

2016 BASEBALL SOFTBALL RULES DIFFERENCES

AUTHOR Andrew F. Pecora UPDATED 02/02/16

To all who visit this document, please be advised it is to be used as a guide it does not replace the rules book of either game

BASEBALL 2016	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	SOFTBALL 2016	
RULE 1	RULE REF	RULE REF	RULE 1	
Pitching Distance 60' 6"	1-2-11	1-1-2b	Pitching Distance 43'	
No similar rule		1-1-2d	16' circle MUST be drawn around pitcher's plate	
Field Dimensions			Field Dimensions	
Batter's box 4' x 6'	1-2 Diag. 2	1-1-4 Fig. 1 PG 7	Batter's box 3' x 7'	
Catcher's box 8' x 43" from point of plate	1-2 Diag. 2	1-1-4 Fig. 1. Pg. 7	Catcher's box 10' x 8' 5" from back line of batter's box	
Bases 90' 3' lane 45'	1-2 Diag. 2	1-1-4 Fig. 1 Pg. 7	Bases 60' 3' Lane 30'	
Coaches box 20' 15' from foul line	1-2 Diag. 2	1-1-4 Fig.1 Pg. 7	Coaches box 15' 8' from foul line	
Non permanent lines should be white	1-2-2	1-1-8	Lines shall be white	
Pitcher's mound 10" high	1-2-6	1-2-3	Pitcher's plate flush with ground	
Synthetic material allowed	1-2-7	CS.Bk 10.2.3 Sit.B	No synthetic material allowed	
Ball Dimensions			Ball Dimensions	
5 to 5 1/4 oz. 9 to 9 1/4" Cover MUST be leather and white. COR may not exceed .555	1-3-1	1-3-1 to 6	6 1/4 to 7oz. 11 7/8" to 12 1/4" cover may be synthetic. ONLY optic Color Balls are allowed. COR .47 or lower. COR may not be mixed Compression identical for all balls in game	
Gloves			Gloves	
Glove color restriction for pitcher only	1-3-6	1-4-1b, c	Not be entirely optic in color and not have optic-colored marking on the outside or inside that give the appearance of the ball	
Use of illegal glove has penalty of two or three bases or result of play	1-5-7,5-1-2g 3-4	8-1-4-2, 8-8-15 PEN	Use of illegal glove option: result of play or batter bats again	
Uniform			Uniform	
Compression sleeves must be solid black/dark color	1-4-2		No mention of compression sleeves	
Bat Dimensions			Bat Dimensions	

36" max. length 2 5/8" diam. Non-wood bats must meet (BBCOR .50) standard. Wood bats Max. Diam 2 3/4".. Shape of handle not mentioned	1-3-2d	1-5-1-3	34" max. length 2 1/4" Diam. MUST have ASA 2002 or 2004 performance standard & not be on the ASA non approved list. HANDLE MAY BE ROUND OR OVAL. REFER TO BAT RULE. The knob may be covered with grip tape.
Wood bats do not need a safety grip	1-3-2 c1	1-5-1d	Wood bats do not need ASA mark, but may not exceeds 2 1/4"
METAL bats MUST have safety grip Min. 10" MAX. 18" and meet BBCOR standard REFER TO BAT RULE	1-3-2, 3, 4, 5	1-5-2a	ALL bats MUST have a safety grip Min.10" max. 15"
No similar rule		Csbk. 1.5.2 SIT. A	Choke up devices are ILLEGAL
MANUFACTURED holes or ridges at taper are legal	CS. BK. 1.3.2 C	1-5-2c	Taper; transition area connects handle to barrel, must be SOLID
No similar rule		1-5-3	On deck batter allowed only two bats
Shaggers Violators shall result in COACH & violator not to be on field	1-5-1	1 6 3	second violation by shaggers shall result in COACH & violator not to be on field
Batting helmet face mask optional	1-5-2	1-6-6	Batting helmet face mask mandatory
Manufacturers holes or ridges are LEGAL	1.3.2 SIT. C	1-5-2c	Taper trans area connects narrow handle to barrel SOLID no hole
Min. length to weight required.	1-3-2 C & D		No similar rule
Non-adult warming up pitcher at ANY location must wear mask & throat protector	1-5-4	1-7-3	Non-adult warming up pitcher WITHIN CONFINES of field must wear mask & throat protector.
	RULE 2	RULE 2	
No similar rule		2-2-3	Blocked ball becomes dead ball
Bat held motionless in strike zone NO STRIKE	CsBk 7.2.1 Sit B	2-8-2	Bat held over plate MUST be withdrawn or STRIKE is called
No change in definition of a catch. One foot in dead ball area, GOOD CATCH	2-9-1	2-9-5d	No catch with entire foot on ground in dead ball area.
Imaginary line drawn from first to third, ball strikes ground beyond this line is FAIR BALL	2-5-1b		No similar rule

