

2024-2025 Rule Changes

Summary

November 11, 2023





Summary and Interpretive Notes

The following rule changes were approved at the 2023 Softball Canada Annual General Meeting on November 11, 2023 and are effective for play beginning in 2024.

Please note what follows reflects the principles of the changes to the rules but will not appear word for word in the Softball Canada Official Softball Rule Book 2024/2025 which will be available in the first quarter of 2024.

We also note several changes / revisions to wordings were made made for clarification purposes that due not affect the spirit or intent of the rule. Given this, they will not be addressed in this document.

Further, multiple updates will appear in the 2024/2025 Official Rules as corrections for items omitted in the format transition and they are not addressed in this document.

A complete listing of all changes is available at Softball.ca/Rules

Should further information or clarification be required, please contact either:

Don Farr donfarr77@gmail.com

Scott McLaren sc.mclaren@icloud.com



NEW RULE / CHANGE 1

ALL: A player may wear one or two warming sleeves (compression sleeves).

Why:

Adopts current Softball Canada interpretation and aligns with WBSC Rules.

What it means:

A player may choose to wear either one or two warming / compressions sleeves provided that each is of the same one solid colour that is a team uniform colour and the colour matches all other undershirts worn by any player on that team.

RULE REFERENCE(S) ADDED OR AMENDED

2.5.1 b) ii)



NEW RULE / CHANGE 2

SP: Batter's Area – Entire foot must be outside of the batter's area.

Why:

Follows a recommendation from Slo-Pitch community

What it means:

A batter's foot may be on or partially beyond the line of the batter's area when contact is made with the ball.

A batter will be out if their **entire** foot is outside of the batter's area when contact is made in.

RULE REFERENCE(S) ADDED OR AMENDED

5.1.4 SC



NEW RULE / CHANGE 3

FP/O: A temporary runner may be used for the catcher or pitcher

Why:

Aligns with the WBSC, will aid game pace and assist teams in short roster situations.

What it means:

Just as with a catcher, if the pitcher of record reaches base with two out or is on base when the second is recorded, the offensive team has the option to have a temporary runner run for the pitcher. Teams may elect to use a temporary runner for either the pitcher or catcher or both during an inning.

RULE REFERENCE(S) ADDED OR AMENDED

3.1.23, 3.1.27



NEW RULE / CHANGE 3 (continued)

Scenario when pitcher and catcher are on base at the same time.

Should a pitcher and catcher be on base when the second out is recorded, the team may elect to send the first available temporary runner (last available batter) to run for either the pitcher or catcher regardless of the pitcher or catcher's position in the batting order. Once either the pitcher or catcher has been replaced with that temporary runner, the second available temporary runner (next to last available batter) may run for whoever the first temporary runner did not run for.

Example Batting Order

- | | | |
|----|-----------|----|
| 1. | Searle | C |
| 2. | Dugger | LF |
| 3. | Stanton | 1B |
| 4. | Branchaud | P |
| 5. | Zanolli | 2B |
| 6. | Neiles | SS |
| 7. | Penrod | 3B |
| 8. | Andison | CF |
| 9. | Teague | RF |

Example:

Two Outs. Searle (C) is the runner at 2nd, Branchaud (P) is / becomes the runner at first. Zanolli (2B) is the batter

The last available batter is Stanton. The coach may elect to have Stanton run for either Searle or Branchaud.

Once Stanton runs for Branchaud, then Dugger could run for Searle.

If Stanton ran for Searle, then Dugger could run for Branchaud



NEW RULE / CHANGE 3 (continued)

Scenario when pitcher or catcher would be the temporary runner for each other

Should catcher or pitcher be on base when the 2nd out of an inning is achieved or reach base with two out in the inning and the last available runner for the pitcher/catcher on base, the next available temporary runner could be used.

Example Batting Order

- | | | |
|----|-----------|----|
| 1. | Searle | LF |
| 2. | Dugger | C |
| 3. | Stanton | P |
| 4. | Branchaud | 1B |
| 5. | Zanolli | 2B |
| 6. | Neiles | SS |
| 7. | Penrod | 3B |
| 8. | Andison | CF |
| 9. | Teague | RF |

Example:

Two out. Stanton, the pitcher of record reaches base.

The last available batter would be Dugger and could run for Stanton but as Dugger is the catcher of record, the offense may choose to use Searle, the next last available batter to run for Stanton.



NEW RULE / CHANGE 4

FP/O: Incorrect runner in a tie-break situation can be appealed.

Why:

Aligns with the WBSC.

What it means:

If an incorrect runner is placed on second base, they shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch (legal or illegal) or play and is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offensive team places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.

RULE REFERENCE(S) ADDED OR AMENDED

1.2.4.c, 1.2.6.a iv, 1.2.6 e x



NEW RULE / CHANGE 5

FP/O: Incorrect temporary runner can be appealed.

Why:

Aligns with the WBSC.

What it means:

If an incorrect runner is placed on second base, they shall be called out if a proper appeal is made by the defensive team after a pitch (legal or illegal) or play and is upheld. A proper appeal may be made at any time the incorrect runner is on base. If the offensive team places the correct runner on base before a proper appeal is made, there is no penalty.

RULE REFERENCE(S) ADDED OR AMENDED

1.2.4.c, 1.2.6.a iv, 1.2.6 e x



NEW RULE / CHANGE 6

A: Offensive and defensive team members are subject to penalties if they intentionally erase batter's area/box lines.

Why:

Aligns with the WBSC. Prevents teams from gaining an advantage due to the absence of batter's area / box lines.

What it means:

A strike will be assessed against the offense when an offensive team member, including a coach, intentionally erase batter's area or batter's box lines and a ball will be assessed against the batter if the lines are intentionally erased by a defensive team member.

RULE REFERENCE(S) ADDED OR AMENDED

1.2.4.c, 1.2.6.a iv, 1.2.6 e x