

Rule Changes for 2015

The following are rule changes effective for the 2015 season

(Actual wording that has changed is listed in red)

Baseball:

Common: (All Ages)

- 2:07** The bat shall be an unaltered baseball bat (not softball), with the following age specific requirements:
- a) For ages 5-12, all non-wood bats "MUST" meet 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) for the life of the bat and "MUST" possess a "clearly identifiable" manufacture's certification stamp. This will include 2 1/4, 2 5/8, and 2 3/4 barrel bats.
 - BBCOR bats are legal for use in ages 5-12
 - b) For ages 13-19, all non-wood bats "MUST" meet BBCOR (Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution) and "MUST" possess a "clearly identifiable" manufacture's certification stamp.
 - A bat shall not weigh numerically more than, three ounces less than the length of the bat.
 - The diameter of the bat shall be no larger than 2 5/8 barrel.
 - c) Bats that are broken, cracked, dented or deface the ball are illegal.
 - d) There shall be no devices, attachments or wrappings that cause the handle to become flush with the knob.
 - Molded grips, **Sting Stoppers** and Choke up knobs are illegal.
- 4:06** Any manager or coach going on to the playing field to talk to the same batter (or a batter going to the dugout or bench to talk to a manager or coach) more than twice (2) in one (1) time at bat will be required to remove the current batter from the game and make the substitution in the lineup.
- He may re-enter at completion of the inning if he can do so without violating the substitution rule.
 - *NOTE: The only exception to rule 4:09 and 4:10 is in case of injury or if time is called by the opposing team or the umpire.*
- 9:15** A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher only (All Age Groups).
- The courtesy runner shall be any player who is not currently in the game.
 - Use of a courtesy runner does not burn the substitute.
- Warning: Do Not Violate the re-entry Substitution rule (see 3:01).*
- If no substitutes are available, the last batted out is to be used as the courtesy runner.
 - If there is no substitute or last batted out, the courtesy runner option cannot be used until the above listed criteria can be met.

Farm League:

1:06 There will be a twenty (20) foot chalked arc from the first (1st) base line to the third (3rd) base line in front of home plate.

- **The ball must be on or past this line to be fair; if not, it is a foul ball.**

3:07 Batting All Available Players is allowed in COACH PITCH AGE GROUPS ONLY.

- Opting to bat All Available Players must be declared before the game starts.
- If this option is used, you must finish with the same number of batters you started with.
- If this option is used and a player cannot bat in their allotted slot, **an out will be called every time that player is scheduled to bat (Remainder of the Game).**
- Minimum number of players (10) must be maintained at all times.

(PENALTY: Forfeit).

- **If Batting All Available Players, “Free Defensive Substitution” is allowed. Batting order must be maintained at all times.**

21:03 Only ten (10) players on the field (**Maximum of four (4) outfielders**).

Softball:

Common: (All Ages)

9:10 A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher only (All Age Groups).

- **The courtesy runner shall be any player who is not currently in the game.**
- **Use of a courtesy runner does not burn the substitute.**

Warning: Do Not Violate the re-entry Substitution rule (see 3:01).

- **If no substitutes are available, the last batted out is to be used as the courtesy runner.**
- **If there is no substitute or last batted out, the courtesy runner option cannot be used until the above listed criteria can be met.**

Farm League:

1:07 There will be a twenty (20) foot chalked arc from the first (1st) base line to the third (3rd) base line in front of home plate.

- **The ball must be on or past this line to be fair; if not, it is a foul ball.**

Sophomore, Junior and Senior:

10:08 A manager may franchise a complete roster independent of a player selection system.

- High School teams are allowed to participate (as a team) in the Senior (18U) age group.

NOTE: These teams cannot add any players after their team Certificate of Entry is submitted and must play at least a twelve (12) game schedule interlocking with other sanctioned Dizzy Dean Softball teams.

Dizzy Dean Baseball, Inc. has endorsed and supports each States laws relating to Concussion training and education in youth sports. In addition to the “Official” wording (below), a link has been placed on the Dizzy Dean National Website (left hand column of every web page) taking you to the Sadler Insurance Risk Management web page. There, you will be able to find the law, as it is written, for your state, find information for concussion training and find information in setting up a concussion management system for your park.

CONCUSSION RISK MANAGEMENT

Dizzy Dean Baseball, Inc. strongly recommends that all teams/leagues adopt and implement a concussion risk management program that keys in on training and education for staff, parents, and players in the areas of understanding concussions and their impact on health; recognizing concussion signs and symptoms; removal from play; and return to play protocol. Such a program normally includes web video training for staff and the distribution of an information sheet each season to all staff, parents, and players. Guidelines for developing a plan are available on the Dizzy Dean website.