

## References

- Rulebook 2024 USSSA OFFICIAL FASTPITCH PLAYING RULES and BY-LAWS 17th Edition  
[https://ussa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch\\_Rules.pdf](https://ussa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch_Rules.pdf)
- Mechanics NFHS Softball Umpires Manual – and USSSA Exceptions \*\*  
 THREE UMPIRE MECHANICS A Quick Study of the Basics \*\*
- 10C USSSA Region 1 10U “C” & “All-Star” Rule Exceptions \*\*

\*\* online at [https://mdumps.com/support\\_documents.html](https://mdumps.com/support_documents.html)

## TRUE OR FALSE

- 1 Once a game has started, it is discovered that the pitching distance is incorrect, the correction shall be made immediately and the game shall start over.
- 2 The on deck batter may use either on deck circle
- 3 Any non-wooden bat not displaying the USSSA 2014 or the 2020 Fastpitch Only 1.20 BPF mark on the taper, will be ruled a Non-Approved illegal bat
- 4 Tinted eye shields are permissible on catcher's masks and defensive face shields.
- 5 A glove worn by a player that is entirely white, gray or optic in color is illegal
- 6 A team may walk a batter by notifying the umpire.
- 7 It is a catch if a fielder holds the ball long enough but then drops it when she collides with another player, the fence or the ground
- 8 Offensive Interference is an act, physical or verbal, by a member of the offensive team that illegally impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder
- 9 Batter bunts, the ball hits the ground, bounces and hits the batter who is completely in fair territory within the front part of the batter’s box. It is Foul ball.
- 10 A team's lineup card shall include first name, last name, jersey number, position and batting order of each starting player and should include each eligible substitute.
- 11 A team may bat all roster players in pool play only
- 12 If an absent player was injured while a batter-runner or runner, the absent player may be replaced by the LCAB, to fulfill her baserunning responsibility.
- 13 An absent player may not return to the lineup unless that player left the game under the Blood Rule.
- 14 The DP may play defense for a player other than the FLEX player.
- 15 The FLEX may not play offense only.
- 16 The FLEX player may re-enter the game as many times as she wants provided they return to the non-batting position or to the DP's position in the lineup.
- 17 The starting pitcher must face one complete batter.
- 18 A substitute who is replaced may not reenter the game.
- 19 Prior to the pitch, the pitcher's pivot foot must be partially on top of the pitcher's plate.
- 20 The pitcher's non-pivot foot must be partially on top of the pitcher's plate prior to the pitch.
- 21 Preliminary to pitching, the pitcher must come to the pitcher's plate with her hands apart and present the ball.
- 22 The pitcher takes a signal from her coach, steps on the pitcher's plate, then looks at her catcher. An illegal pitch should be called.

- 23 The pitch begins and cannot be discontinued when the pitcher's hands are separated once they have been placed together.
- 24 Any step back by the pitcher with the non-pivot foot must begin before the hands come together.
- 25 The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate or push off and drag away from the pitcher's plate.
- 26 Once having lost contact with the pitcher's plate, the pivot foot may not bear weight again until the pitch is released.
- 27 The pitcher may not slide the pivot foot across the rubber after establishing the contact point with the rubber.
- 28 If the pitcher uses dirt to dry the hand, she is required to wipe the hand prior to contacting the ball.
- 29 The pitcher's fingers, hand, wrist, forearm, or elbow may be taped for injury providing the tape is a neutral color.
- 30 Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch, she has 20 seconds to release the pitch
- 31 Amy, the pitcher, moves to left field when a relief pitcher comes in. The next inning, Amy returns to pitch with one out and the bases loaded. Since Amy has already pitched, no warm up pitches are allowed.
- 32 The umpire shall declare no pitch if the catcher has one foot out of the catcher's box
- 33 With R1 on first base, The pitcher commits an illegal pitch resulting in a called strike. The proper penalty is for R1 to be advanced to second and the pitch is declared a ball.
- 34 The coach of the offensive team has the option of accepting the effect of an illegal pitch or taking the result of the play.
- 35 No pitch is called if a pitcher attempts a quick return of the ball when the batter is not in position.
- 36 It is an illegal pitch if the pitcher picks up a handful of dirt with her pitching hand, and then without wiping the hand proceeds to throw a pitch.
- 37 If a batter interferes with the catcher's attempt to make a play on a runner stealing a base, the ball is dead and the batter is out.
- 38 A team playing with an absent player is not required to take an out when the player is due to bat, as long as the opposing coach agrees.
- 39 A batter who enters the box with a non-approved bat shall be called out and ejected along with the head coach
- 40 A slap hitting batter, hits the ball with her front foot partially outside the front line of the batter's box. The ball is dead and the batter called out.
- 41 The pitcher is considered to be in the 16-foot circle when both feet are within or partially within the lines.
- 42 The "look back rule" is in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the 16-foot circle.
- 43 The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher any time during the game
- 44 The LCAB courtesy runner is determined at the time the pitcher or catcher becomes a runner.
- 45 If an ineligible or incorrect courtesy runner (CR) is utilized and is discovered after the ball is made live while still on base, the CR is called out and restricted to the bench.
- 46 The courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher was injured while running the bases. The offensive team has the option of using another courtesy runner or the pitcher or catcher may run until they score or are put out.
- 47 The team has moved the Flex player into the DP batting position. The Flex is the pitcher. The Designated Player (DP) reenters and bats for the FLEX and is walked. A courtesy runner is permitted for DP.

