

2012 Slow Pitch vs. Fast Pitch Rules	
Slow Pitch Rule	Fast Pitch Rule
Rule 1 Definitions	Rule 1 Definitions
Bunt Not legal in SP...out	Is legal in FP, accept if foul on the third strike....out
Catchers Box: The catcher must remain in the box until the pitched ball is 1) Batted, 2) Touches the ground, the plate, or the batter, 3) Reaches the catchers box	The catcher must remain in the box until the pitch is released
Chopped ball: A chopped ball occurs when the batter strikes downward with a chopping motion of the bat	No such rule in Fast pitch
Courtesy runner: Masters, Senior SP and ADA players	Can be used in all Fast Pitch and in Fast pitch with a ADA
Crow Hop is not used in SP	Crow hop is Illegal in FP. It is a replant and restart of the pitch
Designated Player (DP) Not used in SP	Player who is on the line-up card in the teams batting order but not on the defensive line-up.
Extra Player (EP) An optional player's in SP	Does not use an EP
Flex Not used in SP, except when using ADA rule	Player listed on the line-up card in the 10th spot and can play any defensive position and may enter the game on offense only in the DP position.
Foul Tip is now in affect for SP with stealing	Always been in FP
Inning: In addition to the regular definition in Men's E-Rec an over fence home run results in an half inning ending out	no rule
Leaping Not allowed in SP	An act by the pitcher when both feet become airborne on the initial move and push from the pitcher's plate
Pivot Foot is the foot that the pitcher must keep in contact with the pitcher's plate until the ball is released	Is the foot which must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate prior to pushing off.
Quick Pitch..... is an illegal pitch	Quick Pitch....is a No Pitch

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Stealing: Is the act of a runner attempting to advance during a pitch. Runners can advance once the pitched ball reaches the front edge of Home Plate	Runners may advance once the pitched ball leaves the pitchers hand.
Strike Zone B: When the batter assumes a natural stance adjacent to home plate, the strike zone is that space over any part of home plate between the batter's: <i>Back shoulder and the front of the knee</i>	Strike Zone A:...between the batters arm pits and the top of the knees.
Strike Zone C: (Seniors Slow Pitch): A rectangle 17" x 32.5" which includes the plate and the plate extension (mat). Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on any part of the plate or mat will be ruled a strike. The shoulder to the knee strike zone has been eliminated.	NO Strike matt in Senior Fast Pitch
Rule 2 Playing Field SP	Rule 2 Playing Field FP
Section 1 Fence distances: 1) women min 265' max 300' 2) men min 300' max 315' 3) co-ed min 275' max 300' 4) women 16" min 200' max 250' 5) men 16" min 250' max 300' 6) JO G10U/12U min 175' max 200' 7) G14U /18U min 225' max 250' 8) B10U min 200' max 225' 9) B12U min 225' max 250, 10) B14/16/18U min 275' max 300'	1) Women's min 200' max 250' 2) Men's min 225' max 275' 3) G10U min 150' max 175' 4) G12/14U min 175' max 200, 5) 16/18/18gold U min 200' max 225' 6) B10U min 150' max175' 7) B12/14U min 175' max 200' 8) B16U min 200' max 225' 9) B18U min 225' max 250' Men's Modified max 325'
Section 1 Pitching Distance: 1) women's, men's, and Co-ed 50' 2) 16" men's and women's 38' 3) JO G 10U 40', 12U 46', 14/16/18U 50' 4) JO B 10U 40', 12U 46', 14/16/18U 50'	Women's and 18U A and 18U Gold 43", Men's 46', JO Girls 10U 35', 12/14/ 40', 16/18U 43', Boys JO 10U 35', 12U 40', 14/16/18U 46'
Section 1 Bases: All Men's 70' , Women's & Co-ed 65", (effective 2013 all Adult SP 70'), Women's 16" 55', Men's 16" 60', JO Girls 10/12U 60', 14/16/18U 65', JO Boys 12/14U 60', 14/16/18U 65'	All Fast Pitch is 60'
Section 3C: Batter's box: 16" only is 4 feet by 8 feet	regular box 3 feet by 7 feet
Section D: The catcher's box shall be as wide as the two batter's boxes line from outside line 10' 5" wide	The catcher's box shall be as wide as the two batter's boxes line from outside line 8' 5" wide

