

<b>2023 Fast Pitch Rules (2023 Changes in green); (2022 Changes in green); (2020 in blue); (2019 in red); (2018 in brown);</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL PLAYER(S) (AP) – Extra Player (EP)</b>
USSSA 5.3 Up to Two Additional Players <b>or entire bench</b> . Must remain in same place in batting order but can play or not play any defensive position. i.e. Ten (10) or Eleven (11) <b>or all bat</b> ; any Nine (9) play defense. <b>ASA-USA 7.2.F In Pool Play, can bat up to all present; 4.1.C.1 D/E ONE EP.</b> NFHS/NCAA NR
<b>APPEAL, TYPES</b>
USSSA 9.1 Four – Missing base, leaving too soon, batting out of order, overrun first and advancing to second ASA-USA RS1 Four - same NFHS 2.1.2 Four - same NCAA 7.1.1 Five – four above and Switching base runners
<b>ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS</b>
USSSA, ASA-USA, NFHS – No explicit Rule <b>NCAA 5.11 prohibited in team area</b>
<b>BALL</b>
USSSA 2.3 Optic yellow, blue stitch; “USSSA Fast Pitch Classic” & USSSA logo ASA-USA 3.3.A White or optic yellow, red stitch; with ASA-USA logo & approved certification mark NFHS 1.3 Optic with NFHS certification mark NCAA. 3.2 Optic yellow, red seams; no certification mark required; dynamic stiffness < 7,500 lbs.
<b>BALL, FOREIGN SUBSTANCE</b>
USSSA 6-1-I No tacky or sticky substances can be used as a substitute for a powdered drying agent. Fingers may be taped for injury. ASA-USA 6A.6 No foreign substance; powder resin or approved drying agent OK NFHS 6.4.5 No tape; No foreign substance; powder resin or drying agent OK NCAA. 10.13.1 Resin or drying agent OK; pitcher must wipe off all substances before gripping ball. Fingers may be taped for injury.
<b>BALL ROTATION</b>
USSSA MM Ball used until out of play; pitcher has choice before 1 <sup>st</sup> warm up ASA-USA RS2 Same NFHS 4.1.4 Same NCAA. 10.12.2 Pitcher may request different ball at any time
<b>BAT, DEFINITION</b>
USSSA 2.10 Legal Bat – must New USSSA 1.20 BPF mark and NOT on Withdrawn List 3 Altered Bat, Illegal Bat ASA-USA 3.1 Official Bat – ASA-USA Certification Mark and NOT on ASA-USA Non-Approved Bat List 1 Altered Bat, Illegal Bat NFHS 1-5 Legal Bat Meet ASA-USA Standards 1.5.1e Damaged Bat defined 2.4.2 Illegal bat – Altered, NonApproved NCAA 3.3 Official Bat ASA-USA Certification and on NCAA Approved Bat List. 3.3.2 inappropriate bat - illegal, altered or nonapproved 3.3.3 damaged bat - bats with burrs, wobble, rattles, cracks and dents
<b>BAT, ALTERED/NON-APPROVED PENALTY</b>
USSSA 7.14.A Batter out; batter and head coach ejected. ASA-USA 7.6.b Batter Out & Disqualified NFHS 3.6.1 7.4.2 Batter out; batter and head coach ejected; <b>Damaged bat remove with no penalty.</b> NCAA 3.4.1 / 11.21.2 Effect inappropriate - Batter Out & ejected
<b>BAT, CHOKE UP DEVICES</b>
USSSA 3 Choke-up devices are not permitted. ASA-USA NFHS 1.5.2A Choke-up devices are not permitted NCAA

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<b>BAT, LEGAL</b>
USSSA 2.10 Must have USSSA BPF 1.20 mark either 2014 or 2020 fast pitch. ASA-USA 3.1 must bear ASA-USA 2000 or 2004 or FP USA Softball certification mark & not be listed on non-approved bat list and on approved list NFHS 1.5.4 must meet ASA-USA Standards NCAA 3.2 must bear ASA-USA 2004 or FP USA Softball certification mark and meet ASA-USA Standards and not on Non-approved list on NCAA.org
