



# RSPA - 2023

## Rules of Play - Short Version

Revised Date: **March 1, 2023**

1. All rules are based on the current SPN Rulebook.
2. FOUR (4) complete innings required for a complete game (3-1/2, if HOME team is ahead. **\*\*\*RSPA rule**)
3. NOTIES: Game played to a winner if time. (Exceptions)
4. International Tie Breaker Rule will be used.
5. A GRACE PERIOD of ten (10) minutes.
6. TIME LIMIT: On lit diamonds, and in playoff games, when time limit is in effect, no new inning will start after **ONE (1) HOUR AND FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES.**
7. MERCY RULE: 12 runs after 5 complete innings, or 4-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.
8. INNING MERCY RULE: 6 run maximum per inning mercy rule. Last inning will be open (unlimited runs). 6 run mercy is exempt if needed to avoid mercy rule.
9. BALLS AND STRIKES: **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***  
The Worth pitching mat with the homeplate NOT cut out will be used. Mats with cut out will be allowed with the cutout over the plate and homeplate is a strike. A legally pitched ball hitting the mat will be a strike. A board may be used if available. **\*\*\*RSPA\*\***
10. HOME RUN RULE: "MATCH PLUSTWO". **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***  
"Walk off homeruns" if either team agrees.
11. ROSTER:  
All teams/players must complete the official SPN on-line roster. All players MUST complete SPN on-line roster with first and last name, sex, date of birth, postal code and an active email address. Roster checks will be done on all teams. Teams MUST submit playoff eligible roster. **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***
12. Game score sheets must be kept by the team. **Players will be checked to see if they played 5 games to be eligible for playoffs.**
13. BATS: RSPA recognizes **BOTH the USSSA & ASA 2004** bat testing methods. SPN recognizes only USSSA. **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***
14. UNIFORMS: matching tops deadline June 15th.
15. The "standard" line-up shall be regarded as ten (10) players, consisting of 7M and 3F.
16. Additional players may be added to this line-up by adding one male and one female. ie: 8M-4F; 9M-5F or 10M-6F.
17. A line-up may always add more females.  
ie: 6M-5F, 4M-6F, 7M-4F, etc.
18. The line-up may not contain more than four (4) more males than females. **Exception:** a team may add an automatic out in order to bat an extra male.
19. A team may play with only two (2) females (ie: 7 M + 2 F or 6 M + 2 F) with a max of 7 males. The batting position for the missing third female will be declared an "Automatic Out". If the third female shows up anytime during the game, she may be inserted in that spot in the batting order.
20. Minimum eight (8) players to start/continue a game. **\*RSPA\*\***
21. Maximum ten (10) players on the field at any time.  
Maximum seven (7) males on the field at any time.
22. ADDITIONAL PLAYERS: No maximum number of players in the batting order. The team must finish the game with the same number of players or an "Automatic Out" will be declared.
23. Players cannot be added to the batting order once through the batting order. Exception: 3rd female -#19.
24. SUBSTITUTION: (as per SPN rules)
25. No restrictions on the batting order. **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***  
May bat males and females in any sequence.
26. Male batter walked with a female batter (or an automatic out for a female batter) following, the male batter will be awarded second base and the female batter following has to bat. If male batter is walked on a 4-0 count, the female batter following has the option to take her turn at bat or to take a free walk. **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***
27. **Illegal batting order/line-up:**  
If a team is discovered with an illegal line-up, with more than four more males than females in the batting order, the following penalty will be applied:
  - a. if a male batter has just batted, and got on base at the time of the discovery, that batter will be declared out.
  - b. if a male batter is at bat at the time of the discovery, will be declared out.
  - c. an automatic out will added to the bottom of the batting order for every illegal male batter for the balance of the game.
  - d. the umpire will have the right to bring any illegal batting order to the attention of the opposing team, and apply the penalty.
  - e. the umpire will report all instances of illegal batting orders to the league executive and further penalties will occur for second and third offences.
  - f. a second offence will result in a one game suspension for the team rep or team coach. A third offence will result in game default, plus a three game suspension for the coach. **\*\*\*RSPA rule\*\*\***
28. COURTESY RUNNERS: Maximum **SEVEN** courtesy runners.  
MAY use the same runner more than once. **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***
29. 150/175 FOOT RULE is not applicable. No 5-man infield is allowed. No defensive player (other than pitcher and catcher) can stand closer than **65 feet**. **\*\*\*RSPA rule\*\*\***
30. The batter-baserunner may NOT be thrown out at first base from any position on any ball that is hit to an outfielder (or rover).
31. Any player ejected for any reason will automatically be suspended for one additional game. **Players ejected for "UMPIRE ABUSE" will be ejected for 3 additional games or more. \*\*\* RSPA\*\*\***
32. All beverages must be in cups. Player will be ejected.
33. All players must adhere to the "SPN Code of Conduct".

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