

<b>2009 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>BASE AWARD, LIVE BALL</b>
<p>USSSA. FP Interp Run scores  ASA 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 trailing 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 bat out; Runner who used altered bat out &amp; ejected.</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>
<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 3.1Bats 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>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<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>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>CLEATS AND TOE PLATES</b>
<p>USSSA 2.4 (Youth) Metal cleats prohibited; ejection; Metal toe plate prohibited.  ASA 3.6.G Youth Metal cleats not allowed. No penalty.  NSA 3.4 (Youth) Metal cleats ...may not be worn. Penalty: player out &amp; ejected. Metal cleats may be worn 16U, 18U, Adult.  Fed 3.2.11 Metal cleats and Metal toe plate allowed. (MPSSAA 2007 NFHS rule – Not Allowed)  NCAA 3.9 Metal cleats &amp; toes legal  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.  ASA 5.7.B 3 per game plus 1 per extra inning; remove pitcher  NSA 6.15 Defense is allowed 1 charged conference per pitcher per inning. Penalty: remove from pitching position for game.  Fed 3.7.1 Three charged conferences per game plus 1 per extra inning; After three remove pitcher  NCAA 6.11.1 1 One charged conference per inning; more not permitted (1 additional for each pitching change); ejection for defying.  Pony 7.10 Three per game plus 1 pre extra inning.</p>

<b>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>CONFERENCE, OFFENSIVE</b>
<p>USSSA 4.8.B One per inning; deny any subsequent; No penalty.  ASA 5.7.a  NSA 5.8 Offense is allowed 1 conference per inning. Penalty one strike on batter  Fed 3.7.2 One charged conference per inning Excess not permitted, No Penalty  NCAA 6.11.2.1 One per inning, excess not allowed, person defying umpire is ejected  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.  ASA 8.10 Player who has not been in game (except as a courtesy runner). Not for both Pitcher and Catcher. Not for DP.  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.  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.  NCAA NR  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  ASA 8-10 Not addressed  NSA NR (4.6) injured courtesy runner not addressed  FED 8-9-6 EXC2 The player for whom she is running may return to run or a legal substitute  NCAA N/A  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.  ASA 8-10-G Illegal runner and disqualified  NSA No penalty  FED 8-9-7 considered to be an unreported substitute  NCAA N/A  Pony</p>
<b>DH/DP ON DEFENSE</b>
<p>USSSA 5.4.B DH may play defensive; DH role terminated for game  ASA 4.3.e DP may play defensive  NSA 4.2.a DH may play defensive; DH role terminated for game.  Fed 3.3.6.e DP may play defensive  NCAA 8.2 any 9 of 10 can play defensive  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  ASA 4.3.b DP &amp; Flex; Flex in 10<sup>th</sup> position  NSA 4.1.a DH listed in proper batting order. “defensive player” list first in designated substitute box.  Fed 3.3.6.b DP &amp; Flex; Flex in 10<sup>th</sup> position  NCAA 8.2.1.2 DP &amp; Flex; Flex listed in 10<sup>th</sup> batting position  Pony 8.14 DP &amp; Flex; Flex in 10<sup>th</sup> position</p>
<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 8.19.C 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>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>DOUBLE FIRST BASE, USE OF</b>
<p>USSSA 8.19.E/F The batter-runner or runner may touch the white or colored base with no play being attempted or after reaching First</p> <p>ASA 8.2.m After reaching First, either base may be used.</p> <p>NSA 8.8. nt 1 Double First Base. After reaching First, no provision to use orange base.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ASA POE 20 continued fake tags should result in ejection</p> <p>NSA 8.5.b.3 Nt A Fake Tag is obstruction and calls for automatic ejection.</p> <p>Fed 3.6.2 Obstruction; Team warning then restricted to dugout</p> <p>NCAA 12.16 Obstruction; No automatic ejection; subsequent violation - one base award.</p>
<b>FITNESS OF GROUNDS</b>
<p>USSSA 4.1. Fitness of the grounds decided by umpire.</p> <p>ASA 5.2 Solely Home Plate Umpire</p> <p>NSA 5.2 Tournament Director, Tournament UIC, Home Plate Umpire</p> <p>Fed 4.1.1/4.1.7 Home coach to start game/Umpires after game starts</p> <p>NCAA 5.2.1/5.2.2 On site administrator/coaches before game; Plate Umpire during game.</p> <p>Pony 5.2 Solely Home Plate Umpire</p>
<b>FOOT IN BOX BETWEEN PITCHES</b>
<p>USSSA 8.6 NR</p> <p>ASA 7.3.c batter must have one foot in box between pitches</p> <p>NSA NR No Rule requiring one foot in box between pitches</p> <p>Fed</p> <p>NCAA</p> <p>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 and is legally caught by the catcher.</p> <p>ASA 1 sharply &amp; directly from bat to hand (no reference to height)</p> <p>NSA 1.27 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> <p>Fed 2-25-2: sharply &amp; directly from bat to hand (no reference to height)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>ASA No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky</p> <p>NSA 3.3 No mention of adhesive, sticky, tacky</p> <p>Fed 1-4-4: Added that gloves may not be designed or altered to create an adhesive, sticky, and/or tacky surface.</p> <p>NCAA 3-7 glove is illegal if illegal use of a tacky substance.</p>
<b>GLOVE, PITCHER'S</b>
<p>USSSA 2.9.B All gloves maximum of 2 colors - not entirely white, optic yellow nor gray; no circle appearing like ball.</p> <p>ASA 3.4 One solid color or multicolor; not color of ball.</p> <p>NSA 3.3 Pitchers may not wear white or grey glove</p> <p>Fed 1.4.2 No glove/mitt white, grey, optic; maximum of two colors; no circle</p> <p>NCAA 3.7.2 Pitcher's glove may be tan, brown, grey or black or combination of those colors; lacing-any color not same as ball</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ASA 3.4 Gloves/mitts may be worn by any player.</p> <p>NSA 3.3 Only catchers &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> basemen may wear mitts.</p> <p>Fed 1.4.1 Gloves/mitts can be worn by all</p> <p>NCAA 3.7 Any player may use either.</p> <p>Pony 3.7 Gloves may be worn by any player, but mitts may be used only by the catcher and first baseman.</p>

