



2022 Rule Changes

Proposed Changes To The USA Softball Rules

Item #: 1	**Revision**	Applies To: All	PASS
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I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 3-Equipment Section: 1 Letter: D Number Item Heading: Grip

Change Affects

Fast Pitch Slow Pitch Modified 16 Inch x All Games

Proposed Revision

GRIP: The Handle region of the bat must have a grip made of cork, grip tape, or other synthetic material that is permanently attached to the bat. No bare metal, wood or composite material may be exposed in this area. The grip shall not be less than 6" and not more than 15". Resin, pine tar or spray substances are permissible on the Grip region only.

My reason for the amendment:

This is an outdated rule as any of the attachment grips listed above are not moving or causing any issues that we should be concerned with. If a player has such an attachment on their bat, those attachments will not move on the bat unless intentionally attempted to remove which will take significant work to remove the attachment at all.

Submitted By: Nick Gulmon
At-Large Player Rep

Item #: 2 ****Addition**** Applies To: All **PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2024 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 3-Equipment Section: 3 Letter: A Number Item Heading:

Change Affects

☒ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Addition

12" Fast Pitch Ball to have the following specs

Size: 11 7/8 - 12 ¼ Inches

Weight: 6.50 oz - 7.00 oz

Compression: 275.0 lbs. – 375.0 lbs.

COR: .470 Max

My reason for the amendment:

The ball manufacturers asked if NCAA, NFHS, and USA Softball arrive at a common spec. for the 12" Fast Pitch Ball Working together all three organizations arrived at this common specification that meets how the ball is being made in today's market.

Submitted By: Dick Gulmon
Commissioner

Item #: 3 ****Revision**** Applies To: All **PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2024 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 3-Equipment Section: 3 Letter: A Number Item Heading: Approved Softball

Change Affects

☒ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Revision

Table: 12" Fast Pitch Ball Only: Remove the compression and COR number from the certification mark and only use FP for Fast Pitch

Effective: Mandatory January 1, 2024

My reason for the amendment:

This was requested by the manufacturers.

Submitted By: Dick Gulmon
Commissioner

Item #: 5 ****Addition**** Applies To: **PASS**
JO

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.
This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 4-Players, Coaches, Substitutes Section: 1 Letter: C Number 1 Item Heading:

Change Affects

☒ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Addition

[D] JO Fast Pitch Only with one EP: Pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first baseman (F3), second baseman (F4), third baseman (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), center fielder (F8), right fielder (F9) and one Extra Player (EP) with 10 batting.

[E] JO Fast Pitch with Designated Player (DP) and Flex: with one Extra Player (EP) 11 Players with 10 batting.

NOTE: Any player in the line-up can play defense. Any change to the pitcher and/or catcher must be reported to the plate umpire for reasons of the use of a courtesy runner.

My reason for the amendment:

This allows coaches flexibility and the ability to have more players in the line-up. Having that flexibility satisfies players, parents and coaches.

Submitted By: Chris Drumm
Commissioner

Item #: 6 **Revision Applies To: All PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify

Rule: Rule 4-Players, Coaches, Substitutes Section: 1 Letter: C Number 1 Item A Heading: Fast Pitch Line up

Change Affects

☐ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch x All Games

Proposed Revision

Fast Pitch with Nine players: Pitcher (F1), catcher (F2), first base player (F3), second base player (F4), third base player (F5), shortstop (F6), left fielder (F7), center fielder (F8) and right fielder (F9).

My reason for the amendment:

Per a request from information we received, words can be "used to represent women [and girls] in a less favorable way and thus to enact gender discrimination without meaning to discriminate or even be aware that this linguistic behavior has discriminatory results. In order to reduce gender bias it is necessary to change people's linguistic habits by making them aware of the beneficial effects of gender-fair expressions."

Submitted By: Craig Cress
 CEO

Item #: 7 **Addition Applies To: All PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 4-Players, Coaches, Substitutes Section: 2 Letter: L Number Item Heading:

Change Affects

☐ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch x All Games

Proposed Addition

Subject to the requirements of this rule, any player with a disability, including a diabetic condition, who needs to come out of the ball game while on offense or defense due to the disability, including when batting due to a sugar imbalance caused by diabetes, may have a replacement player substitute for the player until such time as the disability subsides. In order to qualify under this rule, the player with the disability must be disclosed and noted by the player's manager to the umpire at the home plate conference at the outset of play. In the umpire's discretion, the umpire may waive the requirement that the subject player be disclosed at the home plate conference at the outset of play. For purposes of this rule, the term disability shall be defined and construed consistent with the definition of disability in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

My reason for the amendment:

To be sure the ADA rule gives diabetic persons the ability to sit and rest if they have a low sugar situation and not required a substitution on offense or defense.

