

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>ABSENT PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA 7.14.E With 2 outs and walk/hit Batter prior to missing player's spot, absent player is called out.  ASA 4.1.d.2.e can walk/hit to get automatic 3<sup>rd</sup> out  NSA 4.4.c With 2 outs, can not walk/hit Batter prior to missing player's spot to get automatic out. Effect: the missing player's spot is skipped and no out is recorded.  Fed 3.3.8 Out declared  NCAA NR</p>
<b>ADDITIONAL PLAYER(S) (AP)</b>
<p>USSSA 5.3 Two Additional Players. must remain in same place in batting order but can play or not play any defensive position. i.e. Ten (10) or Eleven (11) bat; any Nine (9) play defense.  ASA/Fed/NCAA NR  NSA 4.2.b Two EP (extra player) allowed; means 10 or 11 person batting order.  Pony NR</p>
<b>APPEAL, DEAD BALL</b>
<p>USSSA 9.3 Any player or coach may make dead ball appeal  ASA 8.7 Effect F-I any infielder  NSA 8.8.effect g-j Dead ball appeal - The Pitcher must have possession inside 16" circle.  Manager, coach, or player verbally without throwing to a base, can do dead ball appeal.  Fed 2.1.3.b Coach or any defensive player  NCAA 7.1.2.2 1 coach or any fielder</p>
<b>BALL SLIPS FROM PITCHER</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.M ball slips from pitcher's hand during back swing or forward motion, ball on batter &amp; live ball  ASA 6.11 ball on batter &amp; live ball  NSA 6.12 If ball slips from pitcher's hand on windup or back swing, ball on batter &amp; live ball  Fed 6.2.6 live ball; batter has legitimate opportunity to hit ball may do so.  NCAA 10.7.1 before hands have come together – no penalty, live ball; 10.7.2. during delivery, ball unless batter swings &amp; live ball.  Pony 7.12. during her windup or during the back swing, a ball is declared on the batter, the ball will be in play, and the runners may advance at their own risk.</p>
<b>BASE AWARD, LIVE BALL</b>
<p>USSSA. FP Interp Run scores  ASA 5. 5.5.B Run scores  NSA. Run does not score  Fed 9.1.1.Ex; 9.1.1 Sit D Run scores  NCAA 6.1.b Exception allows a runner who is forced home from third to score if another runner is tagged out before she reaches home.  Pony.</p>
<b>BAT, ALTERED/ILLEGAL USED BY BASE RUNER</b>
<p>USSSA 2.10.C Altered bat prohibited; calls for suspension  ASA 8.8.x Runner out if used altered/illegal bat  NSA 8.8.y Runner out if used altered/illegal/non-approved bat  Fed 7.4.1 Batter out if used illegal bat; No specific ref. to runner  NCAA 3.2.1 Effect Runner who used illegal, etc bat legal if no contact with pitch.</p>
<b>BAT, ALTERED PENALTY</b>
<p>USSSA 2.10.C Altered Bat Prohibited; 2.10.E Suspension  ASA 7.6.b Altered Bat use – Batter Out &amp; Ejected  NSA 7.1.d Altered – Batter Out &amp; Ejected; Youth Coach ejected  Fed Altered –No penalty listed.  NCAA 3.2.15 Effect Altered - Batter Out &amp; Ejected  Pony 8.1 Altered Bat; Out &amp; Ejected</p>
<b>BAT, NON-APPROVED PENALTY</b>
<p>USSSA 2.10.C Non-Approved Bat – Illegal Bat, No further Penalty listed  ASA 7.6.b Non-Approved/Doctored/Loaded Bat use – Batter Out &amp; Disqualified  NSA 7.1.d Non-Approved Bat use – Batter Out &amp; Ejected; Youth Coach ejected  Fed Banned Bat –No penalty listed.  NCAA 3.2.15 Effect Non-Approved - Batter Out  Pony</p>

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<b>BATS, LEGAL</b>
<p>USSSA 2.10 BPF 1.20 marked; on USSSA website  ASA 3.1 must bear ASA 2000 or 2004 certification mark &amp; not be listed on non-approved bat list  NSA 3.1 Bats meet BPF of 1.20 entire length and permanently stamped on bat– on NSA Approved Bat List  Fed 1.5.4 must meet ASA Standards  NCAA 3.2 must bear ASA 2004 certification mark and meet ASA Standards  Pony 3.1 must meet ASA Standards</p>
<b>BATS, WARM UP</b>
<p>USSSA 2.10/2.11 Two USSSA approved; no donut or fan  ASA 7.1.B Two official bats and/or approved warm-up bats; Pow’R Wrap only attachment  NSA 7.11.c Two softball bats, an official warm up bat, or Power Wrap, Worth WBS, H&amp;B BW3 (or other approved) allowed.  Fed 1.5.9 Two bats; added devices commercially manufactured for softball  NCAA 3.3 Not less than 39 oz; No attachments are allowed on the warm up bat;</p>
<b>BATTER HIT BY PITCH special case</b>
