

USSSA ANNOUNCES 2022 REVISIONS TO FASTPITCH RULE BOOK

At its 54th annual convention in Orlando, Florida, USSSA introduced several fastpitch rule changes for the 2022 season. They are included in the 16th printed edition of the Fastpitch Rule Book, effective January 1, 2022.

“Our rule book is on a two-year print cycle, but we extended that a year due to the pandemic,” according to Andy Wisk, chairman of the USSSA National Fastpitch Committee. “Although we have maintained the Rule Book online during the cycle, the 16th edition reflects the many dynamic changes that have occurred since the printing of the 15th edition in 2019.”

The USSSA 16th edition Fastpitch Rule Book is now available online at https://ussa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch_Rules.pdf. The printed edition should be available around February 5, 2022.

SUMMARY OF RULE CHANGES:

FEMALE PITCHERS NOW ALLOWED TO LEAP – this change allows the pitcher to leap, as traditionally allowed in Men’s Fastpitch and International play. However, whether the pitcher chooses to push off and drag or elects to leap, crow-hopping (replanting the pivot foot after pushing, dragging or leaping so as to establish a second starting point) will continue to be prohibited.

“With this revision, USSSA and USA Softball, the two major sanctioning bodies, continue to have a unified pitching rule,” said Ryan Highfill, National Director of Fastpitch.

“This is a ‘win-win’ for all the stakeholders,” according to Wisk. “Nobody who has been pitching legally under existing rules will have to change their pitching style unless they want to, but pitchers who want to pitch using styles legal in college and high school will also be compliant. Additionally, those who administer our events, such as directors and umpires, will have less confusion to deal with due to this rule alignment.”

INELIGIBLE/INCORRECT COURTESY RUNNER – this rule has been edited to clarify that an ineligible/incorrect courtesy runner is liable for discovery (i.e., shall be called out) once they physically replace the pitcher/catcher on the base.

FAILURE TO WEAR PROPER EQUIPMENT – the rule has been edited to emphasize that failure to wear ANY required equipment will result in a warning for a first offense.

“The intent of this rule has always been all-inclusive, but the rule previously mentioned only helmets,” said Don Briscoe, National Rules Coordinator. “The new terminology supports other parts of our rule book such as the pregame coach’s certification, catcher’s equipment requirements, and the requirement to wear shoes.”

BY-LAW CHANGES – There were several by-law changes announced, including the following:

- Fastpitch sanction year – the Fastpitch season has been slightly adjusted to begin after the second full weekend in August and end on the comparable weekend the following year – for 2022 the playing season will end officially on August 16th.

- Ejection related suspension follow-through – this responsibility has been specifically assigned to tournament directors and the event leadership team
- Enhanced suspension authority for certain acts – State Directors have been specifically authorized to enhance suspensions beyond the required one-game minimum for certain acts

USSSA is headquartered in Brevard County, Florida. USSSA is the world's largest multi-sport organization. Founded in 1968, USSSA has grown to over 4.2 million participants, competing in 14 nationally sanctioned sports including Baseball, Fastpitch, Slow Pitch, Karate, Basketball, Soccer and more! For more information on USSSA and to register your team visit www.ussa.com