# Significant Rule Changes for 2026

## BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL:

### Rule 1.10 (Note 2) – Use of Pine Tar:

**The use of pine tar or any other similar adhesive substance may be applied to the handle or grip of the bat at all levels of Little League. The substance shall not be added to the surface of the barrel or taper of the bat and shall not cover the USA Baseball logo.**

### Rule 1.10 (A.R. 2) – Products to Assist the Batter:

**Use of thumb protectors is permitted. Products such as choke-knobs and choke-up assistance are not permitted.**

### Rule 1.11 (a)(3) – Sleeves Worn by the Pitcher:

**Sleeves may be worn by the pitcher and do not need to be covered by an undershirt, provided the sleeve is one solid color and is not white or grey.**

### Rule 3.04 – Courtesy Runner:

**If the pitcher and catcher of record are on base with two outs, the offense may use a courtesy runner for both, at the same time. The player who is scheduled to bat soonest (the player who made the first out in the inning) shall be placed on the base closest to scoring.**

### Rule 4.04 (Note 2) – when a Player is Injured, Becomes Ill or Must Leave the Game:

**An injured, ill, or ejected player shall be replaced by the player who recorded the last out.**

## SOFTBALL ONLY:

### Rule 8.06 (b) - Visits to the Pitch and Returning as Pitcher:

**A pitcher once removed as pitcher may return to pitch even if they have no visits remaining. In such cases, the manager or coach may only come out to remove the player as pitcher and is prohibited from conferring with any defensive player.**

**2/10/26**