

Summary of rule changes for USSSA Fast Pitch 2018

NOTE: Maryland does not have an Elite Select Program

Jewelry Rule—

Rule Change “Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game.”

No change to medical alert jewelry.

Coaches wristbands (play indicators) are legal but must be worn as designed.

SUM Policy:

Covered jewelry will be permitted.

Small studs are permitted and do not have to be covered.

Dangling hoops, necklaces, bracelets, rings, etc. are prohibited.

Nothing on the wrist/arm to include watches, bracelets, rubber/string wrist bands, fit bits, hair ties.

Confines of the playing field—Clarifies that warm-up catchers outside of live ball territory must wear a catcher's helmet/mask by including those areas in the definition of the confines of the field. This includes the field, dugouts, and any warm-up area in view of the umpire(s).

Roster Batting Option (Not applicable to the Elite Select Program) -- Allows a team the option to bat its entire roster (all player's physically present) in lieu of a traditional line-up. Teams choosing to roster bat may disperse additional players (AP's) starters who aren't listed as defensive players, anywhere in their batting order so as to bat everyone present. If a player leaves the game for any reason, it creates an absent player and an automatic out situation.

Last completed at bat courtesy runner option (Not applicable to the Elite Select Program) -- Team's may now use the last completed at bat (LCAB) player if no unused substitute is available. Under this change, a team will always have a courtesy runner (CR) option, even if roster batting.

The LCAB courtesy runner is determined at the time the courtesy runner is requested, skipping batters

i) currently on base

ii) who are the pitcher or catcher of record

iii) who have already courtesy run for the other position in the same inning ...

In the first inning, if there is no CR available using the above method, the LCAB CR shall be the player furthest away in the batting order. i.e., the LCAB CR for the leadoff batter is the last batter listed last in the lineup.

Short-handed rule modification—Clarifies that multiple absent players (automatic outs) are allowed.