<b>BAT, THROWN PENALTY</b>
USSSA 11.2.B Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> violation offender restricted; coach ejected ASA-USA RS52 No penalty unless intentional NFHS 3.6.3 Team Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Restricted NCAA 11.20.5.3 Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> time batter out (defensive coach option)
<b>BAT, WARM UP</b>
USSSA 2.10/2.11 Two USSSA approved; no donut or fan ASA-USA 7.1.B Two official bats and/or approved warm-up bats; NFHS 1.5.3 Two bats; added devices commercially manufactured for softball NCAA 3.5 Not less than 39 oz; No attachments are allowed on the warm up bat; fungo bats allowable
<b>BAT, WARMERS</b>
USSSA Pyrofyte approved USSSA Sponsor ASA-USA 3.7 warming shelves not approved NFHS CB 1.5.1 Illegal NCAA 3.4.1.2.1 Illegal
<b>BATTER's BOX – Batter out when contacting ball</b>
USSSA 7.14.G – Entire foot touching ground outside box. Ball is Dead ASA-USA 7.6.F – Entire foot touching ground outside box. Ball is Dead NFHS 7.4.8 – Entire foot touching ground outside box. Ball is Dead NCAA 11.2.5, 11.15.1, 11.21.4 Any part of foot touching ground outside batter's box. Delayed Dead Ball
<b>BATTER HIT BY PITCH</b>
USSSA 8.4.D Batter does NOT have to attempt to avoid being hit by pitched ball in batter's box to be awarded first base ASA-USA 8.1.F Batter does have to attempt to avoid, dead-ball and ball. NFHS 8.1.2 PEN 1 Batter does NOT have to attempt to avoid. NCAA 11.13 Batter does NOT have to attempt to avoid
<b>BATTER INTERFERENCE – RUNNER ON 3rd</b>
USSSA 7.12 batter out, ball dead, runners return. ASA-USA 7.6 P-S batter out, ball dead, runners return NFHS 7.4.4 batter out, ball dead, runners return NCAA 11.20 EFFECT: delayed dead ball, result of play or batter out, runners return EXCEPT less than 2 outs, runner advancing from third out.
<b>BUNT, ATTEMPT</b>
USSSA 3 Holding bat in strike zone; Must be pulled back. ASA-USA RS10 Must move bat toward ball. NFHS 2.8.2 Holding bat in strike zone; Must be withdrawn NCAA 11.7.2.1 Holding bat in strike zone; Must be withdrawn
<b>CHECK SWING</b>
USSSA MM Should ask if requested. ASA-USA RS-10 Plate Umpire should ask if in doubt or requested. NFHS No Mention NCAA 11.10.4 Plate Umpire must ask if requested by catcher
<b>CLEATS AND TOE PLATES</b>
USSSA 2.4 (13U & Older) Legal (12U & Younger) Metal cleats prohibited; Warning, Restriction; Metal toe plate prohibited. ASA-USA 3.6.G (14U, 16U, 18U) may wear (12U & Younger) Youth Metal cleats not allowed. No penalty. NFHS 3.2.11 Metal cleats and Metal toe plate allowed. NCAA 3.9 Metal cleats & toes legal

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<b>COACH'S BOX</b>
USSSA 11.2.I scorebook only. ASA-USA 4.7.C.1 scorebook (electronic or paper), pen, pencil, electronic marker or indicator. NFHS 3.6.10 Only stopwatches and scorekeeping material/devices. NCAA.
<b>CONCUSSION</b>
USSSA 5.9.B Player who exhibits signs of concussion removed for day until cleared by health-care professional in writing. ASA-USA NR NFHS 3.3.9 Player who exhibits signs of concussion removed for day until cleared by health-care professional. NCAA 8.6.2 Injured player shall not return without approval of medical personnel.
