



Rules for Coaches

Ayr Minor Softball

2015

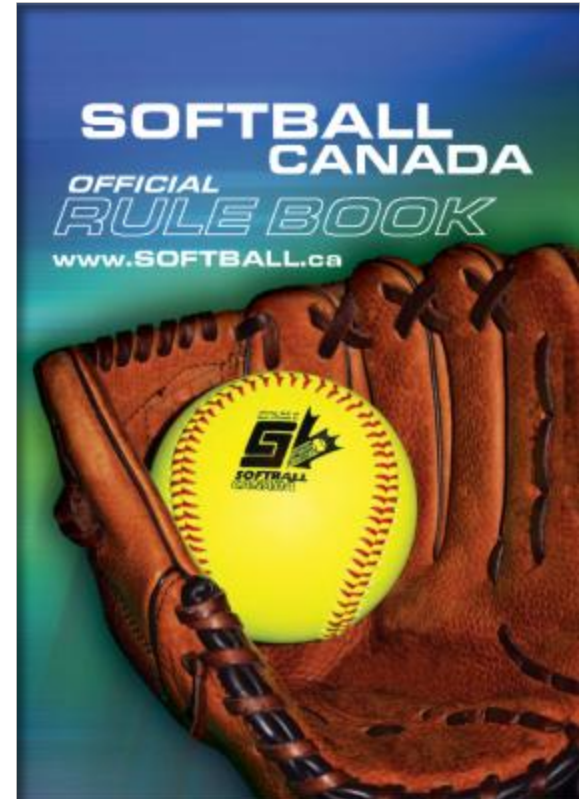




Rules for Coaches

- Softball Canada (SC) rules govern play however local association or tournament rules override SC rules where applicable
- Coaches should have a copy of all relevant rules handy at all times
- Make it a point to read the rulebook cover to cover at least once per season
- Never bring out a rulebook in front of the umpire but checking the rules before talking to him may be helpful

Hint: Make notes for yourself or bookmark your rulebook whenever you come across something you may need to refer to again





How to read rule book

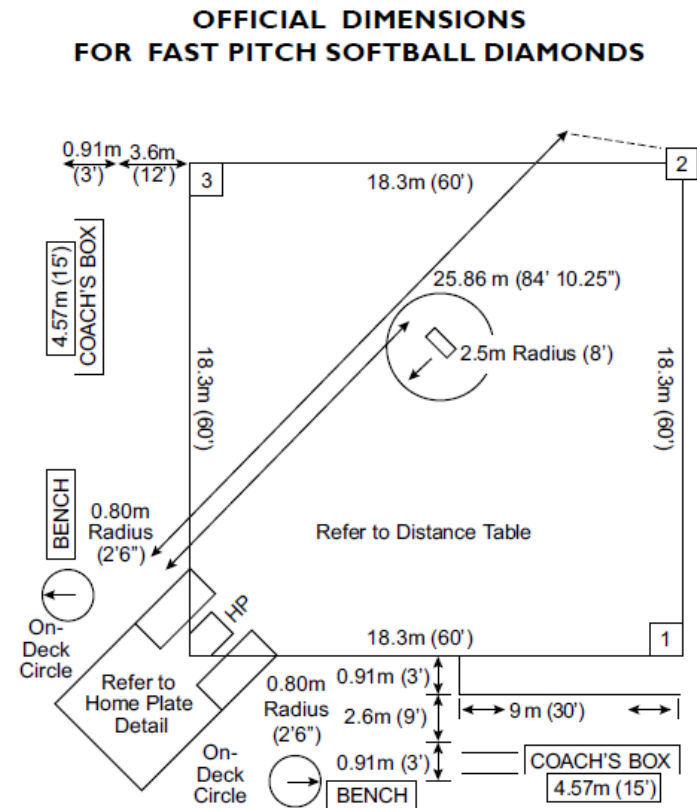
- The Softball Canada Rule Book has two parts. Slow Pitch and Fast Pitch
- Fast Pitch rules start midway through the rulebook
- Fast Pitch rules also include some special rules for Orthodox Softball (specifically pitching) so make sure you are in the correct section when referring to rules as they may differ between sports
- The rulebook is organized based on different activities within the game and the sections are called the Rules of the Game