<p>USSSA 7.5.B If HBP prevented ball from being a strike, strike  ASA 7.4.1 Batter prevents ball from entering strike zone, dead-ball and strike.  NSA NR  Fed 7.2.1.h Batter prevents ball from entering strike zone, dead-ball and strike.  NCAA NR</p>
<b>BATTER INTERFERENCE – RUNNER ON 3rd</b>
<p>USSSA 7.12 Batter interference with less than 2 outs, runner advancing home out.  ASA 7.6 P-S batter out, ball dead, runners return  NSA 8.8.n Batter interference with less than 2 outs on play at plate, base runner from third is out; with 2 outs, batter is out.  Fed 7.4.4 batter out, ball dead, runners return  NCAA 11.22.2 EFFECT: batter out, ball dead, runners return except less than 2 outs, runner advancing from third out.</p>
<b>BATTING HELMET</b>
<p>USSSA 2.1 NOCSAE approved batting helmets with extended ear flaps are mandatory; attached NOCSAE face mask/guard required. 3.8 Chin strap optional  ASA 3.5.E Helmet NOCSAE. Youth chin strap required. Face mask guard NOCSAE  NSA 3.7 (1.10) A double extended ear flap batting helmet bearing the NOCSAE stamp is mandatory; NOCSAE face guards mandatory.  Fed 1-6 Helmet with permanently affixed NOCSAE. Face mask guard NOCSAE affixed.  NCAA 3.8.1 double-earflap helmet NOCSAE; 3.8.4; may wear NOCSAE approved face guard  Pony 3.11.e double ear flaps, chin straps and face guard NOCSAE; penalty out.</p>
<b>BUNT, ATTEMPTED</b>
<p>USSSA 3.12 Holding the bat in the strike zone is NOT an attempted bunt; must move bat toward ball  ASA POE 10 must move bat toward ball  NSA 1.1.4 must move bat toward ball  Fed 2.8.2 must move bat toward ball  NCAA 1.20 Holding the bat in the strike zone is an attempted bunt  Pony 8 must move bat towards the ball.</p>
<b>CARRY BAT TO 1<sup>st</sup> BASE</b>
<p>USSSA NR wrt Batter-Runner who carries bat to First Base  ASA POE 52 no penalty  NSA 7.11.g Batter-Runner who carries bat to First Base is out.  Fed NR  NCAA NR  Pony There is no penalty when a player carries a bat to first base</p>
<b>CASTS</b>
<p>USSSA 2.6. Casts, splints and braces may be worn, if padded.  ASA 3.6.E Casts OK if padded  NSA 3.6.e No Casts  Fed 3.2.13 Casts OK if padded  NCAA 3.4 Casts OK if padded  Pony 3.11.f Casts may not be worn</p>

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>CLEATS AND TOE PLATES</b>
<p>USSSA 2.4 (youth) Metal cleats prohibited; ejection; Metal toe plate prohibited.</p> <p>ASA 3.6.G Youth Metal cleats not allowed. No penalty.</p> <p>NSA 3.4 (Youth) Metal cleats ...may not be worn. Penalty: player out &amp; ejected. Metal cleats may be worn Adult.</p> <p>Fed 3.2.11 Metal cleats and Metal toe plate allowed. (MPSSAA 2007 NFHS rule – Not Allowed)</p> <p>NCAA 3.9 Metal cleats &amp; toes legal</p> <p>Pony 3.8 No metal spikes are allowed.</p>
<b>CONFERENCE, DEFENSIVE</b>
<p>USSSA 4.8.A 3 per game plus 1 per extra inning; pitcher removed as a pitcher for game.</p> <p>ASA 5.7.B 3 per game plus 1 per extra inning; remove pitcher</p> <p>NSA 6.15 Defense is allowed 1 charged conference per pitcher per inning. Penalty remove from pitching position for game.</p> <p>Fed 3.7.1 Three charged conferences per game plus 1 per extra inning; After three remove pitcher</p> <p>NCAA 6.11.1.1 One charged conference per inning; more not permitted (1 additional for each pitching change); ejection for defying.</p> <p>Pony 7.10 Three per game plus 1 pre extra inning.</p>
<b>CONFERENCE, OFFENSIVE</b>
<p>USSSA 4.8.B One per inning; deny any subsequent; No penalty.</p> <p>ASA 5.7.a</p> <p>NSA 5.8 Offense is allowed 1 conference per inning. Penalty one strike on batter</p> <p>Fed 3.7.2 One charged conference per inning Excess not permitted, No Penalty</p> <p>NCAA 6.11.2.1 One per inning, excess not allowed, person defying umpire is ejected</p> <p>Pony 5.10. One per inning excess not allowed; Ejecting of manager or coach who insists on another charged conference.</p>
<b>COURTESY RUNNER</b>
<p>USSSA 8.3 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both position in same inning. Not for DP.</p> <p>ASA 8.10 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both Pitcher and Catcher. Not for DP.</p> <p>NSA 4.6 Courtesy Runner for Pitcher/Catcher at any time; courtesy runner is player who made last out or player not in game; Or if P/C made last out, the team may also go back outs.</p> <p>Fed 8.9.1 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both Pitcher and Catcher. Not for DP.</p> <p>NCAA NR</p> <p>Pony 9.10 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both Pitcher and Catcher.</p>
