

HANSEN RULE AMENDMENTS

2019 SEASON

The following rules have been adopted by (ESSPA) Hansen Division. It is intended to replace and reduce the number of Hansen specific rules and in turn follow as closely as possible the rules as contained in the Slo-Pitch National (SPN) 2018 Official Slo-Pitch Rules.

1. **BATS**: Legal bats as mandated in previous seasons, remain the same.
 2. **UNIFORMS**: ALL players MUST wear the same uniform (colour) Tee as provided by the league. NO tee, NO play. ***SPN Rule 2, Sect 9*** (note similar colour tees can be worn as a minimum).
 3. **WALKS**: If a male batter is walked, intentional or otherwise with FOUR straight balls, and if a female follows that male batter, the male batter will be awarded second base. If the female batter is not occupying the on-deck circle at the time of the walk, the male batter is awarded first base only. ***SPN Rule 8, Sect 3(A-B)***
 4. **FIVE RUN RULE**: Remains the same. (vice 6 run as per ***SPN Rule 4, Sec 4(F)***)
 5. **MERCY RULE**: 20 runs after FOUR innings, 12 runs after FIVE innings. ***SPN Rule 4, Sect 4(E)***
 6. **MINIMUM PLAYERS**: Our previous rules for numbers, unlimited batters, injury rule, etc. remain the same. For an open injury, bleeding must be stopped before a player can continue. ***SPN Rule 5, Sec 8***. A player removed due to injury does not result in an automatic out when their turn to bat comes around. An injured base runner can be replaced immediately by the previous batter (not on base) with no penalty.
 7. **LEAD OFFS**: Anticipation lead offs are NOT an automatic out. Contact with the base however, must be maintained until the ball touches the ground in front of the strike mat, lands on the strike mat, crosses the mat or is contacted by the bat. A runner who leaves the base before the aforementioned is called out, NO PITCH (ball or strike is nullified) is called by the umpire and all runners will return to the base held at the time of the pitch. ***SPN Rule 8, Sec 11***
- NOTE: Simply stepping off or falling off the base on a missed swing will not constitute an out on the baserunner.***
8. **TAGGING AT HOME PLATE**: Not allowed after the runner completely crosses the commitment line.

9. COURTESY RUNNERS: A player used as a courtesy runner can only be used once per game whether as a baserunner or runner from home. A base runner can be "courtesied" any number of times. *SPN Rule 8, Sec 15*

A. *FROM HOME:* A player requiring a courtesy runner from home is to be identified to the opposing team prior to the start of the game. The courtesy runner, whether advanced by a hit ball or walk can only run as far as first base and must remain on first base until advanced by the next batter.

A(1) *NOTE:* The walk rule still applies. If a home run is hit or an overthrow occurs at any base, the courtesy runner must still stop at first base. All proceeding runners can advance at their own peril on all hit balls or overthrows.

A(2) *NOTE:* There is no provision in SPN Rule 8, Sec 15 for a courtesy runner from home. Our adaptation of this rule is one adopted and in use by ASSPA in their tournaments.

10. STRIKE MAT - BATTER'S AREA - ON DECK BATTER:

A. The ***STRIKE MAT*** is located within the ***BATTER'S AREA*** (formerly the batter's box). The strike mat is twenty-two inches wide and an appropriate length, and is in its entirety, ***IN FAIR TERRITORY*** (SPN Rule 3, Sec 31);

B. The ***BATTER'S AREA*** (regardless of the markings on the pad on which the strike mat rests at our diamonds) extends three feet on either side of the of the strike mat for the length of the strike mat. A batter when taking their batting position must have at least one foot inside the batter's area. The batter ***IS OUT IF THE BAT CONTACTS THE BALL, fair or foul, when:*** either foot is in contact with the strike mat; either foot is completely within the twenty two inch area in front of or behind the strike mat; when both feet are outside the three foot area on either side of the strike mat; if the leading foot is completely behind the trailing edge of the strike mat; or, the trailing foot is completely in front of the leading edge of the strike mat. The batter will also be called out if, after a called ball/strike/or foul ball leaves the batter's area and takes longer than ten seconds to re-enter the batter's area when called to bat. *SPN RULE 1, Sec 4; SPN Rule 3, Sec 11; SPN Rule 7, Sec 3; SPN Rule 7, Sec 3(I)*

C. The ***ON DECK BATTER*** is the next batter in the batting order following the at-bat batter and must occupy the on- deck circle. When the on- deck batter is called to bat he or she has twenty seconds to enter the batter's area or will be called out. *SPN Rule 7, Sec 3(I)*

NOTE: There is no provision for a substitute player in the on- deck circle because the listed batter is absent.

