



2019 Summary of Rule Changes

1. Changes to Official Rules of Baseball

The MLB Official Playing Rules Committee made the following changes for the 2018 MLB season. These changes (with exception of Rule 5.10(m) take effect for Baseball Canada play in the 2019 season:

- Amended Rule 4.08(c) to change the minimum length of time between doubleheaders to 30 minutes
- Amended Rule 5.07(b) to remove the previous limits regarding warm-up pitches that a pitcher may throw, now allowing leagues by their own action to limit these warm-up pitches
- Amended Rule 5.09(c)(1) Comment regarding a runner who takes a “flying start” from behind a base when tagging up to clarify that such a violation is considered an appeal play.
- Re-titled Rule 5.10(l) and amended Rule 5.10(l) Comment regarding warm-up pitches when a substitute pitcher enters a game after a second mound visit with the same batter, to clarify that the pitcher will be allowed as many warm-ups as the umpire deems necessary
- *Established new Rule 5.10(m) limiting the number of mound visits per game without a pitching change to six. ***NOT APPLICABLE TO CANADIAN AMATEUR BASEBALL****
- Amended Rule 6.01(a)(5) Comment to clarify that a runner who is returning to his last legally touched base after being put out is considered the same as a runner who continues to advance after being put out relative to interfering with a subsequent play.
- Amended Rule 8.02(c) to stipulate that a ball/strike count may not be corrected after a pitch to the next batter, or after all infielders have left fair territory on an inning ending play.
- Amended Definitions of Terms—Spectator Interference (“Interference,” Part (d))—to include additional situations when Spectator Interference may be invoked.
- An Index has been compiled and is located at the end of the Official Rules of Baseball
- Minor revisions were made to Diagrams #1, #2, and #3



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2. Changes to Canadian Content - Official Rules of Baseball (Blue Pages)

- Established Rule 6.02(5) such that any pitcher caught pitching during their required rest day(s) will have his/her rest period restart from the day that he/she illegally pitched.
- Added additional pitch count categories for 21U Women's event such that 19-21 year olds have a pitch limit of 115, 17-18 year olds have a pitch limit of 105, and 16 (or younger) year olds have a pitch limit of 95.

3. Changes to Baseball Canada Championship Rules

- Added Rule 1.4.2(b) regarding uniform choices. If both teams have two sets of uniforms, the home team has first choice. If one of the teams only has one set of uniforms, the team with two sets of uniforms will be required to wear its non-conflicting set of uniforms. If both teams only have one set of uniforms, the game will be played with the conflicting uniforms.
- Amended Rule 2.2.1 to allow the host team to have a choice of either dugout, provided it has been announced at the pre-tournament meeting.
- Added Rule 2.2.3(d) to grant the Baseball Canada Representative authority to reduce the allotted time or eliminate pregame infield/outfield practice, at their discretion, in the event of weather or game delays.