result in a suspension of their next scheduled game. There will be no exceptions. NOTE: Umpires and computer Scorekeepers on each team will be exempt from any team announcing duties unless they volunteer to help out when not scheduled to umpire or computer score keep. All other team members that are not umpires or scorekeepers may be required to announce more than once in order to fulfill that team's announcing responsibilities.

Changes for 2026 Winter season

II. PLAYERS

A. QUALIFICATIONS

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) ~~and (2) below.~~

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

1st Offense – Warning Issued

2nd Offense – Suspended from managing the remainder of that season and the next season they put in to manage ~~(if chosen)~~

3rd Offense – Permanently removed as a manager in D3.

8. ~~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 number of games using according to the missed games table, in paragraph #5 above. That player will also not be allowed to be a replacement player for any other team for the remainder of that season.

B. DRAFT:

4. When invited, any NEW player to R3 submitting an application to be in the next seasons draft, must attend the "Skills Day" to be included for that draft. (Exception: Player is known from playing in N3 and a rating can be assigned based on knowledge from reliable sources. (Current board member or R3 manager.)

D. SUBSTITUTES:

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

P1A: A newly evaluated player to R3 or any other player that has never played or been rated in R3. (This priority is only used for the first 3 games that player participates in during that season.) After 3 games, that player will be assigned a player rating (A, B or C), be subject to the existing D3 rules for substitutes and be eligible to be on a replacement player list under that rating. (See E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS)

P1: A P2 player that is not picked for 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.

P3: A player who is assigned to a team (roster player) and wishes to sub in a game his team is not involved in, or an injury sub who has played less than five (5) full innings in a prior game that day.

P4: A player who has already subbed that day.

E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

1. Once a season has started, any player, whether newly evaluated, coming up or down from another division that has never played in R3 and signs up to be a sub must participate in three games that season to be considered a replacement player that season. He will be considered a Priority 1A sub with a "C" rating for the first games they sign up for until those three games have been played. During these three games, managers will evaluate that player and provide written documentation on the In-Game Evaluation form as to the suggested rating of that player for each game. Once this is done, that player may sign up to be a replacement player under the rated category that has been assigned by the board after review of those three evaluation games.

2. 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. (Exception: If there are no other players on that replacement player list and a team is waiting for a player in that rating, that player may be offered immediately.)

IV. DEFINITIONS:

5. PITCHING SCREEN: The following rules apply:

g.i. Pitchers must use the competition type protective screen (Smaller 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, then, the larger practice screen would suffice.

h.j. The screen will directly face home plate no more than 4 feet in front of the pitching rubber, from the halfway point to the outer edge of the pitching rubber 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.

i.k. ~~Any~~ The first batted ball of a hitters at bat 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. Any subsequent batted balls hitting the screen during that at bat will be called a strike with the batter being called out if it is the third strike. All thrown balls hitting the screen are alive and play continues.

j.l. 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.

k.m. A pitcher 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).

4.n. A pitcher will be allowed to field 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 Fall season

III. PLAYERS

D. SUBSTITUTES:

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.)

~~Draw a pill for each sub player where there are more than one at that same level~~

~~a. b. "A1" and priority.~~

~~b. 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 sub requirements will be allowed to recruit any non-pitching "A" player (roster or sub player) to replace a missing non-pitching "A" player on the responsibility of each team manager to recruit 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 own sub replacements using the remainder of guidelines listed. Including pitchers.~~

- ~~• Within all the regular "A" roster and sub players for a season, there are higher rated "A" players known as "A1" players as selected by the board each season that can only be recruited to fill for other "A1" players that will be absent.~~
- ~~• A pill draw will not be utilized to fill scheduled "A1" or "A" sub requirements.~~
- ~~• A team that recruits requiring an "A" sub only A1" sub may recruit any other "A1" or "A" roster or sub player on the active sub list to replace a missing "A".~~
- ~~• A team requiring an "A" sub can recruit any "A" roster or sub player, will be or drop to a "B" rated roster or sub player. NOTE: Recruitment of a designated "A1" player will not be allowed to recruit that same player twice fill an "A" rated player vacancy.~~
- ~~• Teams are only allowed to recruit any "A1" or "A" player (including subs) once in a season. (This transaction, which includes the end of season tournament.~~
- ~~• If a need on game day occurs for an "A1" or "A" sub due to injury or emergency and there is no injury subs listed in those categories, the board member on duty will announce such need and assign the same rated player that volunteers. If there is more than one player volunteering in the category needed, the manager may choose which player he prefers in a timely manner. (Players assigned as an injury sub for less than 4 ½ innings will not be charged as a recruitment to that team.)~~
- All recruitment transactions 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. 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.~~

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

~~e. 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.~~

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

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

~~h. No "A" player will replace a "B" or "C~~

~~i. No "B" player will replace a "C"~~

~~No "C" player will replace an "A".~~

c. Draw a pill for each "B" and "C" sub player where there are more than one at that same level and priority. Any sub player not selected that has the next lowest number will be considered an injury sub for that game only if they so desire, if they do not want to be the injury sub it would be handed down to the next player until someone takes it. If there are no injury subs listed, an announcement will be made by the board member on duty of what is needed.

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. If a player slides past, on top of or over the bag, but has not made contact or interfered with the defensive player, it shall be considered a legal slide.~~ 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, then no out shall occur for an illegal slide.-)~~

ALL PLAYS ARE STILL FORCE PLAYS!

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 as 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

IV. 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".

V. 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. 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.

j.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.)

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

l.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 \geq the number of bases that allow the intentionally walked player to get to second base if necessary. (Example...runner on first and third, 2nd 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

VI. DEFINITIONS:

5. PITCHING SCREEN: The following rules apply:

~~m.o.~~ 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~~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.~~

~~n.~~—The screen may be positioned ~~anywhere~~rubber, from the halfway point to the outer left side of the pitching rubber for a right handed pitcher to the outer right sideedge 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:

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.

6. ~~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, 7th game out.

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

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

With 11-14 games, a player may miss 3 games, 4th 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, 2nd game out.

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

7. 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.)
8. 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~~

~~**2nd 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~~~~

~~**3rd 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 "Pitcheru", 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:

~~2.1.~~ ~~—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:

9. 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.~~

~~10. 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.~~

~~11. 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 sub 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 ~~players~~ 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 2nd 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 3rd 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-~~Playing~~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 Pitchers~~pitchers~~ 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 List list 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 ~~umpiresumpire'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 3rd 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 2nd 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 7th inning but past the 5th 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 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, ~~4th~~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 2nd 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 3rd 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 3rd 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 2nd 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.)