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Section 2H: Home Plate... Senior SP uses 2 Home Plates	Home Plate....All use 1 Home Plate
Rule 3 Equipment SP	Rule 3 Equipment FP
Section 3 Chart Balls: SP uses 10" 11" 12" 14" and 16" diameter.	FP uses only 11 and 12 inch diameter balls
Section 3 Chart Balls: Slow Pitch 12 " ball can be .440 core by 375lbs Compression or .520 core by 300lbs compression	Fast Pitch 11" & 12" .470 core and 375lbs compression.
Section 5C Catchers mask: JO Slow Pitch must wear an approved batter's helmet with ear flaps, the catchers helmet and mask, or an approved plastic face mask/guard with the catchers helmet. A throat protector is optional	Adult must wear a mask with a throat protector. Helmets are optional. Can not wear a plastic face mask/guard. JO must wear a mask with a throat protector and an approved helmet with ear flaps.
Section 5 Shin Guard and Chest protector: Not required for SP	Both are required for JO FP
Section 5E Batting Helmets: Must be worn by JO offensive players and players acting as coaches. Must have ear flaps, chin straps and be NOCSAE approved. Not required but permissible for adults	All offensive players must wear double ear flap NOCSAE approved helmets. JO offensive players must wear NOCSAE approved helmets with chin straps, must have NOCSAE approved face mask / guard.
Section 6 Uniforms: Alike in style and color (exception: Men's E/Rec - matching shirts only)	Alike in style and color
Section 6A [1-2]Headwear: Ball caps Visors and headbands are optional	Adult Male must wear a ball cap. Females may wear caps, visors, and headbands but they are not mandatory.
Section 6G Shoes: JO, Co-ed, and seniors can not wear metal, hard plastic, or polyurethane spikes	JO can not wear metal cleats with the Exception: 18 U A&B, 18 Gold, and 16 U A&B can wear metal cleats
Rule 4 Players, coaches, substitutes SP	Rule 4 Players, Coaches, Substitutes. FP
Section 1C Players: A team shall consist of the following: Ten Players, Ten players with an EP, Senior (50-55-60) 10 defensive with 1 or 2 Extra Players, Senior (65-70-75) 11 defensive players and 1 or 2 Extra Players, Co-ed 10 players 5 and 5, Co-ed with an Extra Players 12 players 6 and 6	9 players or 10, 9 defensive players with a DP

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Section 4C 3C and D: Seniors can have all players in the batting order too bat. The shorthanded rule will be in affect	No such rule in Fast Pitch
Section 1C [3]: Co-Ed penalty for using wrong gender number on defense in infield or outfield	No such penalty in FP
Section 1D Shorthanded: Start or finish with as few as 9 in the batting order	Start or finish with as few as 8 in the batting order
Section 2...ADA Rule... 10,11, or 12 players can be used	9 or 10 players can be used
Section 3 DP Not used in SP	Is optional in FP but must be know prior to the start of the game if using one.
Section 4 EP Is Optional and must be known prior to the start of the game	Does not apply
Rule 5 The Game SP	Rule 5 The Game FP
Section 5 Scoring runs: One run shall be scored each time a runner touches first, second, third, and home. Exception: Men's (except E-Rec), Women's and Masters do not have to run the bases on over the fence home runs.	In all Fast Pitch games, players must run on all home runs
Section 8 Home Run Rule: SP has home run limits for Adult Men (except E-Rec), Women, Master and Senior levels of play.	No such regulations
Section 8 A6: In class E-Rec any over the fence home run results in a 1/2 inning ending out.	No such rule
Section 9 Run Ahead Rule: Men's Class A: 20 after five and 15 after four innings of play. All other SP: 20 after three, 15 after 4 or 12 after five. 16" SP: 12 after four and 10 after five.	Men's Fast Pitch (only) 15 after 3 innings, 12 after 4 innings, and 7 after 5 innings Women's and JO Boys Fast Pitch: 15 after 3, 12 after 4 and 8 after 5.
Section 10 Time Limits: Where applicable in JO SP, time limits will be 1 hour and 30 minutes.	Where applicable in JO FP, time limits will be 1 hour 40 minutes.
Section 11 Tie Breaker Rule: No such rule in SP except Seniors and after 7 they will play the tie breaker rule	Women's and Men's 40 and Over and 45 and Over after completing 7 innings and JO Girls after completing 7 innings or 1 hour and 40 minutes in pool play.
Rule 6 Pitching Regulations SP	Rule 6 Pitching Regulations FP

