



OFFICIAL RULES

Revised June 29, 2007

**Sections 1-11: Rules based on THE OFFICIAL 2007 SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES*
(rules that have been altered are highlighted)**

**Section 13: Rules based on THE OFFICIAL 2007 SLO-PITCH SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES*
that apply to co-ed games (rules that have been altered are highlighted)**

Section 14: Rules that apply exclusively to the Samson Christian Slo-Pitch League

Use of the word "he" in this publication is intended to include both masculine and feminine genders unless otherwise noted.

Greg Robinson reserves the right to change these rules whenever he feels like it.

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RULE 1. - THE PLAYING FIELD

Sec. 1 THE PLAYING FIELD is the area within which the ball may be legally played or fielded. The field shall have a clear and unobstructed area within an established minimum radius from Home Plate to the furthest boundaries between the foul lines. Outside the foul lines, between the foul lines and the backstop or other field limitations, there shall be an unobstructed area of not less than 25 feet in width. NO MAXIMUM DISTANCE SET FOR THE FENCE.

Sec. 2 RECOMMENDED DIMENSIONS OF A SLO-PITCH FIELD: The recommended distance to the fence is a minimum 300 feet for Men and 225 feet for Women.

Sec. 3 THE OFFICIAL DIMENSIONS of the DIAMOND shall be:

A. Baselines of 65 feet for Mens, Womens, Coed, Masters and Seniors.

B. Pitcher's distance shall be a zone of 24" wide from 50-65 feet for Mens, Womens, Coed, Masters and Seniors. These dimensions are for games using the 11 and the 12 inch ball.

Sec. 4 THE LAYOUT OF THE FIELD: First select the desired location of home plate, then drive a stake in the ground which will establish the rear corner of home plate (corner number "3"). Fasten cord to this stake and tie knots at distances of 50, 65, 91'-11" and 130 feet for Mens, Womens, Coed, Masters and Seniors. Place this cord along the direction line, which will be towards centre field and at the 50 foot marker place a stake, which will be the middle of the front edge of the pitching zone. Further along this cord drive a stake at the 65 foot marker, which will be the back of the pitching zone. Further along this cord drive a stake at the 91 foot, 11 inches mark which will be the middle of second base, then release that knot and pick up the one at 130 foot and fasten it at the second base stake. Then take the cord at the 65 foot marker and walk to the right until the cord is taut, both from second to first base and from home to first, then drive a stake which will mark the outside corner (outfield/foul corner) of the white portion of the first base double base. The line from home to first becomes part of the first base side foul line. Again between second, third and home, drive a stake which will then establish the outside corner (outfield/foul corner) of third base, with the line between home and third, becoming part of the third base side foul line. Both the first and third base foul lines shall be extended to the far extremities of the field.

Sec. 5 BATTER'S BOXES shall be provided on either side of home plate, with the inside line of these boxes six inches from and parallel to home plate. The batter's boxes shall be 7 feet long, extending 4 feet forward and 3 feet toward the rear, measured from corners "2" and "4" of home plate (see diagram). The batter's boxes shall be 3 feet in width, forming a rectangle of 7 feet by 3 feet. The outside part of the lines shall be 3 feet and 6 inches from home plate.

Sec. 6 ON DECK CIRCLES shall be a 5 foot circle (2-1/2 foot radius), placed adjacent to the end of the team's bench or dugout area closest to home plate.

Sec. 7 THE CATCHER'S BOX shall be 10 feet in length from the rear outside corners of the batter's boxes on each side of home plate, forming a rectangle 10 feet in length and 8 feet 5 inches in width.

Sec. 8 THE THREE FOOT LINE is drawn outside of and parallel to the first base foul line, starting at the outside corner (outfield/foul corner) of first base and extending 32 feet 6 inches toward home plate.

Sec. 9 THE COMMITMENT LINE is drawn 20 feet from corner "1" of the home plate (corner closest to third base) and perpendicular to the third base line and shall extend a minimum of 6 feet or more from the baseline into foul territory (Coed, Masters/Seniors, Womens D, Mens E and Mens D categories).

Sec. 10 THE SCORING LINE is drawn from corner "1" of home plate (corner closest to the third base) and perpendicular to the third base line and shall extend a minimum of 6 feet or more from the base line into foul territory (Coed, Masters/Seniors, Womens D, Mens E and Mens D category).

Sec. 11 THE COACHES' BOXES shall be marked in at first and third bases. The boxes shall be 15 foot by 3 foot rectangles. The lines shall be 12 feet from and parallel to the foul lines and shall start at the outside (outfield/foul) corners of the bases and extending toward home plate.

Sec. 12 THE PITCHING ZONE is a zone 24" wide located 50 to 65 feet from home plate. A pitcher may choose to pitch from anywhere within this zone.

RULE 2. - EQUIPMENT

Sec. 1 THE OFFICIAL BAT shall be round or three sided and measure not more than 34 inches long and not more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter at its largest part and its weight shall not exceed 38 ounces. The bat shall have a safety grip of cloth tape, cork or some other composite material to facilitate holding the bat. The safety grip shall not be less than 10 inches long, nor extend more than 15 inches from the small end of the bat.

- A. The bat, if made of hardwood, shall be in one piece, laminated from sections of hardwood bonded together with adhesive in such a way that the grain directions of all the pieces are essentially parallel to the length of the bat.
- B. The bat may also be made of aluminum or other metal tubing, ceramic, fiberglass, graphite or bamboo.
- C. The angular-handled and water-filled bats are legal, as are the bats with oval shaped handles.
EFFECT Sec. 1 A-C When a bat DOES NOT meet specifications as defined, has flat spots or pronounced dents, or, if in the umpire's judgment the bat has been tampered with, the umpire shall remove the bat from the game.
- D. For safety reasons, bats containing TITANIUM are not approved by Slo-Pitch National and are illegal. The illegal bat ruling will apply.
- E. The bat must have a solid handle of the same material that the rest of the bat is constructed of but may have an insert at the barrel end. It must conform to the same dimensions of length, weight and diameter as relates to hardwood bats. The knob portion must be welded, or mechanically attached to the bat by the manufacturer.
- F. Authorized bat manufacturers shall mark their products with "OFFICIAL SOFTBALL" or words to that effect.
- G. Warm-up bats must be of one piece construction and must have a safety grip. The bat must be marked "OFFICIAL WARM-UP BAT". One or two official softball bats or one warm-up bat or one warm-up bat and one official softball bat may be used for purposes of warming-up in the on deck circle. Nothing may be attached to a bat such as a do-nut, fan, etc., when loosening up.
- H. Pine tar or any other type of adhesive substance is allowed to be used by a batter as long as there are no markings from this substance beyond the 15 inch legal taping.
- I. An altered bat is a bat that has had its physical structure changed in such a way to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the ball. For example: replacing a metal bat handle with a wooden or other type of handle or inserting material inside the bat.
- J. Wrapping more than two layers of tape around the grip of a bat, painting a bat on the grip or barrel area, or attaching a flare or cone grip to a bat, shall be considered as an illegal bat. A bat may be painted at the top or bottom, or engraved on the barrel with the player's initials for identification purposes only.
- K. It is the responsibility of all players to know whether their bat has been altered or is on the non approved bat list.

NOTE: Slo-Pitch National will continue to enforce the ruling that Titanium bats so labeled, are illegal. It should be noted that some bat manufacturers are not properly labeling the bats and, as a consequence, it is the position of SPN that the use of any bats not properly labeled may, however, be unsafe and SPN cautions and recommends against their use. SPN will not be responsible for any problems of any nature whatsoever caused by the use of such bats and all Slo-Pitch players are put on notice that they are playing or attending any game or event at their own risk on this issue.

NON-APPROVED BATS: The batter is out and ejected from the game if he enters the batter's box with a non-approved bat (see non-approved list). In addition, the coach/manager is ejected as well.

ALTERED BATS: Any player who is found playing with an altered bat will be suspended for a minimum of 3 years from SPN sanctioned events. Any altered bat found before the start of the game, and if the SPN representative cannot establish who the owner of the altered bat is, then the coach/manager will be suspended for a minimum of 3 years from SPN sanctioned events. SPN will not be responsible for any problems of any nature whatsoever caused by the use of non approved and/or altered bats.

Sec. 2 THE OFFICIAL BALL shall be the ball provided by the Southwest Optimist Baseball Complex. If no ball is provided, the home team must provide 1 brand new Worth "blue dot" (or equivalent) 12" softball and an assortment of approved spare balls in the event the new ball is lost.

Sec. 3 THE HOME PLATE shall be made of rubber or other suitable materials. It shall be a five sided figure, 17 inches across the front edge of the plate facing the pitcher. The sides shall be parallel to the inside of the batters' boxes and shall be 8 1/2 inches long, extending forward toward the pitcher's plate from either base line. The sides of the plate, from the rear corner (corner "3" – see diagram), along with the base line, shall be 12 inches long, set wholly within the base lines, where they form a square angle, with the point (corner "3") pointing towards the catcher. Home plate is always a part of fair territory. The black border, if applicable, that outlines the plate is NOT to be considered as part of home plate.

Sec. 4 THE BASES other than the home plate and first base (where a double base is used – see Rule 2 - Sec 5 - Double Base) shall be 15 inches square and not more than 5 inches in thickness. They shall be made of canvas, plastic or other suitable materials, filled with soft padding. They shall be WHITE in colour. **All white bases and home plate are located entirely within fair territory.** All BASES must be securely fastened at their designated places.

Sec. 5 A DOUBLE BASE is mandatory for use at first base. This one-piece base shall be 15 inches by 30 inches and shall be made of canvas, plastic or other suitable material, filled with soft padding and not more than 5 inches in thickness. One half of the base is white and is to be **securely fastened** in fair territory and the other half is orange and is to be securely fastened in foul territory. The following rules apply to the Double Base:

- A. If a batted ball hits ANY PART of the white portion, it is a fair ball and if it hits COMPLETELY on the orange portion, it is a foul ball.
- B. If a play is made to first base, the batter-baserunners first attempt to reach first base must be to touch some portion or all of the orange base. If he touches only the white base in these situations, he is to be called out.
- C. A defensive player must use only white or some portion of it at all times. If he touches only the orange, it is the same as not touching the white at all: missed base.
- D. If the batter-baserunner touches on all of or part of the orange base and a portion of the white, it is a legal touch, or, if the defensive player touches a portion of the white and a part of the orange, it is a legal touch.
- E. Once a batter-baserunner has attained first base, and time is called, he must use only the white portion of the base. This includes:
 - 1. After over-running first base, or after rounding first base, if applicable, and the baserunner decides not to advance further, he must return to the white portion.
 - 2. After over-running first base, or after rounding first base, if applicable, and the baserunner touches only the orange portion and decides to advance further, he need not retouch the white portion.

3. When tagging up, the baserunner must use the white portion.

4. When there is an attempted pick-off play, the baserunner must return to the white portion.

EFFECT Sec. 5 E 1-4 If the baserunner uses only the orange portion at any time after the first attempt at first base and is not in contact with any part of the white portion, then he is considered to be out of contact with the base and is to be called out if tagged or leads off.

Sec. 6 LEGALLY ADOPTED GLOVES may be worn by any fielder.

A. Pitchers, catchers and first basemen may wear a glove or mitt of any size, including a "trapper" style glove. All other players are restricted to a three (3) or four (4) finger type glove. The webbing shall not be constructed to form any type of net or tray.

B. Multi-coloured gloves are legal.

Sec. 7 A SHOE shall be considered legal if it is made with either leather or canvas uppers or similar materials. The soles may have soft or hard rubber cleats or replaceable cleats, provided they meet all the legal requirements. The use of shoes with metal cleats, exposed metal, or toe pieces is PROHIBITED. Shoe sole or heel projections other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. The all purpose molded plastic cleat softball shoe is legal. Shoes must be worn by all players and coaches on the diamond.

EFFECT Sec. 7 If a player or coach is found to be wearing illegal shoes, he is to be ejected from the game.

Sec. 8 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

A. **MASKS:** It is strongly recommended that masks and body protectors be worn by catchers.

B. **HELMETS:** SPN strongly recommends that CSA approved protective headwear be used by all batters and baserunners in any SPN sanctioned tournament or event.

NOTE: For safety reasons, it is strongly recommended that all protective equipment be worn by appropriate players.

Sec. 9 UNIFORMS, including similar head pieces or caps, when required, shall be of similar colours and materials. Minimum recommended uniform is considered to be matching tops.

A. All those participating in a game shall wear their clothing properly.

EFFECT Sec. 9A The player, coach or manager shall be asked to dress properly. If they refuse they will be ejected from the game.

B. Deleted

C. Jewellery such as: watches, bracelets, earrings (including studs) and rings **MAY NOT BE WORN OR COVERED**, during a game. A player may wear medical alert identification, and may also wear neck chains and wedding bands at the umpires discretion.

EFFECT Sec. 9C A player who enters the batter's box with jewellery on, other than medical alert identification will be an automatic out. If he refuses to remove the jewellery, he will be ejected from the game.

NOTE: A barrette worn to keep hair out of eyes should not be considered jewellery

D. Exposed metal braces are prohibited. Casts are prohibited, even if covered. Metal braces worn as a preventative aid must be covered with soft, pliable material.

Sec. 10 EQUIPMENT shall not be allowed to remain on the playing field, during the playing of the game, either on fair or foul territory.

EFFECT Sec. 10 If after one warning, which will be given to the coaches of both teams simultaneously, there is still equipment left on the playing field, the offending coach will be ejected from the game.

Sec. 11 EQUIPMENT: The umpire reserves the right to disapprove any equipment due to the failure to meet either CSA Safety Standards or safety standards as set by the Slo-Pitch National Officiating Committee.

