

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 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.

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 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. 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.

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

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

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 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. 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, 4th game out.**

D. SUBSTITUTES:

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

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

E. REPLACEMENT PLAYERS:

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

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

III GAME RULES

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

Changes for 2020 Winter season

I EQUIPMENT

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

III GAME RULES

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

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

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

Example: A player needing a runner gets a hit with a player already on first base creating a first and third situation. The player fails to get a runner. The following batter hits a triple, two runs score. Before the next batter receives the first pitch the opposing manager alerts the umpires of the infraction. The player who failed to get a runner is declared out, all runners are returned to the bases they occupied and the hitter who followed the player needing a runner must bat again

with the same ball/strike count prior to getting the hit. If the player who needed a runner is the third out the inning ends and the following batter is first up in the next inning with a 0-0 count.

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

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

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

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

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

Changes for 2019 Fall season

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

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