

# 2019 Official Rules



## 1. FIELD DIMENSIONS

Distance between bases - 60 ft. or the maximum possible without adverse effects to player safety based on field design.

Distance between home plate and pitcher's mound - 50 ft. or a minimum of 46 ft. where player safety issues arise due to field design.

## 2. LENGTH OF GAME

A game will consist of seven (7) innings.

There shall be a one hour thirty minute (1:30) time limit on all games.

When this time limit is reached, the game shall be stopped and the score revert to the last completed inning.

A 12 run rule will be in effect after 5 innings (4 1/2 if the home team is ahead)

A 10 run rule will be in effect after 6 innings (5 1/2 if the home team is ahead)

## 3. TEAM LIMITATIONS

An official team consists of a minimum of ten (10) players.

A. The game may begin with a minimum of eight (8) players present for any given team; at least one player must be a woman.

B. Any player arriving after the game begins can be inserted at the bottom of the lineup. (See 4d)

C. Games may be played with 9 players on any team, must be agreed to by both coaches, and is subject to Rule 3D below.

D. A minimum of two (2) female players must be in the field. If less than 2 women are present at the start of a game then the game may still be officially played with the following penalties:

### Fielding Penalty

Number of Women

2 = 8 Men / 2 Women - females may play any position in field, no catcher. OR

1 = 8 Men / 1 Woman - only 9 players on field, catcher must be a male.

0 = Forfeit - play scrimmage game.

### Batting Penalty

Number of Women

1 = Automatic out for batter number eight in the batting order.

0 = Forfeit - play scrimmage game.

## 4. LINEUPS

A. All players on the team who are present may be in the batting lineup (although only 10 are fielders).

B. You must bat at least 12 players, if 12 players are present. If you choose not to bat your entire roster then there will be NO free substitution. All players present must play at least 3 innings.

If you bat your entire roster then free substitution will apply. Let the opposing Captain know your lineup and subs, if applicable, before the game starts.

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- C. There is no sharing or swapping of players to make full roster UNLESS agreed to by opposing Captain.
- D. A minimum of two (2) female players must be in the lineup. If less than 2 women are present at the start of a game then the game may still be officially played with the batting and fielding penalties as stated in Section 3 (Team Limitations).
- E. At least one female batter MUST be in, at a minimum, batting position 6 under all circumstances.
- F. Players who arrive after the start of the game may be placed at the bottom of the batting order, unless such individual is a woman and there are less than 2 women present. If that player is the second woman in the lineup she will bat in the fifth spot. If that player is the third woman in the lineup she will bat in the eighth spot. Any player who shows up once the 4th inning is over is not eligible to play at all in that game.

## 5. PITCHING

- A. Releasing the ball in an underhand fashion with the arc being at least 6 feet from the ground and not greater than 12 feet from the ground, will be a legal pitch. (If the pitch is below 6 feet or above 12 feet, the Umpire will call illegal pitch and it will be an automatic ball; however, if the batter elects to swing at an illegal pitch, the ball is considered in play and outcome stands (i.e., strike, foul ball, hit, or out).
- B. Strike zone – a legally pitched ball is considered a strike if it hits the mat or the plate. There is no vertical plane strike zone any longer.

## 6. BATTING

- A. Bunting or chopping down at the ball is not allowed and will be an out.
- B. If the batter throws the bat, player is out, play is dead, and the runners remain in place. If the batter deliberately throws the bat (in anger), player will be called out and ejected from the game.
- C. Infield fly rule will be used.
- D. Everything is in play unless specified by rules or umpire.
- E. A foul ball after 2 strikes will be an out. Female players are allowed one extra.
- F. Only 4 players may be able to start play inside the infield, not including the catcher or pitcher. Once the batter swings or makes contact with the ball, additional players may enter the infield. If there are more than 4 fielders in the infield before the batter swings or makes contact, the batter will be awarded first base by the umpire and all runners will advance one base from start of play.
- G. Marker cones will be placed 100 feet from home plate along the left and right field foul lines. An arc will extend from the left field foul line marker to the right field foul line marker. ALL outfielders will be required to remain behind this line when a female is batting until the ball reaches the plate or is swung at by the batter. If the ball is hit while an outfielder is in an illegal position the batting team will be given the option of taking the result of the play or replaying the pitch. If the pitch is not hit there is no penalty. If no painted arc is present, team coaches are free to use cones or any other safe method of demarkation of the 100-foot line prior to the game beginning.