RULE 3. - DEFINITIONS

- Sec. 1 AN ALTERED BAT** is a bat that has had its physical structure changed in such a way to improve the distance factor or cause an unusual reaction on the ball. For example: replacing a metal bat handle with a wooden or other type of handle, inserting material inside the bat.
- Sec. 2 APPEAL PLAY** is a live or dead ball play which the umpire cannot rule upon until a decision is requested by the defensive or offensive team. The appeal must be made before the next legal or illegal pitch, intentional walk, or before all defensive players have left fair territory. Types of appeal plays include missing a base, leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched, batting out of order, illegal substitution, and illegal re-entry.
- Sec. 3 BALL** is a pitched ball that does not enter the strike zone in flight, or conform to the legally delivered pitch rules, and is not struck at by the batter.
- Sec. 4 BASE** is one of the four stations which must be touched by a runner, in accordance with the rules that follow, to legally score a run.
- Sec. 5 BASE ON BALLS** permits a batter to gain first base, without liability to be put out and is awarded by the umpire when four pitches are called balls or an intentional walk is awarded.
- Sec. 6 BASE PATH** is an imaginary line three feet to either side of a direct line between two bases.
- Sec. 7 BASERUNNER OR RUNNER** is a player of the team at bat, who has hit a fair ball and obtained first base, or who has been awarded first base for any reason, before he is put out.
- Sec. 8 BATTED BALL** is any pitched ball that is hit by the bat, or that hits the bat, thus becoming either a fair or foul ball. No intent to hit the ball is necessary.
- Sec. 9 BATTER** is the offensive player who takes a position in the batter's box for the purpose of hitting the ball.
- Sec. 10 BATTER-BASERUNNER** is the term that identifies the offensive player who has just hit the ball, and applies until he is either put out prior to first base, or until the play on which he becomes a baserunner is complete.
- Sec. 11 BATTER'S BOX** is the area within which the batter takes his position when it is his turn to bat. Prior to the pitch, both feet must be in contact with the ground and completely within the lines of the batter's box.
- Sec. 12 BATTING ORDER** is the official listing of offensive players in the order in which they must bat. **At least each player's given name must** be listed.
- Sec. 13 BENCH OR DUGOUT** is the seating facility reserved for team members in uniform when they are not actively participating in the game.
- Sec. 14 BLOCKED BALL** is a batted or thrown ball that is touched, stopped or handled by a spectator or person not engaged in or a part of the game, or that touches any object which is not part of the legal official equipment, or playing field, or which hits or goes beyond a designated out of play area.
- Sec. 15 BOUNDING BALL** is a ground ball.
- Sec. 16 BUNT** is a batted ball not swung at, but intentionally met with the bat and tapped slowly within the infield.
- Sec. 17 CALLED GAME** is one whereby the umpire deems it necessary to terminate any further play.
- Sec. 18 CATCH** is the act of a fielder receiving the ball, in flight, and having it securely in his possession, in his hand or glove. It is a legal catch provided he does not use his cap, mask, a pocket or any other part of his uniform, or the glove off the glove hand to stop or catch the ball, or he does not collide with a wall, fence, another person or fall down and as a result of any such collision, drop the ball. To establish the validity of the catch, the fielder shall hold the ball long enough so the umpire is convinced he had **complete** control of the ball and himself and that any release of the ball by him was voluntary and intentional. Dropping the ball while attempting to throw it shall not invalidate the catch.
- Sec. 19 CATCHER'S BOX** is that area within which the catcher must remain while and until a pitched ball has reached or passed home plate or is batted. If a catcher wishes to hold his glove forward and in the territory between the back lines of the batter's box and home plate, the glove must be held up in the air. If the glove is placed on the ground, one warning will be given. Any additional infractions will immediately be called an illegal pitch.
- Sec. 20 CHARGED CONFERENCES** There are two types of charged conferences. They are defensive and offensive
- A. A defensive conference takes place when a member of the defensive team requests "**TIME**" and a representative (not on the playing field) of that team enters the playing field and gives the umpire reason to believe that he has delivered a message (by whatever means) to the pitcher. If the representative entering the playing field removes the pitcher from the pitching position, it is a charged conference against the pitcher being removed. A charged conference is not to be called if a representative from the dugout confers with a pitcher when time has been called by the umpire or an offensive conference is taking place, as long as the defensive players are all ready to play when "**PLAY BALL**" is called.
- B. An offensive conference takes place when a member of the offensive team requests "**TIME**" to allow the Manager or other Team representative to give a message to the batter or baserunner. It is not a charged conference if the batter or baserunner is substituted for when "**TIME**" is called. It is not a charged conference if an umpire initiates the time out or if the defensive team is having a conference, as long as the offensive team is ready to play when "**PLAY BALL**" is called. It is not a charged conference when a courtesy runner is put in for a runner on base.
- Sec. 21 CHOPPED BALL** is a ball batted whereby the batter swings the bat downward with a chopping motion with the intent that the ball bounce high into the air.
- Sec. 22 COACH** is a member of the team. One offensive coach only is permitted in each coach's box to direct the players of his own team while they are batting or running bases. **A defensive coach MUST be positioned outside the field of play unless he is a player-coach.**
- Sec. 23 COACHES' BOXES** are the areas in which the offensive coaches must stay while coaching and directing the players of their team in batting and running the bases.
- Sec. 24 COMMITMENT LINE** is a line drawn 20 feet from corner "1" of home plate (corner closest to third base) and perpendicular to the third base line and shall extend a minimum of 6' or more from the base line. (Master/Seniors, Coed, Mens D, Mens E, and Womens D categories).

- Sec. 25 DEAD BALL** is any ball not in play and does not come in play again until the umpire calls “**PLAY BALL**”.
- Sec. 26 DEFENSIVE TEAM** is the team whereby the players are stationed in the playing field.
- Sec. 27 DELAYED DEAD BALL** is a game situation in which the ball remains alive until the conclusion of a play. When the entire play is completed and “Time” is called, the umpire shall enforce the appropriate ruling.
- Sec. 28 DOUBLE BASE** is the base used at first base with the white portion in fair territory and the orange portion in foul territory.
- Sec. 29 DOUBLE PLAY** is a continuous play by the defensive team in which two offensive players are legally put out without an intervening play, or an error.
- Sec. 30 FAIR BALL** is a legally batted ball that settles on fair territory between home plate and first base, or home plate and third base or that is on or over fair territory, including any part of first or third bases when bounding to the outfield, or that first touches any base, or that first touches a player or umpire over fair territory, or which first touched the ground or an object in fair territory or over fair territory beyond first and third bases, or that while over and above fair territory passes out of the playing field (ie. over and beyond the field fence).
- Sec. 31 FAIR TERRITORY** is that part of the playing area within and including the first and third base foul lines from home plate to the bottom of the extreme playing area fence and then extending perpendicularly upwards. (Home plate is in fair territory).
- Sec. 32 FAKE TAG** is an act performed by a fielder who carries out all the appropriate motions of making a tag but he does not have the ball. This will be considered obstruction and the offender may be ejected.
- Sec. 33 FIELDER** is any player on the team that is in the field for the purpose of playing defensively.
- Sec. 34 FLY BALL** is any ball batted into the air.
- Sec. 35 FORCE OUT** occurs when a baserunner is forced to advance to the next base due to the batter becoming a baserunner. If the baserunner (on or off the base) is tagged by a fielder with the ball or a fielder holds the ball on the base to which the baserunner is forced to advance before he reaches that base and before any succeeding runner is put out, that baserunner is considered to be forced out.
- Sec. 36 FOUL BALL** is any legally batted ball that stops or settles on foul territory without first being touched in fair territory, or which is first touched in foul territory, or that first touches some out of play object, or an area in foul territory, or that first touches foul ground beyond first or third base.
- Sec. 37 FOUL TIP** is a batted ball that goes straight back (no perceptible arc) to the catcher's hand or glove and is legally caught. The first contact of the ball after the bat must be the catcher's hand or glove.
- Sec. 38 FOUR BASE AWARD** occurs when a fair batted fly ball deflects off a defensive player over the home run fence.
- Sec. 39 HOME RUN** is a fair batted fly ball that clears the home run fence before touching anything or anyone and which is not caught. This includes a ball that hits the top of the fence and bounces over.
- Sec. 40 HOME TEAM** is the team on whose grounds the game is being played, or if the game is scheduled on neutral grounds, it is decided by mutual agreement or toss of a coin. The home team shall be considered to be the last team at bat in each inning.
- Sec. 41 ILLEGAL BAT** is a bat that does not meet specifications as outlined in Rule 2, Sec. 1. For example, a bat that is 37” long, a bat that weighs 40 ounces, a bat that is constructed of two pieces of hardwood, or a baseball bat. Wrapping more than two layers of tape around the grip of a bat, painting a bat on the grip or barrel area, or attaching a flare or cone grip to a bat, shall also be considered an illegal bat. A bat may be painted at the top or bottom, or engraved on the barrel with the player's initials for identification purposes only.
- Sec. 42 ILLEGAL PITCH** is called when the ball is pitched in such a manner that it does not conform to all of the requirements of a legally delivered pitched ball.
- Sec. 43 ILLEGALLY BATTED BALL** is one batted fair or foul by the batter when either one or both of his feet are in contact with the ground, **COMPLETELY** outside the lines of the batter's box, or when his foot is in contact with Home Plate, or when the ball is batted with an illegal bat.
- Sec. 44 ILLEGALLY CAUGHT BALL** occurs when a fielder catches a batted or thrown ball with an illegal glove, or with a glove, mask, cap, or with any piece of clothing detached from its proper position on the fielder's body.
- Sec. 45 IN FLIGHT** describes a batted, thrown or pitched ball which is in the air and has not yet touched the ground, or some object other than a fielder.
- Sec. 46 IN JEOPARDY** is a term indicating that the ball is alive and in play and that an offensive player may be put out.
- Sec. 47 INFIELD** is that portion of the field within the baselines, and also includes the areas of the field normally covered by infielders in defensive positions.
- Sec. 48 INFIELD FLY** is a fairly batted fly ball (not a line drive) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or when first, second and third bases are occupied with less than two out. Any defensive player, who positions himself within the infield area, will be considered an infielder for the purpose of this rule. **NOTE:** If a fairly batted ball is to be declared an infield fly the umpire shall call: “**INFIELD FLY, IF FAIR, BATTER IS OUT**” for the benefit of the runners. Failure to make the call does not preclude the batted ball from being an infield fly. The ball is alive and if the runners advance they do so at their own risk and are in jeopardy if the ball is caught. The ruling is the same as any other caught or dropped fly ball. A foul ball is not an infield fly and if the ball falls untouched to the ground in fair or foul territory prior to first or third base and subsequently rolls into foul territory, it is just a foul ball.
- Sec. 49 INNING** is that portion of a game within which teams alternate on defense and offense and each half inning is terminated when 3 outs have been made.
- Sec. 50 INTENTIONAL WALK** is given to a batter when the pitcher advises the plate umpire that he wants to walk the batter. The umpire will then award the batter first base. An intentional walk can be granted prior to a pitch having been thrown to a batter or at any time during the batter's turn at bat.
- Sec. 51 INTERFERENCE** is an act of an offensive player, team member or others which impedes hinders or confuses a defensive player while he is attempting to execute a play.
- A. **Physical Interference** occurs when an offensive player physically interferes with, impedes or confuses a defensive player while he is attempting to make a play.
- B. **Verbal Interference** occurs when an offensive player uses vocal/verbal actions that interfere with, impede, or confuse a defensive

player while he is attempting to make a play.

C. Spectator Interference When a spectator interferes with a player's ability to make a play.

Sec. 52 LEGAL CATCH is a fly ball caught in the glove or in the hand and is securely held, and the player is in control of the ball and himself.

Sec. 53 LEGAL SWING is one whereby the batter has attempted to hit the ball directly out to the infield or the outfield by bringing the bat through in a forward motion with a follow through, out towards the field area. A half swing or a directional partial swing is a legal swing. The "level" or upward swinging of the bat at the ball determines the legality of the swing.

Sec. 54 LINE DRIVE is a batted ball that goes in a straight line, sharply and directly into the playing field.

Sec. 55 LIVE BALL is a ball that is alive and playable and remains so until for some reason the umpire is required to call TIME, at which time the ball becomes dead and is not playable.

Sec. 56 MANAGER is a person appointed by the team to be responsible for the team's actions on the field, and to represent the team in communication with the umpire and the opposing team. A player may be designated as manager.

Sec. 57 MERCY RULE is a rule, whereby, when one team is winning a game by a predetermined number of runs after the prescribed number of innings have been played, the game will be stopped based on the assumption that the losing team would not be able to attain the required number of runs to win the game in the time remaining.

Sec. 58 OBSTRUCTION is the act of a fielder who is not in possession of the ball, or not in the act of fielding a batted ball, or not taking a proper position to receive a thrown ball (thrown ball must already be in flight) which impedes the progress of a baserunner who is legally running the bases. The obstruction does not have to be intentional. **Obstruction also includes the act of a defensive player who hinders the batter's ability to swing.** **VERBAL OBSTRUCTION** occurs when any defensive players use vocal actions that impede or confuse a batter's ability to swing or confuse a runner.

Sec. 59 OFFENSIVE TEAM is the team at bat.

Sec. 60 ON DECK CIRCLE is the area in which the person, who is to bat next, must wait and warm-up.

Sec. 61 OPTION PLAY is a play whereby the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the batter go back up to bat and assume the ball and strike count he had prior to the hit.

Sec. 62 OUTFIELD is that portion of the field that is beyond the lines of the infield, extending to the furthest extremities of the playing field.

Sec. 63 OVERSLIDE OR OVERSLIDING is the act of a baserunner whose slide to a base is with such momentum that he loses contact with the base and thus is placed in jeopardy. This does not apply to the batter-baserunner as he is first approaching first base.

Sec. 64 OVERTHROW is a ball thrown from one fielder toward another and for whatever reason, goes into "out of play territory". If this occurs, all baserunners will be awarded two bases from the last base touched at time of the throw.

Sec. 65 PITCHER/INFIELDER: The pitcher becomes an infielder when after pitching the ball towards the batter he has a reasonable opportunity to field a batted ball.

Sec. 66 PITCHING ZONE is the area in which the pitcher must have one foot within, in order to be considered as being in the legal pitching position.

Sec. 67 PIVOT FOOT is the foot which when placed within the pitching zone by the pitcher, must maintain constant contact with the ground until the pitched ball is released.

Sec. 68 PLAY OR PLAY BALL is the term used by the umpire to indicate that play shall begin, or start up again after a dead ball situation.

Sec. 69 PLAYING FIELD is the area within which the game of slo-pitch is played, as established by fenced boundaries and/or boundaries determined by the league or umpire(s) as required.

Sec. 70 PROFANITY is the use of swear or curse words and/or severe words of contempt and disrespect.

Sec. 71 QUICK PITCH is a pitch made by the pitcher with the obvious attempt to catch the batter off guard and/or balance. This could be when the batter first takes his position in the batter's box and before he is ready, or when the batter is still off balance from the previous pitch.

Sec. 72 RETOUCH is the act of a baserunner who is returning to touch a base as legally required.