OFFICIAL FAST PITCH RULES OF SOFTBALL			
INDEX			
(References are to Rule, Section and Article)			
	Rule	Section	Article
ALTERED BAT	1		
Angular bat	3	1	g-1
Bat specifications	3	1	a
Batter in box with	7	6	a & c
Batter is out for using	7	6	f
Dead ball	9	1	i>Note
"Flare" or "Cone" grip attachment	3	1	
APPEAL PLAY	1	2	
Additional out appeals	8	9	f-1 Effect 4
Appeal not allowed	8	9	f-1 Effect 1 a-d
After time out	8	9	f-1 Effect 3
Batter-runner touches wrong base at 1st base	9	1	v
Batting out of order	7	2	b-c Effect
Cancelled appeal	6	8	b
Dead ball appeal	6	9	f-1 Effect 3
Illegal re-entry	4	6	Effect 1
May not be made	1	2	c 1-3
Offensive team members may appeal	1	2	f-1 Effect 1
	4	6	a-b Effect 1
	4	7	i>Note
Runners can return to bases on dead ball appeal	8	9	g Effect 2 & 2a
	8	9	f-1 Effect 3
	8	9	Exception
Runners can leave base on live ball appeal	8	9	f-1 Effect 2
Runners cannot return	8	4	f
Runners out	8	9	f-1 Effect 1
Tag up play (example)	11	3	1-10
Types of appeals	1	2	
BALL			
Called by umpire	7	8	a-e
Carried into dead ball territory (intentional)	8	7	k
Carried into dead ball territory (unintentional)	8	7	j
Dead ball situations	9	1	
Delayed dead ball situations	9	3	
Fair ball	1	2b	
In play	9	2	
Official	3	3	
Out of play on attempted tag	8	7	g Effect
Putting in play	9	2	Exception 1
Size of ball	3	3	f
Slips from pitcher's hand (FP & Orthodox)	6	11	
BALL COMPRESSION			
BALL COR			
BASE ON BALLS	1	5	
Batter becomes batter-runner	8	4	c
Intentional (Both FP & Orthodox)	6	9	t Effect Note
Treated same as batted	8	9	
BASE PATHS	1	6	a
Runner not out	8	10	a
Running outside of	8	9	a
BASE UMPIRE	10	3	
BASES	2	4	i
Must be run in legal order	8	4	
BAT (Specifications)	3	1	c>Note
Attachment on bat	7	1	c>Note
Hits ball a second time	7	6	h
Removed from game	7	6	a-c>Note



These are the 12 Rules of Softball

1. Definitions
2. Playing Field
3. Equipment
4. Coaches, Players and Substitutes
5. The Game
6. Pitching Regulations
7. Batting
8. Batter-Runner and Runner
9. Dead Ball – Ball in Play
10. Umpires
11. Protests
12. Scoring





- Read and be familiar with the Definitions. Using the correct terms is very important and the definitions can differ from the common understanding of the words. Some softball terminology is different from the equivalent baseball term. Know the terms and understand when they apply.
- To find a particular situation in the rulebook start by searching for the correct Rule based on which action/player was involved in the play (ex. Rule 7 – Batting)
- Under the Rule there are several sections each of which refers to a particular occurrence on the field (ex. 7-4 – A strike is called by the umpire)
- Under a section there are conditions that must be met to apply the outcome of the section (ex. 7-4c - For each foul tip)
- Some conditions include notes about the effect of the call (EFFECT – Sec.4c: The ball is in play and runners may advance with liability to be put out. The batter is out if it is the third strike)
- If you know the correct term for the call then you can use the index at the beginning of the Fast Pitch section to go directly to the appropriate page



Team Exercise

Here is a possible game scenario. Use the rulebook to determine the correct call.

2 Out, Runners on 2nd and 3rd. Fly ball hit to LF.

R3 returns to tag up at 3B but R2 continues to run. Ball is dropped by LF as R2 passes R3. R3 sees the dropped ball and advances home. R2 returns to 3B, Batter-Runner is at 2B.

What is the call? Does the run score? How many are out?

How do we find the correct rules?





Answers

Sec. 9 THE RUNNER IS OUT

- e. When he physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been called out.

EFFECT - Sec. 9a-e: The ball remains in play.

