

## 2017 Rules & Procedures Changes

### 1.2 Policy

The newly elected board shall take office *immediately* following the election.

### 6.3 Taxi Squad Player Assignment

In the spring season, and at the discretion of the BOD based on registration number and the readiness of the taxi squad, the at-large director may assign taxi squad players to recreation teams for the purpose of all-star eligibility. Once those players become all-star eligible they are not required to participate on recreational team. Those players may not participate in post season play with the recreational team. In leagues in which there is an "AA" division, these players may only be assigned to teams in that division. Prior to the start of the draft, the taxi squad players will be added to the rosters so that overall team composition (player numbers) can be tracked during the draft.

### 6.4 Hat Picks

D. Softball pitchers – The Junior or Senior Softball Commissioner will compile a list of eligible pitchers for each league that pitches. Teams will draft pitchers in their draft order prior to the beginning of the draft until all pitchers are selected. If a protected player is a pitcher, that team will not pick until every team has a known pitcher. These known pitchers may or may not have attended the tryout. The main team draft will not continue from the pitcher hit picks. The draft will begin with the team who drew the number one pick.

### 7.2.2 All-Star Manager Selection – "AA", Babe Ruth and Softball Divisions

All Star MANAGERS may not coach or manage any other outside team of the same sport during their tenure as the SBL All Star Manager without prior approval of the board of directors.

### 13.10 Manager's Right to Discipline

Managers must consult their league commissioner prior to administering player suspensions or effecting mandatory playing time.

### 14.5 Safety Code

U. Anyone warming up a pitcher at **any** location must wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the mask. **Penalty** – If a player, manager or coach refuses to comply he shall be removed from the game.

### 16.8.1 Taxi Squads - League Finance

A. At the discretion of the league's Board of Directors, the SBL may elect to allot a game and tournament budget for each Taxi Squad. This team budget shall be for the purpose of paying tournament entry fees and umpire cost for games. No budgeted money will be released or allocated without the league President's prior approval. Any additional financial responsibility beyond the allotted team budget shall be the responsibility of the Taxi Squad and its participants. The at-large directors shall account for any allotted funds and provide receipts to the league Treasurer for accountability. These funds shall not be used for travel, entertainment, meals, or any other expense other than tournament fees and umpire costs.

B. Taxi squad managers are not authorized to charge team participants money without prior permission from the league president.

C. Taxi squad teams that fundraise, must deposit that money with the treasurer of the league for tracking and tax purposes. The treasurer will allocate and track funds for the team. Managers are required to submit receipts for all team expenditures.

D. Team equipment (e.g. training aid equipment) purchased with taxi squad raised money is the property of SBL. (This does not include player equipment such as batting helmets).

## HOUSE RULES CHANGES

**NEW** - ALL BASEBALL LEAGUES – There is no longer an option for a courtesy runner. There will be no courtesy runners at any level of Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth League Baseball.

**NEW** - ALL BASEBALL LEAGUES (minor league and up) – A pitcher may NOT return to the pitcher's mound to pitch at any point of a game once he or she has been removed from the game as a pitcher

### 15.3 Rookie League

B. Games will be played with the use of a pitching machine if available at the field or by the coach pitching to the players. In either case, the pitched ball should have a relatively flat trajectory. Soft tossing the ball does not prepare these players for the next level. The Rookie League Commissioner will determine the tension (or speed) of the pitching machine for all divisions. ***This may NOT be modified by coaches on the field without consultation of the league commissioner.***

J. All players present will be placed into the batting order. ***Ten*** players will be played defensively to start the game. ***The tenth player must be a fourth outfielder.***

### 15.4 Minor League

J. Because there is free substitution in the Minor League, ***no player will sit out defensively for two innings in a row.***

R. In the Single-A division (either spring or fall seasons), there is no stealing of home plate (to include no advancing to home on a passed ball). A runner on 3rd base can only advance by being forced via base on balls, a batted ball, or a thrown ball to a base in an effort to make a play; NO EXCEPTIONS.

U-9/V-4. A pitcher may NOT return to the pitcher's mound to pitch at any point of a game once he or she has been removed from the game as a pitcher.

### 15.5 Major League

J. Because there is free substitution in the Major League, no player will sit out defensively for two innings in a row. no player shall sit out more than (2) consecutive defensive innings and must play infield at least once by the start of the 4th inning

V-9/W-4. A pitcher may NOT return to the pitcher's mound to pitch at any point of a game once he or she has been removed from the game as a pitcher.

### 15.6 Babe Ruth League (Including Prep)

F. During the fall season all rostered players will be placed in the line-up in both BRL and Prep Leagues.

P. Balks - Regular season one warning throughout. No warnings in tournament play. (Removed June 1<sup>st</sup> date).

Q-8/R-4. A pitcher may NOT return to the pitcher's mound to pitch at any point of a game once he or she has been removed from the game as a pitcher

### 15.7 The Girl's Fast Pitch Softball Leagues

A. All of the general rules in section 15.1 of the procedures apply to the Girls Softball Leagues

G. Scorebooks and previous lineup cards presented to opposing manager **if requested**.

I. Because there is free substitution in the Girls Softball Leagues, NO PLAYER SHALL SIT OUT DEFENSIVELY MORE THAN TWO (2) INNINGS IN A ROW, **unless requested by the player due to injury**.