Sec. 73 SACRIFICE FLY is any caught fly ball that permits a baserunner to advance after a caught fly ball is first touched.

Sec. 74 SCORING LINE is a line drawn in foul territory starting at the corner of home plate closest to third base (corner "1") and would run parallel to first base if the first base line was extended at home plate. It shall extend a minimum of 6 feet or more from the base line. (Coed, Masters/Seniors, Mens D, Mens E and Womens D categories).

Sec. 75 STRIKE ZONE is that space directly above home plate which is neither higher than the batter's highest shoulder nor lower than the bottom of the batter's front knee, when the batter assumes his natural batting stance. Any part of a pitched ball that passes through any part of the strike zone shall be considered to be a strike.

Sec. 76 SUSPENDED GAME is a game called before being completed, which is to be completed at a later time, normally within the same day.

Sec. 77 TAG is the act of a fielder touching a base with any part of his body while holding the ball firmly and securely in his hand or glove or touching the baserunner with the ball, or with the glove holding the ball, while continuously holding the ball firmly and securely during and immediately following the tag. A player may be tagged between the "Commitment Line" and the "Scoring Line".

Sec. 78 THREE FOOT LINE is the designated running area at the latter half of the home to first base basepath, in which a batter-baserunner must run, so as not to be called out for interfering with the first baseman's ability to receive a throw.

Sec. 79 THROW is the series of motions performed by a fielder, who subsequently releases the ball from his hand, with the ball being directed towards another fielder.

Sec. 80 TIEBREAKER Deleted

Sec. 81 TIME or TIME OUT is the call made by an umpire when it is necessary to have the ball become dead and not in play.

Sec. 82 TRAPPED BALL is a fly ball that is not legally caught as outlined in Rule 3, Sec. 52. It is a fly ball which is held in the glove or in the hand, but is secured against the ground, and therefore is not a catch, but a ground ball.

Sec. 83 TRIPLE PLAY is any continuous play made by the defensive team in which three runners are put out, provided there is no error made in between the outs.

Sec. 84 TURN AT BAT starts when an offensive player first enters the batter's box and continues until he is put out or becomes a baserunner.

Sec. 85 UNLIMITED BATTING ORDER A team can use a batting order, which may include all active players on the official roster.

Sec. 86 WALK is when first base is awarded after four pitches have been called "balls" or an intentional walk has been given.

Sec. 87 WILD THROW is a thrown ball which remains in playable territory, but is thrown in such a manner that a fielder is not able to receive it properly. The ball is alive and playable.

RULE 4. - THE GAME

Sec. 1 THE CHOICE OF FIRST OR LAST BAT Deleted

Sec. 2 THE FITNESS OF THE GROUND for beginning a game shall be decided by the plate umpire. In tournament play, the umpire, in consultation with the Tournament Director, makes the decision. After a game has been started by the plate umpire, he shall be the sole judge as to whether or not the game shall continue.

Sec. 3 THE START OF THE GAME is the point in time when a representative of the home team has prayed aloud in the presence of both teams.

Sec. 4 A REGULATION GAME shall consist of five innings, unless otherwise listed below:

- A. Five full innings are not played if the home team scores the winning run in four innings or before the third out is made in their half of the fifth inning.
- B. Deleted
- C. A game called by the umpire, which cannot be resumed within 30 minutes, may be regulation if: three or more innings have been played or if the home team has scored the winning run during the uncompleted third inning; or, after two full innings, than the visiting team has scored in their three complete innings.
- D. A regulation game shall be declared if the score is TIED when the game is called, after three or more completed innings, or if the home team has equaled the score of the visiting team while batting during any uncompleted inning. (ie. 2-1/2, 3-1/2, etc.)
NOTE: There can be no "ties" in playoff games.
NOTE: The umpire is empowered to call a game at any time because of rain, lightning, darkness, panic or for any other case which puts the umpire, the players or patrons in peril.
- E. The mercy rule (12 batters per inning) is in effect for all innings, and the 12th batter must run the bases in order until he crosses the scoring line or is tagged out by a defensive player. Since this prevents a team from scoring more than 12 runs per inning, the game will be called when it is mathematically impossible for one team to outscore or tie the other team during the innings remaining in a regulation game.

Sec. 5 THE WINNER OF THE GAME shall be the team that scores the most runs in a regulation game.

- A. The total number of runs scored legally, when the game is called at the end of any completed inning after three, shall be the score.
- B. When the home team has scored the winning run during any uncompleted inning after four, or the visiting team has scored more runs than the home team after the end of any completed inning after five complete innings.
NOTE: If the last batter in a game hits a homerun out of the playing field, or where a fence comes into play, the batter/baserunner and all runners on base are permitted to score in accordance with baserunning preceding rules, and the game ends when the batter/baserunner scores.
- C. Deleted
- D. Games that are not considered regulation, or regulation tie games, shall be replayed from the beginning. Original line-ups may be changed when the game is replayed.

Sec. 6 ONE RUN SHALL BE SCORED each time a base runner legally touches first, second, third and crosses the scoring line, where applicable, before the third out of an inning, unless the third out is the result of a force out, or the batter-baserunner is out before reaching first base.

Sec. 7 A RUN SHALL NOT BE SCORED if the third out of an inning is the result of:

- A. The batter-baserunner being put out legally before touching first base.
- B. A baserunner forced out at any time.
- C. A baserunner being called out for leaving a base too soon on a pitched ball.
- D. A preceding baserunner being called out for failure to touch a base.

Sec. 8 A BASERUNNER SHALL NOT SCORE A RUN ahead of a baserunner preceding him in a team's batting order, if the preceding runner has not been put out.

EFFECT Sec. 8 A preceding runner appealed out for missing a base does not affect the following runners on first or second out. However, no preceding runner crossing home plate may return to touch any missed base after the following runner has scored. If the fielding team appeals a preceding runner missing a base, and the appeal is upheld, the following runner's score is counted, unless the appealed out is the third out of the inning. If no appeal is made, then all runs scored are counted.

Sec. 9 A FORFEITED GAME shall be declared by the home plate umpire in favour of the team not at fault in the following cases:

- A. If a team fails to appear upon the field, or being on the field, refuses to begin the game for which it has been scheduled, at the time the game was assigned.
- B. If after a game has begun a team refuses to play or resume play as directed by the umpire.
- C. If a team uses tactics designed to delay or hasten the playing of a game.
- D. If an ejected player does not leave the ball park area within one minute of being ordered to do so.
- E. If for any reason a team does not have the designated number of players to begin or continue the game.
- F. If, after a warning by the umpire, any one of these rules is willfully violated.

EFFECT Sec. 9 A-F The score will be 5-0 in favour of the team not at fault.

Sec. 10 A SUSPENDED GAME can result in tournament or other play if the umpire stops play for any reason such as power failure of the lights, protested game in accordance with the rules, any act of God etc. that precludes immediate continuance of the game to the conclusion of the full five innings, or as required. This means continuance of a game regardless of the time of the suspension of the game (ie. suspended for one hour, three hours, seven hours or the next day).

EFFECT Sec. 10 When a suspended game is resumed, it must be started at the point of interruption with the identical situations and line-ups as when the game was suspended.

RULE 5. - THE PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES AND RE-ENTRY

Sec. 1 A TEAM shall consist of a minimum of 10 players.

Sec. 2 PLAYERS DEFENSIVE POSITIONS

1. Pitcher
2. Catcher
3. First Baseman
4. Second Baseman
5. Third Baseman
6. Shortstop
7. Left Fielder
8. Left Centre
9. Right Centre
10. Right Fielder

Other than the pitcher and catcher, players in the field may be stationed anywhere they choose on fair ground as each pitch is delivered. No defensive player can stand closer than 50' in fair territory as each pitch is delivered.

- (i) The pitcher, in delivering the ball must be in legal position within the pitching zone.
- (ii) As each pitch is delivered, the catcher must be in the catcher's box.

Sec. 3

- A. In the Coed category **A TEAM** must have a minimum of 9 players to start, throughout and complete a game.
- B. In the Coed category where the Unlimited Batting Order is used, either one male and one female (or multiples thereof), may be used in accordance with Rule 13, Sec. 1.
- C. The batting order must remain constant and any of the declared batting line-up may play defensively. The players playing defensively may be changed at any time as long as there are no more than 10 defensive players.
- D. Deleted

Sec. 4 A TEAM must have the required number of players [deleted] and in the dugout before a game can be started. When a line-up is submitted, all of the starting players must be available as stated above.

Sec. 5 PREGNANCY RULE: If it is evident and/or confirmed to an official that a player is pregnant, then for reasons of safety and for the possible detrimental effect that such participation may have on other players' performance. Deleted

EFFECT Sec. 5 The player will be requested to remove herself from the game and if she refuses, the umpire will eject her.

Sec. 6 NO DEFENSIVE PLAYER shall take a position in the batter's line of vision and with deliberate attempt, act unsportsmanlike in any manner in an effort to distract the batter. No defensive player can stand closer than 50' in fair territory as each pitch is delivered.

EFFECT Sec. 6 The umpire shall first warn the offender, and then eject any player from the game who repeats the offense.

Sec. 7 A PLAYER IS OFFICIALLY IN THE GAME when his name has been entered on the official score sheet. After the line-up card and official score sheet have been recognized, any substitutions must be made through the plate umpire in order to be classified as being officially in the game. A substitute may take the place of a player whose name is already entered in the team's batting order. The following rules govern the substitution of players:

- A. The Manager or team representative of the team making the substitution must immediately notify the plate umpire at the time a substitute enters the game.
EFFECT Sec. 7A Failure to notify the umpire is a violation and it is an illegal substitution and the player is immediately ejected from the game and said player is not allowed to participate in any capacity.
- B. For purposes of the above rule (Rule 5 Sec. 7) a player shall be considered as being in the game:
 - i) As a batter, when he takes his place in the batter's box;
 - ii) As a fielder, when he takes the place of the fielder substituted for;
 - iii) As a runner, when the substitute takes the base of the runner he is substituting for;
 - iv) As a pitcher, when he takes his place within the pitching zone;
 - v) As a courtesy runner, when he takes the base of the person he is running for.
- C. Any player may be substituted for at any time.

Sec. 8 RE-ENTRY/SUBSTITUTIONS

- A. The players in the starting line-up may be substituted for [deleted] once.
- B. Deleted
- C. Deleted

EFFECT Sec. 7 and 8

- A. If an **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION** (a player who is eligible to be in the game but is entered in the wrong position) is appealed on while the player is playing offensively, the following penalties will be enforced.
 1. If an **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION** is appealed on while he is at bat, he is ejected. Baserunners will remain as they were because there would have been no advancement possible. The proper substitute/batter resumes the ball and strike count of the ejected player.
 2. If an **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION** is appealed on after the batter has completed his turn at bat and before the next pitch, the illegal player is ejected and any advance of baserunners as a result of a walk or base hit by the illegal batter, is nullified. The proper substitute/batter will then bat. If an out was made on the play, the "out" stands.
 3. If an **ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION** is appealed on after the batter has completed his turn at bat and after the next pitch, the illegal player is ejected and any advance by baserunners while the illegal batter was at bat, is legal. The next batter is the one following the illegal substitute and, if applicable, other batters lose their turn at bat.
- B. Deleted
- C. If an illegal substitution or illegal re-entry is appealed on while the player is playing defensively, the following penalties will be enforced:

1. If an illegal substitution is appealed on after he makes a play and before the next pitch, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or of having the last batter go back to bat assuming the balls and strikes count the batter had prior to the discovery of the illegal player and having all baserunners returning to the last base they held prior to the play. The illegal substitute is ejected.
2. If the illegal substitution is appealed on after a pitch to the next batter, the illegal substitute is ejected and all play stands.

EFFECT Sec. 8 C 1 & 2

1. Deleted

2. The penalty for an illegal defensive substitution is that the illegal substitute is ejected from the game.

NOTE: Players ejected for illegal substitution may not remain on the bench.

Sec. 9 BLOOD RULE: Injured or Bleeding player

- A. Any player who is injured or is bleeding from an injury and is assumed to be able to continue to play in the game, will be given a reasonable amount of time to tend to his injury or the bleeding. A reasonable amount of time will be determined by the umpire.
- B. A player who is bleeding must be immediately removed from the playing field to have the bleeding controlled, cleaned up and the wound completely covered. If there is blood on any of the player's clothing, then the clothing must be changed before a player is allowed to participate in the game again.

EFFECT Sec. 9 If the player cannot return to the playing field in a reasonable amount of time, then a legal substitution or re-entry must take place when advised by the umpire that time is up. If this is not possible, the game will be forfeited if the team has less than 10 players.

NOTE: The ruling regarding a bleeding injury also applies to umpires, coaches, managers, etc. in that continued participation in the game will not be allowed if the bleeding is not controlled, covered and the applicable clothing changed.

Sec. 10 THERE SHALL NOT be more than two coaches for the offensive team to give words of assistance and directions to the members of their own team. One coach may be stationed in each coaching box at first and third bases. They must remain in the boxes.

Sec. 11 MANAGER, COACHES, PLAYERS, SUBSTITUTES, TRAINERS, BAT BOYS or other team members or occupants of the bench shall not, from any place including the coaches' box:

- A. Incite, or try to incite by word, sign or demonstration, either opponents and/or spectators.
- B. Use language which will in any manner refer to or reflect upon opposing players, teammates, umpires or spectators.
- C. Commit any act that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

EFFECT Sec. 11 For a first offense the violator should be warned that to repeat the offense will cause prompt ejection from the game. All flagrant offenses (including a first offense) will be cause for the offender to be immediately removed from the game and playing area. An ejected player must leave the park immediately.

RULE 6. - PITCHING

Sec. 1 AT NO TIME during the progress of the game shall the pitcher be allowed to use any substance other than tape or bandage upon the pitching hand or fingers; nor shall any foreign substance be applied to the ball, provided that under supervision and control of the umpire, a bag containing powdered resin may be used to dry the hands.

Sec. 2 AT THE BEGINNING of each half of the first inning, five practice pitches will be allowed and then at the beginning of each subsequent inning, or when a pitcher relieves another pitcher, one minute may be used to deliver not more than three practice pitches to the catcher, or some other teammate.