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<p>Preliminaries Section 1A : Both feet on the ground with one or both on the pitchers plate. 16" the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate through out the delivery.</p>	<p>Section 1 A-C: The pitcher must have the ball in the glove or the hand to take the pitching position. Both feet must be on the ground within the 24" length of the pitcher's plate. Male both feet on the pitcher's plate or one foot on the pitcher's plate. Female both feet on the pitcher's plate.</p>
<p>Section 1C Must come to a complete stop in front of the body and the front of the body must face the batter, and maintain this position for at least 1 second. 16" P the pitcher can not make any motion to pitch while not in contact with the pitcher's plate.</p>	<p>Section E: Bring the hands together for not less than 1 second and more than 10 seconds before the release.</p>
<p>Nothing on taking a signal</p>	<p>Section 1D: Must take a signal or simulate taking a signal while on the pitcher's plate with hands separated.</p>
<p>16" can attempt a pick off</p>	<p>No pick off allowed</p>
<p>Section 2 Starting the pitch: The pitch start when the pitcher makes any motion with the ball after the required stop.</p>	<p>Section 2: The pitch starts when the hands are separated after they come together.</p>
<p>Legal Delivery Section 3B : The delivery must be a continuous motion.</p>	<p>Can not put the hands together after they have separated.</p>
<p>Section 3D: The pitcher must deliver the ball toward Home Plate on the first forward swing of the pitching arm past the hip with an underhand motion. The palm maybe over or under the ball</p>	<p>The Pitcher must not make more than two revolutions of the arm on the windmill pitch. Delivery must be underhanded with the hand below the hip and the wrist not farther from the body than the elbow.</p>
<p>Section 3G: Pitch released with moderate speed</p>	<p>No regulation in the speed</p>
<p>Section 3H: Delivery with an arc of not less than 6' and not more than 10'</p>	<p>Nor regulation on the arc or lack of arc</p>

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<p>Section 3E: Pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate until the release of the ball...A step may or may not be taken...</p>	<p>Section 3 H & I: The pitcher must push off with the pivot foot but the release does not have to be prior to the push. Male leap OK with toes down. Female and JO must push and drag only. A step must be taken and be between the 24" pitcher's plate in Women's and JO but in Men's ball they do not have to stay in between the 24" pitcher's plate</p>
<p>Section 3J: Must pitch within 10 seconds of receiving the ball back from the catcher or the umpire says play ball</p>	<p>Section 3O Pitcher has 20 seconds</p>
<p>Section 5 Foreign Substance / Protective wraps: The pitcher may wear tape on the fingers or a sweatband on the wrist or forearm of the pitching arm.</p>	<p>Section 6 May not wear anything, in the umpire's judgment, on the pitching hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, or thigh that is distracting to the batter. The pitcher may now use an approved drying agent in addition to powdered Resin. The Resin is to be kept on the ground and the drying agent in the pitcher's pocket.</p>
<p>Section 6 Catcher: Must remain in the catcher's box until the ball is batted or touches the plate, ground or reaches the catchers box.</p>	<p>Section 7 Catcher...Must remain in the box until the ball is released.</p>
<p>Section 7 Quick pitch: Not allowed! It would be judged an illegal pitch.</p>	<p>Referred to as a NO pitch in FP</p>
<p>Section 8 Warm up pitches: Not more than 1 minute or 3 pitches.</p>	<p>Not more than 1 minute or 5 pitches</p>
<p>No regulation on throwing to a base</p>	<p>Section 8 Can not throw to a base with the foot in contact with the pitcher's plate or during a live ball.</p>
<p>Section 9 No Pitch: If the ball slips out of the pitcher's hand during the delivery or the back swing. The ball is dead and all action on that pitch is canceled.</p>	<p>Section 11 Dropped Ball: If the ball slips from the hand during the delivery it is a ball on the batter and the ball remains live. Runners can advance at their own risk.</p>

