

SOFTBALL UMPIRES OF MARYLAND



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Thank you for registering for the 2024 season with the Softball Umpires of Maryland, Inc.

You should receive each of the following:

- 17th Edition (2024-2025) USSSA Fastpitch Rule Book
- Flipping Coin courtesy of East Coast Events
- Ejection/Incident Report Card
- List of SUM UICs
- List of Uniform Providers
- Quick Summary of USSSA Rule Differences and 10C Rules
- USSSA Officials Insurance Program FAQ
- 2024 SUM Test and Answer Sheet
- Clinic Agenda

The Umpire's Test is in your packet and posted at mdumps.com. Please take the Test at your leisure.

Maryland Umpires should return their Answer Sheet to UIC John Dye by April 1. There will be an optional test session, Saturday March 9 9:00 am in the Gary Arthur Community Center.

SUM uses Arbiter for all assignments. Please check your calendars and the tournament schedule to determine what dates you need to block. It is incumbent on you to block dates. If you do nothing you show as available. If you need help with Arbiter, Al Palmer and John Calamari have agreed to be of assistance.

There are some other documents you may wish to browse on-line. The Softball Umpires of Maryland Site is at www.mdumps.com. The following Umpire support documents are posted there.

- SUM Official Umpire Uniform
- SUM Three Umpire Essentials and Basics Mechanics
- SUM Document 3 Part Pregame
- USSSA Region 1 10U "C" & "All-Star" Rule Exceptions
- 2018 USSSA Official Mechanics Diagrams
- 2016 SUM Arbiter Guide
- 2023 Casebook
- 2023 Clarifications & Interpretations
- 2024 SUM Working Aid for USSSA Fast Pitch Rule Differences (USSSA, USA Softball, NCAA, NFHS)

Posted on the East Coast Events website, usssa1.com

- 2024 Youth Fastpitch Summer Schedule
- Park Information for USSSA Maryland & Delaware sites

2024 Softball Umpires of Maryland

Tournament Site UICs

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Umpire Uniform Companies

USSSA

For all licensed USSSA Umpire Uniform items please contact umpgear.usssa.com

Richardson

USSSA Umpire Caps – PreOrder Only, dhauth@verizon.net

General Umpire Equipment

- Gerrydavis.com, 800-916-9088
- Honigs.com
- Ump-attire.com

OFFICIALS INSURANCE (FOR USSSA ACTIVITIES)

WHEN OFFICIATING A USSSA ACTIVITY, WHAT INSURANCE IS PROVIDED FOR ME?

For USSSA registered officials only that have elected to have insurance coverage the following coverages are provided:

- Secondary accident medical insurance with a \$20,000 limit with a \$500 deductible.
- General liability insurance with a \$2,000,000 per occurrence, \$4,000,000 aggregate limit. Coverage is provided for USSSA registered officials only.

AM I COVERED WHILE OFFICIATING A PRESEASON OR PRACTICE GAME?

Yes, but only for an activity involving USSSA registered teams and if insurance coverage was selected.

MOST OF MY OFFICIATING IS FOR USSSA, BUT SOMETIMES I CALL AN UNSANCTIONED TOURNAMENT. DOES MY INSURANCE COVER THESE UNSANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS?

No. USSSA Officials insurance covers USSSA sanctioned activities only. (See next section - Officials Insurance for Non-USSSA activities.)

I HAVE MY OWN MEDICAL INSURANCE AND AM INJURED WHILE OFFICIATING. DO I HAVE TO FILE THE CLAIM WITH MY INSURANCE CARRIER?

Yes. The officials accident medical coverage is secondary to any other insurance in force.

I WAS INJURED WHILE OFFICIATING A USSSA EVENT. WHAT PROCEDURE SHOULD I FOLLOW?

First, turn your claim in to your primary insurer, if you have primary insurance. Second, email EPIC Brokers, at insurance@usssa.com for a claim form. Claim forms will be sent out only to the injured official after verifying registration. Do not hold your claim form! File it immediately and forward all bills to the claims administrator upon receipt.

