



**AMERICA'S FINEST CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE
2011 SEASON
RULE CHANGES AND ADDENDA**

The AFCSL conducts league play using the most current and approved Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Rules with exceptions as approved by the AFCSL Board of Officers. The following exceptions will apply to both the Open and Women's Divisions of the AFCSL, and supersede the ASA rules noted.¹

RULE 1. DEFINITIONS

(01.01) No exceptions or addenda.

RULE 2. THE PLAYING FIELD

(02.01) The distance between bases for all divisions of the AFCSL shall be sixty-five feet (65').²

RULE 3. EQUIPMENT³

(03.01) Bandanas/handkerchiefs can be worn during games, but are never allowed to be tied around the neck.⁴

(03.02) The ball used for Open Division play shall conform to NAGAAA guidelines for Ball Coefficient of Restitution (COR) and Compression.⁵

RULE 4. PLAYERS, COACHES, AND SUBSTITUTES

(04.01) A team may start with as few as nine (9) players. In this situation, once a tenth player shows, they must immediately report to the umpire and be inserted into the game in the last spot in the batting order. Prior to the player's arrival, there is no penalty for the tenth batting position. Refusal to enter will result in becoming ineligible for the rest of the game. Additional substitutes are not allowed to be added to the lineup card.⁶

(04.02) A team that starts with ten (10), eleven (11), or twelve (12) players, but is forced to go down to one less player than what is listed on the lineup, may

¹ cf. ASA Rule 12, Use of ASA Playing Rules

² cf. ASA Rule 2-1, Official Distance Table.

³ cf. ASA Rule 3-6-F, Jewelry, for ASA standard rules on the wearing of jewelry during games.

⁴ cf. ASA Rule 3-6-A-2, Headwear

⁵ cf. ASA Rule 3-3-E-3, 12-Inch Softball (Slow Pitch); as of March 2011, NAGAAA is not adopting the lower compression ball established in the rule cited.

⁶ cf. ASA Rule 4-1-D, Shorthanded Rule; also, Rule 4-6-A, Substitutes

play with one less player, if no substitutions are available, except for player ejections.

- (04.02.01)** If a player is ejected and no substitute is available, the game is forfeited regardless of the number of players in the lineup.⁷

RULE 5. THE GAME

- (05.01)** For all League games, no new inning will begin after fifty (50) minutes of play. It is the responsibility of the team manager to obtain the game clock starting time from the umpire.⁸
- (05.02)** During the first inning only, warm-up balls may be thrown in the infield and outfield.⁹
- (05.02.01)** Players may only warm up in the outfield or in foul territory on the fields for each game. No infield practice or batting practice is allowed using the infield prior to game.
- (05.02.02)** For the Poway Sportsplex, players may only warm up in the area between the Hawthorne Yellow and Miller Green Fields while games are in progress. No other areas are authorized for warm ups (e.g., Coors Blue Field by the cages).
- (05.02.03)** At the approval of the Board Member on duty, a team or team(s) may use a field in the event of a forfeit.
- (05.03)** A home run will count towards the home run limit if a batted ball goes over the fence (or designated home run marker such as a horizontal yellow line) in fair territory on the fly. Any home runs beyond the specified number limit will be considered an out.¹⁰
- (05.04)** When an upper-division team plays a lower division team, the lower-division home run limits apply to both teams.
- (05.04.01)** Open Division Home Run Limits are as follows:¹¹
- (05.04.01a)** "A" Division: Four (4) home runs per team per game
- (05.04.01b)** "B" Division: Two (2) home runs per team per game
- (05.04.01c)** "C" Division: One (1) home runs per team per game
- (05.04.01d)** "D" Division: No home runs are allowed; a home run hit by a "D" division player shall result in the batter being declared out and the team at bat shall immediately take the field, regardless of the number of outs when the home run was hit.
- (05.04.02)** Women's Division Home Run Limits shall apply only to the "D" Division, and follow the same procedure detailed for Open Division "D", as specified in section (05.03.01d), above.¹²

⁷ cf. ASA Rule 4-8, Disqualified or Ejected Player

⁸ cf. ASA Rule 5-3, Regulation Game; and Rule 5-10, Time Limit Rule (ASA Code 510 O)

⁹ No comparable rule exists in the ASA Rulebook - this rule is specific to the AFCSL.