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Rule 7 Batting SP	Rule 7 Batting FP
Section 2 Batting order: No DP is used	When the Flex bats for the DP they remain in the batting order until the Flex returns to the 10th spot in the line-up
Section 3B: Batting Position - Adult SP Only, except Seniors, will start with a 1 ball and 1 strike count.	Not in Fast Pitch
Section 3E Batting position: The batter shall not step directly in front of the catcher to the other batter's box while the pitcher is in the position to pitch or anytime thereafter prior to the release of the pitch.	Can not step across to the other box while the pitcher is taking the signal.
Section 4A and B A strike is called by the umpire: For each ball entering the strike zone before touching the ground and the batter does not swing. It is not a strike if the ball hits the ground or the plate and then the batter swings at it. SP with stealing for each ball entering the strike zone.	Any ball entering the strike zone without hitting the ground or swung at after hitting the ground
Section 4D: A strike is called for each legally swung at ball and missed by the batter. Without stealing the ball is dead.	Ball is live
Section 4E: Foul tip ball is dead in SP without stealing, live in the game with stealing and 16"	Ball is live
Section 4G: A strike is called for each foul ball including the third strike	Section 4E: For each foul ball with less than 2 strikes
Section 4I: A strike is called when any part of the batter's person or clothing is hit with a batted ball while in the box	Only with less than 2 strikes
Section 5B ball is called on the batter: For each legally pitched ball which does not enter the strike zone and the batter does not swing, touches the ground before reaching home plate, or touches home plate. Any ball swung at after hitting the ground before HP or touches HP is a ball. The ball is dead.	Section 5A: Any ball that does not enter the strike zone not swung at or touch the ground before reaching home plate or touches home plate and not swung at. The ball remains live.

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Section 5E: For each illegally pitched ball not swung at : The ball is dead and runners may not advance. SP with Stealing the ball is live unless it hits the ground prior to reaching HP		Section 5D: For each illegally pitched ball not swung at or swung at and missed is a Dead Ball and runners are entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out.
Section 5F: If the ball hit the batter outside the strike zone Ball is dead and runners may not advance		Ball is dead and the batter is awarded 1B and all runners one base if forced.
Section 6H: The Batter is out: If the batter bunts or chops the ball		Section 6G: If the batter bunts the ball foul after the second strike, if it is caught the ball remains live
Section 6J: 16" SP if the batter intentionally hits a ball that first strikes the ground in order to prevent a pick off attempt		Batter in Fast Pitch is not out and the ball is live
Section 6L: After a third strike including a foul ball that is hit after two strikes		When a called or swinging strike is caught by the catcher
NO rule on dropped third strike		Section 6M: When the batter has three strikes and / or if there are fewer than two outs and first base is occupied.
Rule 8 Batter-Runner and Runner SP		Rule 8 Batter-Runner and Runner FP
Section 1B The batter becomes a batter-runner: There is no dropped third strike rule in SP		When the catcher fails to catch the third strike before the ball touches the ground and there are less than 2 outs and 1B us not occupied and anytime there are 2 outs.
Section 1C: When four balls have been called by the umpire. The batter is awarded 1B. The ball is dead and runners may not advance unless forced. Exception SP with stealing and the ball does not hit the ground before reaching HP or hits HP or the batter. The Batter-Runner may only advance to 1B unless a play is made on another runner or an errant throw.		The ball is live unless blocked.