No similar rule		2-16	Crow hop-Illegal replanting of pivot foot-ILLEGAL PITCH
No similar rule		2-33	LEAP - both feet air borne at time of pitch - illegal pitch
Illegal pitch declared only with no one on; with runner on BALK: NO PITCH	2-18, 5-1-1k	2-43-2	Illegal pitch only type of pitch delivered not in accordance with rule. When pitch is not ignored, batter awarded additional ball. This is a Delayed dead ball.
No similar rule		2-45	Determines when pitcher is in 16' circle
If a fielder misplays a batted ball, fielder has greater responsibility for avoiding contact with the runner	8-4-2g	2-47-3	Initial play includes deflected batted ball by pitcher or in flight
No similar rule		2-51-1, 2	SLAP HIT NOT a bunt by rule
Strike zone: top halfway between shoulders and waistline to knees	2-35	2-56-3	Strike zone: forward arm pit to TOP of knees
Unreported substitute no penalty	2-36-2	2-57-2 3-6-7 PEN	Unreported substitute, TEAM WARNING
No definition		2-57-4	Defines PROJECTED SUBSTITUTE
Intentional base on balls may be given at any time	2-4-3	2-65-1	No intentional base on balls, all pitches must be delivered
Definition of when pitch ends.	2-28-4		NO definition of when pitch ends listed in rules
	RULE 3	RULE 3	
No penalty if additions are made to lineup.	1-1-2, 3-1-1	3-1-3 PEN.	Lineup MUST include ALL players & subs Last name & 1st initial First change team warning. Second change, coach restricted.
Numbers must be at least 8" high	1-4-3	3-2-2	Numbers must be at least 6" high.
Pitcher may NOT wear a white or gray exposed undershirt below the elbow at any time. Caps MUST be worn, Shorts not listed.	1-4-1 & 2, 6-2-1i	3-2-5 & 7b	NO restrictions for color of pitcher's undershirt. Headwear NOT required. Caps, Visors and Headbands MAY be mixed Shorts and skirts allowed.
No mention of lower undergarments		3-2-7a	Exposed upper and lower undergarments need NOT be same color.

