



2013 SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES

<p>1-4-1b,c</p>	<p>Added that the color of the softball glove/mitt not be entirely optic yellow and that they do not have optic yellow markings on the outside or inside of the glove/mitt resembling the appearance of a softball.</p> <p>Rationale: For 2011-12, the color “white” was removed from the list of permissible softball colors. The only permissible color for softballs is optic yellow. Having a rule address white (or gray) coloring has become superfluous with that change, as there should be little likelihood of an optic-yellow ball staying in play long enough to wear to a near-white color.</p>
<p>3-3-3</p>	<p>Identified that the person the Plate Umpire should announce any changes to and substitutions on the lineup card would be the opposing Head Coach.</p> <p>Rationale: This proposed rule change creates uniformity with other umpire to team game management communication by specifically stating the person responsible for his/her team, the Head Coach, is guaranteed to be kept in this substitution information exchange process.</p>
<p>3-3-6</p>	<p>Explained that a team who intends to utilize the DP/FLEX option advises the Plate Umpire and their opponent during the exchange of line-up cards at the pregame conference.</p> <p>Rationale: This change would require teams to make known the desire to use the DP/FLEX at the time the line-ups become official.</p>
<p>3-6-10</p>	<p>Noted that objects other than stopwatches, scorekeeping materials and devices are prohibited in the coach's box.</p> <p>Rationale: The running game is an important and exciting part of the game. Allowing coaches in the coaching box to use a stop watch to time a pitcher’s release to the plate and possibly the subsequent throw to second base is important information to determine if a steal should be implemented.</p>
<p>6-1-1 Exception</p>	<p>Clarified when a batter is awarded first base from an illegal pitch.</p> <p>Rationale: There are times when the batter could become a base runner without hitting an illegal pitch. This would allow a consistent penalty for illegal pitch regardless if the batter hits the illegal pitch or not.</p>
<p>8-1-2 PENALTY 2</p>	<p>Identified when a hit batter is awarded first base and that she may not deliberately allow the ball to touch her in the batter's box.</p> <p>Rationale: A batter is penalized for prohibiting a pitch from entering the strike zone, there should be a penalty when the pitcher hits a batter when the pitch is completely inside the batter’s box.</p>

2013 EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-5-2	Defined the knob component of the bat.
6-1-2c	Clarified the legality of a hole created in front of the pitcher's plate.
7-3-1	Clarified the batter's feet position within the batter's box.

2013 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- 1.** Flex/Designated Player Education
- 2.** Bench Personnel Conduct (Homerun Celebrations)
- 3.** Risk Minimization (Sliding Injuries)