- 48 The pitcher has a courtesy runner in the top of the first and does not face the first batter in the bottom of the first. She is restricted to the bench.
- 49 An unreported courtesy runner is treated the same as an illegal substitute.
- 50 The catcher obstructs the lead off batter while hitting a fair ball for a single, and the batter is safe at first base. The coach or captain of the team obstructed has the option of the play or penalty.
- 51 A runner is off first base with the pitch; sees the shortstop catch a line drive and turns around heading back to first. The shortstop overthrows first base into dead ball territory. The runner is awarded second base (the base she is going to plus one).
- 52 A Runner is out when the runner Interferes with a fielder attempting to field a fly ball over foul territory.
- 53 The runner is not in contact with the base (leaves early) at the time a pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand. It is a delayed dead-ball and the coach has the option of the play or penalty.
- 54 The runner is hit with a fair batted ball after it touched or has passed an infielder, except the pitcher, and the Umpire judges that no other infielder had an opportunity to make a play, the runner is not out and the ball remains alive.
- 55 A runner is out when contacted by a fair-batted ball after it passes any infielder, except the pitcher, and the Umpire judges that an outfielder has a play.
- 56 With no runners on base, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop who overthrows the first baseman. The First base coach catches the thrown ball. The runner is out.
- 57 When no play is being attempted at first base, the batter-runner (BR) may touch the white or colored base. After the BR becomes a runner, she and any fielder may use the white or colored base.
- 58 A runner missing a base can be a Live or Dead ball appeal.
- 59 When an improper batter becomes a runner and the defense appeals before the next pitch the improper batter is out.
- 60 A fair ball that touches an Umpire before touching any fielder and before passing any fielder other than the pitcher is a Delayed Dead ball
- 61 The ball becomes dead immediately when the batter-runner moves back toward home plate to delay being tagged out.
- 62 During the game a player carelessly throws her bat. Penalty for First Offense is team warning, Second Offense is both the player and coach are restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
- 63 A one-way communication device may be used by a coach to relay signals to the offensive.
- 64 On defense, a coach may use a one-way communication device only to the catcher.
- 65 A player that gets ejected for initiating malicious contact is always declared out.
- 66 In accordance with World Series Bylaws (and also in our local play) In pool play games where home team is determined by a coin toss prior to the start of a game , the winner of the coin toss has choice of home or visitors.
- 67 (10C) The uncaught third strike rule does not apply.
- 68 (10C) The infield fly rule is not in effect.
- 69 (10C) - Runners starting at third base may not steal home, but are liable to be put out if they are off the base
- 70 (10C) A 5 run limit per inning shall be imposed for the first 2 innings of the game.
- 71 (10C) R3 is the runner on third base. In an attempted pickoff, the catcher throws the ball out of play. R3 is awarded home.
- 72 No one on, base hit to left field; Base Umpire may rim by staying outside.

- 73 With no runners on base and a play at first base, the Plate Umpire should leave the plate area on the left side and follow the batter-runner toward first base in fair ground. Go 15 to 20 feet toward first base and come to a stop slightly inside the foul line to observe the play at first.
- 74 The plate umpire has tag responsibilities for the runner at second base with runners at first and second base
- 75 With R2 on second base, B4 hits a ground ball to the shortstop who throws to 3rd. The Base Umpire has the initial play at Third Base.
- 76 With R2 on second base, B4 hits a ground ball to the shortstop who throws to first. The Base Umpire has the play at first and subsequent play at Third Base.
- 77 With R2 on second base, B4 hits an uncaught line drive to the left fielder who throws to 3rd. The Base Umpire has the initial play at Third Base.
- 78 Long sleeve shirts may not be worn under the pullover shirt.
- 79 Umpire Jurisdiction begins upon the arrival of both Umpires within the confines of the field
- 80 Umpire Jurisdiction ends with the last out of the game.
- 81 The Umpire making the decision may ask another Umpire for information before making a final decision.
- 82 At the Pre-Game conference, The Plate Umpire must have each coach to verbally verify that their team is legally and properly equipped
- 83 The pre-game conference should begin as the home team takes the field
- 84 Any situation not specified in the rules should be referred to the UIC or Tournament Director
- 85 The Plate Umpire should keep a record of all courtesy runners
- 86 Both Umpires can call an illegal pitch. The Plate Umpire has primary coverage for the pitcher's hands and outside the width of the pitchers plate. The Base Umpire has primary coverage for the pitcher's feet.
- 87 The Plate Umpire never has responsibility to call a tag play at second base.
- 88 3 Umpire - No one on; base hit to left field; U1 follows B/R to 2nd
- 89 3 Umpire - Runner on first; base hit to left field; U1 rotates home.
- 90 3 Umpire - Runner on second; base hit to left field; U1 rotates home.