<b>COURTESY RUNNER, INJURED</b>
<p>USSSA 8.3 another courtesy runner or the pitcher or catcher may run</p> <p>ASA 8-10 Not addressed</p> <p>NSA NR (4.6) injured courtesy runner not addressed</p> <p>FED 8-9-6 EXC2 The player for whom she is running may return to run or a legal substitute</p> <p>NCAA N/A</p> <p>Pony 9.10.d another courtesy runner or the catcher or the pitcher may run</p>
<b>COURTESY RUNNER, UNREPORTED</b>
<p>USSSA 8.3.EFFECT - First offense: A team warning is issued. Second offense: The manager is ejected.</p> <p>ASA 8-10-G Illegal runner and disqualified</p> <p>NSA No penalty</p> <p>FED 8-9-7 considered to be an unreported substitute</p> <p>NCAA N/A</p> <p>Pony</p>
<b>DH/DP ON DEFENSE</b>
<p>USSSA 5.4.B DH may play defensive; DH role terminated for game</p> <p>ASA 4.3.e DP may play defensive</p> <p>NSA 4.2.a DH may play defensive; DH role terminated for game.</p> <p>Fed 3.3.6.e DP may play defensive</p> <p>NCAA 8.2 any 9 of 10 can play defensive</p> <p>Pony 8.14.E The DP may play defense at any position.</p>
<b>DH/DP, DESIGNATED HITTER/DESIGNATED PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA 5.4 DP listed after DH in same lineup position</p> <p>ASA 4.3.b DP &amp; Flex; Flex in 10<sup>th</sup> position</p> <p>NSA 4.1.a DH listed in proper batting order. “defensive player” list first in designated substitute box.</p> <p>Fed 3.3.6.b DP &amp; Flex; Flex in 10<sup>th</sup> position</p> <p>NCAA 8.2.1.2 DP &amp; Flex; Flex listed in 10<sup>th</sup> batting position</p> <p>Pony 8.14 DP &amp; Flex; Flex in 10<sup>th</sup> position</p>

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>DH/DP, SUBSTITUTE FOR</b>
<p>USSSA 5.4 If defensive player plays offense, DH role terminated for game  ASA 4.3.f may go from 9 back to 10  NSA 4.2.a.4 If player being hit for bats (substitutes for DH), DH position is eliminated for game and DH can not reenter  Fed 3.3.6.f may go from 9 back to 10  NCAA 8.2 may go from 9 back to 10  Pony 8.14 may go from 9 back to 10</p>
<b>DOUBLE 1<sup>st</sup> BASE</b>
<p>USSSA 8.17.K When play at first base and the batter-runner touches only the white portion, batter-runner may be out on appeal.  ASA 8.2.m.2 appeal play  NSA 8.8. nt 1 Double First Base. If first play at first base, batter runner who touches the inside base is out.  Fed 8.10.1 PENALTY appeal play  NCAA 2.4 double first base may not be used</p>
<b>DOUBLE FIRST BASE, USE OF</b>
<p>USSSA 8.17.K The batter-runner or runner may touch the white or colored base with no play being attempted or pick -off play  ASA 8.2.m After reaching First, either base may be used.  NSA 8.8. nt 1 Double First Base. After reaching First, no provision to use orange base.  Fed 8.10.3 The batter-runner or runner may touch the white or colored base with no play being attempted or pick -off play  NCAA N/A</p>
<b>FAKE TAG</b>
<p>USSSA 11.2.A A Fake Tag is obstruction; Team Warning then restricted to bench &amp; coach ejected.  ASA POE 20 continued fake tags should result in ejection  NSA 8.5.b.3 Nt A Fake Tag is obstruction and calls for automatic ejection.  Fed 3.6.2 Obstruction; Team warning then restricted to dugout  NCAA 12.16 Obstruction; No automatic ejection</p>
<b>FITNESS OF GROUNDS</b>
<p>USSSA 4.1. Fitness of the grounds decided by umpire.  ASA 5.2 Solely Home Plate Umpire  NSA 5.2 Tournament Director, Tournament UIC, Home Plate Umpire  Fed 4.1.1/4.1.7 Home coach to start game/Umpires after game starts  NCAA 5.2.1/5.2.2 On site administrator/coaches before game; Plate Umpire during game.  Pony 5.2 Solely Home Plate Umpire</p>
<b>FOOT IN BOX BETWEEN PITCHES</b>
<p>USSSA 8.6 NR  ASA 7.3.c batter must have one foot in box between pitches  NSA NR No Rule requiring one foot in box between pitches  Fed  NCAA  Pony 8.1 the batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box while taking signals from the coach; warning then Strike</p>
<b>FOUL TIP</b>