<b>CONFERENCE, DEFENSIVE</b>
USSSA 4.8.A 3 per game plus 1 per extra inning; pitcher removed as a pitcher for game. ASA-USA 5.7.B 3 per game plus 1 per extra inning; remove pitcher NFHS 3.7.1 Three charged conferences per game plus 1 per extra inning; After three remove pitcher NCAA 6.12.1&2 7 charged conferences coach; 7 player to player charged conferences (max 2 per inning)
<b>CONFERENCE, OFFENSIVE</b>
USSSA 4.8.B One per inning; deny any subsequent; No penalty. ASA-USA 5.7.a One per inning; excess not permitted; ejection of manager who insists NFHS 3.7.2 One charged conference per inning Excess not permitted, No Penalty NCAA 6.11.2.1 One per inning, excess not allowed, person defying umpire is ejected
<b>COURTESY RUNNER</b>
USSSA 8.3 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both positions in same inning. Not for DP unless pitcher or catcher of record. <b>If no eligible players, LCAB may be used.</b> ASA-USA 8.10 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both Pitcher and Catcher. Not for DP. NFHS 8.9.1 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both Pitcher and Catcher. Not for DP. NCAA NR
<b>COURTESY RUNNER, INJURED</b>
USSSA 8.3 another courtesy runner or the pitcher or catcher may run ASA-USA 8-10 Not addressed NFHS 8-9-6 EXC2 The player for whom she is running may return to run or a legal substitute NCAA N/A
<b>COURTESY RUNNER, UNREPORTED</b>
USSSA 8.3.EFFECT - First offense: A team warning is issued. Second offense: The manager is ejected. ASA-USA 8-10-G Illegal runner and disqualified NFHS 8-9-7 considered to be an unreported substitute NCAA N/A
<b>DOUBLE FIRST BASE</b>
USSSA 1.2.D may be used – white & orange ASA-USA 2.3.H shall be used – white & contrasting color. NFHS 1.2.1 NOTE State Adoption. MPSSAA permitted for play all season long. will NOT be used in regional or state tournament games. NCAA 2.7 may NOT be used.
<b>EJECTION, PLAYER</b>
USSSA 12.2 Any youth player who is restricted or ejected shall remain in the dugout/bench area. ASA-USA 4.8.A Disqualified player can remain; 4.8.B ejected participant must leave. NFHS 2.19 removed from further participation in the game NCAA 13.2 may remain in the dugout

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<b>EQUIPMENT CHECK</b>
USSSA NR. ASA. Umpire Manual pg 32 Inspect all equipment <b>NFHS 10.2.3a Coach (not Umpire) is responsible for safety of equipment.</b> NCAA 5.2.4 Umpires must inspect all bats
<b>FAKE TAG</b>
USSSA 11.2.A A Fake Tag is obstruction; Team Warning then restricted to bench & coach ejected. ASA-USA POE 20 continued fake tags should result in ejection – must impede runner to be obstruction NFHS 3.6.2 Obstruction; Team warning then restricted to dugout NCAA 9.5.3.5 Obstruction; No automatic ejection; subsequent violation - one base award_must impede runner to be obstruction
<b>FITNESS OF GROUNDS</b>
USSSA 4.1. Fitness of the grounds decided by umpire. ASA-USA 5.2 Solely Home Plate Umpire NFHS 4.1.1/4.1.7 Home coach to start game/Umpires after game starts NCAA 5.3 On site administrator/coaches before game; Plate Umpire during game. 2 <sup>nd</sup> game of DH
<b>FOOT IN BOX BETWEEN PITCHES</b>
USSSA 8.6 NR ASA-USA 7.3.c batter must have one foot in box between pitches NFHS NCAA
<b>GLOVE ADHESIVE COATING</b>
USSSA 2.9 Gloves - No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky ASA-USA No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky NFHS 1-4-4: Added that gloves may not be designed or altered to create an adhesive, sticky, and/or tacky surface. NCAA 3.6.3 glove is illegal if illegal use of a tacky substance.
