

2013 Playing Rule Changes with Comments

NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE **January 1, 2013** unless otherwise noted.

Rule 2 Section 1 Table: The pitching distance for Girls Junior Olympic 14 and Under A/B classification of play shall be 43 feet.

Comment: Allows for Girls 14U Junior Olympic Fast Pitch to pitch from the same distance as the Girls 16U and 18U Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Classifications of play.

Rule 3 Section 1A [1]: The Official bat must bear either the ASA 2000 Certification Mark, the ASA 2004 Certification Mark or the ASA 2013 Certification Mark.

Comment: This adds an additional Certification Mark to the list of ASA Certification Marks allowed on ASA approved bats.

Rule 3 Section 1A: Bats bearing the ASA 2013 Certification Mark are allowed in Slow Pitch Only.

Comment: Clarifies bats with the new ASA 2013 Certification Mark are only allowed in the game of Slow Pitch.

Rule 3 Section 3E [3]: **EFFECTIVE in 2014** The 52/300 12 inch ball will be the only 12" ball allowed in Men's Adult Slow Pitch, Men's Co-ed, Men's Master's Slow Pitch and Junior Olympic Boys Slow Pitch, with the exception of Seniors.

Comments: Removes the 44/375 12" ball as an approved ball for all Men's Adult Slow Pitch, Men's Co-ed, Men's Master's Slow Pitch and Junior Olympic Boys Slow Pitch.

Rule 3 Section 6A [2]: (Female Fast Pitch and all Slow Pitch) Ball caps and visors are optional for players. If worn, they may be mixed, but must be worn properly.....

Comment: Removes headbands from the list of headwear regulated by uniform rule. Headbands can still be properly worn on the head and allows them to be mixed colors if worn.

Rule 3 Section 6A [2] EXCEPTION: Adult Slow Pitch, caps and visors may be mixed and must be the same color(s) as the team uniform but do not have to be alike in color.

Comment: Allows for caps and visors worn by a team to be mixed in color as long as the cap or visor matches a color of the uniform.

Rule 3 Section 6G EXCEPTION: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch 10U, 12U, and Junior Olympic Slow Pitch, Co-ed Slow Pitch, and Senior Slow Pitch Play: No metal cleats. No metal spikes nor hard plastic or polyurethane spikes similar to metal sole and heel plates are allowed.

Comments: Allows for Girls Junior Olympic Fast Pitch 14U A/B Classifications of play to wear metal cleats.

Rule 3 Section 7B: The National Championship UIC, Assistant UIC or Staff has the right to remove any and all equipment not meeting Rule 3 including bats and helmets, through pregame inspection, bat testing or during a game. Removed equipment will be marked properly with the name of the team and/or player and will be returned after the team's final game of the Championship. The equipment will be securely stored by the Championship Committee until returned to the team and/or player.

Comment: Documents a procedure for removing and storing equipment not meeting Rule 3 of the ASA Rule Book.

Rule 4 Section 6C [2]: When an unreported substitute is discovered while at bat. EFFECT: The unreported substitute is officially in the game and assumes the ball and strike count. All action stands.

Comment: Clarifies the EFFECT of the Unreported Substitute Rule when the unreported substitute is discovered while still at bat.

Rule 5 Section 1: Prior to the start of all games, the choice of which team will bat first or last in the inning shall be decided by a coin flip.

Comment: Clarifies that a coin flip is required before the game.

Rule 5 Section 9A [2]: Modified Pitch, 15 after three innings, 12 after four innings, and 10 after 5 innings.

Comments: Adds a run ahead rule after four innings to the Modified game.

Rule 5 Section 9C: (Men's Senior Slow Pitch Only) All age groups will have a maximum number of runs allowed per inning except for the seventh inning, the last inning of a time limit game or any extra inning. The Major will have a maximum of 7 runs and the AAA & AA Divisions will have a maximum of 5 runs. The seventh inning, the last inning of a time limit game or any extra innings will have unlimited runs allowed.

Comment: Institutes a runs allowed per inning rule except in the 7th inning, the last inning of a time limit game or any extra innings in Men's Senior Slow Pitch Classifications of play.

Rule 5 Section 12: Dugout Conduct:

- a) Coaches, players, substitutes, and other bench personnel shall not be outside the designated bench, dugout/team area except when the rules allow or it is justified.
- b) Adult: Participants may not smoke or use alcohol beverages inside the dugout or on the playing field.
- c) Junior Olympic Only: The use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco product is prohibited at all Junior Olympic Championships.

EFFECT: The first offense is a team warning. Any repeat offense shall result in the ejection of that team member.

Comment: Better defines Dugout Conduct in the ASA Rule Book.

Rule 6 Section 1C [1] FP: (Male and Junior Olympic Boys) The pitcher shall take a position with their pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate and their non pivot foot in contact with it behind the pitcher's plate.

Comment: Clarifies that Junior Olympic Boys Classifications of play to pitch by the Men's Fast Pitch pitching rule by starting with both or one foot on the pitcher's plate.

Rule 6 Section 1E [1]: FP (Male and JO Boys) A backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together. The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Comment: Clarifies that Boys Junior Olympic Classifications of play can step back with the non pivot foot like the Men's Fast Pitch pitching rule.

Rule 6 Section 3H: FP (Men's & Junior Olympic Boys Fast Pitch) In the act of delivering the ball, the pitcher must take one step with the non-pivot foot, simultaneous with the release of the ball. The step must be forward toward the batter. It is not a step if the pitcher slides the pivot foot across the pitcher's plate toward the batter, or if the pivot foot turns or slides in order to push off the pitcher's plate, provided contact is maintained with the plate. Raising the foot off of the pitching plate and returning it to the plate creates a rocking motion and is an illegal act.

Comment: Allows for the Junior Olympic Boys Classifications of play to step outside the 24" width of the pitcher's plate during the delivery of the pitch like the Men's Fast Pitch pitching rule.

Rule 6 Section 3L: FP (Men's and Junior Olympic Boys) Pushing off and dragging the pivot foot in contact with the ground, or if both feet are in the air, having the toes of the pivot foot in the downward direction is required.

Comment: Allows for the Junior Olympic Boys Classifications of play to leap during the delivery of the pitch like the Men's Fast Pitch pitching rule.

Rule 6 Section 1E MP: The pitcher shall bring the hands together for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing it, and both feet must remain in contact with the pitching plate at all times prior to the forward step.

Comment: Aligns the rule with fast pitch so that the pitcher only needs to bring the hands together not hold the ball in both hands.

Rule 7 Section 2D [2]: If batting order is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed a turn at bat:

- a. The improper batter's time at bat is negated.
- b. The player who should have batted is out.
- c. Any advancement or score of a runner as a result of the improper batter is negated. Runners not called out must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch. **Any runner, who is called out prior to the discovery of the infraction, remains out**
- d. The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat.

EXCEPTION: (Co-ed Only) If the incorrect batter is called out as a result of their time at bat, and is scheduled to be the proper batter, skip that player and the next person in the line-up will be the batter.

Comment: Rewords the rule so if the Batter-Runner is called out that out applies to the batter who should have batted. All outs made by runners are still out. If the incorrect batter makes an out and is the next legal batter they simply bat again. The old rule of all out stands including the batter runner and skipping the batter if they make an out and they are the next legal batter, still applies to the game of Co-ed.

Rule 7 Section 6B: When a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an altered or non-approved bat. EFFECT: The batter shall be ejected from the game, and if in a tournament may be subject to future penalties by the protest committee.

Comment: Establishes an appeal process for players who have used an altered or non approved bat before possibly being ejected for the entire Championship.