<p>USSSA 3.30 Foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly and speedily from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand not higher than the batters head and is legally caught by the catcher.  ASA 1 sharply &amp; directly from bat to hand (no reference to height)  NSA 1.26 Foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batters head, to the catcher's hands or glove/mitt, and is legally caught by the catcher.  Fed 2-25-2: sharply &amp; directly from bat to hand (no reference to height)  NCAA 1.53 ... travels directly, in a straight line, from the bat to the catcher's hand or glove/mitt and is legally caught by the catcher.  Pony 1.28 Foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly from the bat, not higher than the batters head, to the catcher's hands or glove/mitt, and is legally caught by the catcher.</p>
<b>GLOVE ADHESIVE COATING</b>
<p>USSSA 2.9 Gloves - No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky  ASA No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky  NSA 3.3 No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky  Fed 1-4-4: Added that gloves may not be designed or altered to create an adhesive, sticky, and/or tacky surface.  NCAA 3-7 glove is illegal if illegal use of a tacky substance.</p>

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<b>GLOVE, PITCHER'S</b>
<p>USSSA 2.9.B uniform in color not white, optic yellow nor gray; no circle appearing like ball.  ASA 3.4 One solid color or multicolor; not color of ball.  NSA 3.3 Pitchers may not wear white or grey glove  Fed 1.4.2 No glove/mitt white, grey, optic; maximum of two colors; no circle  NCAA 3.7.2 Pitcher's glove may be tan, brown, grey or black or combination of  Pony 3.7 Pitcher's glove cannot match color of balls.</p>
<b>GLOVES AND MITTS</b>
<p>USSSA 2.9 Gloves/mitts shall be worn by all fielders.  ASA 3.4 Gloves/mitts may be worn by any player.  NSA 3.3 Only catchers &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> basemen may wear mitts.  Fed 1.4.1 Gloves/mitts can be worn by all  NCAA 3.7 Any player may use either.  Pony 3.7 Gloves may be worn by any player, but mitts may be used only by the catcher and first baseman.</p>
<b>HELMET, REMOVAL OF</b>
<p>USSSA 2.1 deliberately removing the batting helmet while the ball is alive and person is in live ball territory, warning to the coach; subsequent violations ejection; player is confined to bench area.  ASA 3.5.e Runner out, ball remains alive  NSA 3.7 Note If a runner deliberately removes helmet during playing action, dead ball, runner out  Fed 1.6 2 Required for live ball; Penalty: 3.6.1 Team warning; then player and coach restricted; no out.  NCAA 3.8.a EFFECT: Out call, no ejection  Pony 3.11.e runner out</p>
<b>HUDDLES, ON FIELD</b>
<p>USSSA NR No Rule on on-field huddles between innings.  ASA NR  NSA NR  FED 2006 Points Of Emphasis #2 –Team should not huddle on the field after a third out while the other team is warming up.  NCAA NR  Pony NR</p>
<b>ILLEGAL PITCH PENALTY</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.EFFECT If illegal pitch is hit, coach will have the option of taking the results of the play or accepting the penalty  ASA 6.1-8 EFFECT If batter hits ball; advances safely to first and all runners advance one base, illegal pitch nullified.  NSA. 6.8 PENALTY If pitch is hit; all runners including batter advance one base, the play stands.  Fed 6.2 EXCEPTION If batter hits ball or becomes a runner; the coach shall have the option of result of play or penalty  NCAA 10.8 EFFECT-1 If batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances one base, the play stands.  Pony.</p>
<b>ILLEGAL PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA 5.7 Illegal player &amp; coach ejected, Out if just completed turn at bat.  ASA (Def) Player enters without legal right 4.6.F Illegal player disqualified.  NSA (Def) 1.29 enters without right; 4.6 Illegal player penalty ejection of both the illegal player and his/her coach. Out if just completed turn at bat, Choice of do-over if just made a defensive play.  FED 3.4.1 Illegal substitute penalty - restricted to bench and out.  NCAA (Def) 1.60 competes but not entitled to participate; 8.3.4 Illegal Player no penalty if offending team reports. Offended team reports, player ejected; Out if at bat/on base, Choice of do-over if just made a defensive play.  Pony (Def) 1.34. does not meet the requirements as to age and/or residence. 13.c Penalty player and manager removal.</p>