11. HOME RUN RULE: A team can have a maximum differential of two, ***over the fence,*** home runs. Each home run in excess of the differential will be allowed as a single only. All

preceding base runners will advance one base only on the hit. Inside the fence home runs will NOT count against the differential nor will a home run (over the fence) that resulted from a defensive player deflecting the ball over the fence. ***SPN Rule 7, Sec 11***

12. MISCELLANEOUS: It is incumbent upon team managers and coaches to:

A. Read and understand SPN rules;

B. Allow only players who have a reasonable understanding of SPN rules, traditional understanding of the game in general and a sense of fair play, to umpire;

C. Have a player or responsible non-player to maintain their score sheet and to keep their respective teams ready to bat and confirm scores after each half inning. Non-player score keepers must understand they have NO say in how the game is played outside of their respective dugouts;

D. Maintain order on their bench and ensure their team respects the other team, the umpires and their own team mates.

Pre-Season Hansen Meeting

The previous year's Hansen Coordinator, the previous season's Selectors and all interested new Selectors will meet at least two weeks prior to the start of the season.

- To finalize the Hansen Selectors for the upcoming season.
- To elect the Hansen Division Coordinator for the upcoming season.
- To decide on the number of teams for the season; Note: For scheduling purposes, every attempt will be made to have an **even** number of teams.
- To set the draft order for the Selectors; Note: Numbers will be picked "out of a hat" to determine the draft order. The draft order will follow the first to last and last to first approach.
- To decide on a date when and a place where the draft will be held.
- To establish the Regular Season schedule including determining the number of non-recorded games to be played prior to games counting for points in the season standings and playoff rankings.
- To discuss other business as required.

Rating New Applicants To Hansen Division

- Selectors should attend Evaluation Camps (dates to be determined) to assess new players to the league.
- Knowledgeable members from Hirsch will be asked to rate prior Hirsch players.
- Knowledgeable members from Brawner will be asked to rate prior Brawner players requesting to play in Hansen.
- Selectors will work together to properly rate all players based upon ball knowledge, foot speed, arm strength, batting power, etc.
- A copy of all rating lists will be submitted to the Hansen Division Coordinator.

Miscellaneous Meetings

The Hansen Coordinator will call meetings as required throughout the season to discuss Division related business or issues that arise. For items that require team voting, each team gets one vote. The Coordinator only votes to break a tie.

A meeting will also be held at the end of the season to prepare recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider for the following season.

Draft

1. Before the start of each season, the Hansen Coordinator will call a meeting of the previous seasons Selectors and any individuals who have expressed interest in being a Selector.
2. The previous year's Selectors whose teams finished in the **last 2** positions in the previous season will have their Selector eligibility "On the Line". This means that their positions will be considered **open** for new Selector applicants who can apply for these two positions. All applicants including the "On the Line" Selectors are encouraged to convince the Hansen Draft Committee that they are the best applicants.
3. If any of the previous year's Selectors decide **not** to return as a Selector, their position will become **open** in lieu of the 2nd last place Selector from the previous season.
4. A vote will then take place to determine the Selectors for the upcoming season. The eligible voters will be the previous year's Selectors whose teams did not finish in the **last 2** positions in the standings for the previous season. In the event of a tie, the Hansen Coordinator will have the tie breaking vote. The potential new Selectors and the "On the Line" Selectors do **not** get a vote.
5. The successful Selectors will also be referred to as the team General Manager or GM.
6. Once the draft is completed, the GM will select a Coach within a reasonable amount of time.
7. The GM will remain in charge of all aspects of the team from the draft to the end of the playoffs.
8. The GM or a representative appointed by the GM will attend all Hansen Division meetings during the season.
9. The Rules Committee during the season will consist of the GM or a representative appointed by the GM. In the case of voting related to rules, each team (GM or appointed

representative) gets **1** vote.

10. Each team will draft a minimum of **13** players (no maximum).
11. Selectors will be rated and placed in the appropriate round of the draft.
12. There will be a minimum of **3 female** players (no maximum) drafted by each team.
13. Each Selector is allowed to protect **1** player who will be allocated to a draft round agreeable to the rest of the Selectors.
14. For couples who have indicated at registration that they want to play together, when one of the couple is selected, the other of the couple is to be allocated to a draft round agreeable to the rest of the Selectors.
15. A Selector may bring an assistant (e.g. a knowledgeable resource) to assist the particular Selector with the selection of players in the draft.

Post Draft Player Assignment

New players (i.e. new registrants or players from other Divisions) which express interest in playing in the Hansen Division **after** the draft has been completed will be assigned by the Hansen Division Coordinator to a Hansen Division team based on several factors including caliber of new player, teams in need of players due to injuries, new player was recruited by a specific team, etc. etc. with an eye to maintaining equality among all Hansen Division teams.

Dispute/Disciplinary Resolution

Players should first bring any complaint to their GM. If the complaint cannot be resolved by the GM it should be escalated to the Hansen Division Coordinator. If the matter is not resolved by the Hansen Division Coordinator or if the GM does not agree with the Hansen Division Coordinator's decision, the matter will then be escalated to the ESSPA Disciplinary Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.