J. Managers are required keep a record of the defensive innings played by each player and the positions that they played. **This record should be made a permanent part of their scorebooks to be handed in at the end of the season and submitted to the commissioner/league director upon request.** (No longer needs to be sent to the commissioner within 48hours).

(Stealing rule and base running rule are redundant to Babe Ruth League rules and have been removed from these procedures).

L. The defensive team shall not be allowed to shift to a five-person infield (excludes pitcher and catchers). The girls will be allowed to adjust to a right handed, left handed batter but at no time will an outfielder be allowed to be pulled into the infield position for tactical purposes. **This rule applies to a defensive set-up for a hitter at the time the ball is pitched. It does not apply to an attempted pickoff play (e.g. Centerfielder sneaks in to 2nd base in an attempt to pickoff a base runner).**

(Sliding headfirst rule moved to age appropriate leagues).

(Mandatory slide rule is removed. BRL malicious contact rule and interference rules apply).

(Faceguard rule moved to age appropriate leagues).

### 15.71 8U Machine Pitch Softball

A. **No score will be kept in 8U Machine Pitch Softball, unless in a double-A division. If there is no double-A division, then scorebooks will be kept in the 8U league for All-Star eligibility only. Scores will not be recorded on the SBL website, and standings will not be kept.** Every effort should be made by SBL managers and coaches to keep this level fun, educational, teach good sportsmanship and encouraging for all players.

B. No new inning will begin after **ONE HOUR and FORTY-FIVE MINUTES** from the beginning of the game.

C. Pitching Machine – The speed will be set by the league commissioner or director.

F. In a single-A division, or if there no double-A division, **a team's at bat is complete when three outs are recorded or when all of its players have batted once, whichever comes first.** In a double-A division,

a team's at bat is complete when three outs are recorded or the 5th run of the ½ inning is scored, whichever occurs first.

G. If possible with the number of players available, no player will sit out a defensive half of an inning more than once per game. Should there be a need for a player to sit a second inning, they shall not do so unless all the other players have also sat out for one inning in that game.

I. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers' position in which the catchers gear will be worn.

S. Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited; NO EXCEPTIONS. First offense the manager will receive a warning from the umpire-in-chief. Second offense the runner will be called out, and the run will not count (if safe).

#### **15.7.2 10U Girl's Fast Pitch Softball**

A. No new inning will begin after **ONE HOUR and FORTY-FIVE MINUTES** from the beginning of the game.

C. The last inning shall be the 6th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit, he or she shall announce it to both teams prior to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play will be viewed as the 6th inning for the purpose of waiving the five-run rule. Also, in the event the Umpire waived the five-run rule as listed above, and the inning is completed prior to the expiration of the time limit, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five-run rule for the remainder of the game.

D. No player (**except a pitcher with eligible innings**) shall play any one position more than two innings per game (**three** for catchers).

E. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers' position in which the catchers gear will be worn.

J. Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited; NO EXCEPTIONS. First offense the manager will receive a warning from the umpire-in-chief. Second offense the runner will be called out, and the run will not count (if safe).

#### **15.7.3 12U Girl's Fast Pitch Softball**

A. No new inning will begin after **TWO HOURS and FIFTEEN MINUTES** from the beginning of the game.

C. The last inning shall be the 6th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit, he or she shall announce it to both teams prior to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play will be viewed as the 6th inning for the purpose of waiving the five-run rule. Also, in the event the Umpire waived the five-run rule as listed above, and the

inning is completed prior to the expiration of the time limit, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five-run rule for the remainder of the game.

D. Any player that does not wear a faceguard will not be allowed to play on the infield, with the exception of the catchers' position in which the catchers gear will be worn.

F. Intentional walks will be accomplished by the catcher informing the umpire of the intent to intentionally walk the batter. Intentional walks can be communicated to the umpire at any time during the batter's time at bat. The umpire will award the batter first base and the ball is considered a "dead ball". Exception: this rule does not apply at the "AA" level – There are no "automatic" intentional walks. Teams must pitch around each batter if they so choose.

G. Sliding headfirst into home plate is prohibited; NO EXCEPTIONS. First offense the manager will receive a warning from the umpire-in-chief. Second offense the runner will be called out, and the run will not count (if safe).

#### **15.7.4 14U-18U Girl's Fast Pitch Softball**

A. No new inning will begin after TWO HOURS and FIFTEEN MINUTES from the beginning of the game.

C. The last inning shall be the 7th inning unless the time limit is running out. If the umpire thinks the game is going to end because of the time limit, he or she shall announce it to both teams prior to the start of the inning. The next inning the teams play will be viewed as the 7th inning for the purpose of waiving the five-run rule. Also, in the event the Umpire waived the five-run rule as listed above, and the inning is completed prior to the expiration of the time limit, the game shall continue under the waiver of the five-run rule for the remainder of the game.

D. Intentional walks are allowed, and must be accomplished by the pitcher throwing four called balls.

E. Although use of faceguards is not required in 14U-18U, it is strongly recommended (particularly by pitchers, and corner infielders).

#### **15.8 High School League**

High school league teams will play by Virginia High School League rules. SBL House rules will not apply.