<b>INELIGIBLE PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA. 5.7 NOTE2 Ineligible player is discovered, game lost;  ASA (Def) Player not meeting requirements 4.6.F.  NSA (def) 1.32 unregistered or not meeting requirements. Penalty Forfeit  FED Not Defined  NCAA Not Defined  Pony (Def) 1.35. legally member who is ineligible to play as result of a rule; removed from game</p>

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>INJURED PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA 10.7.C umpire may suspend play immediately if further play may cause injury or jeopardize a participant's safety  ASA 4.10 Stop play for injured player who needs immediate attention  NSA NR No Rule to Stop play for injured player  Fed  NCAA 15-10.3 When necessary to protect an injured player, the umpire may suspend play immediately.  Pony 11.8.g.g. Umpires will not suspend play until all action has been completed.</p>
<b>INTERFERENCE, RUNNER– DOUBLE PLAY</b>
<p>USSSA 8.18.H Notes 1 runner interferes and prevents double play, runner closest to home out.  ASA 8.7.J If interferes before out and prevents double play, succeeding runner also out.  NSA 8.  Fed 8.6.10 PENALTY interference before out and prevents double play, succeeding runner is out.  NCAA 12.19.1 If interferes before out and prevents double play, runner being played on is also out</p>
<b>INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hinder catcher's throw</b>
<p>USSSA 8.16.G Umpire interference – hinder a catcher's attempt to throw. Delayed dead ball. Runners returned if safe  ASA 8.6.F Umpire interferes with catcher's throw. Delayed dead ball. Runners returned if safe.  NSA NR  Fed 5.1.2.c If runner out, line ball; If runner safe, runners returned  NCAA 4.11.2.3 Umpire Interference – Delayed dead ball; if runner not out, runners returned</p>
<b>INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hit with fair ball</b>
<p>USSSA 3.39.B Umpire interference - when a fair ball touches an umpire before passing infielder. Batter/Runner awarded First.  ASA 8.1.E.7 Batted ball strikes umpire before passing fielder, batter awarded First.  NSA NR  Fed 5.1.1.f.1 Dead Ball – Award 1<sup>st</sup> base  NCAA 4.11.2.1 Umpire Interference - Dead Ball – Award 1<sup>st</sup> base</p>
<b>JEWELRY</b>
<p>USSSA 2.5 Jewelry prohibited; player can not play; 11.2.D Team Warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> offensive restrict to bench &amp; eject coach  ASA 3.6.f exposed &amp; dangerous must be removed; medical alert are not considered jewelry  NSA 3.6.d (Youth) No jewelry is allowed. Team Warning then ejection.  Fed 3.2.12 Jewelry prohibited; taped Religious medals are not considered jewelry; 3.6.1 Warning then coach and player restricted.  NCAA No prohibition on jewelry  Pony 3.11.g No exposed jewelry judged dangerous</p>
<b>LINE UP CARD</b>
<p>USSSA 5.1.B Lineup card shall contain name, number, position.  ASA 4.1.A.1 Lineup card shall contain first and last name, position and uniform number of each player. NOTE: if a wrong number is encountered, correct it and play on, no penalty Substitutes listed  NSA 4.1.a Lineup card shall contain first and last name, position and uniform number of each player. NOTE: if a wrong number is encountered, correct it and play on, no penalty  Fed 3.1.3 Include name, position, jersey number, and bating order.  NCAA 5.6 Include first and last name, uniform number, position of starting players, listed in batting order and first and last names of all eligible subs. Penalty 7.1.1.4 inaccuracy results in improper player  Pony 1.9 List players in batting order and position</p>
<b>LINE UP CARD SUBSTITUTES</b>
<p>USSSA 5.1.B Eligible substitutes can be added.  ASA 4.1.A.2 Eligible members may be added to substitute list.  NSA 4.1.a.2 Eligible members may be added to substitute list.  Fed 3.3.1 A player not listed as an eligible substitute shall not be prohibited from playing.  NCAA 5.5 Note 1. Players not listed are not eligible to play  Pony</p>
<b>LOOK BACK RULE</b>
