



Half Century Plus Softball Spring 2026 Rule Changes

Walks: At **any time** during the game, if a player is issued a four pitched ball walk (four thrown balls without a strike), and has a female player or a 65 years old or older player batting behind them, the following batter has the option of taking first base behind the batter who is automatically awarded second base. The following batter has the option of batting in lieu of taking first base.

At any time during the game an intentional walk may be issued. The pitcher or manager will notify the home plate umpire of the intentional walk. No pitches need be thrown. The subsequent batter option is the same as those noted for the “four ball walk” rule. (Updates Rule 23-1)

Couples and Pool Players: Any couple drafted together are considered a single unit for the purpose of pool replacement players. Should both players of a couple be absent from a game, both players may be replaced with pool players and the pool players only count as a single pool player for puposes of maximum pool player count. In other words, a team with an absent couple will be permiited up to four pool players, rather than the maximum three pool players. (Updates Rule 33)

Rabbit Runners: : A rabbit runner is only permissible for players with an ADA identified disability **and/or a note from a physician verifying the players inability to run for themselves.** (Updates Rule 32)