Sec. 3 LEGAL POSITIONS OF THE PITCHER'S FEET:

- A. Preliminary to pitching, the pitcher shall take a position with his pivot foot firmly on the ground within the confines of the pitching zone. The pivot foot must remain in constant contact within the pitching zone, until the release of the ball.
- B. The other foot (free foot) has no restrictions on position and may be placed on, in front of, to the rear of, or to the side of the pitching zone. After taking this initial position, the pitcher may only take one step with the free foot in a direction of his choice, provided that it is taken prior to, simultaneously with, and during the actions of delivering the pitched ball.
- C. After the release of the pitch, which action may include a step forward towards the batter, the pitcher may not continue to move forward, other than the normal forward momentum resultant from the pitch to the batter.

EFFECT Sec. 3 C If the pitcher continues to move forward in an attempt to distract the batter, on the first offense, the pitcher shall be warned. On the second offense, the pitcher shall be ejected from the game and the batter awarded first base.

Sec. 4 PITCHER'S LEGAL MOTIONS ALLOWED IN ACTUAL DELIVERY OF A PITCH:

- A. After assuming the pitching position, the pitcher must hold the ball in front of his body (and be motionless for at least one second) in either one or both hands, before starting the delivery motions. The pitcher must face home plate when starting delivery of the pitch.
- B. The pitcher may hold or grip the ball in any manner before delivery.
- C. The pitcher may release the pitched ball in any manner when delivering the pitch, this includes any and all types of delivery. After the pitcher has come to his complete stop, he has 5 seconds in which he may use any wind-up or arm motion desired, either in front of his body, above his head, or behind his back including stops and pauses, before he must release the ball.
- D. Only a definite underhand motion is permitted in the delivery of the pitch.
- E. The pitcher may release the pitched ball with the hand above the hip in order to obtain the necessary arc.
- F. Once a pitcher starts his pitching motion, the batter may not request time out.

Sec. 5 LEGALLY DELIVERED PITCHES:

- A. The pitch shall be delivered at a moderate speed. The umpire shall warn the pitcher who delivers a pitch with excessive speed.

EFFECT Sec. 5 A If the pitcher continues to pitch with excessive speed, he shall be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.

- B. The pitched ball must have a perceptible arc of at least 6 feet from the ground before it passes any part of home plate and shall not reach a height of more than 12 feet at its highest point from the ground.
- C. The catcher must be within the outside lines of the catcher's box until the pitched ball is batted, reaches or passes home plate.
- D. The catcher shall return the ball directly to the pitcher after each pitch except after a strike out, or an out made by the catcher. The pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch.

EFFECT Sec. 5 A-D Failure to comply will constitute an illegally pitched ball and a ball will be awarded to the batter.

- E. The catcher shall not place his glove on the ground in the area inside the batter's box before the ball has reached or passed home plate or has been batted.

EFFECT Sec. 5 E A warning will be issued on the first offense. Any additional infractions will be called an illegal pitch and a ball will be awarded to the batter.

Sec. 6 NO PITCH shall be declared immediately when:

- A. The pitcher pitches during a dead ball interval.
- B. A baserunner is called out for leaving a base too soon.
- C. A pitcher attempts to "quick pitch" a batter.

Sec. 7 ILLEGALLY PITCHED BALLS INCLUDE:

- A. Any pitched ball that does not conform to all the requirements of a legally delivered pitched ball.
- B. All pitches made by the pitcher, when not conforming to pitching restrictions.
- C. Delivering a pitch from other than the pitching zone and pitcher's position.
- D. The pitcher failing to face home plate on delivery of the pitch.
- E. When the pitcher moves towards the batter after releasing the pitch.

EFFECT Sec. 7 A-E In each case an illegally pitched ball shall be called immediately when it occurs and a ball will be awarded to the batter. The umpire, base or plate, will call the illegal pitch loud enough for the batter to hear. However, if the batter swings at an illegally pitched ball, the pitch will immediately become legal. The ball is alive and in play if hit by the batter.

Sec. 8 ILLEGAL PITCHING ACTIONS INCLUDE:

- A. The pitcher, after assuming the pitching position, holding the ball longer than 5 seconds.
- B. Throwing the ball by the pitcher to any fielder, unless performing preliminary warm-up pitches or making an effort to complete an appeal play, or while the ball is dead.
- C. The pitcher failing to take a position within the pitching zone, in an attempt to delay the game.

EFFECT Sec. 8 A-C The umpire shall immediately call "TIME" thus causing the play to be dead and award a ball to the batter.

Sec. 9 APPEALING WHILE BALL IS ALIVE Any fielder may appeal a runner once per base; the ball is alive and all runners may advance with liability of being put out. **NOTE:** On appeal plays, the appeal must be made before the next pitch (legal or illegal) or before all defensive players have left fair territory.

Sec. 10 APPEALING AFTER BALL IS DEAD/DEAD BALL APPEAL Once the ball has been returned to the infield and "TIME" has been called by the umpire, or the ball becomes dead, any infielder, including the pitcher or catcher, with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base prior to a ball being caught. The appropriate umpire must acknowledge the appeal and then make a decision on the play. Baserunners may not leave their bases during this appeal

process as the ball remains dead until the umpire calls “**PLAY BALL**”.

Sec. 11 DEFENSIVE CHARGED CONFERENCE There may only be one charged conference between the manager, or other team representative from the dugout area with each and every pitcher in an inning. The second charged conference will result in the removal of the pitcher from the pitching position. The pitcher may play any other position and may return to the pitching position any time after one pitch.

Sec. 12 QUICK PITCH A quick pitch is a pitch made by a pitcher with the intent of catching the batter off guard or off balance. This could be when the batter first takes his position or is off balance from the previous pitch.

EFFECT Sec. 12 The ball is dead and “No Pitch” shall be called by the umpire.

RULE 7. - BATTING

Sec. 1 UNLIMITED BATTING ORDER Deleted

Sec. 2 THE BATTING ORDER of each team must be listed and delivered to the **OFFICIAL SCOREKEEPER** by the **MANAGER**, or team representative. **SHOULD** an Official Scorekeeper not be assigned to the game, the **BATTING ORDER** must be delivered to the Plate Umpire prior to the starting time of the game. After each team has submitted its own batting order, both line-ups shall be made available to both teams, for their inspection and knowledge.

EFFECT Sec. 2 Each manager must have submitted his own team's line-up before he can have access to the line-up of his opponents. The umpire may forfeit the game if there is unwarranted delay in providing a line-up.

- A. The batting order submitted must be followed throughout the game, unless a substitute replaces a player. When this occurs, the substitute must take the turn at bat of the player he replaces in the original batting order.
- B. Each player of the team at bat shall become the batter and enter the batter's box in the order in which his name appears on the score sheet/line-up card.
- C. The first batter in each succeeding inning shall be the batter whose name follows that of the player who last completed a turn at bat in the preceding inning.
- D. A batter completes a turn at bat when he has either been put out or has become a baserunner.
- E. When the third out of an inning is made before the batter has completed his turn at bat, the same batter will be the first batter in the next inning and all previous called balls and strikes will be canceled

EFFECT Sec. 2 A-C Batting out of order is an appeal play situation.

1. If an incorrect batter is discovered before he completes his turn at bat, the correct batter may take his proper place, assuming any accumulated balls and strikes. **NOTE:** In this situation, an appeal may be made by the offensive or defensive team.
2. If the mistake is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed his turn at bat, and before a pitch has been made to a succeeding batter, the batter who should have batted is called out. All baserunners, if they have advanced, must return to the base occupied at the time the incorrect batter took a position in the batter's box. The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the batter called out for failure to bat. If the appealed out was the third out then the next batter in the next inning is still the batter whose name follows that of the batter called out for failure to bat. An illegal batter is removed from base. **NOTE:** In situation 2, only the defensive team can appeal.
3. If the mistake is not discovered until after a pitch is made to a next batter, the turn at bat of the incorrect batter is then legal. All bases advanced or runs scored are counted, and the next batter shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter who has just finished a time at bat. No one is called out for failure to bat, and players missing their turn at bat have lost that turn and do not bat again until reached in the regular batting rotation. **NOTE:** For purposes of interpretation, an intentional walk to a next batter or illegal pitcher's action, shall be considered the same as a pitch delivered to a batter.
4. A baserunner who has batted out of order will not be removed from the base he is occupying to bat in his proper place. He misses his turn at bat with no penalty. The next legal batter will be the one who follows him in the batting order.

Sec. 3 THE BATTER IS OUT IF:

- A. He illegally hits the ball.
- B. He enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
- C. He deliberately bunts or swings the bat downward and chops the ball down to the ground.
- D. He hits a foul ball after two strikes.
- E. He steps across the home plate with the pitcher in the pitching position.
- F. He intentionally interferes with the catcher attempting a play.
- G. Any member of his team (excluding baserunners) interferes with a fielder attempting to make a play on a foul fly ball.
- H. He hits a fair fly ball or line drive that a fielder or infielder intentionally drops, with a runner on first, first and second, first, second and third, or first and third, with less than two outs.

NOTE: A trapped ball that hits the ground is never ruled intentionally dropped.

- I. He takes longer than 20 seconds to enter the batter's box when it becomes his turn to bat, or 10 seconds to re-enter the box after a called ball, strike or foul ball.
- J. A preceding runner, who is not yet out, intentionally interferes with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball or to throw a ball in an attempt to complete a play. The runner shall also be called out.
- K. He hits a fair ball with his bat a second time in fair territory.

NOTE: If the batter drops the bat and the ball rolls to the bat, in fair territory, the batter is not out and the ball is alive and in play. However, if the bat rolls towards the ball and subsequently hits it in fair territory, the batter is out, the ball is dead.

- L. There is spectator interference with any batted ball, that clearly prevents a fielder from catching a fly ball within the defined playing area.

EFFECT Sec. 3 A-L The ball is dead, the batter is out and the runners may not advance.

- M. He enters the batter's box with an altered bat.

EFFECT Sec. 3 M The ball is dead, the batter is out and is ejected from the game.

- N. He enters the batter's box with jewelery on other than medical alert identification.

EFFECT Sec. 3 N The batter is out and if he refuses to remove the jewelery he is to be ejected from the game. **NOTE:** A barrette worn to keep hair out of eyes should not be considered jewelery

- O. He hits a fly ball that is legally caught.

EFFECT Sec. 3 O The batter is out, the ball remains alive and baserunners are in jeopardy.

- P. He has three strikes.

- Q. He hits an infield fly, with runners on first and second, or on first, second and third bases with less than two out.

EFFECT Sec. 3 Q The ball remains alive and in play, with runners in jeopardy.

1. If a declared infield fly falls to the ground untouched and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball.
2. If a fly ball falls to the ground untouched outside the foul lines and then bounces fair, before reaching first or third bases, it is an infield fly.

- R. He carries the bat to first base. If a batter, carrying a bat, legally reaches or touches first base, the batter is out.
- S. The batter directs or utters profanities at an umpire, another player or participant, and/or utters profanities whereby the spectator can hear it; **OR** if he is the first batter up after a member of his team when playing defensively, was guilty of an infraction under the profanity rule, after both teams have received a mutual warning, for the first occurrence of profanity by either team. **NOTE:**
1. The first occurrence of profanity by any coach and/or player of either team will result in a warning to both teams.
 2. A second occurrence would result in the offending player being called out if he is a batter, batter-baserunner, or a baserunner, **OR** the next batter on the offending team would be called out if the infraction was by a batter, batter-baserunner, baserunner, coach, a defensive player or by a non-participating player (player on the bench).
- EFFECT Sec. 3 S** This is a delayed dead ball call. If the batter is put out as a result of the play, the out will be enforced with the following batter in the batting order. If the batter reaches base safety then he alone will be called out for the use of profanity when the umpire calls "Time".

T. He hits an over the fence home run that is in excess of the number allowed in that category of play.

Sec. 4 A BATTER-BASERUNNER OR BASERUNNER IS NOT OUT IF a fielder making a play uses an illegal glove.

EFFECT: Sec. 4 The manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the batter go back up to bat and assume the count he had prior to the hit.

Sec. 5 ON DECK BATTER:

- A. The on deck batter is the person whose name is next on the line-up card after the batter.
- B. The on deck batter must position himself within the lines of the on deck circle nearest his team's bench.
- C. The on deck batter may leave the circle when he is to become the batter or when he is going to direct a baserunner advancing towards home plate.
- D. If the on deck batter interferes with a defensive player making a play on the ball, the runner closest to home plate at the time of the interference will be called out.

Sec. 6 A STRIKE IS CALLED BY THE UMPIRE:

- A. For each fairly delivered pitched ball by the pitcher, that passes through the strike zone before touching the ground.
- B. For each pitch struck at and missed by the batter.
- C. For each batted ball striking the batter, while he is in the batter's box.
- D. For each foul tip (Batter is out if this is the third strike).
- E. For each foul ball not caught on the fly.
- F. For leaving the batter's box after the pitcher starts his pitching motion.

EFFECT Sec. 6 The ball is dead after any strike.

Sec. 7 A BALL IS CALLED BY THE UMPIRE on each pitch not swung at by the batter, if:

- A. The pitched ball does not enter the strike zone.
- B. The ball strikes the ground before passing completely across home plate, or any part of the plate. **NOTE:** The ball is dead when the legal pitch has contacted the ground. A batter may not hit a ball that hits the ground prior to home plate.
- C. Deleted
- D. An illegally pitched ball is delivered but not struck at.
- E. There is an illegal pitcher action.
- F. When the catcher fails to return the ball directly to the pitcher except after a strike-out or put out by the catcher.

Sec. 8 A FAIR BATTED BALL is a legally batted ball which is immediately in play. It is a legally batted ball which:

- A. Settles or is first touched on fair ground between home and first base or between home and third base.
- B. Bounds past first or third base while on or over fair territory.
- C. Touches first, second or third base.
- D. Touches the person or clothing of an umpire or player while on or over fair territory.
- E. Falls to the ground in foul territory, then rolls or bounces into fair territory before passing first or third bases, and without having touched some object other than the ground.
- F. First touches the ground in fair territory, then rolls into foul territory and then again rolls into fair territory, provided the ball did not touch anything while on or over foul territory, other than the ground.

Sec. 9 FOUL BALL is a legally batted ball which does not conform to the provisions or rules that would cause it to be a fair ball. It is a ball which:

- A. Settles on foul ground between home and first base or between home and third base.
- B. Goes past first or third base while on or over foul ground.
- C. First touches the ground in foul territory beyond first or third base.
- D. While on or over foul territory touches the person or clothing of an umpire, player or is blocked.