EXCEPTION:

1. When the runner passes a preceding runner during a dead ball play, the ball will remain dead.
2. If a batted ball becomes a dead ball foul ball the runner is not out for passing a runner prior to the dead ball declaration.

NOTE: (EXCEPTION 2) When the runner passes the preceding runner the umpire will point at the passing runner and say "passing". No call or signal will be given until the status of the ball is determined. If the ball becomes a dead ball foul ball, no call is made. If the ball's status is determined to be alive, then the out call is made and signalled.

Sec. 8 SCORING OF RUNS

- a. One run shall be scored each time a runner legally touches first, second, third bases and home plate before the third out of the inning.

EXCEPTION - Sec. 8a: When the tie breaker is used the runner starting at second base does not have to touch first base in order for a legal run to be scored.

- b. A run shall not be scored if the last out of the inning is a result of:
 - 1) The batter-runner being put out before legally touching first base.
 - 2) A runner is forced out (including on an appeal play) due to the batter becoming a batter-runner.
 - 3) The runner fails to keep contact with the base to which he is entitled until a pitch is released.
 - 4) A preceding runner being declared out.
- c. A runner shall not score a run ahead of the runner preceding him in the batting order if the preceding runner has not been put out.



What is an appeal Play?



Sec. 2 APPEAL PLAY

Is a play upon which an umpire cannot make a decision until requested by a manager, coach or player of either the defensive or the offensive team. *A coach or manager may only make a dead ball appeal after stepping onto the playing field.*

- a. Can be made while the ball is either dead or alive.
- b. If made by a fielder, the fielder must be in the infield when making the appeal.
- c. The appeal may not be made after any one of the following has occurred:
 - 1) A legal or illegal pitch has been thrown.

EXCEPTION:

1. An appeal for the use of an illegal substitute, an illegal re-entry or for the replacement or withdrawn player not reporting to the umpire may be made at any time while the illegal player or illegal re-entered player or the replacement or withdrawn player is still in the game.
2. *An appeal for runners switching positions on the bases they occupied may be made any time until all such runners are in the dugout or the half inning is over.*
 - 2) At the end of an inning, all defensive players have left fair territory.
 - 3) The umpires have left the field of play following the last play of the game.
- d. These are the types of appeals (eleven (11) in total):
 - 1) Missing a base.
 - 2) Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched.
 - 3) Batting out-of-order.
 - 4) Attempting to advance to second base after making a turn at first base.
 - 5) Illegal pitcher returning to the game as a pitcher.
 - 6) Illegal substitutions.
 - 7) Illegal re-entry.
 - 8) Hitting a ball with an illegal or altered bat.
 - 9) Making a play with an illegal glove.
 - 10) Replacement player or returning withdrawn player not reporting to the umpire.
 - 11) *Runners switching positions on bases they occupied.*



Something to remember!

Sec. 6 UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT

- a. There shall be no appeal from any decision of any umpire, on the grounds that he was not correct in his conclusion as to whether a batted ball was fair or foul, a runner safe or out, a pitched ball a strike or ball or on any play involving accuracy of judgment.
- b. No decision rendered by any umpire shall be reversed, except that he is convinced it is in violation of one of these rules.
 - 1) In case the manager, captain, or either team does seek a reversal of a decision based solely on a point of the rules, the umpire whose decision is in question shall, if in doubt, confer with his associate before taking any action.
 - 2) Under no circumstances shall any player or person, other than the manager or the captain of either team, have any legal right to protest on any decision and seek its reversal, on a claim that it is in conflict with these rules.
- c. Under no circumstances shall any umpire seek to reverse a decision made by his associates, nor shall any umpire criticize or interfere with the duties of his associates, unless asked to do so by him.
- d. The umpires, in consultation, may rectify any situation in which the reversal of an umpire's decision, or a delayed call by an umpire, places a batter-runner or runner in jeopardy, or places the defensive team at a disadvantage.

NOTE: This correction is not possible after one legal, or illegal, pitch has been thrown, or if all players on the defensive team have abandoned fair territory and the catcher has left the catcher's box.





Misunderstood Rules

Your AMSA Coaches Manual contains a section on the top 20 misunderstood rules in softball. Read them and understand them for the sake of everyone involved in the game.



- Questions?



"Just a minute. Is that a regulation bat?"

© T. McCracken mchumor.com

