

Summary of Significant Rules Amendments • 2018 Season

New provisions in **bold typeface**, deleted provisions in ~~strikeout typeface~~.

§3.6 • GLOVES

Gloves **and mitts** may be worn by any player. ~~7 but mitts may be used only by the catcher and first baseman.~~ [*balance of section unchanged*]

§4.3(2) • MEN'S DIVISIONS AGE 70+ AND ABOVE AND WOMEN'S DIVISIONS AGE 50+ AND ABOVE

- A. **For men's 70+ through 80+ and women's divisions age 50+ and above** -- Eleven players constitute a team. However, a team may start a game with no fewer than ten players. An eleventh player on the roster may be added any time during the game, batting in the last (11th) position. Until the 11th position is filled, an out will be declared only the first time that position comes to bat.
- B. **For men's 85+ and older divisions – Twelve players constitute a team. However, a team may start a game with no fewer than eleven players. A twelfth player on the roster may be added any time during the game, batting in the last (12th) position. Until the 12th position is filled, an out will be declared only the first time that position comes to bat.**

§5.1 • GAME TIME

- B. Teams must be present and ready to play thirty minutes prior to the stated game starting time. ~~A forfeit may be recorded against the offending team at the Tournament Director's discretion.~~

§6.17 • PITCHER'S MANDATED MINIMUM SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Pitchers must wear a protective face mask **that covers the area of the face from above the eyes to the lower part of the chin** while pitching and must wear the mask consistent with the manufacturer's intended usage of their product.

§6.2 • PITCH COUNT

- A. **Men's 65+ and older divisions and women's 55+ and older divisions** -- Batters are allowed 4 balls and/or 3 strikes. All batters start with a 0-0 ball/strike count.
- B. **Men's and women's 40-Masters divisions – EXCEPTION: On a trial basis for the 2017 season,** Batters are 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.
- C. **Men's 50+ through 60+ and women's 50+ divisions – Batters are allowed only 3 balls and/or 2 strikes, and all batters will start with a 1-1 ball/strike count. NOTE: On a trial basis for the 2018 season, there will be one "courtesy foul" available to a batter after there are two strikes in the count.**

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

A courtesy runner must report to, and be acknowledged by, the umpire. **A courtesy runner may enter the game only prior to the first pitch to any batter.** A courtesy runner is in the game when he touches the base. [*balance of section unchanged*]

VARIOUS SECTIONS • MEN'S 40-MAJOR PLUS

The Men's 40-Major Plus division playing rules were amended to bring them into consistency with the 50+ through 70+ Major Plus rules package for [1] Seven (7) runs per ½-inning at bat, [2] Mercy/Run rule of fifteen (15) runs after five (5) innings; and [3] NO "snowbird" roster players, but up to two allowed "out of region" players. **NOTE:** Home runs remain at ten (10) allowed per team per game.