<b>GLOVE COLOR</b>
USSSA 2.9.B All gloves any number of colors (not color of ball nor optic); no circle appearing like ball. Logo not a glove color ASA-USA 3.4 One solid color or multicolor; not color of ball. Logos part of glove NFHS 1.4.2 No glove/mitt optic; maximum of two colors; not distracting; nothing appearing like ball Exclude lacing/logo NCAA 3.6.2 Any Player's glove or lacing not color of ball; Pitcher's glove must be tan, brown, grey, white or black or combination.
<b>HELMET, BATTING</b>
USSSA 2.1 NOCSAE approved batting helmets with extended ear flaps are mandatory; attached NOCSAE face mask/guard required. 3.8 Chin strap optional ASA-USA 3.5.E Helmet NOCSAE. Youth chin strap required. Face mask guard NOCSAE. NFHS 1-6, Helmet with permanently affixed NOCSAE. Face mask guard NOCSAE affixed. NCAA 3.7.1 double-earflap helmet NOCSAE; 3.8.2; may wear NOCSAE approved face guard
<b>HELMET, GLARE</b>
USSSA NR ASA-USA NR NFHS 1-6-1,1-7-1 Helmet Non Glare NCAA 3.7.1 Helmet Not reflective; mirror like.
<b>HELMET, SHIELD</b>
USSSA 2.1 & 2 Disallow tinted face shield ASA-USA NR NFHS 1-8-4 Shield must be clear NCAA.
<b>HELMET, REMOVAL OF</b>
USSSA 2.1 deliberately removing the batting helmet while the ball is alive and person is in live ball territory, warning to the coach; subsequent violations coach ejected; player restricted ASA-USA 3.5.e Runner out, ball remains alive NFHS 1.6 2 Required for live ball; Penalty: 3.6.1 Team warning; then player and coach restricted; no out. NCAA 3.7 EFFECT: Out call, no ejection; force play still on

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<b>HUDDLES, ON FIELD</b>
USSSA NR No Rule on on-field huddles. ASA-USA NR NFHS 2006 Points Of Emphasis #2 –Team should not huddle on the field after a third out while the other team is warming up. NCAA 9.1 No huddles after out.
<b>ILLEGAL PLAYER</b>
USSSA 5.7 Illegal player & coach ejected, Out if just completed turn at bat. ASA-USA (Def) Player enters without legal right 4.6.F Illegal player disqualified. NFHS 3.4.1 Illegal substitute penalty - restricted to bench and out. NCAA 8.3.4 competes but not entitled to participate; Illegal Player no penalty if offending team reports. Offended team reports, player ejected; Out if at bat/on base, Choice of do-over if just made a defensive play.
<b>INELIGIBLE PLAYER</b>
USSSA. 5.7 NOTE2 Ineligible player is discovered, game lost; ASA-USA (Def) Player not meeting requirements 4.6.F. NFHS Not Defined NCAA 8.3.4.1.5 ejection
<b>INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hinder catcher's throw</b>
USSSA 8.16.G Umpire interference – hinder a catcher's attempt to throw. Delayed dead ball. Runners returned if safe ASA-USA 8.6.F Umpire interferes with catcher's throw. Delayed dead ball. Runners returned if safe. NFHS 5.1.2.c If runner out, line ball; If runner safe, runners returned NCAA 9.6.1.3 Umpire Interference – Delayed dead ball; if runner not out, runners returned
<b>INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hit with fair ball</b>
USSSA 3.39.B Umpire interference - when a fair ball touches an umpire before passing infielder. Batter/Runner awarded First. ASA-USA 8.1.E.7 Batted ball strikes umpire before passing fielder, batter awarded First. NFHS 5.1.1.f.1 Dead Ball – Award 1 <sup>st</sup> base NCAA 9.6.1.2 Umpire Interference - Dead Ball – Award 1 <sup>st</sup> base
<b>JEWELRY</b>
USSSA 2.5 (Youth) exposed & dangerous must be removed; medical alert are not considered jewelry; 11.2.D Team Warning, 2 <sup>nd</sup> offensive restrict to bench & eject coach ASA-USA 3.6.f exposed & dangerous must be removed; medical alert are not considered jewelry NFHS Jewelry Rule Removed; 3-2.13 Any Equipment judged by the umpire to be potential dangerous in illegal. NCAA No prohibition on jewelry
<b>LEAVING BASE TOO SOON</b>
USSSA 8.18.K Dead Ball; No pitch, Runner is out. ASA-USA 8.7.S Dead Ball; No pitch, Runner is out. NFHS 8.6.18 Dead Ball; No pitch, Runner is out. NCAA 12.14.2 Delayed Dead Ball; Defensive has option of result of play or above.