<p>USSSA 8.2 runner obligated to move directly toward next base or last base touched.  ASA 8.7.T Runner may stop once then immediately advance/return  NSA 8.8.x Look Back Rule – Runner may stop once then immediately advance/return  Fed 8.7.2 Runner may stop once then immediately advance/return  NCAA 12.18.b Runner must continue or immediately change direction.</p>

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>LOOK BACK RULE IN EFFECT</b>
<p>USSSA 8.2 Look Back Rule is in effect only if pitcher has ball. (FP Interp in hand or glove, under arm/chin, between legs)  ASA 8.7.T pitcher has possession &amp; control (rule sup 34 not between legs or under arm)  NSA 8.8.x pitcher has possession of ball in hand/glove  Fed 8.7.1 pitcher must have possession  NCAA 12.21.1 pitcher has ball (in hand or glove, under arm/chin, between legs)</p>
<b>LOOK BACK RULE OVERRUNNING 1<sup>ST</sup> BASE</b>
<p>USSSA 8.2 runner obligated to move directly toward next base or last base touched.  ASA 8.7.T overruns, turns left, immediately stops, return/advance. overruns, turns left, moves to 2<sup>nd</sup>; must advance. overruns, turns left, moves back; must return. overruns, turns right, must return.  NSA 8.8.x May continue past 1<sup>st</sup> base ok to run to 2<sup>nd</sup> if she does not stop  Fed 8.7.4 same as ASA  NCAA Rule 12.18.f.5 if runner is heading back to 1<sup>st</sup> base within the base path extended, she may go to either base</p>
<b>MERCY RULE</b>
<p>USSSA 4.4 Mercy rule: 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings  ASA 5.9.a.1 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings 8 runs after 5 innings.  NSA 5.3 Exc 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings.  Fed 4.2.3 State Adoption – Maryland Regional &amp; State tournaments 10 runs after 4 ½ innings.  NCAA 6.13 8 runs after 5 innings  Pony 5.4 Run Rule 12 runs after 3 innings, 10 runs after 4 innings, or 8 runs after 5 innings.</p>
<b>OBSTRUCTION</b>
<p>USSSA 3.41 Obstruction ... hinders a runner or changes pattern of play  ASA 1 Obstruction ... impedes the progress of a runner ..., unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is fielding a batter ball..  NSA 1.40 Obstruction ... impedes the progress of a runner ..., unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is fielding a batter ball..  Fed 2-36: Obstruction ... impedes the progress of a runner ..., unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is fielding a batter ball..  NCAA 1.80 Obstruction ..... or is about to receive a thrown ball.  Pony 1.45 while not in possession of the ball, or in the act of fielding a batted ball, which impedes ...</p>
<b>OBSTRUCTION DURING RUN DOWN</b>
<p>USSSA 8.13 award base would have reached  ASA 8.5.b.1 award base would have reached  NSA 8.5.b.1 Exc Obstructed runner in run down is awarded lead base.  Fed 8.4.3 award base would have reached  NCAA 9.3.1 award base she would have reached</p>
<b>ON DECK BATTER</b>
<p>USSSA 1.2.A Players shall not use other teams on deck circle.  ASA 7.1.a on deck circle nearest offensive team bench  NSA 7.11.b On deck batter may use either on deck circle.  Fed 2.5.3 on deck circle closest to dugout  NCAA 11.1.1 on deck circle nearest dugout  Pony 8.13.b on-deck circle nearest her bench.</p>
<b>PASSING A PRECEDING RUNNER</b>
<p>USSSA 8.18.P Runner out if passes an unobstructed preceding runner.  ASA 8.7.d Runner out if passes preceding runner. Does not address the obstructed runner  NSA 8.8.e Runner out if passes preceding runner. Does not address the obstructed runner  Fed 8.6.4 Runner out if passes preceding runner. Passing preceding obstructed runner is not out.  NCAA 12.7.c Runner out if passes preceding runner unless passed runner was obstructed.</p>
<b>PITCH TIMING AND PENALTY</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.D Pitcher has 10 sec after touch to release; 6.1.K 20 sec total; Penalty Illegal Pitch/Strike  ASA 6.3.M Pitcher has 20 seconds to release the pitch. Illegal Pitch  NSA 6.5.f 6.1.c 6.8 10 seconds to receive the signal from the catcher. No more than 10 sec after hands together. Ball awarded  Fed 6.2.3 Pitcher has 20 seconds to release the pitch. Illegal Pitch / 7.3.1 batter 10 seconds; strike  NCAA 10.18 Pitcher &amp; Batter must be ready in 10 seconds, then pitcher has 10 sec to bring hands together, 5 seconds to begin her motion  Ball awarded  Pony 7.3. f. The pitcher has 20 seconds to release the next pitch after receiving the ball from the catcher.</p>

