



2018 Rule Change Summary Softball

Change From	Change To
Old Formatting	See also date change at footer to reflect June 2018
<p>1. GOVERNING RULES</p> <p>The Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Softball shall govern all Special Olympics competitions. As an international sports program, Special Olympics has created these rules based upon International Softball Federation (ISF) Rules for slow pitch softball found at http://www.internationalsoftball.com/. ISF or National Governing Body (NGB) rules shall be employed except when they are in conflict with the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Softball or Article I. In such cases, the Official Special Olympics Sports Rules for Softball shall apply. *References to the ISF Rules in this document are noted with an asterisk.</p> <p>3.1.17 The weight, distribution of weight, or length of the bat must be permanently fixed at the time of manufacture and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except as otherwise specifically provided in *Rule 3, Section 1.</p> <p>3.1.18 The official bat shall not be an 'Altered Bat.' The weight, distribution of weight, and length of the bat, as well as all other characteristics of the bat must be permanently fixed at the time of manufacture and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except as otherwise specifically provided in *Rule 3, Section 1, or a specification approved by the ISF Equipment Standards Commission or NGB Standards.</p>	<p>**All Effect/Exception rules removed to follow new WBSC Rules. (i.e. - *Sec. 6e)**</p> <p>**Effective throughout 2018 Sport Rules Changes**</p> <p>DELETED: Internal Softball Federation (ISF)</p> <p>CHANGED TO: World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC)</p> <p>DELETED: *References to the ISF Rules in this document are noted with an asterisk.</p> <p>DELETED: in *Rule 3, Section 1.</p> <p>DELETED: in *Rule 3, Section 1.</p>



<p>3.1.19 Note: Bats included on the ISF and NGB Bat Lists that continue to meet the provisions of *Section B. Subsection 1 are approved for use. Should a bat no longer meet the requirements of Section B. Subsection 1 it shall be considered an illegal bat and not approved for use.</p> <p>3.5.4</p> <p>Effect: *Section 5: Failure to comply with the provisions of Section 5, after a warning from the umpire, shall result in the ejection of the player from the game.</p>	<p>DELETED: ISF; of *Section B. Subsection 1 a</p> <p>CHANGED TO: WBSC http://www.wbsc.org/softball/softball-batlist</p> <p>DELETED: * Section 5: Failure to comply with the provisions of Section 5,</p>
<p>4. UNIFORM</p> <p>All players on a team shall wear uniforms alike in color, trim and style. Reference to coaches' uniform is found under *Rule 4, Section 1b.</p>	<p>DELETED: under *Rule 4, Section 1b</p> <p>CHANGED TO: in section 14</p>
<p>8. TEAM & UNIFIED TEAM SLOW PITCH COMPETITIONS</p> <p>Please reference Section 17 for Softball Skills Assessment information for teams, which will be used as part of the divisioning process. <i>Unified rules shown in italics.</i></p>	<p>DELETED: Section 17 for</p>
<p>10. BATTING</p> <p>10.2.9 No runner shall be removed from the base he is occupying to bat in his proper place. He merely misses his turn at bat with no penalty. The batter following him in the batting order becomes the legal batter.</p> <p>Exception: The batter-runner who has been taken off the base by the umpire as in Section 2b above.</p>	<p>DELETED: Section 2b</p> <p>CHANGED TO: stated</p>
<p>11.7.2.10 Catcher obstruction on the batter is covered under Rule 8, Sec. 1d.</p>	<p>DELETED: under Rule 8, Sec. 1d</p>