<b>LINE UP CARD</b>
USSSA 5.1.B Lineup card shall contain first and last name, number, position. ASA-USA 4.1.A.1 Lineup card shall contain first and last name, position and uniform number of each player. NOTE: if a wrong number is encountered, correct it and play on, no penalty Substitutes listed NFHS 3.1.3 Include first initial and last name, position, jersey number, and batting order. Penalty Warn then restrict NCAA 5.7 Include first and last name, uniform number, position of starting players, listed in batting order and first and last names of all eligible subs. Penalty 8.3.2 inaccuracy results in improper player
<b>LINE UP CARD SUBSTITUTES</b>
USSSA 5.1.B Eligible substitutes can be added. ASA-USA 4.1.A.2 Eligible members may be added to substitute list. NFHS 3.3.1 A player not listed as an eligible substitute shall not be prohibited from playing. Penalty to add Warn then restrict NCAA 5.7 Note 1. Players not listed are not eligible to play
<b>LINES, REMOVING</b>
USSSA NR ASA-USA NR NFHS 3.6.17 Player shall not intentionally remove any lines. Strike if offense; Ball if defense; Team warning to coach NCAA 2.20.3 Player shall not intentionally remove any lines/cover plate. Strike if offense; Ball if defense; 2.17.c If Coach, Warning

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<b>LOOK BACK RULE</b>
USSSA 8.2 Runner may stop once then must move directly to next base or last base touched. ASA-USA 8.7.T Runner may stop once then immediately advance/return NFHS 8.7.2 Runner may stop once then immediately advance/return NCAA 12.16.1 Runner must continue or immediately go back
<b>LOOK BACK RULE Possession</b>
USSSA 8.2 only if pitcher has ball (in hand or glove, under arm/chin, between legs). ASA-USA 8.7.T pitcher has possession & control (rule sup 34 not between legs or under arm) NFHS 8.7.1 pitcher must have possession (not necessarily in either hand) NCAA 12.16.1 pitcher has ball (in hand or glove, under arm/chin, between legs)
<b>LOOK BACK RULE OVERRUNNING 1<sup>st</sup> BASE</b>
USSSA 8.2 runner obligated to move directly toward next base or last base touched. ASA-USA 8.7.T overruns, turns left, stops, return/advance;. turns left, moves to 2 <sup>nd</sup> ; must advance. overruns, turns left, moves back; must return. Overruns, turns right, must return. NFHS 8.7.4 same as ASA NCAA Rule 12.16.3.5 if runner is heading back to 1 <sup>st</sup> base within the base path extended, she may go to either base
<b>MERCY RULE – See RUN RULE</b>
<b>NUMBERS</b>
USSSA 2.8.C - 0 and 00, 1 and 01 are examples of different numbers. ASA-USA 3.6.D – 00 and 0; 01 and 1 are different numbers. NFHS 3.2 - 0 and 00 are considered the same number NCAA 3.10.3: 0 and 00 are considered the same number
<b>OBSTRUCTION DURING RUN DOWN</b>
USSSA 8.13 award base would have reached ASA-USA 8.5.b.1 / NFHS 8.4.3 award base would have reached NCAA 9.5.3 award base she would have reached unless warned previously then additional one base award
<b>ON-DECK CIRCLE</b>
USSSA 7.1.A On-deck batter can only use on-deck circle by her bench. ASA-USA 7.1.A Either Circle NFHS 2.37 Circle for each team NCAA 11.1.1 nearest her dugout
<b>PASSING A PRECEDING RUNNER</b>
USSSA 8.18.P Runner out if passes an unobstructed preceding runner. ASA-USA 8.7.d Runner out if passes preceding runner. Does not address the obstructed runner NFHS 8.6.4 Runner out if passes preceding runner. Passing preceding obstructed runner is not out. NCAA 12.4.3 Runner out if passes preceding runner unless passed runner was obstructed.
