

UPDATED SOFTBALL RULES FOR 2010

Rule 6.09 (b) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

The batter becomes a runner when –

(b) *Major/Junior/Senior/Big League*: the third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied or (2) first base is occupied with two out. NOTE: A batter forfeits the opportunity to advance to first base when he/she enters the dugout or any other dead ball area.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Major Softball Division, players may advance on a dropped third strike. Little League will permit local leagues to adopt a rule requiring players not to advance. This option applies only for the regular season. In Tournament play, the rule will be implemented as noted above.

Rule 7.08 (a) (5) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

Any runner is out when –

(a) (5) *Major/Junior/Senior/Big League Divisions*: the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been released by the pitcher on the delivery. (NOTE: A local league may adopt a rule that requires the runner to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter, or be called out.)

(b) *Minor League/Tee Ball*: the runner fails to keep in contact with the base to which that runner is entitled until the ball has been batted or reaches the batter.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Major Softball Division, runners may leave the base when the pitcher releases the ball. Little League will permit local leagues to adopt a rule requiring runners to remain on the base until the ball reaches the batter. This option applies only for the regular season. In Tournament play, the rule will be implemented as noted above.

Rule 8.03 (c) in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read:

(c) *If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered to the batter.*

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for the Junior, Senior and Big League Softball Divisions, this removes the ability to “waive” a batter to first base for an intentional walk. All softball divisions now fall under this same rule. This also will apply during the International Tournament.

Rule 2.00 in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

BUNT is a batted ball not swung at but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly. *Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempted bunt. In order to take a pitch, the batter must withdraw the bat backwards away from the ball.* (Tee Ball: Bunts are not permitted. Batters are not permitted to take a half-swing. If the umpire feels the batter is taking a half-swing, the batter may be called back to swing again.)

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately for all softball divisions, this mandates that the umpire call a strike when the batter holds the bat in the strike zone when the pitch is delivered, even if the batter does not “offer” at the pitch. This also will apply during the International Tournament.

Regulation IV – THE PLAYERS in the Softball Rule Book has been amended to read, in part:

A 12 year old player who is otherwise eligible under all conditions would be eligible for selection to either the *Major League* or Junior League Division tournament team. However, a local Little League's board of directors could decide that players league age 12 in the league will not try out for the Junior League Division, and will be eligible for only the Little League ("Majors") Division/Minor League Division.

If a player only participates in sixty (60) percent of the Regular Season games in one division (Major or Junior) as of June 15, she is only eligible to participate with that particular division from that point forward in regular season and/or tournament play.

A player may only be selected to and participate on one (1) tournament team.

Any player who is league age 12 must be permitted to play in the Major Division. The local league cannot force any player who is league age 12 to play in the Junior League Division.

NOTE: *If a player pitches in one or more regular season games on a Junior League team, he/she will be ineligible to pitch in the Major Division from that point forward in regular season and would only be eligible for the Junior League tournament team.*

Summary and Implementation: Beginning immediately, this allows 12-year-old softball players to play in the Major and/or Junior divisions of softball, if drafted at the same time. Requests for league-age 12-year-olds to participate as pool players (to be move up occasionally to the Junior Division) must be approved by the Charter Committee in Williamsport.

Regulation IX – SPECIAL GAMES in the Baseball and Softball Rule Books has been amended to read, in part:

(f) Tournament teams may participate in Special Games only *after June 15th*.

Summary and Implementation: Beginning this season, this allows Tournament teams to participate in Special Games after June 15. It is important to note that any Special Games must first be approved in writing by the District Administrator and Regional Director before they are played. The date of announcement of tryouts and practices remains June 15. (Exception for 9-10 and 10-11 Tournament teams – The tryout/practice date is June 15 or two weeks before the first game, whichever is earlier.)