

## 2018 NGSA Rule Changes/Additions

Below is a list of rules that have been changed, or added, to the 2017-2018 NGSA Official Baseball Rules. The reference number for each rule change/addition has also been provided. Please refer NGSA Official Baseball Rules for the full explanation of all rules.

### Rules Common to all Divisions

**Addition 1.1C Legal Bats per USSSA: Effective 1/1/2018 all 14U payers** must use a maximum drop 5 (-5) bat with the official USSSA 1.15 BPF mark permanently stamped.

**Addition 1.1F Comment:** Any non-player/umpire under the age of 18 performing duties on the field of play shall wear a helmet any time they are not in the dugout.

**Rearrange 1.1G:** Slashing has been moved here instead of repeating it in each division specific sections.

**Additions 1.2C Ruling:** MPR rules for players that arrive late to a game.

**Addition 1.2K.1:** When a courtesy runner is used for a player that is not the catcher of record from the previous inning, but is going to the catcher position the next defensive inning, that player must catch the first complete at bat for the move to be legal.

### 4U & 6U Tee-Ball Divisions

**The Tee-Ball Divisions** shall play on a field with 55' base paths, and the pitcher's plate shall be placed 42' from the back point of home plate; as outlined in the official USSSA tee-ball rules.

**Addition 3.1:** The tee-ball field shall be marked with visible representation of the pitcher's circle, the fair ball arc, the two base lines other than the foul lines and a designated area in the outfield 15 feet behind the baselines.

**Rule Change 3.6:** This rule shall replace the tee-ball overthrow rules and designates how many bases the batter runner and runners on base are allowed to advance based on where a fair ball travels.

### 8U Division

**Rule 4 Change:** The 8U division will change from modified kid pitch to full coach pitch. The rules will follow the USSSA rules for 8U coach pitch, with the following supplemental NGSA rules remaining in use;

- A. A fair ball is defined as such by the MLB
- B. Infielders shall not form a defensive wall
- C. During the regular season, when playing with 8 players, the 9th and 10th spots will not be automatic outs; and when playing with 9 players, the 10th spot will not be an automatic out. (Per USSSA, coach pitch teams must play with at least ten (10) players. When playing with fewer, any empty spot in the order is an automatic out. NGSA will ignore this penalty during the regular season.)
- D. A team may score five (5) runs per inning.

### End of Season Tournament

**Addition to 8.2D:** During bracket play, games that are tied after time has expired and the last inning is complete will use the California Tie Breaker system to determine a winner, which is described in detail in the rules.

**Addition 8.2E:** In all divisions, intentional walks shall be awarded upon request from the defensive team. **In the 8U Division**, each player on a team may only be intentionally walked one (1) time per game.

**Addition 8.2F:** In the **8U division**, the USSSA rule of the empty spots in the line-up being automatic outs in is effect.

### Post-Season Play

**Addition to 9.2:** The guidelines set forth for participating in the USSSA Texas State Championship shall extend to the USSSA World Series.

**Addition to 9.2C.2:** When something changes for a player that initially would be unavailable to participate in the state tournament allowing him/her to now be available to participate, he/she shall only be allowed to do so with the team they were on in the spring season, if their head coach should choose to still allow them to.

### Player Freezes

**Rule Change 10.2:** Number of freezes; 6U – three (3), 8U – four (4), 10U – five (5), 12U – six (6), 14U – twelve (12)

**Rule Change 10.2A & 10.2B:** Types of players allowed to be frozen; new players, returning players & released players

**Rule Change 10.2C:** In the 14U and up frozen players are only allowed in the form of returning players and released players

### Player Evaluations

**Addition 11.1C: Playing Up:** A player that wishes to play up one (1) age division must play in said division during the fall season. The coaches in that division and the league's division directors will observe the player's ability to safely play in and compete in the higher age division. A discussion will be had between the coaches and directors to determine whether or not the player should be allowed to play up in the higher age division in the spring.