<b>PITCHER WARM UP</b>
USSSA 6.1.L 1 minute; not more than 5 pitches. ASA-USA 6A.9 not more than 1 minute; not more than 5 pitches. NFHS 6.10 not more than 1 minute; not more than 5 pitches. NCAA 6.7.1 90 minutes; any number of warmup pitches.
<b>PITCHER RETURNS TO PITCH</b>
USSSA 5.5.B A player may be removed as a pitcher and returned as a pitcher only once per inning. ASA-USA 6.9 No limit; No warm ups NFHS 3.3.2 note Once per inning NCAA 10.19.3.4 Returning pitcher not entitled to warm-up pitches in the same inning. No Limit.
<b>PITCHING DISTANCE</b>
USSSA 1.1 (13U & Older) 43 feet; (11U-12U) 40 feet; (10U & younger) 35feet ASA-USA 2.1 (16,18) 43 feet; (12,14) 40 feet; (10) 35 feet NFHS 1.1.2.6 43 feet NCAA. 2.27 43 feet



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<b>PITCHING HAND</b>
USSSA 6.1.H. Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm. 6.1.I Tape for injury OK ASA-USA 6.6-B Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm, etc. No Batting glove on pitching hand NFHS 6-2-2 No tape on contact points of pitching hand or fingers. Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm. NCAA 10.13.4 Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm, etc. May use neutral color tape for injury.
<b>PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (FEET)</b>
USSSA 6.1.A Pivot foot <b>must be in contact with the</b> pitcher's plate (rubber); non pivot in contact or behind. Both <b>partially</b> within 24" ASA-USA 6A.1.C Pivot foot <b>must be in contact with the</b> pitcher's plate (rubber); non pivot in contact or behind. Within 24" NFHS 6.1.1 Pivot foot <b>must be in contact with the</b> pitcher's plate (rubber); non pivot in contact or behind. Partially within 24" , both feet must be within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate NCAA 10.2.1 <b>Pivot foot in contact; non pivot foot in contact or behind;</b> Completely within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate
<b>PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (SHOULDERS)</b>
USSSA 6.1.B NR Restriction on shoulders removed ASA-USA 6.1.C. Shoulders in line with first and third NFHS 6.1.1.A Shoulders in line with first and third NCAA 10.2 No restriction
<b>PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (NON PIVOT FOOT)</b>
USSSA 6.1.E.2 <b>Any step backward must start before the pitch starts (hands separate); May</b> take One step forward. ASA-USA 6.1.E a backward step may be taken before, simultaneous with or after the hands are brought together; One forward step only NFHS 6.1.2.b Any step back with the non pivot foot must begin before the start of the pitch. NCAA 10.4.2 <b>No step backward allowed. Must take forward step.</b>
<b>PITCHER TAKING SIGN</b>
USSSA Not precluded from taking actual signal off pitcher's plate. ASA-USA same NFHS 6.1 same NCAA <b>10.2.2 Pitcher required to take a signal on the pitcher's plate. May not take earlier signal</b>
<b>PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (HANDS)</b>
USSSA 6.1.D Pitcher shall bring hands together in front of body - No Longer than 10 sec ASA-USA 6.1.C Pitcher shall bring hands together. – No less than 1 sec; No more 10 sec NFHS 6.1.c Pitcher shall bring hands together in front of the body. – No less than 1 sec; No more 10 sec NCAA 10.2.3 Pitcher' hands must come together in view of the plate umpire. –No more 5 sec