Submitted By: Craig Cress
 CEO

Item #: 8 **Revision** Applies To: JO **PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify

Rule: Rule 5-The Game Section: 10 Letter: Number Item Heading: Time limit

Change Affects

x Fast Pitch _ Slow Pitch _ Modified _ 16 Inch _ All Games

Proposed Revision

A. In Junior Olympic Fast Pitch 10-Under Class A and 10-Under Class B pool and elimination play, the time limit will be one hour and ~~twenty~~ ^{FORTY} minutes and finish the inning. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie-breaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning....

My reason for the amendment:

The play one more inning was adding to the time it took to play a 10 U game, in some games it took as much as 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Submitted By: Chris Drumm
Commissioner

Item #: 9 **Revision** Applies To: JO **PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 5-The Game Section: 10 Letter: Number Item Heading: Time limit

Change Affects

x Fast Pitch _ Slow Pitch _ Modified _ 16 Inch _ All Games

Proposed Revision

B. In Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Class A and Class B 12-under, 14-under, 16-under, 18-under pool and elimination play the time limit will be one hour and ~~twenty~~ ^{FORTY} minutes and finish the inning. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie-breaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning....

My reason for the amendment:

The play one more inning was adding to the time it took to play a game, in some games it took as much as 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Submitted By: Chris Drumm
Commissioner

Item #: 10 **Revision Applies To: JO PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify

otherwise.

Rule: Rule 5-The Game Section: 10 Letter: Number Item Heading: Time limit

Change Affects

☒ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Revision

In Junior Olympic Fast Pitch 16U Gold and 18U Gold Pool Play only, the time limit will be one hour and ^{FORTY}~~twenty~~ minutes and finish the inning. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the tie-breaker rule shall be in effect at the start of the next inning.....

My reason for the amendment:

The play one more inning was adding to the time it took to play a game, in some games it took as much as 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Submitted By: Chris Drumm
Commissioner

Item #: 11 **Addition Applies To: PASS**
All

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 6A-Pitching Regulations (Fast Pitch) Section: 3 Letter: K Number Item Heading:

Change Affects

☒ Fast Pitch ☐ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Addition

(Women's and JO Girls) Pushing off and dragging the pivot foot in contact with the ground or may have both feet in the air.

My reason for the amendment:

This will allow for more flexibility in pitching styles in the Women's and JO Girls Fast Pitch game.

Submitted By: Dave Devine
Commissioner

Item #: 12 ****Addition**** Applies To: All **PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 6C-Pitching Regulations (Slow Pitch) Section: 3 Letter: J Number Item Heading:

Change Affects

☐ Fast Pitch ☒ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Addition

The pitcher has five seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball or after the umpire indicates "play ball".

My reason for the amendment:

The time between pitches is too long and slows down the game. Coaches at the highest levels of Slow Pitch including the Supers, Men's AA, and the Women's Open shared displeasure to Kevin Ryan, Steve Shortland, Rich Cress and the UICs at this year's Championship that the pace of the game is too slow. They recommended the pitcher's time to pitch be shortened from "10" to "5" seconds to instill a consistent pace of play in the game. This rule change will align the USA Softball slow pitch pitching rule with other competing organizations to ensure our coaches and players draw satisfaction playing Slow Pitch with USA Softball.

Submitted By: Jimmy Derrick
Regional UIC

Item #: 13 ****Revision**** Applies To: All **PASS**

I Propose the following amendment(s) to the USA Softball Rules.

This amendment will be effective January 1, 2022 Unless you specify otherwise.

Rule: Rule 7-Batting Section: 3 Letter: B Number Item Heading: 1 ball 1 strike

Change Affects

☐ Fast Pitch ☒ Slow Pitch ☐ Modified ☐ 16 Inch ☐ All Games

Proposed Revision

(All JO Girls, JO Boys 14U, 16U, 18U, and all adult Slow Pitch except Seniors):The batter shall assume a one- ball, one-strike count upon entering the batter's box.

My reason for the amendment:

South Dakota has hosted the past six Girls Slow Pitch National Championships. Our teams play their league games, invitational tournaments, and state tournaments starting with one ball, one strike count. The teams are use to this rule and are not use to going back to a no ball, no strike count when entering the batter's box in a National Championship.

Submitted By: Gary Young
Commission