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H. On a walk to a male batter (intentional or not), when followed in the lineup by a female, the male batter will advance to second base and the following female will bat for herself. All base runners will advance to the next base forced to. This rule will be upheld no matter how many outs there are in the inning. This rule specifically supersedes any rule pertaining to this field condition issued by the ASA. The walked male batter must touch first base then proceed to second base.

I. A seven home-run limit per game has been implemented for all games including playoffs and championship. There is no per inning limit. Balls hit out while in fair territory when a team has reached their limit are deemed an out.

## 7. BATS

1. Must bear either the ASA approved 2000 certification mark, the ASA 2004 certification mark or the newer generalized ASA certification mark implemented in 2013, and must not be listed on an ASA non approved list, or
2. Must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA National Office; or
3. Must, in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.

Beginning January 1, 2004, all bats in ASA Championship Play must pass the ASA 2004 bat standard. All bats having the 2004 certification mark will be allowed in ASA Championship Play. Bats that have the 2000 certification mark will not be allowed in ASA Championship Play unless they are listed on an approved bat list on the ASA website. For convenience, the ASA website has a listing of bats that do not pass the ASA 2004 bat standard.

All exposed surfaces of the bat must be smooth and free of burrs, pins, rivets, DENTS, sharp edges or any type of exterior fastener that would present a safety hazard.

All approved bats must be registered. Team registration of bats includes a listing of the manufacturer and model of all bats listed for use by a specific team. Each league-approved bat will have applied to it a serial numbered sticker which **MUST** be present and clearly visible while in use during games. If a previously registered bat loses its serial numbered sticker, the bat is deemed illegal whether or not it complies with the requirements listed above this paragraph. It is each team's responsibility to review their bat inventory periodically. A league representative may, from time to time, conduct bat inspections during the course of a game.

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## A Bat is Illegal If...

It is not pre-approved by the League and evidenced by a serialized League bat sticker. OR

It is marked to contain titanium. OR

It has a sealed air chamber, OR

It exceeds the 1.20 BPF rating, OR

It appears on the list of illegal bats as listed on the ASA website.

A player caught attempting to use a bat which is not League stickered will lose their at bat and be called out once they are lined up in the batter's box - no pitch has to occur. Any player previously penalized who makes a second attempt to use a bat which is not League stickered will be ejected from the game and all successive at bats in the lineup for said player for the remainder of the game will be deemed outs.

Once the game starts the umpire at any time can deem a bat illegal for safety reasons even if the bat is pre-approved. At this time only the bat will be removed from the game. The player is not ejected, but must use another bat.

## 8. BASE RUNNERS

A. No stealing allowed.

B. Runners may only leave a base on contact with the pitched ball by the batter.

C. An overthrown ball inside the fences entitles any base runner to advance at their own risk. If the ball is dead, the Umpire shall award 1 base automatically.

D. If the runner runs more than three (3) feet out of the baseline, the runner is out.

E. If a play is being attempted on a runner, the base runner must slide or avoid contact with the fielder. (When a defensive player has the ball or is about to receive the ball, and the runner elects to remain on his/her feet and deliberately or accidentally, with force, contacts the defensive player, the runner is to be declared out.) Umpire will use judgment.

F. A courtesy runner may be used if a player is unable to run the bases. (They must run the hit out.) At the beginning of the game, let the opposing Captain know who needs a courtesy runner. If an injury occurs during the game and player cannot continue to run, the last out will take the injured player's place on the base.

G. If an injury occurs during game, move the line-up up. There is NO penalty or OUT to be taken in that slot. This is for legitimate injuries only, do not abuse this rule.

1. If the player requiring a courtesy runner is a woman the last woman to make an out must run. If not available, then any woman on the bench may run. If not available, the last man to make an out will run.

2. If the player requiring a courtesy runner is a man, the last male player to make an out may run. A female player may be a courtesy runner for a male player as long as the female was the last player out.

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- 3. Pinch runners are permitted for teams NOT USING FREE SUBSTITUTION.
- H. Advancing base runners may not leave the base until contact is made with the ball by the batter or a forcibly moved ahead due to a walk. Those advancing under any other circumstances will be called out.
- I. Batters who have hit a home run have the option of running to first base instead of all bases/plate. Runners occupying bases at the time the home run was hit must touch all bases and home plate.