No item on BOTH hands, wrists or arms may be worn, if distracting to batter	1-4-2	3-2-9	NO item on PITCHING hand, wrist, arm & thighs deemed distracting may be worn -- UMPIRE JUDGEMENT
No similar rule		3-3-2c, d	sub;DP for FLEX or FLEX for DP MUST REPORT to UIC
Pitcher or sub required to pitch to one batter or side retired to return to pitch	1-1-5, 3-1-2	3-3-2	Pitcher not required to pitch to one batter to return as pitcher
Line up changes reported to UIC and scorekeeper.	1-1-5	3-3-3	Line up changes reported to UIC. Then announce immediately changes to the opposing team's head coach.
Sub may not reenter	3-1-3	3-3-5	ANY player, starter or sub, may reenter once
Designated Hitter DH : REFER TO RULE	3-1-4	3-3-6	Designated Player Flex DP/ FLEX REFER TO RULE: Provided it is made known at the Pregame conference
Head Coach NOT at pre game if available; RESTRICTED TO BENCH	3-2-4.	3-5-1PEN	Game May NOT start Until HEAD COACH attends pregame
Next offender ejected	3-3-1(a-e)PEN	3-6 A2-10PEN	Next offender restricted to dugout/bench. Coach also restricted.. May eject offender
Warning to offender-if major eject. Second minor violation, ejection. Coach who receives written warning-restricted to bench/dougout	3-3-1(f-k)PEN	3-6 A2-10PEN	No mention of written warning to coach
Addresses specific physical contact as well as other physical actions directed toward an umpire - ejection	3-3-1q	3/6/2015	Only stipulates charging an umpire. Ejection unless minor
Coach must be in team uniform in coaches box	3-2-1	3-5-3	Coach NOT required to be in team uniform. School colors or khaki, black, white gray or fleece is acceptable
Illegal equip. remove only PLAYER penalized coach not entered in penalty	1-5-1 7-4-1a	3-6-1	Illegal equip. used after first penalty and warning, player and COACH restricted to bench
Unreported sub no penalty	2-36-2	3-6-7 PEN	Unreported sub TEAM WARNING second offense COACH and PLAYER restricted
No mention in rules		3-6-17 PEN	Removing ANY boundary line Off. Strike: Def. ball on second offense player and COACH are restricted
Defensive malicious contact IMMEDIATE DEAD BALL	5-1-1m	3-6-18 PEN	Defensive malicious contact DELAYED DEAD BALL

	RULE 4	RULE 4	
THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES	IN RULE 4	OTHER	THAN THE DISTANCES REQUIRED OF EACH GAME
	RULE 5	RULE 5	
Pitch striking runner - Dead ball	5-1-1a		Technically impossible - pitch to strike runner
Retired runner interferes - If uncertain who might be played on runner closest to home declared out if it prevents double play	5-1-1e, 8-4-2g	5-1-1e, 8-6-16c	Retired runner interferes: Runner closest to home is out if it prevents double play
Ball touching DESIGNATED media area: occupied or NOT, DEAD BALL	5-1-1l	5-1-1o	Ball touching OCCUPIED designated media area: Dead Ball
Illegal pitch or balk - DEAD immediately NO Pitch	5-1-1k	5-1-2a	Illegal pitch is delivered, delayed dead ball - coach has options
	RULE 6	RULE 6	
REFER TO RULE FOR COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING			REFER TO PITCHING RULE FOR COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING
1. Two pitching positions - Wind up and Set	6-1-1, 2, 3	6-1-1	1. One pitching position
2. Set position one foot in contact with or directly in front of plate and PARALLEL to pitcher's plate	6 1 3	6-1-1, Diag. 6	2. Pivot foot must be on or partially on top of the pitcher's plate
3. Not mentioned		6-1-1a	3. Shoulders in line with first and third
4. No time limit mentioned		6-1-1c	4. Ball must be held in both hands from 1 to 10 seconds
5. No mention		6-1-1a	5. Both feet must be within 24" of plate
Wind up position hands may separate May reverse forward motion	6-1-2	6-1-2	Once hands separate pitch MUST be delivered PEN. Illegal pitch
1. In wind up position pitcher may step back with non pivot foot	6-1-2	6-1-2	1. Pitcher must START step back BEFORE hands come together. Step MAY end BEFORE or AFTER hands come together
2. NO mention of crow hop or leap		6-1-2 NOTE 2 6-1 Diag	2. Crow hop and leap are illegal 3. Step MUST be forward within 24" length of plate
No similar rule		6-1-2c	If a hole has been created in front of the pitcher's plate, the pivot foot may be not higher than the level place of the ground
1. May or may not deliver underhand	6-1-3	6-1-3	1. Delivery MUST be underhand

