

2010 Playing Rule Changes with Comments as of 11/18/09

Rule 2, Section 1: The pitching distance for Junior Olympic Girls Fast Pitch 18U B and 16U A/B classifications will be 43 feet.

Comments: This adapts the ASA pitching distance with the ability of the Junior Olympic athletes.

Rule 2, Section 1H: The Double Base... Half of the base is white (over fair territory) and half of the base (over foul territory) is a contrasting color.

Comment: This allows the host of a National Championship more options with the foul territory portion of the base.

Rule 3, Section 1A: The official bat for ASA Championship Play must meet all the ASA specifications and the requirements of Rule 3, Section 1, and

- 1) The official bat shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat shall be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer, be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance expansion. The official bat shall be smooth and round to 0.050 inches in diameter and bear either the ASA 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below (in the 2010 ASA Rule Book) and must not be listed on the ASA Non Approved Bat List. And
- 2) must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA 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 Standard.

Comments: Gives a better description of the approved ASA bat design.

Rule 3, Section 1B Safety Knob: The knob shall have a diameter of at least 1.6 inches with no sharp edges. The knob will be permanently attached to the bat and may be taped with safety tape

Comments: Describes the minimum knob used in ASA and allows a less restricted knob design.

Rule 3, Section 1C Handle: The region of the bat from the knob, not including the knob, to the start of the taper where the diameter increases. The handle will include a safety grip.

Comments: Adds a definition of a handle to the rule book.

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Rule 3, Section 1D Safety Grip: Covers the handle region of the bat. The safety grip shall not be less than 10 inches and not more than 15 inches. There shall be no exposed metal in the 10 – 15 inch area. The safety grip may be a molded finger formed grip as long as it is permanently attached to the bat, or attached with safety tape. Resin, pine tar or spray substances are permissible on the safety grip only. Any tape applied to the safety grip must be a continuous spiral. A bat having a flare or cone shaped grip attached is legal.

Comments: Eliminates the extra tape issue and allows cone and flare grips.

Rule 3, Section 1E Taper: The transition area between the handle and the barrel. The taper shall have a generally conical shape. It starts where the barrel decreases in size and ends where the handle diameter becomes constant. The taper shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear.

Comments: Adds a definition of a taper to the rule book and helps the bat manufacturers with their designs.

Rule 3, Section 1F Barrel: The region of the bat from the end of the taper to the end cap, not including the end cap. The barrel region shall be round within 0.50 inches.

Comments: Better defines the barrel of the bat.

Rule 3, Section 1G End Cap: The cap placed at the barrel end of the bat. The end cap shall be permanently affixed to the bat to prevent alterations to the interior of the bat. It shall be affixed so that it cannot be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer without damaging or destroying the end cap or barrel.

Comments: Adds a better definition of an end cap.

Rule 3, Section 1H Altered Bat: The official bat shall not be an altered bat. The distribution of weight and length of the bat shall remain fixed at the time of manufacturing and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except otherwise specifically provided in Rule 3, Section 1 or as specifically approved by the ASA. Inserting material inside the bat, or painting a bat other than the top for identification purposes are examples of altering a bat. Laser marking for ID purposes is not considered an altered bat. Engraving ID marking on the barrel end of a metal bat is considered an altered bat. Approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer and shall be considered an altered bat.

Comments: Clarification of an altered bat.

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Rule 3, Section 6G: Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Boys and Girls 18U A/B, Gold and 16U A/B classifications of play may wear metal cleats.

Comments: This allows the upper classifications of Junior Olympic Boys and Girls Fast Pitch players to wear metal cleats.

Rule 3, Section 7: Characteristics of approved equipment cannot be changed. Examples include icing or cooling of any equipment. In addition, approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer. Warming sleeves on bats are now approved.

Comments: Changes the rules to allow warming sleeves used on bats and includes rolling or shaving of bats to be an illegal act.

Rule 4, Section 6C [3]: Replaces the words when reaches base safely with “when they complete their turn at bat and are discovered”

Comments: Clarifies the rule that previously stated when the batter reached first base safely.

Rule 4, Section 7C [5]: No electronic equipment to include cell phones, pagers, etc. is allowed to be worn or carried on the playing field.

Comments: This would change the rule from communication to electronic and eliminate the use of video equipment from the dugout.

Rule 6, Section 3H: The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a height of 10 feet from the ground.

Comments: The Slow Pitch players wanted this change implemented into the Slow Pitch game.

Rule 6, Section 3K [1]: The 9 Man A Modified Pitching Rule now becomes the same as the 9 Man Major Modified Pitching Rule.

Comments: This allows for a single pitching rule in 9 Man Modified.

Rule 6, Section 6A: The pitcher may use an approved manufactured drying agent in Modified Pitch.

Comments: Is now consistent with Fast Pitch.

Rule 8, Section 10: Allow a courtesy runner in the game of Modified.

Comment: Is now consistent with Fast Pitch.