

2023 USSSA Rule Changes

Pitching

1. Rule 1 (Pg. 8, Sec. 3B) Playing Field: Eliminates references to the pitching area.
2. Rule 3 (Pg. 24) Pitching Area: Deletes the definition
3. Rule 3 (Pg. 24) Pivot Foot: Eliminates references to the pitching area.
4. Rule 5 (Pg. 32, Sec. 1B): Eliminates references to the pitching area.
5. Rule 6 (Pg. 6, Sec 3A & 4A; Pg. 38, Sec. 9) Pitching: Deletes the definition
6. Rule 9 (Pg. 52, Sec. 1A & 2A; Pg. 54, Sec. 3J): Deletes references to the pitching area.

***NEW - THE 6 FEET BEHIND THE MOUND TO RELEASE A PITCH HAS BEEN ELIMINATED AT ALL LEVELS.**

THE PITCHER "MUST" HAVE ONE FOOT IN CONTACT WITH THE RUBBER (ALL DIVISIONS) UPON RELEASE OF THE BALL.

Running

1. Rule 8 (Pg. 45, Sec. 5V NOTE) Baserunning: Eliminates the "about to receive" standard on a THROWN ball by requiring the fielder to physically possess the ball in order to legally block a runner's path to the base.

***NEW – FIELDERS ARE "NO LONGER" ALLOWED TO BLOCK THE BASEPATH UNLESS THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL.**

Equipment

1. Rule 2 (Pg. 17, Sec. 6): Equipment: Eliminates references to the pitching area.

Players and Substitutes

1. Rule 5 (Pg. 32, Sec. 3) Players & Substitutes: Upgrades reporting requirement on substitutions to MANDATORY, classifies unannounced substitutions as illegal, and deletes references to no penalty enforcement for unannounced substitutions.

2. Rule 5 (Pg. 34, Sec. 5 B – Effect 1 & 2) Players & Substitutes: Adds violations for unannounced substitutions to the rule governing penalties for improper re-entry.