

2025 Fast Pitch Rules (2025 in brown); (2024 Changes in purple); (2023 in green); (2022 in green); (2020 in blue); (2019 in red);

ADDITIONAL PLAYER(S) (AP) – Extra Player (EP)

USSSA 5.3 Up to Two Additional Players or entire bench. Must remain in same place in batting order but can play or not play any defensive position. i.e. Ten (10) or Eleven (11) or all bat; any Nine (9) play defense.

ASA-USA 7.2.F In Pool Play, can bat up to all present; 4.1.C.1 D/E ONE EP.

NFHS/NCAA NR

APPEAL, TYPES

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

ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS

USSSA, ASA-USA, NFHS – No explicit Rule

NCAA 5.11 prohibited in team area

BALL

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.

BALL, FOREIGN SUBSTANCE

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.

BALL ROTATION

USSSA MM Ball used until out of play; pitcher has choice before 1st warm up

ASA-USA RS2 Same

NFHS 4.1.4 Same

NCAA. 10.12.2 Pitcher may request different ball at any time

BAT, DEFINITION

USSSA 2.10 Legal Bat – must New USSSA 1.20 BPF mark and NOT on Withdrawn List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

BAT, ALTERED/NON-APPROVED PENALTY

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; Damaged bat remove with no penalty.

NCAA 3.4.1 / 11.21.2 Effect inappropriate – Batter Out & ejected

BAT, CHOKE UP DEVICES

USSSA 3 Choke-up devices are not permitted.

ASA-USA

NFHS 1.5.2A Choke-up devices are not permitted

NCAA

BAT, LEGAL

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

BAT, THROWN PENALTY

USSSA 11.2.B Warning; 2nd violation offender restricted; coach ejected
ASA-USA RS52 No penalty unless intentional
NFHS 3.6.3 Team Warning; 2nd Restricted
NCAA 11.20.5.3 Warning; 2nd time batter out (defensive coach option)

BAT, WARM UP

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; Only Pow'R Wrap and SwingSock approved
NFHS 1.5.3 Two bats; added devices commercially manufactured for softball; Donuts LEGAL casebook 1.5.3.C
NCAA 3.5 Not less than 39 oz; No attachments are allowed on the warm up bat; fungo bats allowable

BAT, WARMERS

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

BATTER'S BOX – Batter out when contacting ball

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](#)

BATTER HIT BY PITCH

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

BATTER INTERFERENCE – RUNNER ON 3rd

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.

BUNT, ATTEMPT

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

CHECK SWING

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

CLEATS AND TOE PLATES

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

COACH'S BOX

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.

CONCUSSION

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.

CONFERENCE, DEFENSIVE

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)

CONFERENCE, OFFENSIVE

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

COURTESY RUNNER

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. If no eligible players, LCAB may be used.
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

COURTESY RUNNER, INJURED

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

COURTESY RUNNER, UNREPORTED

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

DOUBLE FIRST BASE

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 allowed. This is currently an experimental rule.

EJECTION, PLAYER

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

ELECTRONIC DEVICES – One Way only

USSSA 2.13 Coach may use from dugout/coach's box on defense or offense - team warning then head coach ejected; use terminated. No Smart Watches.
ASA-USA 4.7.C From dugout or base coach to defense or offense. Disqualification/Ejection after warning.
NFHS 3.6.11 A coach in the dugout may use to the catcher on defense. Eject offender; Warn if minor.
NCAA 5.9.9 May be used by the defense to relay the pitch or play call from the dugout to the field. No smart watches

EQUIPMENT CHECK

USSSA NR.

ASA. Umpire Manual pg 32 Inspect all equipment

NFHS 10.2.3a Coach (not Umpire) is responsible for safety of equipment.

NCAA 5.2.4 Umpires must inspect all bats

FAKE TAG

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

FITNESS OF GROUNDS

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. 2nd game of DH

FOOT IN BOX BETWEEN PITCHES

USSSA 8.6 NR

ASA-USA 7.3.c batter must have one foot in box between pitches

NFHS

NCAA

GAME BEGINS

USSSA 15.12. D. Plate Umpire calls “Play Ball” to start the game.

ASA-USA 1 Play Ball – Plate Umpire starts play.

NFHS 4.1.5 The game begins when the umpire calls “Play Ball”.

NCAA 6.4 The game begins when a pitch is thrown.

GLOVE ADHESIVE COATING

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.

GLOVE COLOR

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 Pitcher’s glove not color of ball.

NFHS 1.4.1 Not color of ball including lacing and seams; No optic colored marking looks like ball.

NCAA 3.6.2 Gloves/mitts may not be the color of the ball but may be any combination of other colors □.

HELMET, BATTING

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

HELMET, GLARE

USSSA NR

ASA-USA NR

NFHS 1-6-1,1-7-1 Helmet Non Glare

NCAA 3.7.1 Helmet Not reflective; mirror like.

HELMET, SHIELD

USSSA 2.1 & 2 Disallow tinted face shield

ASA-USA NR

NFHS 1-8-4 Shield must be clear

NCAA.

HELMET, REMOVAL OF

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

HUDDLES, ON FIELD

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.

ILLEGAL PLAYER

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.

INELIGIBLE PLAYER

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

INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hinder catcher’s throw

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

INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hit with fair ball

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 1st base
NCAA 9.6.1.2 Umpire Interference – Dead Ball – Award 1st base

JEWELRY

USSSA 2.5 (Youth) exposed & dangerous must be removed; medical alert are not considered jewelry; 11.2.D Team Warning, 2nd 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

LEAVING BASE TOO SOON

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.