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>PITCHER PITCHING TO FIRST BATTER FACED</b>
<p>USSSA 5.5 Replacement pitcher while team on defense shall pitch until first opponent completes time at bat/third out.  USSSA 7.5.D.1.a Starting pitcher who does not complete one batter may not pitch.  ASA 4.6.d Pitcher not required to pitch until first batter completes turn at bat.  NSA 4.5.b Pitcher is required to pitch until the first batter facing her has completed her time at bat or the side is retired.  Fed No requirement  NCAA 8.5.2.1 Pitcher may be removed before delivering a pitch.  Pony 4.3.b NOTE: The pitcher is not required to pitch until the first batter facing her has completed her turn at bat or the side has been retired.</p>
<b>PITCHER RETURNS TO PITCH</b>
<p>USSSA 5.5.B A player may be removed as a pitcher and returned as a pitcher only once per inning.  ASA  NSA Pitcher can be removed &amp; brought back to pitch any number of times as long as they stay in the game.  Fed 3.3.2 note Once per inning  NCAA 8.5.2.3 Returning pitcher not entitled to warm-up pitches in the same inning.  Pony 4.3.b NOTE: A pitcher may be removed and return as a pitcher only once per inning.</p>
<b>PITCHING HAND</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.H. Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm.  ASA 6.6-B Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm, etc. No Batting glove on pitching hand  NSA 6.8 No tape on fingers. Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm.  Fed 6-2-2 No tape on pitching hand or fingers. Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm.  NCAA 10.13.3 Nothing distracting on pitching hand, wrist, arm, etc. May use neutral color tape for injury.  PONY – No batting gloves, No tape on fingers</p>
<b>PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (FEET)</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.A Pivot foot on rubber; non pivot in contact or behind.  ASA 6.1.A.2 both feet in contact with pitcher's plate within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate  NSA 6.1.a Pitcher must begin pitch with both feet touching the rubber.  Fed 6.1.1 pivot foot on top surface of the pitcher's plate; non-pivot foot in contact with or behind pitcher's plate, both feet must be within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate  NCAA 10.2.1 both feet in contact with pitcher's plate within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate  Pony 7.1 Pivot foot on rubber; non pivot on or behind.</p>
<b>PITCHING POSITION, PRELIMINARY (HANDS)</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.D Pitcher shall bring hands together in front of body  ASA 6.1.C Pitcher shall bring hands together.  NSA 6.1.c Pitcher shall bring hands together or touch them together.  Fed 6.1.c Pitcher shall bring hands together in front of the body.  NCAA 10.2.3 Pitcher' hands must come together in view of the plate umpire.  Pony 7.1.c she shall hold the ball in both hands</p>
<b>PLAYERS TO COMPLETE GAME</b>
<p>USSSA 5.2 may continue with one less unless ejection.  ASA 4.1.d.2 may finish with 8 and take an out  NSA 4.4.b Team ... may finish with eight (8) players if an injury occurs; out taken when player due up.  Fed 4.3.1.g may finish with 8 and take an out; 3.3.8.d May return to Nine if an eligible payer is available.  NCAA 8.1 must have nine players in game  Pony 4.4.a may finish with 8 and take an out</p>
<b>QUICK RETURN PITCH</b>
<p>USSSA 6.3.C No pitch  ASA 6.10.b No pitch  NSA 7.8.g A ball called on a Quick Return Pitch  Fed 6.2.4.b No pitch  NCAA 10.9 No pitch  Pony 7.10.b No pitch</p>

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>REENTRY</b>
USSSA 5.6 Starters & Substitutes may re-enter ASA 4.5.a Starters & Substitutes may re-enter NSA 4.3 Starters & Substitutes may re-enter. Fed 3.3.5 Starters & Substitutes may re-enter NCAA 8.6 Starters may reenter; Substitutes may not reenter Pony 4.3.d Any player may re-enter
<b>REGULATION GAME, INNINGS FOR</b>
USSSA 4.6.B.1 3 innings ASA 5.3.C 5 innings. NSA 5.5.f 5 innings. Fed 4.2.2.a 5 innings. NCAA 6.16 5 innings Pony 5.3.C 5 innings.