EFFECT Sec. 9 A-D A strike is called on the batter unless he already has two strikes then a strike is called and the batter is out. Baserunners must return to their bases unless it is a caught fly ball, then the ball is alive and all baserunners are in jeopardy.

NOTE: A fair or foul ball shall be judged according to the position of the ball, relative to the FOUL LINES including the FOUL POLE, and not whether the fielder is on or over either fair or foul territory, at the time the ball is first touched. (Foul Lines and Foul Poles are in fair territory). When a batted ball passes out of the field over a fence, the umpire shall declare it fair or foul, according to the position of the ball, as it leaves the playing field. When a batted ball hits any object including a fielder and is ruled a fair ball under the above rules, it is always treated as a fair ball regardless of what happens to the ball, or where it may subsequently settle or land. A fly ball landing beyond first or third base is judged at point of the first contact.

Sec. 10 FOUL TIP is a legally batted ball which goes directly from the bat (no perceptible arc) to the catcher's hand or glove and is legally caught by the catcher.

EFFECT Sec. 10 It is a foul tip only if it is legally caught and is then a strike and the ball is dead.

Sec. 11 HOME RUN RULE will apply. Any undeflected ball hit over the fence will be considered as a home run [deleted].

A. Deleted

- B. When a fair batted fly ball deflects off a defensive player over the home run fence, the batter-baserunner will be awarded four (4) bases. This will not be considered the same as an over the fence home run.

Sec. 12 OFFENSIVE CHARGED CONFERENCE: There shall be only two charged conferences allowed per inning between the Manager or other team representative and the batter or baserunner. Umpires shall not permit any in excess of two in an inning.
EFFECT Sec. 12 A manager, coach or other team representative who insists on a third conference is to be ejected from the game.

RULE 8. - BASERUNNING

Sec. 1 A BASERUNNER WHILE ADVANCING OR RETURNING, MUST TOUCH EACH BASE IN LEGAL ORDER (ie. First, Second, Third and Home Base)

- A. A baserunner may only acquire the right to an advanced base by touching it before having been put out, and shall be entitled to hold such base until he touches the next base legally, or is forced to leave the base when the batter becomes a baserunner.
- B. When the ball is alive and a baserunner must return to touch a base, he must touch all bases in reverse order.

EFFECT Sec. 1 B The baserunner is in jeopardy and could be put out.

Sec. 2 THE BATTER BECOMES A BATTER-BASERUNNER AS SOON AS HE HITS THE BALL:

- A. If the fair batted ball hits the umpire or baserunner while off the base, after passing a fielder other than the pitcher, or touches any fielder including the pitcher, it remains in play, with all runners being in jeopardy.
- B. When a fair ball strikes the person or clothing of an umpire while on foul ground.

EFFECT Sec. 2 A-B The batter-baserunner is immediately in jeopardy.

Sec. 3 THE BATTER IS AWARDED FIRST BASE:

- A. When four balls are called by the umpire.

B. Deleted

EFFECT Sec. 3 A-B The batter is awarded first base only. The ball is dead. Baserunners advance only if forced to do so.

- C. If a fair batted ball strikes a baserunner while he is off his base, and before passing a fielder other than the pitcher, the ball is immediately dead and the batter is entitled to first base without liability to be put out.
- D. If a fair batted ball strikes the umpire in fair territory, before passing a fielder, other than the pitcher, the ball is immediately dead and the batter is entitled to first base without liability to be put out.
- E. If the catcher or other fielder obstructs him or prevents him from striking at a pitched ball.

EFFECT Sec. 3 E It is a delayed dead ball call and if called, the offensive manager has the option to accept the obstruction or take the result of the play **EXCEPT** that if the batter succeeds in hitting the pitch and reaches first base safely, and all preceding runners have advanced at least one base safely, the obstruction will be nullified. If the obstruction is nullified, the ball remains alive and in play and there is no option play.

Sec. 4 BATTER-BASERUNNERS ARE OUT under the following circumstances:

- A. When he is hit by his own batted ball in fair territory, after leaving the batter's box.
- B. When he drops the bat in fair territory and it makes contact with a fair ball, by moving into the ball.
- C. When a fly ball is legally caught, providing no part of the fielder's body is touching in "out of play territory" at the time of the catch.
- D. When, after a fair ball is hit, he is touched with the ball by a fielder prior to first base, while off the base.
- E. When, after a fair ball is hit, a fielder holds the ball on first base before the batter-baserunner touches or passes the base.
- F. When, after reaching first base safely, he overruns or overslides that base, and then makes an attempt to start to second base and is tagged before returning to first base.
- G. When he runs out of the three foot line and interferes with a fielder taking a throw, or making a play at first base.

EFFECT Sec. 4 G He is out and if the interference is deemed to be intentional the most advanced baserunner is also out.

- H. If between home and first base, he moves back toward home plate to avoid or delay being tagged.

EFFECT Sec. 4 H The ball is dead and all baserunners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

- I. If he interferes with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent an obvious out.

EFFECT Sec. 4 I The baserunner is also out.

- J. If he physically and/or verbally interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball or intentionally interferes physically and/or verbally with a thrown ball.

EFFECT Sec. 4 J If this interference is an obvious attempt to prevent a double play, the baserunner closest to home plate shall also be called out.

- K. If he carries the bat and legally reaches or touches first base with the bat still in his hand.

- L. When a play is being made at first base, he touches only the white portion of the double base.

- M. If he is called on the infraction of directing or uttering profanities at an umpire, another player or participant and/or utters profanities whereby the spectators can hear it after a warning has been given to both teams for the first occurrence of profanity from either team.

- N. If he physically passes a preceding baserunner before that baserunner has been put out.

EFFECT Sec. 4 K-N The batter is out and the ball is alive, unless the act interferes with the play, then the batter is out and the ball is dead and all baserunners must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.

Sec. 5 A BASERUNNER IS OUT under the following circumstances:

- A. If he fails to keep contact with the base to which he is entitled, until a pitched ball has reached or passed or bounced in front of home plate or is batted.

EFFECT Sec. 5 A No pitch is declared, the ball is dead and the runner is out.

- B. If he physically and/or verbally interferes with a fielder attempting to field a batted ball or intentionally interferes, physically and/or verbally, with a fielder catching a ball, throwing a ball, or with a thrown ball.

EFFECT Sec. 5 B The ball is dead, the baserunner is out and if the interference is deemed to be intentional, the next succeeding baserunner is also out.

- C. If he is struck by a fair batted ball on fair ground **WHILE OFF HIS BASE** and before it touches a fielder, or passes a fielder, excluding the pitcher, unless of course, in the umpire's judgment, no infielder had a chance to play the ball.

- D. If he runs bases in reverse order, other than what is allowed under what constitutes legal baserunning.

- E. If he intentionally kicks a live ball, or intentionally interferes with a ball in play, whether or not the baserunner is in contact with his base, and an infielder **HAS HAD** an opportunity to play the ball.

EFFECT Sec. 5 C-E The ball is dead and the baserunner is out.

- F. When a coach physically holds or pushes a baserunner to assist him to return or to leave a base.

- EFFECT Sec. 5 F** The baserunner is out, the ball is alive and all other baserunners continue to be in jeopardy.
- G. If he intentionally kicks a live ball, or intentionally interferes with a ball in play, whether or not the baserunner is in contact with his base, and an infielder **HAS NOT HAD** an opportunity to play the ball.
- H. If he has been put out and continues to run the bases, simulating a live baserunner, and thereby draws a throw to retire him a second time.
- I. When one or more members of the team at bat, stands, or collects at, or around, a base toward which a baserunner is advancing, thereby confusing the fielders.
- J. When a coach intentionally interferes with a live batted or thrown ball.
- K. When a coach runs in the direction of home base or any other base, on or near a baseline, while the fielder is attempting to make a play on a batted ball, or on a thrown ball, and thereby drawing a throw in his direction.
- L. If he is attempting to score and the next batter or other team members interfere with the attempted play.
- EFFECT Sec. 5 G-L** Interference is called, the ball is dead and the **MOST ADVANCED RUNNER IS ALSO CALLED OUT**.
- M. When, while the ball is in play, he is off the base and is legally touched with the ball.
- N. When, on a force out, a fielder tags him with the ball or holds the ball on the base to which the baserunner is forced to advance, before the baserunner can reach that base.
- O. When running toward any base, he runs more than three feet outside his established base path to avoid being tagged with the ball in the hands of a fielder.
- P. If he physically passes a preceding baserunner before that baserunner has been put out.
- Q. When he positions himself behind and not in contact with the base to get a running start on any fly ball.
- EFFECT Sec. 5 M-Q** The ball remains alive and in play and all other baserunners are in jeopardy.
- R. When he positions himself behind and not in contact with the base to get a running the pitch has been released but has not yet reached or crossed home plate or been hit.
- EFFECT Sec. 5 R** This is a lead off, the ball is dead, the baserunner is out and all other baserunners must return to the last base legally held at the time of the pitch. **“No Pitch”** will be called by the plate umpire.
- S. If he fails to return to touch the base to which he is entitled when play is resumed after any suspension of play, if a fielder legally holds the ball on that base.
- T. If he leaves his base to advance to the next base before a fly ball has been touched or touches some object, provided that if the flyball is caught and returned to a fielder and legally held on the base left or if a fielder touches the runner with the ball, before the runner returns to retouch his original base.
- U. When he fails to touch an intervening base or bases (including awarded bases) in regular or reverse order, while the ball is in play, and the ball is held legally on the missed base, or the runner is legally touched with the ball, while off the base.
- EFFECT Sec. 5 S-U** These are appeal plays and the defensive team loses its right to make an appeal on any of these situations, if the appeal is not made known before the next legal or illegal pitch, intentional walk, or illegal pitcher action or before all fielders have left fair territory.
- V. If in sliding or running at home plate, he misses the plate and makes no attempt to return to the plate and a fielder holds the ball in his hand while touching home plate and appeals to the umpire. When running to the scoring line, he doesn't cross the scoring line and a fielder holds the ball in his hand while touching home plate and appeals to the umpire. Also runners attempting to score by touching the scoring line are out if they touch home plate or cross over home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not.
1. Unless two are out, the status of a following runner is not affected by a preceding runner's violation or failure to comply.
 2. If, on an appeal, the preceding runner is the **THIRD OUT**, no following runner shall be allowed to score.
 3. If an appealed out is the **THIRD OUT**, and is the result of a force out, neither preceding nor following runners shall score.
 4. If the appealed out is the **THIRD OUT**, and is the result of the batter-baserunner not touching first base, preceding runners shall not score.
 5. On any appealed play not a force out, all runners in advance of a baserunner being appealed out, who touch home plate or scoring line legally before completion of the **THIRD APPEALED OUT** shall be counted. Succeeding runners cannot score.
- W. When a defensive player clearly has the ball and is waiting for the runner and the runner deliberately with great force crashes into the defensive player.
- EFFECT Sec. 5 W** The offender is out and shall be ejected, the ball is dead and all other baserunners must return to the last base touched at the time of the infraction.
- X. If he is called on the infraction of directing or uttering profanities at an umpire, another player or participant and/or utters profanities whereby the spectators can hear it, after a warning has been given to both teams for the first occurrence of profanity from either team.
- EFFECT Sec. 5 X** The ball remains alive and all other baserunners are in jeopardy.
- Sec. 6 BASERUNNERS ARE ENTITLED TO ADVANCE WITH LIABILITY TO BE OUT:**
- A. When any live ball continues to be in play.
- EFFECT Sec. 6 A**
1. The umpire shall call **“TIME”** when the baserunners cease to try to advance and a fielder has control of the ball in the infield.
 2. If a ball is no longer alive and in play as determined by the stoppage of play and the umpire having called **“TIME”**, baserunners must return to the last base touched and entitled to when all play stopped.
- B. When during a live ball play, following a batted ball, and the ball is a wild throw in either fair or foul territory and does not become a blocked ball.
- C. When any legally caught fly ball, is first touched by a fielder.
- D. When a live thrown ball strikes the person of an umpire, coach or baserunner.
- E. When a fair batted ball, or live thrown ball accidentally strikes a coach.
- F. When another baserunner physically passes a preceding baserunner.
- G. When a preceding baserunner fails to touch a base as required.
- EFFECT Sec. 6 B-G** The ball remains alive, with all baserunners continuing to be in jeopardy.
- EFFECT Sec. 6 F** The baserunner who passes the preceding runner is out.
- H. When a fielder, deliberately or otherwise, **CONTACTS** or catches a batted or thrown ball with his cap, glove, or any part of his

uniform or equipment, while it is detached from its proper place on the fielder's person.

EFFECT Sec.6 H It is delayed dead ball call and

1. On a fair batted ball, or on a ball that may become fair, all baserunners are entitled to advance 3 bases from the time of the pitch.
2. On a thrown ball all baserunners are entitled to advance 2 bases from the time of the throw.
3. In both situations, the baserunners may advance further than the bases to which they are awarded but they will be in jeopardy.

NOTE: If, in the opinion of the umpire, a fair batted ball would have cleared the outfield fence, had it not been interfered with, the batter-baserunner will be awarded four (4) bases.

- I. If a baserunner dislodges a base from its proper position neither he nor any succeeding baserunner in the same series of plays, are obligated to run to a base that is unreasonably out of its proper place.

EFFECT Sec. 6 I The ball is alive and baserunners may advance with liability to be put out.

Sec. 7 BASERUNNERS ARE ENTITLED TO ADVANCE WITHOUT LIABILITY TO BE PUT OUT:

- A. When a fair fly ball goes over the home run fence or into the stands in the established outfield "out of play territory" without touching the ground or a defensive player, the batter shall be entitled to a home run.

1. A fair ball that clears the fence before touching anything or anyone, and which is not caught is a home run. This includes any ball that hits the top of the fence and goes over it.
2. When a fair batted fly ball deflects off a defensive player over the home run fence, the batter-baserunner will be awarded four (4) bases.
3. When a batted ball, either fair or foul is legally caught on the fly, and the fielder has not yet touched any area outside the lines of the established playing area. The batter is out, but if the fielder's momentum causes him to touch, or go into any part of the "out of play territory", the ball will be declared dead and all baserunners will be awarded one base from the last base legally touched at the time of the catch. If the ball is intentionally carried into "out of play territory" the award will be a minimum of two bases.

- B. When a fair batted ball bounds or rolls into the stands, over, under or through a fence or other boundary of the playing field whether or not the batted ball is first touched by a fielder.

EFFECT Sec. 7 B The ball is dead, baserunners are awarded two bases from the last base held at the time of the pitch.

