

NATIONAL SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION 2005 RULE CHANGES

2005 SLOW PITCH RULE CHANGES

RULE 1 DEFINITIONS

1. **Page 7 New Section APPROVED BAT**

A bat model becomes approved after the bat manufacturer submits the bat to the NSA for testing and the NSA has test results demonstrating the bat model meets the requirements of a legal bat as defined in Rule 3, Section 1. The NSA will maintain a list of currently approved bats on the web site.

2. **Page 11 Section 33 New definition of obstruction**

OBSTRUCTION - Obstruction is the act of the defensive team member that hinders or impedes a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitched ball or that impedes the progress of a runner or batter/runner who is legally running the bases, unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is fielding a batted ball. The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal.

RULE 3 EQUIPMENT

Page 14 Section 1 (k) Flare or cone grip

A flare or cone grip may be attached from the factory or a factory flare or cone may be attached to the bat by the player, but the flare or cone must be installed properly to the bat. The flare or cone must be taped or covered by an approved bat grip and the bat must meet all requirements of Rule 3, Section 1(a-l) after installation to be considered legal.

2. **Page 15 Section 4 Penalty for wearing metal spikes**

- a. Offensive player wearing metal spikes will result in an out being recorded and the player being ejected.
- b. Defensive player wearing metal spikes will result in the player being ejected.
- c. If available a substitute will be inserted into the game and if no substitute is available, then the vacant spot in the batting order will be recorded as an automatic out.

3. **Page 15 Section 6 Deletion of part of the existing rule**

Rule shall read: Ball caps or visors must be alike and must be worn properly. Caps or visors are not mandatory, (DELETE the rest of the sentence) "but when worn by one or more players all caps or visors must be identical and must be a team cap or visor

4. **Page 15 Section 6 (c) Jewelry Rule**

Delete any reference to the jewelry rule in adult softball play

RULE 5 THE GAME

1. **Page 22 Section 12 Change the Class D Home Run Rule**

Rule shall read: Class D One (1) home run. Next home run will be declared an out and any additional home runs hit will be governed by the Progressive Penalty rule

2. **Page 22 Section 12 Add Note to the existing rule**

Note shall read: The Tournament Director can declare that home runs hit do not have to be run out for all Divisions of Class C and Higher. This would include the Competitive Divisions in special programs.

3. **Page 22 Section 14 Add Effect to the existing rule**

The Effect shall read: The ball is dead. The batter is awarded 4 bases. All other runners are entitled to advance to home plate with liability to be put out.

RULE 6 PITCHING REGULATIONS

1. Page 24 Section 9 Add Note to the existing rule

Note shall read: It is not a charged conference when the representative of a team enters the field of play and removes the pitcher from the pitching position. That player may return to the pitching position.

RULE 7 BATTING

1. Page 25 Section 1 Make the penalty for using an illegal bat and non-approved bat the same

Penalty will be the same penalty for using an altered bat.

RULE 8 BASERUNNING

1. Page 34 Section 8 (n) Move Section (n)

Move Section 8 (n) to immediately after Section 8 (e) so the effect of Section 8 (j) does not apply

PART VII YOUTH SLOW PITCH

RULE 2 THE PLAYING FIELD

1. Page 51 Section 3 Change the pitching distance in the 12 & U girls division

Pitching distance will be changed from 40 feet to 46 feet in the 12 & U girls division

PART IX. NSA MASTER SOFTBALL

1. Page 57 Section 10 Add Note to the existing rule

Note shall read: Teams in the 35 & Over competitive division are allowed to have a maximum of 2 Major/Class AA players per team

PART XV EIGHT AND UNDER/COACH PITCH

RULE 5 THE GAME

1. Page 67 Section 1 (c) Addition to the existing rule

Rule shall read: All defensive players must play by position. Outfielders must be at least ten (10) feet behind the baseline until the ball is hit.

2. Page 67 Section 1 (l) Delete

Delete the letter (l) in the existing rule.

RULE 7 BATTING

1. Page 68 Section 1 (c) Delete

Delete the letter (c) in the existing rule

RULE 8 BASERUNNING

1. Page 68 Section 1 (d) Addition to the first sentence to the existing rule

Sentence shall read: When the defensive team stops the progress of the lead runner, the umpire will call time out or when the ball is in possession inside of the 16" circle.