IF I AM SUED FOR MY ACTIONS DURING A USSSA ACTIVITY, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If you are sued or threatened to be sued in writing, immediately send the information to insurance@usssa.com. Include your full name, address, daytime telephone number, and names and addresses of any witnesses.

AM I COVERED IF INJURED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT GOING TO OR FROM AN OFFICIATING ASSIGNMENT?

No. Travel coverage is not included.

ARE MY EYEGASSES OR CONTACT LENSES COVERED?

No. Personal property is not covered.

IS CHIROPRACTIC CARE COVERED FOR OFFICIAL INJURIES?

Yes. Subject to the policy limits.

I WAS INJURED WHILE OFFICIATING A USSSA GAME. I WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEASON FOR TREATMENT. IS THIS COVERED?

No. Treatment must begin within 30 days of the date of the injury, and be concluded within 52 weeks of the injury date.

I SUFFERED A HEAT STROKE WHILE OFFICIATING A USSSA TOURNAMENT. DOES OUR OFFICIALS MEDICAL INSURANCE COVER THIS?

No. Heat stroke, heart attack, dehydration, etc. are illnesses. The officials policy covers accident medical injuries only, not illness or disease.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USSSA INSURANCE PROGRAM?

Email us at: USSSA@epicbrokers.com

2024 USSSA Fast Pitch Rules

This is intended as quick summary of areas of significant differences in USSSA Fast Pitch rules.

Pitching Distance 35 ft (10U); 40 ft (12U); 43 ft (14U and above) USSSA 1.1

Players shall not use other teams on deck circle. USSSA 1.2.J

Metal Cleats prohibited (12U and younger) USSSA 2.4

Bat must have 2014 USSSA 1.20 BPF Thumbprint Mark or 2020 Stamp USSSA 2.10

Base on Balls – No Verbal intentional walk. USSSA 3 Base on Balls

The Mercy Rule is 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings. USSSA 4.4

Team may bat 9, 10, 11 or all players present (Roster Batting). By using No, One, Two or more Additional Player(s). USSSA 5.1.D; 5.3 {9 defensive fielders}

The Designated Player (DP) / FLEX is optional but must be declared before the game starts. USSSA 5.4. No DP/Flex when Roster Batting 5.1.D

Unreported Substitution Penalty: team warning; 2nd offense coach ejected. USSSA 5.5

May be removed as a pitcher and returned as pitcher only once per inning. USSSA 5.5

All Starters & Substitutes may re-enter USSSA 5.6. This includes the DP and FLEX.

A team may use 3 defensive conferences per game; 1 per extra inning; pitcher removed as a pitcher for game. USSSA 4.8.A

The pitcher can step back with non-pivot foot USSSA 6.1.E.2

The pitcher is not required to drag the pivot foot (i.e. Leap is legal) USSSA 6.1.E.3

Batter is out if ENTIRE foot outside box when contacting the pitch. USSSA 7.14.G; Dead Ball

A team may use a courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher.

If available, it must be a player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner).

If no such eligible player, the Last Completed At Bat (LCAB) may be used as a courtesy runner.

The player may not be used for both positions in same inning.

If the courtesy runner is injured, another courtesy runner or the pitcher or catcher may run for her. USSSA 8.3.E

Runner off base early is Dead Ball USSSA 8.18.K

After reaching First, may use either white or orange portion of the double first base. 8.17.K.3

10&Under C

1. Cannot steal Home 15. (8.1)

2. Can steal more than one base at a time on pitch and/or base on balls (subject to 1. Above)

3. No uncaught third strike rule 15 (8.4.B)

4. 5 runs per inning for first two (2) innings; unlimited after 2nd inning.