- C. When while in contact with the base, the baserunner is hit with a fair batted ball and it is deemed to be alive and it subsequently becomes blocked.

EFFECT Sec. 7 C The ball is dead and the batter and all baserunners will be awarded one base from the last base legally touched at the time the ball is blocked.

- D. When forced to advance because of the batter being awarded first base.

- E. If he is obstructed by a fielder between bases, or as he rounds a base, unless the fielder is trying to field a batted ball, thrown ball, or has the ball in his possession ready to tag the baserunner.

EFFECT Sec. 7 E The obstructed baserunner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base he had last legally touched before the obstruction. The umpire shall also award the obstructed baserunner all other bases he believes the baserunner would have made, had no obstruction occurred. Any preceding baserunners forced to advance to the next base due to the award, are not in jeopardy. If the baserunner continues beyond the base he would have been awarded for the obstruction, he is in jeopardy. The ball remains alive with all other baserunners also in jeopardy.

- F. If a baserunner is obstructed during a rundown, he will be awarded the base he was running toward at the time of the obstruction.

EFFECT Sec. 7 F The runner is to be awarded the base he was **RUNNING TOWARDS** at the time of the obstruction. The obstruction is delayed dead ball call and will be enforced at the completion of the play, or , if applicable, nullified while the play is still in progress.

- G. If a batted ball, when played, is thrown wildly and goes into foul territory and is subsequently blocked.

EFFECT Sec. 7 G When a blocked ball occurs on a thrown live ball, the ball is immediately dead. Each and every baserunner is awarded two bases from the last base occupied at the time of the throw. The award is governed by the lead runner.

- H. When an accident or incident occurs, that prevents a baserunner from proceeding to a base to which he is entitled because of a home run or other awarded base, a substitute baserunner shall be permitted to take his place and complete the play.

EFFECT Sec. 7 A-H When a batter or baserunner is awarded one or more bases, each base must be touched in regular order when advancing, otherwise the team in the field may make an appeal on the baserunner.

Sec. 8 A BASERUNNER MAY BE PUT OUT IF:

- A. While the ball is in play, he fails to touch each base in legal order before attempting to advance to the next base. Either the baserunner at first base, or any other baserunner forced to advance, because the batter became a baserunner is considered as a force-out, should an appeal be made.
- B. After reaching first base, the batter-baserunner's momentum causes him to overrun or overslide first base, the batter-baserunner then makes an attempt to start toward second base, before returning to retouch first base.
- C. After dislodging a base, the runner attempts to continue to the next base.
- D. If a fair ball is trapped.

Sec. 9 BASERUNNERS MAY AND SHALL RETURN TO BASES AT VARIOUS TIMES:

- A. Baserunners required to return, or attempting to return when the ball is in play, must touch each base in regular legal reverse order. If a batter-baserunner or baserunner abandons a base and enters his team area or leaves the field of play, the batter-baserunner or baserunner shall be declared out immediately when he enters his team area or leaves the field of play.

EFFECT Sec. 9

- A.
 1. Batter-baserunners or baserunners are in jeopardy until they get back to their base when the ball is alive.
 2. A baserunner may not return to a preceding base, after the ball has been declared dead, if he has touched a succeeding base, or after a following baserunner has scored.
 3. A baserunner may not return to retouch a missed base after a following runner has scored.
- B. Two baserunners may not occupy the same base simultaneously.

EFFECT Sec. 9 B The first baserunner touching a base shall be entitled to occupy it until he has touched the next base legally, or is forced to leave the base due to the batter becoming a baserunner. The following baserunner may be put out by being tagged with the ball.

C. A baserunner shall not run bases in reverse order so as to confuse the fielders, or to make a travesty of the game.

EFFECT Sec. 9 C The baserunner shall be declared out and the ball is dead.

D. A batter-baserunner or baserunner may not return to touch a missed base or one he had left illegally, once he enters his team area or out of play territory.

EFFECT Sec. 9 D Once a batter-baserunner or baserunner, who has not yet been declared out, enters his team area or out of play territory and returns to the field of play in an attempt to touch a missed base, he is to be called out immediately.

Sec. 10 BASERUNNERS MUST RETURN TO THEIR BASES:

A. If a foul ball is caught illegally.

B. When a ball is batted illegally.

C. When a batter or baserunner causes interference, all baserunners must return to the last base legally touched at the time of the interference.

D. When an umpire or baserunner is struck by a fair batted ball, before it touches a fielder, or passes any fielder other than the pitcher.

E. When time out is called by the umpire.

EFFECT Sec. 10 A-E

1. The ball is immediately dead.

2. Baserunners may be forced to advance, if the batter is credited with a hit under part "D" thus awarded first base.

3. Baserunners need not touch intervening bases, when required to return.

4. Baserunners must be allowed sufficient time to return, when required.

Sec. 11 BASE STEALING OR ADVANCING IS NOT PERMITTED AS A RESULT OF ANY PITCHED BALL NOT HIT

EFFECT Sec. 11 If a baserunner fails to keep contact with the base to which he is entitled until a pitched ball has bounced in front of, reached or passed home plate or is batted, the ball is immediately dead, "No Pitch" is called and the baserunner is declared out.

Baserunners who have left the base legally (after a pitched ball has bounced in front of, reached or passed home plate) but the ball has not been hit, are not declared out, but must immediately return to their base and the ball is dead.

Sec. 12 BASERUNNERS ARE NOT OUT:

A. When a batter-baserunner overruns or overslides first base and immediately returns to that base.

B. When a baserunner is required to return to a base and is not given sufficient time to return.

C. When a baserunner is touched with the ball not securely held by a fielder.

D. When a defensive team does not attempt an appeal play until after a next pitch is made.

E. When a baserunner holds his base until a fly ball is touched, and then attempts to advance.

F. When a baserunner runs outside a baseline and behind a fielder attempting to field a batted ball.

G. When a baserunner runs outside the baseline, other than to avoid a fielder attempting to tag him with the ball.

H. When a baserunner is hit by a batted ball that has passed through or past a fielder, and no other fielder is in position to field the ball.

I. When a baserunner makes contact with a fielder not fielding the ball.

J. When a baserunner sliding into a base, dislodges the base from its proper position.

K. When, while in contact with the base, a baserunner is hit with a fair batted ball, unless the umpire rules that the ball was intentionally interfered with, or a fielder was interfered with, while attempting to field a ball.

EFFECT Sec. 12 K The ball remains alive with all baserunners continuing to be in jeopardy.

L. When a baserunner is hit by a fair batted ball, after it is touched or touches any fielder, including the pitcher.

Sec. 13 CHARGED CONFERENCES Only two (2) charged conferences may take place between the manager or other team representatives and the batter or baserunner in an inning. Umpires shall not allow any such conferences in excess of two (2) in an inning.

EFFECT Sec. 13 A manager or coach who insists on another charged conference shall be ejected from the game.

Sec. 14 COMMITMENT LINES/SCORING LINE When applicable (with Commitment Line and Scoring Line Rules being applied - Womens D, Mens D, Mens E, Coed, Master and Seniors):

A. There is to be no sliding while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at any time.

EFFECT Sec. 14 A A player is to be called out if he slides while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line, at home plate.

B. Sliding may occur at all other bases.

C. A baserunner who touched the **COMMITMENT LINE** or makes contact with the ground past the **COMMITMENT LINE** with any part of the body between third base and home plate must continue on towards the scoring line (at home plate).

EFFECT Sec. 14 C A player, who has touched and/or crossed the commitment line, as described above and attempts to return to third base, shall be declared out.

D. A baserunner may be tagged out between the commitment line and the scoring line.

E. All baserunners attempting to score a run must do so by touching the **SCORING LINE** with one foot or by placing one foot on the ground past the **SCORING LINE** in foul territory, in order for it to be counted as a run.

EFFECT Sec. 14 E Runners are out if they touch home plate or cross over home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not.

Sec. 15 COURTESY RUNNERS may be used (provided the batter has safely reached base) a maximum of three (3) times per game in all divisions except Master and Senior, who may use a maximum of seven (7) courtesy runners per game. Seniors 60+ and 65+ can have unlimited use of courtesy runners with no penalty. When courtesy runners are used, in any division, the same runner cannot be used twice except seniors 60+ and 65+. Only players listed on the line-up card are eligible to be courtesy runners and a courtesy runner can be used for a courtesy runner. If there are no courtesy runners or substitutions available to take the place of a courtesy runner that is on base when that player is to be up to bat, an out shall be declared. **NOTE:** The use of a courtesy runner does not constitute a substitution. Where a courtesy runner is used in coed categories, a male must be placed for a male, a female for a female, or a female for a male.

RULE 9. - BALL IN PLAY (ALIVE) AND DEAD BALL

Sec. 1 THE BALL IS LEGALLY PUT IN PLAY BY THE UMPIRE:

- A. At the start of the game and each half inning when the pitcher has the ball while standing in his pitching position and the plate umpire has called "PLAY BALL".
- B. After every dead ball situation.

Sec. 2 THE BALL IS DECLARED ALIVE AND IN PLAY:

- A. When the pitcher has the ball in his possession within the pitching zone.
- B. When the pitcher delivers the pitch toward home plate.
- C. When the batter hits the pitched ball legally.
- D. Whenever there is a play resulting from the legally batted ball.
- E. When a live ball strikes a photographer, groundskeeper, policeman, etc., when they are assigned to the game. If they are within playable territory, they become part of the field.
- F. When a fly ball is legally caught.
- G. At all times during the enforcement of an infield fly rule.
- H. When any thrown ball goes into foul territory and is not blocked.
- I. When a batted or thrown live ball accidentally strikes the coach.
- J. If thrown, it strikes an umpire or offensive player.
- K. When a fair batted ball strikes an umpire or baserunner after touching a fielder, or after passing any fielder including the pitcher/infielder.
- L. When a fair ball strikes the umpire or offensive player on foul ground.
- M. If baserunners have reached the base to which they are entitled when a fielder illegally touched or fielded a batted or thrown ball.
- N. When a delayed obstruction call has been made and signaled but not yet enforced.
- O. When a baserunner must return to a base in reverse order while the ball is alive and in play.
- P. When a baserunner is called out for passing a preceding runner.
- Q. When a baserunner acquires the right to a base by legally touching it before being put out.
- R. When a base is dislodged while baserunners are progressing around the bases.
- S. When a baserunner is called out for running more than three (3) feet outside the established base path in order to avoid a tag.
- T. When a baserunner is forced or tagged out.
- U. When a "live ball" appeal play is involved or enforced.
- V. When a player is called out under the profanity rule.
- W. Whenever the ball is not "DEAD", as provided in Section 3 of this rule.
- X. When a coach physically holds or pushes a baserunner to assist him to return or to leave a base.

Sec. 3 THE BALL IS DEAD AND NOT IN PLAY:

- A. When no pitch is declared.
- B. When an illegal pitcher's action is declared.
- C. When a baserunner is called out for leaving a base too soon, on a pitched ball.
- D. After each called "ball" or "strike".
- E. When a pitched ball touches any part of a batter's person.
- F. When a batter bats illegally, or hits the ball with an illegal bat.
- G. When a batter **DELIBERATELY** bunts or chops the ball downward.
- H. When the batter is hit by his own batted ball, either fair or foul.
- I. When a foul ball is not caught on the fly.
- J. When a batter steps completely across the plate, with the pitcher standing within the pitching zone.

EFFECT Sec. 3 A-J Ball is immediately dead. Baserunners may not advance.

- K. If a fielder or infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive.
- L. When an offensive team member causes interference.
- M. When the baserunner deliberately crashes into a defensive player, who is waiting to make a tag.
- N. When a baserunner is off a base and is hit with a fair batted ball, before the ball is touched by or passes through the infielders and provided an infielder had the opportunity to make a play.
- O. When a blocked ball occurs.
- P. When a ball lands outside the established limits of the playing field.
- Q. When a coach intentionally interferes with a batted or live thrown ball.
- R. When a ball is caught illegally.
- S. When a spectator or other person, not in the game, causes interference.
- T. When a batted ball hits an umpire before the ball is touched by or passes an infielder.
- U. When "TIME" is called for any reason by the umpire.
- V. When there is obstruction on the batter and it is enforced.

EFFECT Sec. 3 K-V The ball is immediately dead. Baserunners are permitted to remain on the bases they attained prior to the infraction and then subsequently advance, if applicable, to the bases awarded as a result of the infraction.

RULE 10. - UMPIRES

Sec. 1 POWERS AND DUTIES: Umpires are the representatives of the organization or league by which they have been engaged or assigned to a particular game, and as such are **AUTHORIZED AND REQUIRED** to enforce each and every section of these rules, from beginning to the end.

EFFECT Sec. 1 Umpires have the power, and should use it with discretion, to order a manager, coach, captain or player to do or to cease doing any act which in their judgment is necessary to give force and effect to one and all of these rules, and to enforce penalties as herein prescribed. The plate umpire, in consultation with his fellow umpires, if appropriate, shall have the authority to make decisions on any situations not specifically covered in the rules.

Sec. 2 UMPIRE ELIGIBILITY:

A. Umpires must be currently carded umpires in good standing with Slo-Pitch National.

B. Umpires must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age in order to be carded. For safety reasons, there will be no exceptions to this rule.

Sec. 3 GENERAL INFORMATION & REGULATIONS FOR UMPIRES

A. The umpire should not be connected in any way with either team.

B. The umpire should be sure of the date, time and location of the game.

C. The umpire should arrive at the field 30 minutes before the game time to mentally and physically prepare for the game.

D. The umpire shall wear a uniform which will allow freedom of movement and which will be:

1. Light gray short sleeved golf shirt bearing the official SPN umpire logo.

2. Light gray t-shirt bearing the official SPN umpire logo.

3. Light gray shorts or light gray pants.

NOTE: See STG & OR for uniform requirements at Provincial/Regional and National Championships.

4. Long bill red hat, embroidered with SPN umpire in black letters.

5. Grey ball bag and a black belt.

6. Grey socks with pants and white knee highs or white, mid-calf or higher tube socks with shorts.

7. Black shoes to be worn with gray pants, or white or black shoes may be worn with gray shorts.

8. Black windbreaker bearing the official SPN umpire logo.

9. Black crew neck sweater bearing the official SPN umpire logo.

10. Black rain suit bearing the official SPN umpire logo & optional for inclement weather. Official Uniform must be worn underneath.

