

2022-2023 Rule Changes

Summary & Interpretive Notes





The following rule changes were approved at the 2021 Softball Canada Annual General Meeting on November 13, 2021 and are effective for play beginning in 2022.

Please note what follows reflect the principles of the changes to the rules but will not appear word for word as such in the new and updated Softball Canada Official Softball 2022-2024 Rule Book which will be available in the first quarter of 2022.

Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact:

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SP: The Batters Box will consist on a line drawn .91m (3 ft.) in front of home plate and will extend past the foul lines on both sides. There will be no inside, outside or back line to the batter's box.

Why:

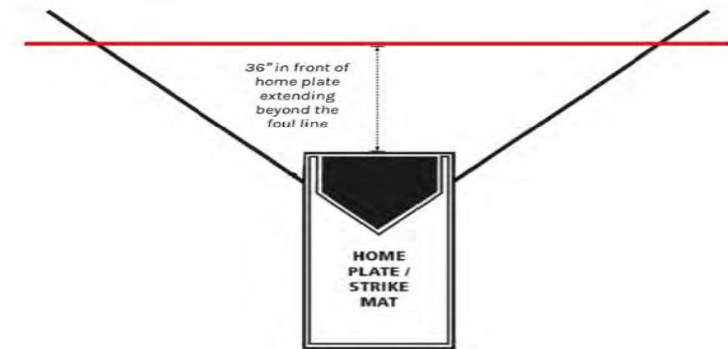
Adopts the SP Batter's Box Special Project based on feedback from players and umpires during Canadian Championship play.

What it means:

Prevents the batter from running out of the box and offers protection for the pitcher.

The batter must start and finish their at bat with both feet behind the front batter's box line. While the batter's foot may touch the line, no part of the foot may cross or be in front of the line.

Should the line be removed during the course of play, the umpire will use their best judgement to determine if the batter has remained behind the line.



Rule References to be amended / added:

Current Rulebook Reference: 2 - 4.d, 7 - 3.b-d

New Rulebook Reference: Appendix 1 D., 5.4.4 a. iv



SP: The Temporary Runner for the Pitcher rule is mandatory after two outs.

Why:

Continues to allow for pace of play to be maintained while allowing pitchers who are effective baserunners to remain part of the play.

What it means:

In Canadian Championship play, this rule applies for pitchers who get on base:
it is mandatory only after two outs.

Rule References to be amended / added:

Current Rulebook Reference: 4 - 11 a

New Rulebook Reference: 3.2.6.h.a



FP / O: Metal cleats will be allowed in the U15 age category.

Why:

Allows players the advantage of using metal cleats at an earlier age.

What it means:

Players may choose to wear metal cleats beginning in the U15 Age category.

Rule References to be amended / added:

Current Rulebook Reference: 3 - 5 g.

New Rulebook Reference: 2.4.2.f.



FP / O: Requirement for protective face masks changed to U17.

Why:

Safety - To protect players from severe injury.

What it means:

Pitchers in the U17 and below categories are required to wear a protective face mask.
All on-deck batters, batters and baserunners must have an attached face mask.

Rule References to be amended / added:

Current Rulebook Reference 3 - 6 b. 4., 3 - 6 f. 4.

New Rulebook Reference: 2.4.3.b., 2.1.8.c.



FP: Elimination of the U14 and below Pitching Regulations.

Why:

Creates a uniform pitching rule across all Fastpitch categories.

What it means:

Players in all age categories may start with one foot on the pitching plate, Pitchers of all age categories may leap in the air, land and then release the ball provided they do not establish a second “push point”, also known as a “crow hop”. What umpires are directed to look for is that the hands must be separated and the arm rotation must be started prior to the pitcher re-establishing contact with the ground. Please see Rule 6 Pitching Regulations (Fastpitch) for the balance of the requirements when pitching.

Rule References to be amended / added:

Current Rulebook Reference: 6 - All - Pitching Regulations (Fastpitch U14 and below) to be deleted.
6 - All - Pitching Regulations (Fastpitch U16 and above) will be renamed “Pitching Regulations (Fastpitch)”

New Rulebook Reference: See 4.3 Legal Pitch Requirements