

INDEX OF RULES CHANGES (2018)

2018-1 JEWELRY

2018-2 CONFINES OF THE PLAYING FIELD

~~2018-3 MANDATORY PITCHER'S EQUIPMENT—REMOVED~~

2018-4 LAST COMPLETED AT BAT (LCAB) COURTESY RUNNER OPTION (Non-ELITE SELECT DIVISIONS ONLY)

2018-5 SHORT-HANDED RULE

2018-6 ROSTER BATTING (Non-ELITE SELECT DIVISIONS ONLY)

2018-1 JEWELRY

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Revised Rule 2.5:

"Sec 5. JEWELRY (Youth only - 18 & Under and younger)

Exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Medical alert bracelets or necklaces are not considered jewelry. If worn, they must be taped to the body so the medical alert information remains visible.

Players may wear unadorned items with no sharp edges or points, such as bobby pins, barrettes, and hair clips (no longer than 2 inches) as hair control devices.

Coaches wristbands (play indicators) are legal but must be worn as designed.

Violations are penalized per Rule 11 - Sportsmanship."

Supporting Revised Rule 11.2.E:

"E. Wear jewelry or any exposed ornament which in the umpire's judgment is dangerous while participating in the game."

Rationale for change: permits players to wear stud earrings, but continues to prohibit dangling hoops, rings, watches, etc

2018-2 CONFINES OF THE PLAYING FIELD

Purpose: to define CONFINES OF THE PLAYING FIELD in Rule 3 - Definitions - in support of Rules 2.2 (Catcher's and Pitcher's Equipment) and 14.6 (Umpire Jurisdiction).

New definition in Rule 3:

"CONFINES OF THE PLAYING FIELD. The confines of the playing field includes the field of play, the designated dugout/bench area, and any enclosed or clearly marked area that is designated as a warmup area that is adjacent to the field and within the view of the umpire(s)."

Rationale for new definition: to define WHERE Rules 2.2 and 14.6 apply.

2018-4 LAST COMPLETED AT BAT (LCAB) COURTESY RUNNER OPTION (Non-ELITE SELECT DIVISIONS ONLY)

Purpose: to codify the common practice (in non-Elite Select divisions) of allowing an LCAB courtesy runner when no eligible unused substitute is available

Revised Rule 8.3.B:

"B. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are not entitled to serve as a courtesy runner (i.e., the courtesy runner must be an unused substitute).

(Non-ELITE SELECT divisions): if and only if a team has no available unused substitutes, then and only then they may use the Last Completed at Bat (LCAB) as a courtesy runner, subject to all other applicable restrictions (cannot run for both positions in the same inning, etc).

The LCAB courtesy runner is determined at the time the courtesy runner is requested, skipping batters

i) currently on base,

ii) who are the pitcher or catcher of record, or

iii) who have already courtesy run for the other position in the same inning..

In the first inning, if there is no CR available using the above method, the LCAB CR shall be the person furthest away in the batting order (i.e., the LCAB CR for the lead off batter is the last batter listed in the lineup)"

Rationale for change: codifies common practice

2018-5 SHORT-HANDED RULE

Purpose: a) to modify the existing Rule 5.2 to allow 1 Absent Player only in the Elite Select division, while retaining the existing rule for all other divisions, and b) to define the terms "SHORT-HANDED" and "ABSENT PLAYER" in support of Rule 5.2

Revised Rule 5.2

"Sec 2. SHORT-HANDED RULE:

Playing short-handed is an exception to Rule 5.1 above. A team shall be allowed to play with one batting position unfilled, provided they have a minimum of 8 batters present. The vacant batting position will be designated as the absent player. Whenever the absent player is scheduled to bat, an out shall be declared. A team may play short-handed under the following circumstances:

A. A team may continue a game with one fewer batter than is in the starting batting order whenever a player leaves the game (for any reason) and no substitutes are available. If a team falls below 8 batters, a forfeit shall be declared.

1. If the absent player is the batter or a runner, she shall be declared out.. Exception: if the absent player was injured while a batter-runner or runner, the absent player may be replaced by the last completed at bat (LCAB) as defined in Rule 8.3.B, to fulfill her baserunning responsibility. However, this exception does not apply to any future at-bat.

2. An absent player may not return to the lineup. Exception: a player who left under the Blood Rule may re-enter, subject to Rule 5.6.

B. A team may begin the game short-handed. The absent player must be listed in the ninth (9th) batting position. Under no circumstances shall a team be allowed to have less than eight (8) players in the batting order.

C. The team may not play short-handed if an eligible substitute arrives. If an eligible player arrives, she must enter the game immediately.

(Non-ELITE SELECT divisions):

A team may drop more than 1 batting position (i.e., may have multiple absent players), provided the lineup is maintained with at least 8 batters physically present. All other restrictions above apply.

If a team has multiple absent players and an eligible substitute arrives, she must enter the game immediately in the first available absent player position due up in the batting order."

Supporting additions to Rule 3 - Definitions:

"ABSENT PLAYER - is the position that is created in the batting order when a player is withdrawn and no substitutes are available to replace her. A team who has an absent player is playing short-handed."

"SHORT-HANDED" refers to a team's status when batting:

- a) fewer batters than in the starting batting order presented at the pregame conference, or
- b) less than 9 batters"

Rationale for the change: restores the Elite Select Short-handed Rule to a 1 absent player maximum, consistent with the Federation rule

2018-6 ROSTER BATTING (Non-ELITE SELECT DIVISIONS ONLY)

Purpose: to modify existing Rules 5.1 (PLAYERS) and 5.3 (ADDITIONAL PLAYERS) to allow Roster Batting in non-Elite Select divisions

Revised Rule 5.1

"Sec 1. PLAYERS A team shall consist of at least nine players, whose positions shall be designated as; (1) Pitcher, (2) Catcher, (3) First Baseman, (4) Second Baseman, (5) Third Baseman, (6) Shortstop, (7) Left Fielder, (8) Center Fielder, (9) Right Fielder. In addition, a team may optionally include a DP/FLEX and/or up to two Additional Players (APs). The maximum number of players in the lineup is 12; the maximum number of batters in the batting order is 11.

(Non-ELITE SELECT divisions):

ROSTER BATTING OPTION -Teams may utilize additional APs to bat their entire roster (i.e., ALL players present) subject

to the restrictions of Rules 5.2 and 5.3."

Revised supporting Rule 5.3:

"Sec 3. ADDITIONAL PLAYER - up to two Additional Players (APs) can be used to increase the batting order to 10 or 11 batters.

(non-ELITE SELECT divisions) Teams may use additional APs to bat their entire roster, subject to the restrictions of Rule 5.2 and 5.3

The AP(s) will be placed in the batting order in the positions to be occupied. The AP(s) can also be used on defense (only 9 defensive players in the field), but must keep the same position in the batting order. The AP(s), if used, must be selected prior to the start of the game, and their name(s) must be included on the lineup card presented to the Umpire. Failure to declare the use of the AP(s) prior to the game precludes the use of the AP(s) in that game. If a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner is used for an AP, that player becomes the new AP. The original AP(s) may re-enter like any other player under the re-entry rule. If an AP is used, the position must be used the entire game.."

Rationale for the change - expands lineup flexibility in the non-ES divisions.