<b>REMOVING LINES</b>
USSSA NR ASA NR NSA NR Fed 3.6.17 Player shall not intentionally remove any lines. Strike if offense; Ball if defense; Team warning to coach NCAA 2.15.2 Player shall not intentionally remove any lines/cover plate. Strike if offense; Ball if defense; 2.17.c If Coach, Warning
<b>REQUEST UMPIRE FOR HELP</b>
USSSA 14.7 Umpire may ask for help on checked swing ASA NSA No Rule requiring Plate Umpire to ask if requested by catcher Fed NR NCAA 11.13.3 If catcher requests, plate umpire must ask for help on checked swing. Pony POE 8 catcher requests help, the umpire should ask for help
<b>RESIN</b>
USSSA 6.1.H.1 Powdered resin may be used ASA 6.6 Powdered resin may be used NSA 6.8 Powdered resin may be used Fed 6.2.2 Powdered resin may be used NCAA 10.13.1.2. Resin (any drying agent) may be used Pony 7.6 powdered resin may be used to dry the hands.
<b>RUNNERS SWITCHING BASES</b>
USSSA NR No Specific Rule addressing Base runners switching bases after conference ASA 8.7.Y If base runners switch positions after conference, each out & head coach ejected NSA NR Fed NR NCAA 12.10.5 On appeal, each runner is out and Head Coach ejected
<b>STRIKE ZONE</b>
USSSA 3.57 Forward arm pit to top of knees any part of ball ASA 1. arm pit to top of knees any part of ball NSA 1.48 must move bat toward ball Fed 2.56.3 Forward arm pit to top of knees any part of ball NCAA 1.107 Bottom of sternum to top of knees top of ball
<b>THROWN BAT PENALTY</b>
USSSA 11.2.C Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offense player restricted to bench and coach ejected. ASA NSA Fed NCAA 11.8.E . Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> time batter out. Pony

<b>2008 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>UNCONSCIOUS PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA 5.9.B Umpires duty prohibit player rendered unconscious to play without physicians authorization  ASA NR  NSA NR.  Fed 3.3.9 requires written authority from Doctor to participate  NCAA 4.5 Injured player shall not return without approval of medical personnel.  Pony ??</p>
<b>UNDERGARMENTS</b>
<p>USSSA 3.7 NR  ASA 3.6.C Solid; must be alike worn by more than one.  NSA 3.6.b Players may wear solid colored undergarments (not ragged, frayed or slit)  Fed 3.2.7 All exposed undergarments black, white, gray or school colors  NCAA 3.10.8 if more than one must be same in color; solid color  Pony 3.11.c solid colored undershirt; all alike; not ragged, frayed or slit sleeves.</p>
<b>UNREPORTED SUBSTITUTE</b>
<p>USSSA 5.5 All play stands. First offense: A team warning is issued. Second offense: The manager is ejected.  ASA 4.6.C Unannounced substitute disqualified  NSA 4.5/4.7 (Youth) Unreported substitute penalty Coach is ejected.  Fed 3.6.7 Unreported substitute penalty Team Warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> time offender &amp; coach restricted to bench.  NCAA 8.3.3 Offending team reports – no penalty; Offended team reports, no ejection, player in game and out if at bat/on base.  Pony 4.5 unreported substitute the same as ineligible player. removed from the game; out if on base.</p>
<b>WHEELCHAIRS</b>
<p>USSSA 2.6 crutches, canes, wheelchairs, etc., is prohibited.  ASA POE#55 Players, coaches, umpires can utilize wheelchairs.  NSA 3.6.f Coaches in wheelchairs may not be on the field of play unless the chair has all exposed metal parts and/or surfaces covered.  Fed  NCAA  Pony 3.10 Wheelchairs confined to out of play.</p>
<b>10&amp;Under DROP THIRD STRIKE</b>
<p>USSSA 15.3 10&amp;U exception Batter is out; ball remains live  ASA– Rules same as all age divisions  NSA 8.3.a Rules same as all age divisions.  Fed &amp; NCAA N/A</p>