NOTE: When more than one umpire is working a game, both umpires shall be attired in the same uniform (ie. Both umpires shall wear shorts).

E. The umpire shall have all necessary equipment deemed proper (umpire's indicator, a bat ring, small whisk broom and all proper protective equipment such as an athletic support, a mask when required) . He is to ensure that all his equipment not being used is not on the playing field.

F. Umpires are to remove all jewelry items such as : neck chains, watches, bracelets and earrings. Excluded from this ruling are medical alert identification.

G. The umpire(s) will introduce themselves to the official scorekeeper and managers.

H. The umpire(s) must inspect the playing field and equipment, and supplement the rule book, when possible, with written game ground rules, indicating all out-of-play areas, or other exceptions to the rulebook for both managers.

I. The umpire working behind the catcher judging the pitched balls shall be designated as the Plate Umpire, with the umpire judging plays on the bases to be called the Base Umpire.

J. Neither umpire has the authority to set aside a decision made by the other umpire within the limits or scope of his respective duties as outlined in these rules.

K. Under no circumstances shall either umpire seek to reverse a decision made by his associate, nor shall either umpire criticize or interfere with the duties of his associate.

L. An umpire may consult with his associate at any time he desires to do so, or when requested to do so by a manager. However, the final decision shall rest with the umpire whose exclusive authority it was to make the decision and who requested the opinion of the other umpire.

M. If different decisions should be made on one play by different umpires, the Plate Umpire shall call all umpires into consultation, with no other person present. After consultation, the plate umpire shall determine which decision shall prevail, based on which umpire was in the best position, and which decision was most likely to be correct. Play shall then proceed as if only one decision has been made.

N. The umpires shall declare the batter-baserunner or baserunner safe or out without waiting for an appeal for such decision, in all cases where such player is safe or out in accordance with this set of rules.

O. An umpire, if first aid qualified, will only assist an injured person during a ball game if there is no other person present with the same or more qualifications than he has, and, if applicable, will release the care of the injured person, as soon as possible, to emergency personnel.

EFFECT Sec. 3 O Unless appealed to, an umpire does not call a player out for having left a base too soon on a caught fly ball, or a touched and subsequently caught fly ball, failing to touch a base as required, batting out of order, or making an attempted start to go to second base after the batter-baserunner has crossed first base, as provided in these rules. No appeal will be considered or allowed, after the next pitch is made to a batter.

P. Any participant (including players, managers, coaches, and umpires) on the playing field with an open wound, who is bleeding, must be removed from the playing field until the wound has been tended to and properly covered. This includes the umpire removing himself from the game. (Refer to Rule 5 Sec. 9).

Sec. 4 EITHER THE PLATE OR BASE UMPIRE SHALL HAVE EQUAL AUTHORITY TO:

A. Call illegal pitcher's actions or illegally delivered pitches.

B. Call a baserunner out for leaving a base too soon.

- C. Remove a manager, coach, player or team member for violating these rules.
- D. Call “**TIME**” when play should be suspended.
- E. Order field lights turned on.
- F. Call illegally caught balls.

Sec. 5 SPECIFIC DUTIES TO THE PLATE UMPIRE:

- A. He shall have full responsibility for the proper conduct of the game.
- B. He shall take his initial position behind the catcher's position.
- C. He shall call each pitch not hit, a ball or strike.
- D. He shall call all batted balls fair or foul, and all illegally batted balls.
- E. He shall call all caught fly balls.

EXCEPTION: When the base umpire has left his position to go out and call a trapped ball.

- F. On plays which necessitate the base umpire leaving the infield, the plate umpire shall move out and assume the duties of the base umpire, such as runners touching the bases, obstruction, interference, etc.
- G. He shall determine and declare if:
 1. A batter bunts or chops the pitched ball downward.
 2. A fly ball is an infield fly.
 3. A batted ball touches the person of the batter.
 4. A batter strikes at the pitch.
- H. When a **TIME LIMIT** has been set prior to game starting time, announce this fact and the time set to end the game, before the game is started. The scorekeeper keeps this time, and total playing time of games.
- I. Inform the managers that the official scorekeeper records are official and that they, the managers, are to advise the umpire of any changes, who will in turn, advise the official scorekeeper.
- J. Should a dispute arise during or immediately following the game, ensure that the scorekeeper has the correct decision and score.
- K. He alone shall have the authority to declare a game forfeited.
- L. After a game has been started, he shall be the sole judge as to whether or not the game shall continue.

Sec. 6 SPECIFIC DUTIES OF THE BASE UMPIRE:

- A. He shall assist and cooperate with the plate umpire in order to make all proper and correct decisions.
- B. He shall take the appropriate positions on the field as outlined in the Umpire's Manual.
- C. He may and should be required to go into the outfield to call certain outfield decisions when the plate umpire would be at a great disadvantage making the call. Some of these plays would involve a trapped ball catch, fly ball hitting or clearing a fence, a legal catch when a fielder runs or falls into a fence or obstruction and drops the ball because of such a collision, and other plays, especially when light conditions are not the best.

Sec. 7 THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ONE UMPIRE ASSIGNED TO OFFICIATE BY HIMSELF extends to all parts of the field, his duties and jurisdiction encompass all those duties normally covered when more than one umpire is assigned.

Sec. 8 UMPIRES SHALL NOT BE CHANGED DURING THE PLAYING OF A GAME, unless they become incapacitated due to an injury or illness.

Sec. 9 UMPIRE'S JUDGEMENT DECISIONS MAY NOT BE APPEALED:

- A. On a decision involving a ball or strike.
- B. On whether or not a batted ball was fair or foul.
- C. On a call of safe or out on a baserunner.
- D. When a game is called for darkness, rain, panic or other logical reasons.

EFFECT Sec. 9 A-D No decision shall be reversed by the umpire, involving his judgment, except if he is convinced he was in error. This could come from consulting another umpire working with him, as a result of his own requested conference.

Sec. 10 UMPIRES SHALL ENFORCE ALL THESE RULES:

- A. All rules governing the playing of the game are to be enforced.
- B. If, after a person has received a warning, the infractions are repeated, the umpire shall eject the offender from the game. For major offenses, no warning shall be given. An immediate ejection shall be enforced. **NOTE:**
 1. Umpires should not necessarily penalize an entire team because of the actions of one or more individuals. Remove violators from the game.
 2. Umpires may choose not to impose a penalty when the imposition of said penalty would work to the detriment of the non-offending team.
 3. Umpires must work together and cooperate in every way to ensure correct decisions and fair rulings.

Sec. 11 UMPIRE'S SIGNALS AND TERMS TO BE USED:

- A. To indicate the **PLAY** shall begin or be resumed, the plate umpire shall call “**PLAY**” and simultaneously make a beckoning motion for the pitcher to deliver the pitch. Extend the arm to shoulder level and directly towards the pitcher with the palm of the hand open and facing up to the sky and then bring the palm of the hand in towards your face.
- B. To indicate to the pitcher to hold the pitch **AND NOT DELIVER**, because the batter is not ready, extend the **ARM** directly toward the pitcher with an **OPEN PALM** facing the pitcher, signaling the pitcher to stop.
- C. To indicate that the **PITCH** was a **STRIKE**, the plate umpire shall raise his **RIGHT ARM** straight up above the shoulder and then down to the hammer position (right angle) with the fist closed while at the same time calling “**STRIKE**” and the number of the same in a clear and decisive voice.
- D. To indicate a **BALL**, no arm signal is used. However, the plate umpire shall give the verbal call of “**BALL**”, and then add the number. If the ball lands on the plate, the umpire may indicate this by a signal using the left hand (palm open and up at chest level) and bring a closed fist (right and) down into the palm.
- E. To indicate an **INTENTIONAL WALK** of the batter by the pitcher, the plate umpire merely makes such announcement to the batter and official scorekeeper.
- F. To indicate the **TOTAL COUNT** on the batter, the plate umpire always announces the number of **BALLS** first and then the number of **STRIKES**. Also signal the count with the hands, showing the number of **BALLS** on the left hand, and the number of **STRIKES** on the right hand.

- G. To indicate a **FOUL BALL** the umpire shall extend his hands straight up into the air while verbalizing “**FOUL BALL**“ in a manner appropriate to the situation.
- H. To indicate a **FOUL TIP**, the plate umpire shall raise both arms out in front of his body, a little higher than shoulder level, and with the palms of the hands facing downward, graze the palm of one hand off the back of the other and call “**FOUL TIP**”.
- I. To indicate a **FAIR BALL**, the plate umpire shall gesticulate toward the centre of the diamond. **THERE IS NO VERBAL CALL.**
- J. To indicate the batter or baserunner **OUT**, the umpire shall raise his **RIGHT ARM** (hand open) straight up to a full extension directly above the shoulder and then bring it back down into the hammer position (right angle) with the fist clenched and verbally call “**OUT**”.
- K. To indicate that a baserunner is **SAFE**, the umpire shall extend **BOTH ARMS** out to his sides and to shoulder level with the palms open and facing down towards the ground. A verbal call of “**SAFE**” is performed simultaneously with the signal.
- L. To indicate a **SUSPENSION** of play, the umpires shall call “**TIME**” and at the same time extend **BOTH HANDS** skyward, clearly above his head with the hands open. The other umpires shall immediately acknowledge the suspension of play, by performing a similar signal.
- M. To indicate a **DELAYED DEAD BALL**, the umpire shall extend his left arm horizontally to shoulder level and to the side.
- N. To indicate a **TRAPPED BALL**, the umpire shall extend both arms diagonally in front of his body with palms open and toward the ground and then move the arms out to the side of his body to indicate **SAFE**. “**TRAPPED BALL**” and “**SAFE**” shall be called simultaneously with the appropriate signals.
- O. To indicate a **GROUND RULE DOUBLE**, the umpire shall raise his arms straight up over the shoulder and indicate with his fingers the number of bases awarded.
- P. To indicate a **HOME RUN**, the umpire shall raise his right arm straight up over the shoulder with a clenched fist and then move the arm in a counter clockwise motion several times to indicate the home run.
- Q. To indicate a **FOUR (4) BASE AWARD**, the umpire shall raise the left arm straight up with four fingers extended and point with the right hand to home plate.
- R. To indicate an **INFIELD FLY RULE BEING IN EFFECT**, the umpire shall bring the palm of his right hand up to his left chest area and place the hand on the chest.
- S. To indicate an **INFIELD FLY IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT**, the umpire shall brush the fingers on the right hand down the left arm, which will be brought forward a little bit and in front of the body to indicate that it is **OFF**.
- T. To indicate an **INFIELD FLY**, the umpire shall raise his right arm straight up with his fist clenched and call “**INFIELD FLY, IF FAIR, THE BATTER IS OUT.**”
- U. To indicate that a player has been ejected from the game and the playing area, the umpire shall raise his right arm above shoulder level and point indicating that the player is to leave the playing field. The umpire will also simultaneously state in a loud voice that the player is ejected.

Sec. 12 SUSPENSION OF PLAY:

- A. The umpire may suspend play when, in his judgment, any situation or condition justifies such action.
- B. When in the opinion of the umpire all immediate play resulting from a batted ball is apparently completed, he shall call “**TIME**”.
EFFECT Sec. 12 B It is not necessary to return the ball to the pitcher, after a batted ball, to stop baserunners from advancing. When baserunners have ceased to try to move forward, or to try for the next base, because a fielder has the ball in the infield area, the umpire shall call “**TIME**”.
- C. Play shall be suspended whenever the umpire leaves his proper position to brush the plate, or to perform other duties not directly connected with the calling of decisions.
- D. The umpire shall suspend play whenever a batter or pitcher steps out of position for a legitimate reason.
- E. The umpire shall not give a call or signal for “**TIME**” when a batter steps out of position after a pitcher has started his delivery motions.
- F. In case of injury, or if some unforeseen incident occurs before a batter hits the ball “**TIME**” shall be called. But, if the ball is hit, then all action continues until all plays in progress have been completed, or all baserunners have stopped at their bases.
- G. Umpires shall not suspend play for any reason, during live ball action, at the request of players, coaches or managers, until all probable actions have been completed.

RULE 11. - SCORING

Sec. 1 THE OFFICIAL SCORER is appointed by **the team** and shall keep **at least the score of the game as it progresses and the batting order**. He shall have sole authority to make all decisions involving judgment. For example, it is the scorer's responsibility to determine whether a batter's advance to first base is the result of a hit or an error. However, a scorer shall not make a decision which conflicts with the official playing rules or with an umpire's decision. When no assigned official scorer is present, the umpire shall appoint a scorer. If the umpire is unable to appoint a scorer, then the home team scoresheet shall be official.

Sec. 2 THE BOX SCORE:

- A. Each player's name and the position or positions he has played shall be listed in the order in which he batted or would have batted unless he is removed, or the game ends, before his turn to bat.
- B. Each player's batting and fielding record must be tabulated.
 - 1. The first column shall show the number of times each player batted during the game, but no player shall be charged with a turn at bat when:
 - a. He hits a sacrifice fly.
 - b. He is awarded a base on balls.
 - c. He is awarded first base because of obstruction.
 - 2. The second column shall show the number of runs, if any, made by each player.
 - 3. The third column shall show the number of safe hits, if any, made by each player.
 - 4. The fourth column shall show the number of put-outs, if any, made by each player.
 - 5. The fifth column shall show the number of assists, if any, made by each player.
 - 6. The sixth column shall show the number of errors, if any, made by each player.
 - 7. The name of each player inserted into a team's line-up as a substitute player or runner shall be recorded and the subsequent record tabulated.
- C. The score by innings for each team shall follow the tabulated batting and fielding records.

Sec. 3 THE SUMMARY:

- A. The summary shall follow the score by innings.
- B. The summary shall list the following items in this order:
 - 1. The final score.
 - 2. Runs batted in and by whom.
 - 3. Two base hits and by whom hit.
 - 4. Three base hits and by whom hit.
 - 5. Home runs and by whom hit.
 - 6. Sacrifice flies and by whom hit.
 - 7. Double plays and all defensive participants.
 - 8. Triple plays and all defensive participants.
 - 9. Number of runners left on base, including the batter-baserunner.
 - 10. Number of bases on balls given by each pitcher.
 - 11. Number of batters struck out by each pitcher.
 - 12. Number of hits, runs and earned runs allowed by each pitcher.
 - 13. The name of the winning pitcher.
 - 14. The name of the losing pitcher.
 - 15. The number of innings or parts of innings pitched by each pitcher. A part of an inning is determined by the number of outs. One out is one-third inning; two outs are two-thirds of the inning.
 - 16. The length of the game with any unusual delays deducted.
 - 17. The names of the umpires and scorer.