¹⁰ cf. ASA Rule 5-8, Home Run Rule

¹¹ cf. ASA Rule 5-8-A, Home Run Rule, Men's/Men's Master/Coed/Women's Slow-Pitch Limits

¹² cf. ASA Rule 5-8, Home Run Rule

- (05.05) For interdivision play in the women's division, in any game played where a gap of one (1) Division exists, the following rules will apply:
- (05.05.01) The lower classified team will be spotted three (3) runs at the start of the game.
 - (05.05.02) The lower classified team shall be home team.¹³
- (05.06) A regulation game that is tied after seven (7) innings, or after time has expired, will continue and use the International Tie-Breaker Rule.¹⁴
- (05.06.01) If after two (2) innings the score remains tied, the game will end in a tie.
 - (05.06.03) In the fall season, games will end in a tie if a game is tied after fifty (50) minutes of play; no International Tie-Breaker Rule will be used.
- (05.07) Players are required to behave in a respectful manner toward the game, umpires, fans/spectators, teammates, park personnel and opponents. Conduct complaints/feedback will be addressed with the umpire and Board Member on duty.¹⁵
- (05.07.01) Complaints about violations of the AFCSL Code of Conduct will be registered in writing to the AFCSL Board of Officers within a reasonable amount of time.
 - (05.07.02) Ejections are considered violations of the Code of Conduct and will be written up by the umpire.

RULE 6. PITCHING REGULATIONS (SLOW PITCH)¹⁶

- (06.01) All pitches will be between six foot (6') and twelve foot (12') arc in height.¹⁷

RULE 7. BATTING

- (07.01) All Open Division games will be played with a 0-and-0 count. Once a batter has two (2) strikes, any foul ball counts as the third strike; no "courtesy" foul balls allowed.¹⁸
- (07.02) All Women's Division games will be played with a 1-and-1 count. Once a batter has two (2) strikes, any foul ball counts as the third strike; no "courtesy" foul balls allowed.

RULE 8. BATTER-RUNNER AND RUNNER

- (08.01) Two (2) courtesy runners can be declared prior to the start of the game.

¹³ cf. ASA Rule 5-5, Scoring of Runs.

¹⁴ cf. ASA Rule 5-11, Tie Breaker Rule (ASA Code 510 N); also, ASA Rules Supplement #54, Tie Breaker Rule

¹⁵ cf. ASA Rule 5-12, The Game, Dugout Conduct; also, ASA Rules Supplement #49, Sporting Behavior; and AFCSL Policy 6, Conduct.

¹⁶ COACHES/MANAGERS: For the Spring 2011 season, the AFCSL has adopted the ASA standard for warm-up pitches, which allows three (3) warm-up pitches during the first minute of each half-inning; qv. ASA Rule 6-8 (Slow Pitch), Warm-Up Pitches.

¹⁷ cf. ASA Rule 6-3-H, Pitching Regulations (Slow Pitch), Legal Delivery; also, ASA Rule 6-7-EFF:A-D, Pitching Regulations (Slow Pitch), Effect Sections 2-4,7.

¹⁸ cf. ASA Rule 7-3-B, Batting Position

- (08.02)** The player(s) requiring a runner will have an asterisk placed next to their name(s) on the lineup card.
- (08.03)** If, during a game, a player not designated to have a courtesy runner becomes injured, an additional courtesy runner request must meet with the approval of the manager/coach of the opposing team. If the opposing manager does not agree, the team with an injury will have to defer to the substitution rule for the injured player.¹⁹
- (08.04)** Stealing is not allowed in any Division at any time.²⁰
- (08.05)** Leading-off is not allowed in any Division at any time.

RULE 9. PROTESTS²¹

- (09.01)** No exceptions or addenda.

RULE 10. UMPIRES

- (10.01)** No exceptions or addenda.

RULE 11. SCORING

- (11.01)** The home team is the official scorekeeper. If the home team does not have a scorekeeper, the visiting team may keep the official score.²²

RULE 12. USE OF ASA PLAYING RULES

- (12.01)** Playing Rules are subject to change at the discretion of the AFCSL Board of Officers.²³
- (12.02)** Team managers will be notified of changes in advance and it will be team manager's responsibility to ensure team members are aware of updates, changes, or corrections.

¹⁹ cf. ASA Rule 8-9-C, Courtesy Runners; also ASA Rule 8-10, Courtesy Runners; and ASA Rules Supplement #12, Courtesy Runners. The preceding apply to different classifications of softball, but are comparable rules.

²⁰ cf. ASA Rule 8-6-G. Batter-Runner and Runner, A Runner Must Return to Their Base; also, Rules Supplement #50, Stealing.

²¹ cf. AFCSL Policy 10, Protests.

²² cf. ASA Rule 11-1, Scoring.

²³ cf. ASA Rule 12 - Use of ASA Playing Rules