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2. Illegal pitch immediate dead ball	6 1 3	6-1-3	2. Illegal pitch: delayed dead ball.
3. In set position pitcher may not stop above chin level	6-1-3	6-1-3	3. No mention of where pitcher may stop
MAY reverse forward motion		6-1-4c	No stop or reversal of forward motion
NO similar motion		6-1-4d	Arm may drop to side and rear prior to windmill motion
No similar rule		6-1-4e	Pitcher may not wind up after release of pitch Illegal pitch
By state association adoption pitching limits required	6-1-6		No similar rule
Balk - No pitch- Dead immediately	5-1-1k	6-2-1 to 3	Illegal pitch-delayed dead ball
Illegal pitch no one on: ball. Runner on: balk	6-1-1 PEN.	6-1-1, 2, 3, 4	Illegal pitch- additional ball on batter, & runners advance one base
Illegal pitch or balk, DEAD BALL IMMEDIATELY	6-1-1, 2, 3 PEN.	6-1-1 EXCEPTION	If the batter reaches first base safely & each other runner advances at least one base Illegal pitch nullified. If batter does not reach first or if any base runners fail to advance one base the coach has option of the result of the play or the penalty f
Quick pitch - No pitch Balk with runner on	6-1-1, CB 6-1-3 Sit. K	6-2-4b	Quick pitch - No pitch
Quick pitch Illegal pitch	6-1-1 PEN.	6-2-4b & c	Runner leaves base before pitch is released & quick pitch NO PITCH. Runner leaves base before release of pitch-Runner is OUT
No similar rule		6-3-2	No one on Catcher MUST return pitch to pitcher: Penalty: Ball
Sub pitcher allowed 8 pitches, the UIC may authorize more throws because of an injury, ejection or inclement weather	6-2-2 EXCPT	6-2-5	All pitchers allowed only 5 warm up pitches. There are exceptions
Pitch dropped during delivery crosses foul line: no one on BALL does not cross line NO PITCH Runner on: BALK	6-1-4	6-2-6 and EFFECT	Pitch dropped backswing or forward motion: live ball, batter may swing legally. Runner may advance at own risk
No penalty listed		6-2-5 PEN.	Ball for each pitch in excess of five during warm up
Pitcher may throw to base in set position	6-1-3	6-2-7	In pitching position may NOT throw to base
No mention in rule		6-2-8	If fielder takes position in batter's line of vision with unsporting intent ILLEGAL PITCH

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By state association adoption pitching limits required	6-1-1		No similar rule
NO similar rule		6-5	Ball rotation is mandatory
Intentionally PITCH close: may WARN or EJECT	6-2-3		No mention in rule
Possible TWO strikes may be called on one pitch	6-2-4 d1		No similar rule
	RULE 7	RULE 7	
After a pitch (legal or illegal) or a play or attempted play by defense, defense loses right to appeal	7-1-2 PEN.	7-1-2 2.	Only after a pitch (legal or illegal) defense loses right to appeal batting out of order
Batter MUST keep one foot in box (some exceptions)	7-3-1		No similar rule
Batter must take position within 20 seconds	7-3-1	7-3-1	Batter must take position within 10 seconds with both feet completely inside the batters box
		7-3-2, 8-1-2b	Pitch ENTIRELY in strike zone, batter no attempt to avoid pitch is required
Batter permits pitch to hit him, NO award of base	7-3-4PEN,	7-3-2 PEN.	Pitch NOT entirely in strike zone batter MUST attempt to avoid it.
Batter interferes with catcher, he still has opportunity to throw out runner	7-3-5c PEN.	7-4-4 & 5-1-1q	If batter interferes with catcher DEAD ball immediately
USE of illegal bat: Defense may take penalty or result of play Head coach RESTRICTED.	7-4-1a, 4-1-3 PEN.	7-4-2 PEN	Use of an illegal bat: Batter is out-ANY outs made on play stand. If ALTERED, NON-APPROVED bat used, batter & coach ejected.
Broken, dented, cracked bat removed with NO penalty	1-3-5	1-5-8	Broken, cracked, dented bats are illegal
	RULE 8	RULE 8	
Intentional base on balls may be awarded with any count	2-4-3	8-1-1c	All pitches MUST be delivered - NO intentional walk
Batted fair ball strikes runner on base in front of fielder OUT	8-4-2k	8-1-2 EFFT 2	Runner in contact with base struck by batted fair ball NOT OUT