## 9. HOME PLATE

A. For the purpose of safety, the league is using a second home plate, measured prior to the game beginning at 60 feet from third base, placed at a minimum of 6 feet from the actual home plate. The second plate is in line with the actual home plate (same measured distance from 3rd), and in all instances must be touched

in order to score. All plays will be ruled like 1st base. The only exception is that a runner may return to 3rd base as long as he/she has not crossed the Point of No Return line, which is located 10 feet from home plate. Placement of the second plate and demarkation of the Point of No Return Line must be measured prior to the start of the game and MUST be acknowledged by BOTH CAPTAINS.

## 10. OFFICIAL SCOREBOOKS / WEEKLY REPORTING

The League will issue to each team an official scorebook. This scorebook must be used to record the team's detailed scoring results and is the official record of the game being played. The scorebook is the property of the League and the team manager is its custodian. Following the finish of each game, BOTH teams are required to text message the complete final score of the game to the Commissioner or their designated alternate. Format should be as follows: Winning Team Name, Winning Team Score, Losing Team Name, Losing Team Score. Scores must be reported within 12 hours of the completion of the game, otherwise each non-reporting team will be scored as a forfeit loss.

## 11. PLAYER ROSTERS

Each team's game scoring sheet must contain a legible record of their player roster for each game played. This includes those teams not participating in the detailed scoring effort referred to above. Playoff eligibility for each player will be determined at the end of the regular season based upon a minimum of 50% of the total team games played. If a player leaves a game early or arrives to a game late and has at least one at-bat, that game will be deemed allowable insofar as computing future playoff eligibility for that player.

## 12. SAFETY PROCEDURES

- A. It is suggested that catchers should wear a mask when fielding.
- B. NO METAL SPIKES.
- C. Remove any loose jewelry before beginning of play.

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## 13. RULES

- A. Rules not covered by the above-stated rules will be covered in the official 2018 ASA Rule Book as interpreted by the attending umpire.
- B. Any modification to the rules during game time must be made by and agreed upon by BOTH CAPTAINS prior to start of game, covered in Ground Rules review with umpire, and held valid for DURATION of game.

## 14. BEHAVIOR

All team managers are required manage their team in a manner which prohibits aggressive verbal or physical assault. Use of the 'F' word or other abusive language to umpires is automatic ejection from game! No fighting or heated arguments will be tolerated! If an official umpire is present his word is last. Let's play with respect and remember that it's a recreational league. Balls and strikes are not arguable by any player or manager. Team manager only may dispute other calls. Excessive player outbursts will result in ejection. Any player ejected during the course of a game will be required to sit out the next scheduled game for their team in addition to the remaining innings of the game from which they were ejected.

## 15. ALCOHOL

Consumption of alcoholic beverages by any player or coach is strictly prohibited while said player or coach is on the field of play. If a specific team's coach and/or any player is caught consuming any form of alcoholic beverage, said team immediately receives a forfeit loss for the game no matter what the score was at the time of the infraction. The umpire must validate suspected infractions. Coolers and containers of unopened alcoholic beverages are prohibited from the playing field. If unopened alcoholic beverages are found in the possession of any coach and/or player while on the playing field, their team's most recent offensive inning will be assessed an automatic score of ZERO no matter what their actual score was. This rule is to be enforced on an inning-by-inning basis. If an offending team refuses to remove unopened alcoholic beverages from the field of play, play will end and said team will receive a forfeit loss for the game.

## 16. FORFEITS AND CANCELLATIONS

If your team shows up without enough players to play a game, your team will forfeit and be responsible for the standard \$20 umpire fee for that game. The opposing team will also be responsible for their respective \$20 umpire fee for the forfeit win they will receive. The team receiving the forfeit win receives the benefit of a win without playing but will pay their \$20 umpire fee as if they did play the game.

If your team forfeits and you do not pay the umpire at the field, you will have until the following Sunday to pay the umpire fee directly to the Commissioner or your team will be suspended from the schedule until the fee has been paid. All games missed while under suspension will be deemed forfeited. Each additional mandatory forfeit while under suspension will be assessed a \$20 fee.

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Any team that has 3 no-show forfeits during the season will be dropped from the League.

Any team that calls, emails or text messages us to let us know they cannot field a team for a game within 48 hours of the day of their game will be responsible for a \$50 umpire cancellation fee. The opposing team may be interested in re-scheduling the game however, 1) the above-mentioned notification time limit applies and 2) it is the sole discretion of the Commissioner to grant the re-scheduling request.

Any team who does not pay the \$50 umpire cancellation fee, if assessed, will be dropped from the League. We value the services of our umpires and it is not appropriate to expect them to have less than 48 hours notice of a schedule change of any kind whatsoever.