<p>14. COACHES, PLAYERS, & SUBSTITUTES</p> <p>14.2.1 Official line-up cards are to be completed and submitted to the Official Scorer, or umpire, at the start of each game. The plate umpire retains the card for the duration of the game.</p> <p>14.7.6 Multiple substitutions can be made for the player listed on the starting line-up, but no substitute can return to the game after being withdrawn from the line-up, except as a Replacement Player. _____</p> <p>14.7.10.2.7 After a legal or illegal pitch to the next batter, the Illegal Player is “Declared Ineligible”, and all play stands.</p> <p>Note: The provisions of Rule 4, Sec. 8 will not apply in the event of the required use of a Replacement Player, unless such player is legally appealed for failure to report to the umpire. (*See Rule 4, Sec. 11).</p> <p>14.9 Disrupted Calls</p>	<p>DELETED: ,or umpire</p> <p>CHANGED TO: and the home plate umpire</p> <p>ADDED: or Courtesy Runner</p> <p>DELETED: Note: The provisions of Rule 4, Sec. 8 will not apply in the event of the required use of a Replacement Player, unless such player is legally appealed for failure to report to the umpire. (*See Rule 4, Sec. 11).</p> <p>DELETED: Disrupted</p> <p>CHANGED TO: Disputed</p>
<p>15. REPLACEMENT PLAYER</p> <p>15.1.6 The withdrawn player may subsequently re-enter the game after the expiry of the time described in (a) above, subject to the provisions of the Re-entry rule.</p>	<p>DELETED: expiry</p> <p>CHANGED TO: expiration</p>
<p>17. DIVISIONING</p> <p>17.2 Coaches must submit a Softball Skills Assessment Test Score for each player on their rosters prior to the competition.</p> <p>17.4 Teams are initially grouped in divisions according to their SAT team score _____. A classification/preliminary pool play round of games shall then be conducted as a means of finalizing the divisioning process.</p>	<p>DELETED: must</p> <p>CHANGED TO: shall</p> <p>DELETED: divisions</p> <p>CHANGED TO: preliminary</p>



<p>17.5 In the classification/preliminary pool play round, teams will play one or more games with each game lasting no longer than 60 minutes. Each team will be required to play all eligible and able-bodied players whose scores were used to determine the “team score.” Both teams will be required to play each player at least one half-inning in the field and provide each player at least one at-bat.</p> <p>17.6 Teams should play to the best of their ability levels during all games, including games in the divisioning round. Should teams not follow this protocol, teams should be warned they may be in violation of the Honest Effort policy. If teams continue to circumvent the Honest Effort policy, penalties may be levied upon the head coach, assistant coach(es) and players. Procedures for enforcing Honest Effort and any corresponding penalties should be determined and communicated to teams prior to the beginning of the competition.</p> <p>17.7 The Skill Assessment Test shall consist of the following:</p> <p>17.7.1 – 17.7.4 Hitting and Base running</p> <p>Score: 1=never 2=rarely 3=sometimes 4=frequently 5=always</p>	<p>ADDED: and input from coaches</p> <p>NEW: In the classification/preliminary pool play round, teams will play one or more games. The length or amount of time for each game shall be no less than 60 minutes and no longer than 75 minutes, based upon the overall event schedule capacity. Each team shall be required to play all eligible and able-bodied players whose scores were used to determine the “team score.” Both teams shall be required to play each player at least one half-inning in the field and provide each player at least one at-bat.</p> <p>NEW: Teams shall play to the best of their ability levels during all games, including games in the classification/preliminary round. Should teams not follow this protocol, teams shall be warned they may be in violation of the Maximum Effort policy. If teams continue to circumvent the Maximum Effort policy, penalties may be levied upon the head coach, any assistant coach and/or players. Procedures for enforcing Maximum Effort and any corresponding penalties should be determined and communicated to teams prior to the beginning of the competition.</p> <p>DELETED: 17.7 The Skill Assessment Test shall consist of the following: 17.7.1 – 17.7.4</p>
<p>19. Unified Sports</p> <p>19.2 During competition, the line-up shall never exceed five athletes and five partners (six athletes and six partners if the EP is used) at any time. Failure to adhere to the required ratio results in a forfeit. _____</p>	<p>ADDED: Exception: When a team is playing with fewer partners than athletes under the shorthand rule (14.3.2)</p>
<p>20. GLOSSARY OF TERMS</p> <p>Baserunner’s (Second) Home Plate:</p> <p>1. Defensive players can only touch home plate and runners can only touch the safety home plate.</p>	<p>DELETED: safety</p> <p>CHANGED TO: second</p>



3. Runners tagged by a defensive player will not be out. _____

ADDED: if past the commitment line,