LINE UP CARD

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

LINE UP CARD SUBSTITUTES

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

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LINES, REMOVING

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

LOOK BACK RULE

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

LOOK BACK RULE Possession

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)

LOOK BACK RULE OVERRUNNING 1ST BASE

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 2nd; 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 1st base within the base path extended, she may go to either base

MERCY RULE – See RUN RULE

NUMBERS

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

OBSTRUCTION

USSSA 3 - Not Obstruction if the fielder is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball.

USA Softball 1 and NFHS 2.36 - Same

NCAA 9.5.1 Same plus reacting to a thrown ball. May not block any part of the leading edge of the base.

OBSTRUCTION DURING RUN DOWN

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

ON-DECK CIRCLE

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; batter and the on-deck batter permitted between innings.

PASSING A PRECEDING RUNNER

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.

PITCHER WARM UP

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 seconds; any number of warmup pitches.

PITCHER RETURNS TO PITCH

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.

PITCHING DISTANCE

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

PITCHING HAND

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.

PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (FEET)

USSSA 6.1.A Pivot foot **must be in contact with the** pitcher's plate (rubber); non pivot in contact or behind. Both **partially** within 24"
ASA-USA 6A.1.C Pivot foot **must be in contact with the** pitcher's plate (rubber); non pivot in contact or behind. Within 24"
NFHS 6.1.1 Pivot foot **must be in contact with the** 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 **Pivot foot in contact; non pivot foot in contact or behind;** Completely within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate

PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (SHOULDERS)

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

PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (NON PIVOT FOOT)

USSSA 6.1.E.2 **Any step backward must start before the pitch starts (hands separate); May** 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 **No step backward allowed. Must take forward step.**

PITCHER TAKING SIGN

USSSA Not precluded from taking actual signal off pitcher's plate.
ASA-USA same
NFHS 6.1 same
NCAA **10.2.2 Pitcher required to take a signal on the pitcher's plate. May not take earlier signal**

PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (HANDS)

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

PITCHING POSITION, TIME

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)

PITCHING WINDUP/ DELIVERY

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

PITCHING LANE

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.
NCAA 10.1.1 / 2.20.1 stride foot allowed on pitcher's lane / plate / Pitching Lane lines shall be drawn

PITCHING LEAP – Legal in All Codes

USSSA 6.1 Permits the pitcher to leap

ASA USA Softball 6A.3.K Leap Legal

NFHS 6.1.2.C The pitcher may have both feet off the ground.

NCAA 10.5.4 The pitcher's pivot foot could become airborne with one push from the pitcher's plate.

PITCHING REPLANT

USSSA 6.1.E.3 The pitcher must not push off from any place other than the pitcher's plate. Once having lost contact with the pitcher's plate, the pivot foot may not bear weight again until the pitch is released.

ASA USA Softball 6A.3.J Pushing off from any place other than the pitcher's plate is illegal.

NFHS 6.1.2.C Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate is illegal.

NCAA 10.5.4 Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate is illegal.

10.5.5 The pivot foot may trail on the ground but may not bear weight again until the pitch is released.

PLAYERS TO START GAME

USSSA 5.2.B may start with eight; absent player in 9th 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

PLAYER REPLACES ABSENT PLAYER

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

PLAYERS TO COMPLETE GAME

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. Not on ejection. 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.

QUICK RETURN PITCH

USSSA 6.4.C No pitch

ASA-USA 6.7 Illegal pitch

NFHS 6.2.4.b No pitch

NCAA 10.9 No pitch

REENTRY

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

REGULATION GAME, INNINGS FOR

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

REQUEST UMPIRE FOR HELP

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.

RUN RULE

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

2025 Fast Pitch Rules (2025 in brown); (2024 Changes in purple); (2023 in green); (2022 in green); (2020 in blue); (2019 in red);

RUNNER MISSES BASE – Ball becomes Dead

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.

RUNNERS SWITCHING BASES

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

STRIKE ZONE

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

SUBSTITUTE, UNREPORTED

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, 2nd time offender & coach restricted to bench.

NCAA 8.3.3 Offending team reports *1st*– no penalty; Offended team reports after pitch, no ejection, player in game, out if at bat/on base.

SUBSTITUTE, PITCHER / CATCHER CHANGE

USSSA 5.5 NR.

ASA-USA 8-10.A(4) **Must report Pitcher or Catcher Change**

NFHS NR.

NCAA 8.1.2.11 All defensive changes must be reported.

TIEBREAKER

USSSA. 4.5 8th inning or time limit

ASA-USA 5.11 8th inning or time limit

NFHS 4.2.6 State Option; No Procedure defined – MPSSAA authorizes; No Procedure defined

NCAA 6.16 Mutually agreement; Recommend 10th inning

TIEBREAKER, WRONG RUNNER

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

UNDERGARMENTS

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. **Must contrast with ball color.**

WALK, INTENTIONAL

USSSA 8.4.C Must have 4 balls.

ASA. 8.1.C.3 Slow Pitch only

NFHS 8.1.1 EFFECTS 2. Coach, Pitcher or Catcher may request an intentional walk.

NCAA 10.15 All pitches must be pitched

WHEELCHAIRS

USSSA 2.6 crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., is prohibited.

ASA-USA RS55 Players, coaches, umpires can utilize wheelchairs.

NFHS / NCAA