<b>PITCHING POSITION, TIME</b>
USSSA 6.1.K/D Pitcher has 20 seconds to release next pitch; 10 sec after touch to release; Penalty Illegal Pitch ASA-USA 6.3.O Pitcher has 20 seconds to release next pitch. Illegal Pitch NFHS 6.2.3 Pitcher has 20 seconds to release next pitch; Ball (Not illegal pitch) NCAA 10.18 10 seconds in position; once pitcher/batter in position, 10 seconds hands together; 5 seconds deliver; BALL (not illegal)
<b>PITCHING WINDUP/ DELIVERY</b>
USSSA 6.1.G.4 not more than 1-1/2 revolution of the arm in the windmill pitch. ASA-USA 6.3.D not make two revolutions of the arm in the windmill pitch. NFHS 6.1.4.d maximum of one and a half clockwise revolutions. NCAA 10.6 not more than 1-1/2 revolutions of the pitching arm
<b>PITCHING LANE</b>
USSSA 6.1.E.2 land within or partially within 24-inch length of pitcher's plate; No mention of drawing lines. ASA-USA step within 24-inch length of pitcher's plate; No mention of drawing lines NFHS 6.1.2.b Note within or partially within 24-inch length of pitcher's plate; No mention of drawing lines. <b>NCAA 10.1.1 / 2.20.1 stride foot allowed on pitcher's lane / plate / Pitching Lane lines shall be drawn</b>
<b>PITCHING LEAP</b>
<b>USSSA 6.1 Permits the pitcher to leap</b> <b>ASA USA Softball 6A.3.K Leap Legal</b> <b>NFHS 6.1.2.C pivot foot must stay in contact with the ground.</b> <b>NCAA 10.5.4 Leaping is not allowed.</b>
<b>PLAYERS TO START GAME</b>
USSSA 5.2.B may start with eight; absent player in 9 <sup>th</sup> batting position. ASA-USA 4.1.d.1 may start with 8 and take an out NFHS 3.1.1. Each team must start with nine players NCAA 8.1 must have nine players at all times

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<b>PLAYER REPLACES ABSENT PLAYER</b>
USSSA 5.2.C Eligible substitute MUST enter game or become ineligible. Player who left can not return except under blood rule. ASA-USA 4.1.D.2.B Eligible substitute MUST enter game or become ineligible. Player who left can not return except under blood rule NFHS 3.3.8.d Eligible substitute MAY enter game. Injured player may re-enter. NCAA N/A
<b>PLAYERS TO COMPLETE GAME</b>
USSSA 5.2 may continue down to 8 batters. Restriction on ejection removed. Leaving runner out except if injured. ASA-USA 4.1.d.2 may finish with 8 and take an out. Leaving runner out. NFHS 4.3.1.g may finish with 8 and take an out; 3.3.8.d. Leaving runner replaced by previous batter not on base. NCAA 8.1 must have nine players in game.
<b>QUICK RETURN PITCH</b>
USSSA 6.4.C No pitch ASA-USA 6.7 Illegal pitch NFHS 6.2.4.b No pitch NCAA 10.9 No pitch
<b>REENTRY</b>
USSSA 5.6 Starters & Substitutes may re-enter ASA-USA 4.5.a Starters & Substitutes may re-enter NFHS 3.3.5 Starters & Substitutes may re-enter NCAA 8.6 Starters may reenter; Substitutes may not reenter
<b>REGULATION GAME, INNINGS FOR</b>
USSSA 4.6.C.1 3 innings ASA-USA 5.3.C 5 innings. NFHS 4.2.2.a 5 innings. NCAA 6.17 5 innings
<b>REQUEST UMPIRE FOR HELP</b>
USSSA 14.8 Umpire may ask for help on checked swing ASA-USA NFHS NR NCAA 11.10.4 If catcher requests, plate umpire must ask for help on checked swing.