Sec. 4 ALL INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM RECORDS OF ANY TIE OR FORFEITED GAME which has reached or exceeded legal length when added shall become a part of the official team averages except that no pitcher shall be credited with a victory nor charged with a defeat.

Sec. 5 A RUN BATTED IN is a run scored as a result of:

- A. A base hit.
- B. A sacrifice fly (Even if a fielder drops what would have been a sacrifice fly).
- C. A foul fly caught.
- D. An infield put-out or fielder's choice (Unless the run scores during a successful double play or a double play attempt in which the receiving fielder drops the throw which would have completed a double play).
- E. A baserunner forced home because of a base on balls or catcher's obstruction.
- F. A home run and all runs batted in as a result.
- G. A four base award and all runs batted in as a result.

Sec. 6 A BASE HIT is a batted ball that permits the batter-baserunner to reach base safely. Give a base hit:

- A. When a batter-baserunner reaches first base safely on a fair batted ball which is hit with such force, or such slowness, or which takes an unnatural bounce, making it impossible to field the ball with **ORDINARY EFFORT**.
- B. When a fielder unsuccessfully attempts to retire a preceding runner and, in the scorer's judgment, the batter-baserunner would not have been retired at first base by ordinary effort.
- C. When a baserunner is called out for interference for being hit by a batted ball and the batter is awarded first base, credit the batter with a hit (Ref. Rule 8, Sec 3 c)
- D. When a four base award is signaled.

Sec. 7 A BASE HIT SHALL NOT BE SCORED in the following cases:

- A. When a baserunner is forced out by a batted ball, or would have been forced out, except for a fielding error.
- B. When a player fielding a batted ball retires a preceding runner with ordinary effort.
- C. When a fielder fails to retire a preceding runner, and in the scorer's judgment, the batter-baserunner could have been retired, at first

base, with ordinary effort.

Sec. 8 THE LENGTH OF A BASE HIT:

- A. Shall be determined by the number of bases the batter advances without the aid of an error, defensive indifference, or as the result of a play being made on another baserunner (fielder's choice). However, if the ball was batted over the fence or out of the park, a home run shall be credited. **NOTE:** When a batter, in attempting to stretch the length of a hit, overslides a base and is touched out, he is not credited with having made that base.
- B. When the batter ends the game with a safe hit which drives in the winning run, he will be credited only with as many bases, on the hit, as are needed to score the winning run, unless it is an over the fence home run. **NOTE:** The batter must also gain, on the hit, as many bases as are necessary to score the winning run to qualify for an extra-base hit (Ref. Rule 4 Sec 5)
- C. When a fielder deliberately contacts or catches a batted ball with any part of the uniform or equipment detached from its proper place on the fielder and the batter is awarded three bases, credit a triple. (Ref. Rule 8, Sec. 6 H Effect)
- D. When a four base award is signaled, the batter shall be credited with a home run (awarded).

Sec. 9 A SACRIFICE FLY IS SCORED when, with less than two outs, the batter scores a runner on a fly ball which is caught, or when an error is committed on what would have been a sacrifice fly.

Sec. 10 PUT OUTS ARE SCORED in the following situations:

- A. A put-out is credited to a fielder each time he:
 - 1. Catches a fly ball or line drive.
 - 2. Catches a thrown ball which retires a batter or baserunner.
 - 3. Touches a baserunner with the ball when the baserunner is off the base to which he is entitled.
 - 4. Is nearest the baserunner declared out for: being hit with a batted ball, running out of a baseline to avoid being touched with the ball, for interference, leaving a base too soon or carrying a bat to first base.
 - 5. Is nearest the batter-baserunner or baserunner who is called out under the profanity rule.
- B. A put-out is credited to the catcher each time a batter is called out:
 - 1. When a third strike is called.
 - 2. When the batter bunts or chops the ball.
 - 3. When the batter bats illegally.
 - 4. When the batter is struck with his own fair batted ball.
 - 5. When a batter fails to bat in correct order.
 - 6. When the batter, or other player, interferes with the catcher.
 - 7. When a batter strikes a batted ball a second time, intentionally, in fair territory.
 - 8. For stepping on the plate.
 - 9. For stepping out of the batter's box.
 - 10. When a batter is called out under the profanity rule.

Sec. 11 ASSISTS ARE CREDITED in the following situations:

- A. To each player who handles the ball in any series of plays which result in the put-out of a baserunner. Only one assist shall be given to any player who handles the ball more than once in any one put-out.
- B. To each player who handles the ball in any series of plays in a manner which would have resulted in a put-out, if an error had not been made by a teammate.
- C. To a player who, by deflecting a batted ball, aids in a put-out.
- D. To each player who handles the ball in a play which results in a baserunner being called out for interference or for running out of the baseline.

Sec. 12 DO NOT CREDIT an assist to a fielder who commits an error after which the baserunner is put out on a subsequent play.

Sec. 13 ERRORS ARE RECORDED in the following situations:

- A. For each player who commits a misplay which prolongs the turn at bat of the batter or the life of the baserunner (**NOTE:** A fielder is only required to make an ordinary effort).
- B. For the fielder who fails to touch the base or runner after receiving the ball in time to retire a baserunner on a force out or when a baserunner is compelled to return to a base.
- C. For the catcher when a batter is awarded first base because of obstruction.
- D. For the fielder when a baserunner advances a base because of his failure to stop, or try to stop, a ball thrown accurately to a base, unless there was no reason for the throw. When more than one fielder could have received the throw, the scorer must determine which fielder gets the error.
- E. For the fielder who fails to complete a double play because of dropping the ball.
- F. For the fielder who is charged with obstruction.

Sec. 14 ERRORS ARE NOT CHARGED against fielders in the following situations:

- A. When a fielder makes a wild throw in an attempt to prevent a baserunner from advancing, unless the baserunner is able to advance one or more bases beyond the one he would have reached had the throw not been wild, or to a base beyond the one he was forced to. **Example:** Runner on first base when the batter singles to right field, runner gains second and attempts to advance to third. Right fielder commits a wild throw to third, but runner stops at third & no error. If the runner scores, show the advance from third to home as a fielder error.
- B. When a fielder drops a fly ball, line drive, or a thrown ball, and recovers the ball in time for a putout at any base.
- C. Do not charge a mental error except in Sec. 13 B

Sec. 15 A PITCHER SHALL BE CREDITED WITH A WIN in the following situations:

- A. When he is the starting pitcher and has pitched at least four innings and his team was not only in the lead when he is replaced but remains in the lead the remainder of the game.
- B. When a game is ended after four innings of play and the starting pitcher has pitched at least three innings and his team scores more runs than the other when the game is terminated.
- C. As a relief pitcher, if he is the pitcher of record when his team assumes the lead and the lead is maintained to the end of the game.

Sec. 16 A PITCHER SHALL BE CHARGED WITH A LOSS regardless of the number of innings he has pitched if he is replaced when his team is behind in the score, and his team thereafter fails to tie the score or to gain the lead.

Sec. 17 A STATISTICIAN MAY BE APPOINTED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR who should maintain an accumulative record of all batting, fielding and pitching records specified for every player who appears in a championship game.

EFFECT Sec. 17 The statistician should prepare a tabulated report at the end of the tournament and submit this report to the tournament director. This report should identify each player by his first name and surname, and position(s) played and should indicate as to each batter whether he bats right handed, left handed or both ways.

Sec. 18 TO COMPUTE AND DETERMINE PERCENTAGE RECORDS

- A. To determine the percentage games won or lost, divide the number of games won by the total number of games won or lost.
- B. For batting average, divide the total number of safe hits by the total times at bat.
- C. For slugging percentage, divide the total bases of all safe hits by the total times at bat.
- D. For fielding average, divide the total put-outs and assists by the total of all put-outs, assists and errors (which are the total chances).
- E. For the pitcher's earned run average, multiply total earned runs charged to his pitching by seven and divide this result by the total of innings pitched. (If a regulation 9 inning game is a tournament requirement, multiply earned runs X 9 and divide by innings pitched.)

Sec. 19 TO ASSURE UNIFORMITY IN ESTABLISHING BATTING, PITCHING AND FIELDING CHAMPIONSHIPS,
SUCH CHAMPIONS SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

- A. Deleted
- B. Deleted
- C. Deleted

RULE 13. - COED PROGRAM

Sec. 1 BATTING ORDER Seven (7) male and three (3) female players will be considered a "normal" line up for Coed, but may be extended to a maximum of 20 players.

A. Deleted

B. Deleted

C. Must always have a minimum of 9 players comprised of a minimum two (2) females defensively and offensively, and a maximum seven (7) males defensively.

D. Deleted

Sec. 2 FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

A. All teams should have at least matching tops.

B. Pitching zone to be fifty (50) to sixty-five (65) feet from home plate.

C. The 12 inch ball will be used.

D. Baselines will be 65 feet.

E. The home plate shall be the standard 2' x 3' mat provided by the Southwest Optimist Baseball Complex, and the strike zone shall be called accordingly.

Sec. 3 BATTER-BASERUNNER - A WALK Deleted

Sec. 4 BASERUNNING There is to be no sliding while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at any time.

EFFECT Sec. 4

A. A player is to be called out if he or she slides while attempting to touch and/or cross the scoring line at home plate.

B. Sliding may occur at all other bases.

C. A baserunner who touches the **COMMITMENT LINE** or makes contact with the ground past the **COMMITMENT LINE** with any part of the body between third base and home plate must continue on towards the scoring line (at home plate).

EFFECT Sec. 4 C A player who has touched and/or crossed over the commitment line as described above and attempts to return to third base, shall be declared out.

D. A baserunner may be tagged out between the commitment line and the scoring line.

E. All baserunners attempting to score a run must do so by touching the **SCORING LINE** with one foot or by placing one foot on the ground past the **SCORING LINE** in fair territory, in order for it to be counted as a run.

EFFECT Sec. 4 E Runners are out if they touch home plate or cross over home plate in fair territory, whether a play is made or not.

F. The baserunner should avoid all collisions or be subject to ejection, based on the umpire's judgment

G. **COURTESY RUNNERS** may be used (provided the batter has safely reached base) a maximum of three (3) times per game. Only players listed on the line-up card are eligible to be courtesy runners, but the same runner cannot be used more than once. A courtesy runner can be used for a courtesy runner. If there are no courtesy runners or substitutes available to take the place of a courtesy runner that is on base when that player is to be up to bat, an out shall be declared. **Note:** Where a courtesy runner is used, a male must be placed for a male, a female for a female, or a female for a male.

Sec. 5 CATEGORIES OF PLAY Deleted

Sec. 6 OTHER RULES All playing rules not specifically covered in Rule 13 of this book shall be governed by the other rules outlined in Rules 1 through 11 of this book.

RULE 14. - SAMSON CHRISTIAN SLO-PITCH LEAGUE

Sec. 1 ROSTER

- A. Churches that have 2 or more teams in the league cannot share male players during the regular season, and female players can be shared with the approval of the opposing team's coach. Approval must be obtained on a game by game basis, and **approval by one team does not indicate approval by all teams**. No players can be shared during the playoffs.
- B. All players must be a minimum 16 years old.

Sec. 2 ATTENDANCE

- A. All players named on the batting order must be present at the field when the first pitch of the game is thrown.
- B. If one team cannot meet the team requirements outlined in Rule 13 Sec. 1 at the start of game 1, they forfeit game 1 and will be given until 7:00pm to meet the requirements for game 2 or that game will be forfeit as well.

Sec. 3 INTENTIONAL WALKS will not be allowed. If **in the umpire's opinion** the pitcher **intentionally** delivers 4 consecutive pitches that are significantly outside the strike zone, the hitter may choose to accept the walk or repeat his turn at bat. If **in the umpire's opinion** the pitcher **again intentionally** delivers 4 consecutive pitches that are significantly outside the strike zone, the pitcher will be ejected from the game and the hitter may choose to accept the walk or repeat his turn at bat.

Sec. 4 ALCOHOL

- A. At no time is alcohol permitted on or near the benches or playing field.
- B. Players may not consume alcohol during the games, and it is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that players not consume alcohol anywhere on the Southwest Optimist Complex property so that they may have a stronger Christian testimony to all in attendance at the complex.
- C. Any player who is intoxicated will not be allowed to participate in the game.

Sec. 5 CONDUCT Abusive behaviour towards officials, teammates, opposing players or spectators will not be tolerated. Anyone who exhibits any kind of abusive behaviour towards any other person will be removed from the property and may be subject to further penalty. **NOTE:** At the umpire's discretion, the player may be called out via technical **out** as opposed to ejecting a player for use of foul language. In the case of a batter, an out would be recorded immediately against that player and team and the next batter would come forward. If a technical out is called against a player in the field, the technical out would be applied when the fielding team comes to bat.

Sec. 6 LIABILITY All players must agree that the Samson Christian Slo-Pitch League is not, and will not be, responsible for any injury that is a result of participation in the league.

Sec. 7 SCORE SUBMISSION After the game, the game results must be submitted to the league office via the completion of an online form at www.samsonleague.com. Submissions via other methods will not be accepted unless the league office deems special circumstances warrant the use of another method. **Failure to submit the scores within 6 days of game completion will result in all subsequent games being deemed a forfeit loss for that team, no matter their outcome, until the late scores are submitted. Games deemed a forfeit loss will not be reversed upon submission.**

Sec. 8 ALL-STAR GAME

- A. All-star game players are to be submitted to the league office a minimum of 1 week prior to the all-star game and indicate their primary and secondary positions.
- B. All-star game coaches will be the coaches of the last playoff game of the previous season.

Sec. 9 PLAYOFFS

- A. Players must play in 20% of their team's scheduled games to be eligible for the playoffs.
- B. Each team must be prepared to present their season score books to a league official if playoff eligibility of a player is questioned.
- C. Each player must be prepared to present photo ID to a league official if playoff eligibility of that player is questioned.

Sec. 10 RAIN-OUTS

- A. If it's likely that a game will be rained-out, players should visit www.samsonleague.com, after 3:00pm, to confirm game cancellation.
- B. Any games that are rained-out may or may not be rescheduled based on their importance in determining playoff positions.

Sec. 11 OTHER RULES All playing rules not specifically covered in Rule 14 of this book shall be governed by the other rules outlined in Rules 1 through 11 and Rule 13 of this book.