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Batter struck by illegal pitch or balk NOT AWARDED base	2-28-2	8-1-2b	Batter struck by legal or illegal pitch is awarded base if a pitched ball is entirely within the batter's box and strikes the batter or her clothing. No attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required
Batter/runner may retreat to HOME before being declared out	Casebook 8.1.1A	8-2-8	Batter/runner STEPS backward to avoid, delay tag at first: Out dead ball
No similar rule		8-4-3f EXCEPT. 1	Fielder loses possession on tag, ball goes dead -- award 1 base
Obstructed runner awarded at least one base in advance, ball remains alive for other runners.	8-3-2	8-4-3 1	Obstructed runner awarded base would have reached. Dead ball if runner is tagged out before reaching awarded base
After dead ball runner need NOT remain on base	8-2-8	8-5-1 to 6	After dead ball runner must remain on base until pitch is released
BATTER is out when runner interferes with FOUL fly ball	7-4-1f	8-6-10b	RUNNER is out when interfering with FOUL fly ball
If a fielder misplay a batted ball, the fielder has the greater responsibility for avoiding contact with the runner	8-4-2g	2-47-3 8-6-10a	If a runner makes contact with fielder attempting to field batted ball, runner is interfering if fielder can make a play by step & reach in subsequent attempt
Runner interferes prevents obvious double play batter/runner out also	8-4-1h PEN.	8-6-10 PEN.	Runner interferes in an obvious attempt to prevent a double play, immediate succeeding runner is OUT.
Batted ball passes INFIELDER no other INFIELDER has chance for out runner not out. (batted ball hits runner while off base)	8-4-2k	8-6-11	Batted ball passes INFIELDER and an OUTFIELDER has chance to field & make an out. RUNNER IS OUT if interfering. NOT COMMON occurrence
Loose equipment on field causes interference umpire decision award or penalty	1-3-7 PEN	8-6-15	Loose equipment offensive: runner being played on is out. defensive-overthrow
Retired runner interferes prevents obvious double play batter/runner out	8-4-1h PEN.	8-6-18 Pen.	Retired runner interferes to prevent play on another runner, runner closest to home out also.
No similar rule		8-7-1, 2, 3, 4	Look-back rule certain restrictions for batter/runner and runners
Use of illegal glove 3 BASES on a BATTED BALL. 2 BASES on a THROWN BALL	8-3-3 b, c	8-8-15 PEN	Use of illegal glove, coach has option of result of play or batter bats over
On base on balls batter MUST not over run first - liable to be tagged out	8-2-7	8-8-9	Batter MAY over run first on base on balls - not liable to be tagged out

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By state assn. adoption courtesy runner may be used	Speed up Rules	8-9-1	Courtesy runner allowed by rule
Diving is illegal	8-4-2d PEN	Casebook. 8.3.1F	Diving is legal
Injured courtesy runner MAY be replaced by a Courtesy Runner	EXCEPT Pg.64 7a	8-9 EXCEPT. 2	Injured courtesy runner MAY NOT be replaced by a Courtesy Runner - Pitcher, Catcher or Sub must replace Her.
	RULE 9		
ALL RUN SCORING RULES ARE THE SAME			ALL RUN SCORING RULES ARE THE SAME
	RULE 10	RULE 10	
UMPIRE undershirt must be BLUE, if worn	10-1-9	10-4 2	UMPIRE undershirt must be WHITE, if worn