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Section 1C EFFECT 3: If the defense want to intentionally walk a batter they can do so by notifying the plate umpire and they will award the batter 1B	Pitches have to be thrown on an intentional walk
Section 1D 4 Catcher's obstruction has no bunt or squeeze in SP	On a swing or attempted bunt, the catcher or any other fielder prevents the batter from striking the ball, touch their bat with a runner on third base trying to score by means of a squeeze. The ball is dead and the runner on 3B is awarded Home. All other runners advance if forced.
Section 1F: A pitched ball not swung at nor called a strike, touches the batter or any part of their clothing the ball is dead.	The ball is dead and the batter is awarded 1B provided there is an attempt to avoid being hit.
Section 2A Batter-Runner is out: If the catcher drops a third strike the ball is dead and the batter is out. The Ball is live in SP w/ stealing.	When the catcher drops the third strike and is legally put out prior to reaching 1B with less than 2 outs, and 1B occupied at the time of the pitch or with two outs
Section 2D: The batter-runner is not out when they enter the dugout on a home run or 4 base award when they are not required to run the bases. The ball is dead.	The batter-runner is out when they fail to advance to 1B and enters the team area after a batted fair ball, base on balls, hit batter, or dropped third strike. They must run the bases on Home runs and 4 base awards.
Section 2F 6: A batter can not interfere with a dropped third strike in SP	The batter-runner is out when they interfere with a dropped third strike.
Section 2L: The batter-runner is out for excess over the fence home runs	There are no penalties for the number of HR
Section 2M 8: No pick offs except in 16" and SP with stealing. When there are pick offs the runner can return to the colored portion or white portion of the base	The runner can return to the colored or white portion of the base during a pick off attempt
Section 3I: Touching bases in legal order: Awarded base do not have to be touched in legal order in Adult Men, Women's and Masters SP on home runs or 4 base awards.	All awarded bases or home runs the bases must be touched in legal order.

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Section 4A: Runners are entitled to advance with liability to be put out in SP with stealing when the ball reaches home plate.	When the ball leaves the pitchers hand
Section 4F: JO SP no stealing allowed	Base stealing is allowed in all divisions of play
Section 4K: 16" runners may lead off at the risk of being picked off	No runners may lead off in any game of FP
Section 5A: Runners are entitled without liability to be put out: When forced to vacate a base because the batter-runner was awarded a base on balls. The ball is dead except in 16" and SP with stealing	The ball remains live. Any runner affected may advance one base and may advance farther with liability to be put out
Section 5C: When a pitched ball goes out of play the ball is dead and runners can not advance. Exception SP with stealing.	The ball is dead and the runners are entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out.
Section 5E: On an illegal pitch not hit the ball is dead and no runners can advance. The ball is live in SP w/ stealing.	Runners can advance one base without liability to be put out providing the coach does not take the result of the play.
Section 6E A runner must return to their base: If a pitched ball hits a batter the ball is dead and no one can advance.	Same as SP except the Batter is awarded 1B and runners may advance if forced.
Section 6F: No umpire interference with a catcher's throw except in SP with stealing and 16" SP.	This is a delayed dead ball and if the runner is out the ball remains live. If the runner is safe the ball is dead and runner is returned to the base occupied at the time of the interference.
Section 6G: When stealing is not allowed, Runners must return to their base after each pitch	Runners may steal on any pitched ball.
Section 6G: SP with stealing runners may advance after the ball reaches home plate	Runners may advance when the ball leaves the pitchers hand

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Section 7R & The runner is out: if they fail to keep in contact with the base until the ball is batted, touches the ground or reaches home plate. Exception is 16" when the runner can leave the base when the ball is out in play.	The runner is out when the runner fails to keep contact with the base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand
Section 7T Look Back rule: Does not exists in SP.	Requires the runners to return or advance in several different situations.
Section 9 Masters and Senior Men and Women: Can use unlimited Courtesy runners each inning, except Women's 35, Men's 40 & 45 (1 per inning)	All Fast Pitch can use courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher only
Section 9D Senior Slow pitch:	
1) Defensive players must touch the original HP and runners must the second HP	Not applicable in FP
2) Must touch the second HP to score	Not applicable in FP
3) Runners tagged by a defensive player will not be out	Not applicable in FP
4) Defense must touch the original HP for an out	Not applicable in FP
5) If a runner touches the original HP the runner is out and the ball remains live	Not applicable in FP
6) Once the runner passes a commitment line they can not return to 3B	Not applicable in FP
7) If the runner continues down the regular fouled line and interferes the runner will be call out and the ball is dead	Not applicable in FP
Section 10 Courtesy Runners: Not allowed in JO. Seniors Men & Women unlimited per inning, Masters Women 35Over, Men 40 & 45 Over one per inning	All Fast Pitch can use a courtesy runner for the Pitcher and Catcher. Seniors and Masters one per inning