5. Infield fly rule is in effect 15 (8.17.)



References

- Rulebook 2024 USSSA OFFICIAL FASTPITCH PLAYING RULES and BY-LAWS 17th Edition
https://ussa.com/docs/Fastpitch/Fastpitch_Rules.pdf
- Mechanics 2018 USSSA Umpire's Mechanics Diagrams
https://mdumps.com/2018_USSSA_Diagrams_2_man.pdf
- 10C USSSA Region 1 10U "C" & "All-Star" Rule Exceptions
<http://mdumps.com/Rule%20Exceptions%2010C.pdf>

TRUE OR FALSE

- 1 10B plays with an 11" ball and pitching distance of 35'. All other playing rules are the same as for 18A.
- 2 The front of the batter's box is 4 feet forward from the center of home plate.
- 3 Adult coaches may wear sandals in the coach's box.
- 4 To be legal, a non-wooden bat must bear the new 2020 USSSA Fastpitch only BPF 1.20 certification mark.
- 5 Donuts or fans may not be used on bats to warm up.
- 6 A team may begin a game with 8 players. The unfilled position may be placed anywhere in the lineup
- 7 A team may walk a batter by notifying the umpire.
- 8 Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered an attempt to bunt.
- 9 It is a catch if a fielder holds the ball long enough but then drops it when she collides with another player, the fence or the ground
- 10 Fair or foul balls are determined by the position of the player when she touches the ball.
- 11 A new inning starts with the first pitch.
- 12 On a game ending out of the park home run, ground rule double or awarded bases for overthrow into dead ball territory, all runs shall score as if the game were to continue; even if the team exceeds the run rule.
- 13 With bases loaded and two outs the batter hits a grand slam. All runners touch home but the runner on first misses second and is out on appeal. Two runs score.
- 14 In a tiebreaker inning, the player who immediately precedes the scheduled batter in the batting order is placed on 2nd.
- 15 The catcher asks for time and goes to talk to her pitcher. Baserunners may leave their bases to talk to a coach.
- 16 If a team chooses to use the traditional line-up which may include the DP/Flex and AP's, the maximum number of batters is twelve (12).
- 17 To be listed as a Substitute, the player must be present.
- 18 A team's lineup card shall include first name, last name, jersey number, position and batting order of each starting player and should include each eligible substitute.
- 19 After the lineup has been verified, a coach adds an eligible roster member as a substitute. The head coach is issued a team warning
- 20 A team may not walk a player to get to an automatic out.
- 21 In the bottom of the seventh inning, the 2 players scheduled to bat last in a 9-player lineup with no substitutes leave the park. The game can continue until the players would be due to bat.
- 22 An absent player may not return to the lineup unless that player left the game under the Blood Rule and retains reentry privileges.
- 23 A team is playing with no substitutes. R1 on first, injures her leg while stealing second. The last completed at bat (LCAB) completes her run. R1 is allowed to continue when the team returns to defense.

- 24 A team may start a game short-handed with only 8 players.
- 25 When the DP/FLEX option is used, the lineup may be reduced to nine and then returned to 10 any number of times.
- 26 The FLEX may not play offense only.
- 27 Placing Fran, the FLEX player, into one of the batting positions for someone other than the DP's position makes Fran an illegal player.
- 28 The starting pitcher must face one complete batter.
- 29 In pool play only, a substitute may play defensive without being placed in the batter order or flex position.
- 30 Failure of the Coach to report substitutes results in: First Offense: Team Warning; Second Offense: Coach is ejected for remainder of the game only.
- 31 A player who has been removed from a game due to the blood rule can return later in the same game without it being considered a re-entry since it was due to the blood rule (the one exception).
- 32 The pivot foot must be completely within the 24-inch length of the pitching plate.
- 33 It is an illegal pitch when the pitcher takes her starting position with her pivot foot in contact with the pitching plate and the ball held in her pitching hand behind her back and not visible to the batter.
- 34 The pitcher may only push off from the rubber.
- 35 The pivot foot must remain in contact with the pitcher's plate or push off and drag away from the pitcher's plate.
- 36 Once having lost contact with the pitcher's plate, the pivot foot may not bear weight again until the pitch is released.
- 37 If the pitcher uses dirt to dry the hand, she is required to wipe the hand prior to contacting the ball.
- 38 If a pitcher deliberately bounces the pitch to intentionally walk the batter, the offensive coach may decline the awarding of a ball.
- 39 It is an illegal pitch if the 3rd baseman has positioned herself with one foot in foul territory as the pitch is released.
- 40 With R3 on third base, the batter hits an illegal pitch and is thrown out sliding into second base. R3 never moves from third. The coach of the offensive team has the option taking a ball on the batter or the result of the play.
- 41 It is an illegal pitch when the pitcher attempts a quick return of the ball before the batter is in position or is off balance as result of a previous pitch.
- 42 The On-Deck batter may warm-up on either On-Deck Circle
- 43 With a 2-1 count on the batter, the defense correctly appeals an improper batter. The proper batter is out. The next batter following the proper batter bats.
- 44 Prior to the pitch, the batter is considered in the batter's box if any part of her feet are touching the lines of the box.
- 45 With a 2-2 count the batter steps out of the box causing the pitcher to stop her forward motion after the hands separated. The ball is immediately dead, no pitch is declared and the count remains 2-2.
- 46 The batter hits a foul ball with her front foot entirely out of the batter's box directly in front of the plate but not on it. She continues to bat.
- 47 A batter who enters the box with a non-approved bat shall be called out and ejected along with the head coach
- 48 After R1 (the runner on 1st base) gets safely to 2nd base on a passed ball, it is discovered the batter has an illegal bat. The batter is declared out but R1 remains on 2nd base.

