



2017 - 2018 Rule Change Summary and Interpretative Notes

This document provides a summary of the approved rule changes (including interpretative notes) from the 2016 AGM and Congress of Softball Canada held on November 12, 2016 in Whitehorse, Yukon.

SLO-PITCH ONLY

- **Rule 2, Sec 4.d** (Amended)

d. BATTER'S BOX, one on each side of home plate, shall measure 0.91m (3 ft.) in front and 1.22m (4 ft.) behind home plate by 1.067m (42 in.) wide. The lines are considered as being within the batter's box.

Interpretative Notes: This rule moves the batter's box one foot backwards (now 3 feet in front of HP, 4 feet behind) and widens the batter's box to 3 ½ feet.

- **Rule 4, Sec 11** (New)

Sec. 11 TEMPORARY RUNNER

A Temporary Runner is legal for a pitcher who gets on base.

The following provisions apply:

- a. It is not optional.*
- b. There must be two out.*
- c. If the pitcher is on base with less than two out, the Temporary Runner must be used after the second out occurs.*
- d. The Temporary Runner must be designated by the manager during the pre-game meeting.*
- e. If the pitcher is the runner in the tie-breaker situation, they will be considered the same as if they had batted and would be allowed a Temporary Runner with two out.*
- f. Re-entry and substitution rules are waived for the Temporary Runner.*
- g. If an incorrect player is discovered as the Temporary Runner the change is made without penalty.*
- h. If a Temporary Runner is due to go to bat, the next person in the batting order shall be used without penalty.*

Interpretative Notes: The Temporary Runner may only run for the pitcher who completed the previous defensive half inning in the pitching position (or is listed as the pitcher on the lineup card in the first half inning). If the Temporary Runner is unavailable (e.g. already on base, injury, ejection) then the pitcher must continue to run for themselves until such time as the Temporary Runner becomes available to run or the game is completed.

- **Rule 5, Sec 9.b.1 (Amended)**

b. DEFENSIVE CONFERENCES – There shall only be three (3) charged conferences with each pitcher during the game.

1) A conference includes one (1) or more players leaving their position to meet, and delay the resumption of play.

2) - 5) No changes

EFFECT – Sec. 9 b.1: A fourth charged conference shall result in the pitcher being declared an illegal pitcher who may not pitch again for the remainder of the game.

EFFECTS Sec 9.b.2 and 9.b.3 are not changed.

Interpretative Note: Delays in play initiated by the coach leaving the dugout to communicate with the pitcher or another player will continue to be considered Defensive Conferences under this rule.

- **Rule 7, Sec 3.d (New)**

d. If there is no batter's box at the front of the batter's area, the batter's back foot must be completely behind the front edge of the strike mat, and, at the back of the batter's area, the batter's front foot must be completely in front of the back edge of the strike mat.

Interpretative Note: This rule would be applied in situations where there is no batter's box to start the game or if the batter's box is made indistinguishable during the normal course of the game and can no longer be used to determine the legal position of the batter.

FAST PITCH ONLY (ALL CATEGORIES)

- **Rule 5, Sec 6.a (Amended)**

a. A run ahead rule shall result in the conclusion of the game when:

- 1) After 2.5 or 3 complete innings of play there is a difference of 15 or more runs*
- 2) After 3.5 or 4 complete innings of play there is a difference of 10 or more runs*
- 3) After 4.5, 5, 5.5 or 6 complete innings of play there is a difference of 7 or more runs*

- **Rule 6, Sec. 9.f (New)**

Add 6-9.f (FP and Orthodox, all categories)

f. If a pitcher is using a designated warm up area within the field of play while the game is in progress they must also have a protective spotter who will stand immediately behind the pitcher and face the infield with an empty glove, serving to alert and, if necessary, protect the pitcher and catcher. The spotter may carry one ball in their throwing hand that may be given to the pitcher only if the warm up ball goes out of the playing area. Errant pitches that remain in the field of play must be retrieved immediately. The spotter must remain in position at all times. Only one pitcher, one catcher, one spotter and a coach may be in the warm up area. If pitchers are not actively warming up they must return to the dugout area

Interpretative note: This rule is applied only when the warm up areas are on the field of play.

FAST PITCH (ORTHODOX CATEGORY ONLY)

- **Rule 6, Sec 3.g (Amended)**

g. The ball can NEVER be outside of the wrist at any point in the delivery upward or downward. The palm never faces away from the body.

Interpretative Note: The palm must remain facing inwards or directly forward during the delivery. Any angle of the palm away from the body will be considered an illegal pitch.

- **Rule 6, Sec 3.m (Amended)**

m. In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher must take one step simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward and toward the batter within the 61.0cm (24 in.) length of the pitcher's plate. The stepping foot must be pointed toward home plate and must not touch the ground in front of or cross over a straight line between the pivot foot and home plate