<b>RUN RULE</b>
USSSA 4.4 12 runs after 3 innings; 10 after 4; 8 after 5. ASA-USA 5.9 15 after 3; 12 after 4; 8 after 5 NFHS 4.2.3 State adoption. MPSSAA 10 runs after 5 innings NCAA 6.14 runs after 5 innings
<b>RUNNER MISSES BASE – Ball becomes Dead</b>
USSSA 9.6.A cannot return if advanced, touched and remains beyond missed base. ASA-USA 8.5.G-Effect cannot return once advance to next awarded base. NFHS 2.1.3.b.2 cannot return once touched final base of an award. NCAA 7.1.1.2.6 cannot return once touched final base of an award.
<b>RUNNERS SWITCHING BASES</b>
USSSA NR No Specific Rule addressing Base runners switching bases after conference ASA-USA 8.7.Y If base runners switch positions after conference, each out & head coach ejected NFHS 8.6.4; CB 8.6.4.0 Each Runner Out; Possible Ejection(s) NCAA 7.1.1.5 On appeal, each runner is out and Head Coach ejected
<b>STRIKE ZONE</b>
USSSA 3.57 Forward arm pit to top of knees any part of ball ASA-USA 1. Between arm pits and top of knees any part of ball NFHS 2.56.3 Forward arm pit to top of knees any part of ball NCAA 11.3.1 Bottom of sternum to top of knees top/side of ball



<b>2023 Fast Pitch Rules (2023 Changes in green); (2022 Changes in green); (2020 in blue); (2019 in red); (2018 in brown);</b>
<b>SUBSTITUTE, UNREPORTED</b>
USSSA 5.5 All play stands. First offense: A team warning is issued. Second offense: The manager is ejected. ASA-USA 4.6.C Unreported substitute is now in the game (not disqualified) and out if immediately after turn at bat NFHS 3.6.7 Unreported substitute penalty Team Warning, 2 <sup>nd</sup> time offender & coach restricted to bench. NCAA 8.3.3 Offending team reports <u>1st</u> – no penalty; Offended team reports after pitch, no ejection, player in game, out if at bat/on base.
<b>SUBSTITUTE, PITCHER / CATCHER CHANGE</b>
USSSA 5.5 NR. ASA-USA 8-10.A(4) <b>Must report Pitcher or Catcher Change</b> NFHS NR. NCAA 8.1.2.11 All defensive changes must be reported.
<b>TIEBREAKER</b>
USSSA. 4.5 8 <sup>th</sup> inning or time limit ASA-USA 5.11 8 <sup>th</sup> inning or time limit NFHS 4.2.6 State Option; No Procedure defined – MPSSAA authorizes; No Procedure defined NCAA 6.16 Mutually agreement; Recommend 10 <sup>th</sup> inning
<b>TIEBREAKER, WRONG RUNNER</b>
USSSA 4.5 Correct runner inserted immediately. No penalty ASA-USA RS54 Replace with correct runner; No penalty NFHS State Option; No Procedure defined – MPSSAA authorizes; No Procedure defined NCAA 8.3.4.1.6 Illegal Player
<b>UNDERGARMENTS</b>
USSSA 3.8.B All exposed undergarments solid color; undershirts same; undershorts same ASA-USA 3.6.C Solid; must be alike worn by more than one. NFHS 3.2.7 All exposed undergarments must be a solid color_- black, white, gray or a single solid school color NCAA 3.10.98 if more than one must be same in color; solid color. <b>Must contrast with ball color.</b>
<b>WALK, INTENTIONAL</b>
USSSA 8.4.C Must have 4 balls. ASA. 8.1.C.3 Slow Pitch only <b>NFHS 8.1.1 EFFECTS 2. Coach, Pitcher or Catcher may request an intentional walk.</b> NCAA 10.15 All pitches must be pitched
<b>WHEELCHAIRS</b>
USSSA 2.6 crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., is prohibited. ASA-USA RS55 Players, coaches, umpires can utilize wheelchairs. NFHS / NCAA