- 49 The batter-runner is safe at first base on a dropped third strike. F1 has possession of the ball in the circle but does not attempt a play. Batter-runner overruns first base and turns to the right. Seeing no fielder near second base, she advances safely to second base. This is a legal advance by the batter-runner.
- 50 The "look back rule" is in effect when the ball is live, the batter-runner has touched first base or has been declared out, and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the 16-foot circle.
- 51 The DP is on base, and the coach puts the flex, who is the pitcher, on base for the DP. The coach may then ask for a courtesy runner for the pitcher.
- 52 The same courtesy runner may not run for both the pitcher and the catcher any time during the game
- 53 The LCAB courtesy runner is determined at the time the pitcher or catcher becomes a runner.
- 54 The ineligible or incorrect courtesy runner is liable for discovery once they physically replace the pitcher/catcher on the occupied base, and the ball becomes live
- 55 Team has Nine (9) players. R1 is on base. The LCAB is courtesy running for the pitcher. R1 gets injured. LCAB replaces R1 and completes her running responsibilities. The pitcher must come back as a runner.
- 56 A courtesy runner is permitted for the Designated Player (DP) who is batting for the FLEX, the pitcher.
- 57 The catcher obstructs the lead off batter while hitting a fair ball for a single, and the batter is safe at first base. The coach or captain of the team obstructed has the option of the play or penalty.
- 58 The penalty for a fake tag is obstruction.
- 59 B4 strikes out but F2 drops the ball. B4 reaches first base. R1 advances from 2nd base to 3rd base. F2's throw to third goes out of play. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base.
- 60 A runner is off first base with the pitch; sees the shortstop catch a line drive and turns around heading back to first. The shortstop overthrows first base into dead ball territory. The runner is awarded second base (the base she is going to plus one).
- 61 When no play is being attempted at first base, the batter-runner (BR) may touch the white or colored base. After the BR becomes a runner, she and any fielder may use the white or colored base.
- 62 A Runner is out when the runner Interferes with a fielder attempting to field a fly ball over foul territory.
- 63 After beating out an infield hit the batter-runner turns to the infield and begins to walk back to first base in fair territory. She is tagged by the first baseman and is out.
- 64 The runner is not in contact with the base (leaves early) at the time a pitched ball leaves the pitcher's hand. It is a delayed dead-ball and the coach has the option of the play or penalty.
- 65 A runner is out when contacted by a fair-batted ball after it passes any infielder, except the pitcher, and the Umpire judges that an outfielder has a play.
- 66 With no runners on base, the batter hits a ground ball to the shortstop who overthrows the first baseman. The First base coach catches the thrown ball. The runner is out.
- 67 When a runner on 1B is tagging up on a fly ball, that runner can only use the white portion of the double base.
- 68 A runner missing a base can be a Live or Dead ball appeal.
- 69 The batting order is B1, B2, B3. B2 bats in place of B1 and walks. Before the next pitch, the defensive coach appeals batting out of order to the umpire. B2 is declared out and B3 is the next batter.
- 70 When a player batting out of order, hits a single and the defense appeals before the next pitch, she is out and the proper batter is out.
- 71 The ball becomes dead immediately when the batter-runner moves back toward home plate to delay being tagged out.

