

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES FOR 2023

Rule 1, Section 4: The outfield arc is 180 feet away from home instead of 170 feet. Outfielders must stay behind the arc until after the ball is hit. This rule was changed to make force out throws from the outfield more difficult.

Rule 3, Section 3 Next to Last Sentence Excerpt: These Substitute Players must be placed at the end of the batting order, unless the player being replaced is a highly skilled player who was initially assigned to the team and is not playing because of: 1) dropping out; 2) being currently injured or having surgery; or 3) not being available to play for four weeks or longer.

Rule 3, Section 8: If players voluntarily choose to bat but not play in the field because of physical or other limitations, they may do so.

Rule 8, Section 2: In addition to running for him or herself, a player may only be a pinch runner twice in any one inning. Pinch running for a batter from home plate counts as one turn as a pinch runner.

Rule 11, Section 1: When a batter hits a ball that results in a throwing or fielding error at first base, the batter and other runners may advance as far as they dare at their own risk, regardless where the ball ends up on the playing field.

OTHER RULES TO KEEP IN MIND

Rule 1, Section 4: Outfielders may not throw the batter out at first base. If an infielder touches a ball before it reaches the outfield grass, another infielder may throw the batter out at first from the grass.

Rule 1, Section 6: All infielders must begin their defensive play on the infield dirt but may move anywhere after the ball is hit.

Rule 2, Section 4: The pitchers' net must be placed properly in accordance with this rule, 3 to 5 feet in front of the rubber and aligned with the middle of the rubber.

Rule 3, Section 5: Players who arrive late will replace their substitute at the start of the next half-inning and must bat in the substitute's place in the batting order.

Rule 5, Section 2: There are no intentional walks. Pitchers must pitch to each batter.

Rule 6, Section 3: Each batter starts with a count of one ball and one strike.

Rule 6, Section 5: Any foul tip caught by the catcher is an out regardless how high it goes.

Rule 6, Section 6: The batter is out if he/she carries the bat to first base.

Rule 7, Section 2: Batters overrunning first base must use the orange base.

Rule 7, Section 3: When running to second base, it is the runner's responsibility to stay out of the way of a defensive player trying to make a double play by sliding, ducking, or running to either side of the base. Runners and defensive players should make every effort to avoid collisions at every base.

Rule 9: All players should read and be sure they understand rule 9.

Rule 12: Two home runs over the fence by the same team will be allowed in a game. Additional balls hit over the fence will be "dead ball" singles". Balls hit over the fence by substitute players are all "dead ball" singles.