<b>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<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.</p> <p>ASA 3.5.e Runner out, ball remains alive</p> <p>NSA 3.7 Note If a runner deliberately removes helmet during playing action, dead ball, runner out</p> <p>Fed 1.6 2 Required for live ball; Penalty: 3.6.1 Team warning; then player and coach restricted; no out.</p> <p>NCAA 3.8.a EFFECT: Out call, no ejection; force play still on</p> <p>Pony 3.11.e runner out</p>
<b>HUDDLES, ON FIELD</b>
<p>USSSA NR No Rule on on-field huddles between innings.</p> <p>ASA NR</p> <p>NSA NR</p> <p>FED 2006 Points Of Emphasis #2 –Team should not huddle on the field after a third out while the other team is warming up.</p> <p>NCAA NR</p> <p>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</p> <p>ASA 6.1-8 EFFECT If batter hits ball; advances safely to first and all runners advance one base, illegal pitch nullified.</p> <p>NSA. 6.8 PENALTY If pitch is hit; all runners including batter advance one base, the play stands.</p> <p>Fed 6.2 EXCEPTION If batter hits ball or becomes a runner; the coach shall have the option of result of play or penalty</p> <p>NCAA 10.8 EFFECT-1 If batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances one base, the play stands.</p> <p>Pony.</p>
<b>ILLEGAL PLAYER</b>
<p>USSSA 5.7 Illegal player &amp; coach ejected, Out if just completed turn at bat.</p> <p>ASA (Def) Player enters without legal right 4.6.F Illegal player disqualified.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FED 3.4.1 Illegal substitute penalty - restricted to bench and out.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>ASA (Def) Player not meeting requirements 4.6.F.</p> <p>NSA (def) 1.32 unregistered or not meeting requirements. Penalty Forfeit</p> <p>FED Not Defined</p> <p>NCAA Not Defined</p> <p>Pony (Def) 1.35. legally member who is ineligible to play as result of a rule; removed from game</p>
<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</p> <p>ASA 4.10 Stop play for injured player who needs immediate attention</p> <p>NSA NR No Rule to Stop play for injured player</p> <p>Fed</p> <p>NCAA 15-10.3 When necessary to protect an injured player, the umpire may suspend play immediately.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ASA 8.7.J If interferes before out and prevents double play, succeeding runner also out.</p> <p>NSA 8.</p> <p>Fed 8.6.10 PENALTY interference before out and prevents double play, succeeding runner is out.</p> <p>NCAA 12.19.1 EFFECT 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</p> <p>ASA 8.6.F Umpire interferes with catcher's throw. Delayed dead ball. Runners returned if safe.</p> <p>NSA NR</p> <p>Fed 5.1.2.c If runner out, line ball; If runner safe, runners returned</p> <p>NCAA 4.11.2.3 Umpire Interference – Delayed dead ball; if runner not out, runners returned</p>

**2009 Fast Pitch Rules****INTERFERENCE, UMPIRE hit with fair ball**

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

**JEWELRY**

USSSA 2.5 (Youth) Jewelry prohibited; player can not play; 11.2.D Team Warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> offensive restrict to bench & eject coach  
 ASA 3.6.f exposed & 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

**LINE UP CARD**

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 batting 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

**LINE UP CARD SUBSTITUTES**

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

**LOOK BACK RULE**

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.