- 72 The third base Coach physically restrains her runner from advancing. The runner is out and the ball is dead.
- 73 At the pregame, the umpire reminds the team that no dangerous jewelry is allowed. This is considered a team warning.
- 74 The batter enters the batter's box with a non-approved bat, the batter and head coach are ejected.
- 75 When a coach makes a formal rule interpretation protest, play can continue until a tournament official arrives.
- 76 (10C) The uncaught third strike rule does not apply.
- 77 (10C) The infield fly rule is not in effect.
- 78 (10C) On a walk, the Batter/Runner may legally attempt to advance to third base.
- 79 (10C) - Runners starting at third base may not steal home, but are liable to be put out if they are off the base
- 80 Long sleeve shirts may not be worn under the pullover shirt.
- 81 The Plate Umpire's ball bag must be black
- 82 Umpire Jurisdiction begins upon the arrival of one Umpire within the confines of the field
- 83 Umpire Jurisdiction ends with the last out of the game.
- 84 An Umpire's judgement decision is final
- 85 At the Pre-Game conference, The Plate Umpire must get each coach to verify that their team is legally and properly equipped
- 86 The Head Coach is required to attend the pre-game conference
- 87 Pitchers may continue to warm up in the outfield during the pre-game conference
- 88 The Plate Umpire should call and signal each fair and foul ball
- 89 The Plate Umpire should announce an infield fly
- 90 Any situation not specified in the rules should be referred to the UIC or Tournament Director
- 91 The Plate Umpire should keep a record of all defensive charged conferences
- 92 In accordance with World Series Bylaws, in all pool play games, the winner of a coin toss prior to the start of a game will be the home team
- 93 No one on, hit to infield, on a throw to first base, the Plate Umpire should trail the batter-runner in fair territory approximately 15 feet up the line.
- 94 No one on and a fly ball toward Right Field, the Base Umpire should go out.
- 95 If the Base Umpire goes out, they should return to infield as soon as possible and take all plays in the infield.
- 96 The base umpire who stays in the infield should assist the plate umpire by watching the ball in the outfield
- 97 Runner on first only, R1 steals 2nd and continues on to 3rd. The base umpire should watch any play at second base. Then take any subsequent play at third base.
- 98 With R2 on second base, B4 hits a ground ball to the shortstop who throws to 3rd. The Base Umpire has the initial play at Third Base.
- 99 With R2 on second base, B4 hits a ground ball to the shortstop who throws to first. The Base Umpire has the play at first and subsequent play at Third Base.
- 100 With R2 on second base, B4 hits an uncaught line drive to the left fielder who throws to 3rd. The Base Umpire has the initial play at Third Base.

**Softball Umpires of Maryland Fast Pitch State Clinic Agenda – March 2, 2024 –
Gary Arthur Community Center, Cooksville, MD**

John Dye, Maryland State UIC

John Remmell, Maryland State Scheduler

**Don Briscoe, Assistant National Director of Officials, Senior National
Umpire-in Chief**

John Wright, Senior USSSA Fastpitch Regional Umpire in Chief

Andy Wisk, State Director, National FP Committee Chair

- 8:30 Registration / Uniform Sales
- 9:00 Welcome
Administration
- 9:15 State of SUM
2023 Numbers
- 9:25 Introductions
- 9:30 Scheduler's Report
- 9:35 Umpire Advisory Team
- 9:40 Training Report
- 9:45 Videos
- 9:50 National USSSA Report
- 10:05 Mechanics
- 10:20 BREAK
- 10:35 Playing Rules
- 11:35 USSSA State Director
- 11:45 Umpire Awards
- 12:00 2024 Schedule
- 12:05 50-50
Closing