

	BASEBALL		
Rule	Majors	AAA	AA
<b>No New Inning Time</b>	None - play 6 innings	1 hour & 40 minutes	1 hour & 40 minutes
<b>Drop Dead Time</b>	N/A; can play extras in a tie	1 hour & 55 minutes	1 hour & 55 minutes
<b>Time between half-innings</b>	1 minute or 8 pitches for new pitcher or 5 pitches for returning pitcher	1 minute or 8 pitches for new pitcher or 5 pitches for returning pitcher	1 minute or 8 pitches for new pitcher or 5 pitches for returning pitcher
<b>Maximum Runs</b>	Not Applicable	7 runs per inning	5 Runs per inning
<b>Players on Field</b>	9, can play with 8	9, can play with 8	10, can play with 8
<b>Batting Order</b>	Full Roster (CBO)	Full Roster (CBO)	Full Roster (CBO)
<b>Drop 3rd Strike</b>	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Infield Fly Rule</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>On Deck Hitter</b>	No	No	No
<b>Run/Mercy Rule*</b>	15 after 3; 10 after 4; 8 after 5	15 after 3; 10 after 4; 8 after 5	15 after 3; 10 after 4; 8 after 5
<b>Courtesy Runner</b>	Pitcher & Catcher with 2 outs	Pitcher & Catcher with 2 outs	Pitcher & Catcher with 2 outs
<b>Stealing</b>	Ball reaches the batter	Ball reaches the batter	Ball reaches the batter
<b>Runner leaves early</b>	Return to base or same # of bases as the batter on a hit	Return to base or same # of bases as the batter on a hit	Return to base or same # of bases as the batter on a hit
<b>Bat regulation</b>	USA Bat or wood	USA Bat or wood	USA Bat or wood
<b>Appeals</b>	Live ball, official process, not verbal only	Live ball, official process, not verbal only	Live ball, official process, not verbal only
<b>Mound Visits</b>	2 in an inning or 3 in a game per pitcher	2 in an inning or 3 in a game per pitcher	3 in an inning or 4 in a game per pitcher

SOFTBALL	
Majors	AAA
1 hour & 45 minutes	1 hour & 15 minutes
N/A; can play extras in a tie	1 hour & 30 minutes
1 minute or 3 pitches for new pitcher or 2 pitches for returning pitcher	1 minute or 3 pitches for new pitcher or 2 pitches for returning pitcher
Not Applicable	5 Runs per inning
9, can play with 8	10, can play with 8
Full Roster (CBO)	Full Roster (CBO)
Yes	No
Yes	Yes
No	No
15 after 3; 10 after 4; 8 after 5	15 after 3; 10 after 4; 8 after 5
Pitcher & Catcher with 2 outs	Pitcher & Catcher with 2 outs
Ball leaves pitchers hand	Ball reaches the batter
Runner is out	Runner is out
Softball only	Softball only
Live ball, official process, not verbal only	Live ball, official process, not verbal only
2 in an inning or 3 in a game per pitcher	3 in an inning or 4 in a game per pitcher

**Notes:**

There is no 'must-slide' rule in baseball or softball! A runner cannot make malicious contact - elbows or shoulders or kicking - on a fielder. The runner and fielder can make 'contact', but the runner must make an effort to avoid a 'collision.'

A fielder may not block ANY base without the ball.

Coaches may warm up pitchers between innings, Turn it over to the catcher as soon as possible.

**New rules:**

No limits on Jewelry - you don't need to ask a player to take it off

No artificial knobs of choke-up aids on bats. Thumb protectors and pine tar are OK in 2026

Softball only - pitchers can leave the game defensively and are permitted to return to the game as a pitcher one time

Electronic one-way communication devices between the coach and catcher are allowed

\* Run rule clarification - if the losing team has batted 3 times and is losing by 15, or batted 4 times and is losing by 10, or batted 5 times and is losing by 8 runs, then the game is over.

Score reverts back to end of last completed inning if the game ends on drop-dead time or lights go out.

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Latest revision: 2/19/2026