

NC USSSA Fastpitch Rules

Below are some key rule changes for USSSA tournaments.

Note: There are other minor rule differentiations among Associations. Please see a Tournament Director with any questions.

ROSTER BATTING OPTION

Allows a team the option to bat its entire roster (all players physically present) in lieu of a "traditional" lineup. Teams choosing to roster bat may disperse additional players - starters who aren't listed as defensive players - anywhere in their batting order to bat everyone present. If a player leaves the game for any reason, it creates an absent player (automatic out) situation.

DP/FLEX

Designated Player (DP) is attached to the FLEX position. Additional Players (AP) are not attached to the FLEX position.

PLAYING SHORT

A team may begin the game with 8 players in a 9 player lineup. The absent player shall be listed in the 9th batting position.

ABSENT PLAYERS

A batter shall be called out when a team is playing with one less batter than the starting number in the lineup and the absent player's turn to bat is reached.

COURTESY RUNNERS

In NC USSSA courtesy runners are allowed for pitchers and catchers. The courtesy runner must be used prior to the next pitch being delivered. The courtesy runner will be a substitute player. If there are no substitute players, the courtesy runner will be the last completed at bat.

CHARGED CONFERENCES

Each team on defense may be granted not more than 3 charged conferences without penalty during a game. In an extra inning game, each team will be rewarded a conference for each extra inning.

INTENTIONAL WALK

A team may intentionally walk a batter. In NC USSSA if the pitcher desires to intentionally walk a batter, she must notify the umpire of her intentions prior to the first pitch to that batter and the walk will be granted by the umpire. No pitches need to be thrown to the intentionally walked batter.

STALLING THE GAME

USSSA currently has no stalling rule. However, a local state rule may be put in effect regarding the pace of play at the end of a game. In NC USSSA the umpire has a right to end a conference early if the umpire determines a coach is trying to stall a game. This call will not be questioned or appealed by a coach. Any conference or time out within the last 5 minutes of a timed game will result in the game clock being suspended until play resumes.

METAL CLEATS

In NC USSSA metal cleats and toe plates are allowed in 14U.