

Summary of Significant 2017 Rulebook Changes

§5.11 • CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR MARIJUANA *[New § number]*

The consumption of alcoholic beverages or **marijuana** in the dugouts or within the confines of the playing field is prohibited. EFFECT: The penalty shall be the ejection of the player for the remainder of the team's games for that day.

§6.2 • PITCH COUNT

Batters are allowed 4 balls and/or 3 strikes. All batters start with a 0-0 ball/strike count. **EXCEPTION: On a trial basis for the 2017 season, all men's and women's 40-Masters divisions will be allowed only 3 balls and/or 2 strikes, and all batters will start with a 1-1 ball/strike count. There will be NO "waste foul" available to a batter after there are two strikes in the count.**

§6.17 • PITCHER'S MANDATED MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Pitchers **must** wear a protective face mask while pitching and must wear the mask consistent with the manufacturer's intended usage of their product.

§6.17(1) • PLAYERS' RECOMMENDED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

All players, including pitchers, are encouraged to wear the recommended additional protective safety equipment, comprised of head gear (NOCSAE approved), heart/chest protection and shin guards. **Players** are not required to wear the recommended safety equipment.

§8.4(1) • BATTER-RUNNER REACHING FIRST BASE

Each batter must reach first base without the aid of a courtesy runner. A double bag shall be used at first base, the double portion of the bag being in foul territory abutting first base. If there is a play on a batter-runner going to first base, the batter-runner must touch **some portion of** the double bag extending into foul territory. He will be called out if he fails to do so, except if, in the umpire's judgment, the batter-runner is avoiding a collision. **The batter-runner simultaneously touching both portions of the double bag is permitted.** This is NOT an appeal play. Important: The defending player has only the white base, in fair territory, to make the putout; his touch of only the bag in foul territory will not result in an out. Once the batter-runner reaches first base, the double base shall be treated as one base and the fielder or runner may use either portion.

§8.5(5) • COURTESY RUNNER OFFICIALLY IN THE GAME

A courtesy runner must report to, and be acknowledged by, the umpire. A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base...

§8.8 • COMMITMENT LINE

A commitment line thirty feet from the scoring line or scoring plate will be used. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, the runner is committed to advancing to the scoring line or scoring plate and may no longer be tagged out. EFFECT: Tag of the runner by a defensive player will not be allowed. The runner will be called safe, the ball remains live and **the runner is not required to touch the scoring plate or cross the scoring line.** NOTE: If a runner re-crosses the commitment line for any reason in an attempt to return to third base, he will be declared out and the ball remains live.

§13.1(2) • PLAYERS MUST PLAY IN REGIONS

C. Players who have been issued a "snowbird ID card" are not eligible to appear on the roster of Major-Plus division teams aged 50+ through 70+.

However, Major-Plus teams (ONLY) in the 50+ through 70+ divisions may select two players from east/west of the Mississippi River, depending on the home state of the team. **Major Plus Teams from Eastern or Western Canada may select two players from the other Canada region.**

D. **The following exceptions to the states/provinces and bordering states/provinces rule are permitted for roster composition of men's teams in the 40-Masters through 70+ age groups:**

1. The Northeast states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont are merged with New York and treated as a single state;
2. **The states of Delaware and New Jersey are merged and treated as a single state; and**
3. **Canadian provinces east of Manitoba are merged and known as the Eastern Canada region. Canadian provinces west of Ontario, and the U.S. state of Alaska, are merged and known as the Western Canada region. These regions may draw players from their U.S. bordering states, but may not draw players from the other Canada region. EXCEPTION: Major Plus teams may draw up to two players from the other Canada Region pursuant to §13.1(2) C.**

§13.2(4) • AGE ELIGIBILITY AND GROUPING

- B. **Men's 75+, 80+ and 85+ team roster composition age exceptions:**
1. **Men's 75+ age division teams may draw up to seven players aged 73 or 74, including not more than three 73 year olds.**
 2. **Men's 80+ age division teams may draw up to seven players aged 78 or 79, including not more than three 78 year olds.**
 3. Men's 85+ age division teams may draw up to ten players aged 83 or 84, including not more than five 83 year olds.
- C. Women's age groups are 40+ Masters, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ and 70+.
3. **The women's 40-Masters division is comprised of three rating levels: Major, AAA and AA. The women's 50+ senior division is comprised of two rating levels: Major and AAA. The women's senior divisions aged 55+ and older are open, un-rated divisions.**

§15.1(6) • FALSIFYING CREDENTIALS

Any player found falsifying credentials will be disqualified from the SSWC and its qualifying tournaments **for at least ten seasons from the time the player would have been otherwise eligible to participate in that age group. The player is eligible to make an appeal for a reduction of the disqualification only after the expiration of five years from the time of his proper eligibility.** If the manager knowingly accepted the falsified credentials, he, too, will be suspended from the SSWC and its qualifying tournaments for the balance of the season plus the following **season**, and his team will forfeit all games in the events in which the player participated.