

RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS  
from all islands

**BIG ISLAND**

NONE

**KAUAI**

**Maui Coaches voted: Yes 7 ... No 7**

AMEND Rule 9.11 Ball/Strike Count to read:

Rule 9.11 Ball/Strike Count: **All games shall be played with a 1 ball/1 strike count prior to the batter stepping into the batter's box. If on a third strike foul ball, the ball will be declared dead and the batter given an extra swing. A second foul ball on a third strike pitch will be declared an out.**

**OAHU**

**Maui Coaches voted: No to match Maui's previous attempt**

1. AMEND Rule 1.1 Move baseline to 60 ft. from current length of 55 ft.

The 55 ft. baseline was created decades ago when softball fields were smaller, and equipment and players were not as athletically adept as in current times. The majority of players are over 65 years of age. Playing defense with shorter base distance against a younger more athletic player/team can cause potential injury to older players.

Online research shows that the only age group using 55 ft. baselines are keiki 9 years old and younger. Almost all softball games use either the 60, 65, or 70 ft. baseline.

Standardizing baselines for all Hawaii counties will make for more uniform play and easier placement of bases for fields.

This was introduced years ago by Sia Salausa from Kauai, but the distance was shortened to 55 ft. by negotiations by the Maui coordinator.

**Maui Coaches voted: Yes 0 ... No 14**

2. Amend 1.2 Move pitching box from the current 6 ft. to 10 ft.

This is also a standard SSUSA rule.

This will give the pitcher more time to react to balls hit up the middle and to avoid potential injury.

**Maui Coaches voted: Yes 12 ... No 2**

3. Amend 1.3 Standardize the strike mat to SSUSA standards, 19 inches x 34.5 inches.

Currently, some islands are using smaller non-standard size strike mats. Most islands are using the standard SSUSA senior softball size mat. Strike mats can be obtained from the mainland for \$45 + shipping.

**Maui Coaches voted: Yes 0 ... No 14**

4. AMEND Rule 1.6 to read, **The minimum distance for fields shall be 250 ft.**

Not all playable fields in the state of Hawaii have a minimum 250 ft. radius. Some are 218 to 225 ft. at the center field distance, some are at 250, 255, 270, 275, or 300 ft. (Oahu only). Discussion needs to be held on this issue to standardize the field distance. Suggestion to make it 250 ft. minimum radius.

**Maui Coaches voted: Yes 7 ... No 7**

5. AMEND Rule 9.11, reintroduce 1&1 count with bonus foul

Most softball games are played with 1&1 count, with bonus foul. This speeds the game along, especially when playing with time limit. Playing with two different counts creates some confusion for players. We should keep our rules in compliance with other national softball organizations.

**Maui Coaches voted: Yes 4 ... No 10**

6. AMEND Rule 3.2, to the standard 15-run TKO Rule  
Recent senior softball rules were amended to games played with the 15-run TKO rule.

**MAUI**

1. ADD DH (Designated Hitter) rule

Explanation: There may come a point where a player may be able to play on defense but for some reason cannot swing the bat. This would allow the player to at least play on the field. This is not a rule where it will be used often, but it will be there if needed.

## 2. AMEND 5.4 second paragraph

If a team is dissolved while the season is in play, **or a team is unable to participate in the state tournament**, players from the dissolved team may become members of another team within the same division or higher within the league no later than June 30 of the current year, unless otherwise restricted by a county's home rules. Upon approval of Island Coordinators, these names must be highlighted when State tournament rosters are submitted.

## 3. AMEND 9.1 h second paragraph

To avoid contact, a runner does not have to touch the base. He/she must run on either side of the base. However, if it is a force play, the defensive player must touch the base with the ball in his/her possession and control. **A runner attempting to advance beyond a base that is blocked by a defensive player is not required to touch the blocked base to avoid contact with the defensive player.**