



# ***RSPA - Rules of Play***

## ***2012 - Short Version***

Revised Date: **May 1, 2012**

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. NO TIES: Game will be played to a winner. (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 TWENTY (20) MINUTES.
7. MERCY RULE: **12 runs** after 5 complete innings (or 4-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead).  
**\*\*\*RSPA - new 2012 (as per SPN)**
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: A mat will be used. **\*\*\*RSPA**
10. HOME RUN RULE: **"MATCH PLUS TWO"**. **\*\*\*RSPA**
11. Game score sheets must be kept by the team.
12. BATS: as per the SPN approved bat list. player is out and ejected; coach is ejected.  
**\*\*\*Revised for 2012 (as per SPN)**



13. UNIFORMS: matching tops deadline June 15th.
14. The "standard" line-up shall be regarded as ten (10) players, consisting of 7M and 3F.
15. Additional players may be added to this line-up by adding one man and one woman.  
ie: 8 M + 4 F; 9 M + 5 F or 10 M + 6 F.
16. A line-up may always add more women.  
ie: 6 M + 5 F, 4M + 6F, etc.
17. The line-up may not contain more than four (4) more men than women. **Exception:** see below.  
**Exception:** a team may add an automatic out in order to bat an extra guy.

18. A Team may play with only two (2) women (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.
19. Minimum eight (8) players to start/continue a game.
20. Maximum ten (10) players on the field at any time. Max seven (7) males on the field at any time.
21. 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.
22. Players cannot be added to the batting order once through the batting order Exception: Third female —#18.
23. SUBSTITUTION: (As per SPN Rules)
24. No restrictions on the batting order. **\*\*\*RSPA**  
May bat men and women in any sequence.
25. 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. Male batter 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**
26. **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:
  - an automatic out will added to the bottom of the batting order for every illegal male batter;
  - if a male batter has just batted, and got on base at the time of the discovery, that batter will be declared out;
  - if a male batter is at bat or coming to bat at the time of of the discovery, that batter will be declared out;
  - the umpire will have the right to bring any illegal batting order to the attention of the opposing team, and apply the penalty;
  - the umpire will report all instances of illegal batting orders to the league executive and further penalties will occur for second and third offences;
  - 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\*\*\***
27. COURTESY RUNNERS: Maximum 3 courtesy runners. **MAY** use the same runner more than once. **\*\*\*RSPA**
28. 150/175 FOOT RULE is not applicable. Fielders may be positioned anywhere in fair territory. **\*\*\*RSPA**
29. 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). **\*\*\*RSPA\*\*\***
30. No **exposed** jewellery may be worn during a game  
**\*\*\*RSPA rule - new for 2012\*\*\***

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