**LOOK BACK RULE IN EFFECT**

USSSA 8.2 Look Back Rule is in effect only if pitcher has ball (in hand or glove, under arm/chin, between legs).  
 ASA 8.7.T pitcher has possession & 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 (not necessarily in either hand)  
 NCAA 12.21.1 pitcher has ball (in hand or glove, under arm/chin, between legs)

**LOOK BACK RULE OVERRUNNING 1<sup>st</sup> BASE**

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 12.21.6.5 if runner is heading back to 1<sup>st</sup> base within the base path extended, she may go to either base

**MERCY RULE**

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 & 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.

<b>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<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 unless warned previously then additional one base award</p>
<b>ON DECK BATTER</b>
<p>USSSA 1.2.A/7.1.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>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 or partially on the surface of the pitcher's plate (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 or partially 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 (min ½ pivot foot on top surface), within the 24 inch width of the pitcher's plate  Pony 7.1 Pivot foot on rubber; non pivot on or behind.</p>

<b>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<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>PITCHING POSITION, TIME</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.K/D Pitcher has 20 seconds to release next pitch; 10 sec after touch to release; Penalty Illegal Pitch  ASA 6.3.O Pitcher has 20 seconds to release next pitch. Illegal Pitch  NSA 6.5.f 10 seconds to take signal from catcher; No more than 10 sec after hands together. Ball awarded  Fed 6.2.3 Pitcher has 20 seconds to release next pitch; Ball (Not illegal pitch)  NCAA 10.18 10 seconds in position; once pitcher/batter in position, 10 seconds hands together; 5 seconds deliver; BALL (not illegal)  Pony</p>
<b>PITCHING WINDUP</b>
<p>USSSA 6.1.G.4 not more than one revolution of the arm in the windmill pitch.  ASA 6.3.D not make two revolutions of the arm in the windmill pitch.  NSA 6.6.d. There is no more than one revolution of the arm in the windmill pitch.  Fed 6.1.4.d maximum of one and a half clockwise revolutions.  NCAA 10.6 not more than 1-1/2 revolutions of the pitching arm  Pony 7.4.D She does not make two revolutions of the arm</p>
<b>PLAYERS TO COMPLETE GAME</b>
<p>USSSA 5.2 may continue with one less unless ejection. Leaving runner out.  ASA 4.1.d.2 may finish with 8 and take an out. Leaving runner out.  NSA 4.4.b Team ... may finish with eight (8) players if an injury occurs; out taken when player due up. Leaving runner out.  Fed 4.3.1.g may finish with 8 and take an out; 3.3.8.d. Leaving runner replaced by previous batter not on base.  NCAA 8.1 must have nine players in game.  Pony 4.4.a may finish with 8 and take an out</p>
<b>PLAYERS TO START GAME</b>
<p>USSSA 5.2.B may start with eight; absent player in 9<sup>th</sup> batting position.  ASA 4.1.d.1 may start with 8 and take an out  NSA 4 1 A team shall consist of a minimum of nine (9) players  Fed 3.1.1. Each team must start with nine players  NCAA 8.1 must have nine players at all times  Pony 4.4.a Team must have 9 players to start a game.</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>REENTRY</b>
<p>USSSA 5.6 Starters &amp; Substitutes may re-enter  ASA 4.5.a Starters &amp; Substitutes may re-enter  NSA 4.3 Starters &amp; Substitutes may re-enter.  Fed 3.3.5 Starters &amp; Substitutes may re-enter  NCAA 8.6 Starters may reenter; Substitutes may not reenter  Pony 4.3.d Any player may re-enter</p>
<b>REGULATION GAME, INNINGS FOR</b>
<p>USSSA 4.6.C.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.</p>

<b>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<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 14.8 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>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.B Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> offense player restricted to bench and coach ejected. ASA NSA Fed NCAA 11.8.5.2 Warning; 2 <sup>nd</sup> time batter out (defensive coach option) Pony
<b>UNCONSCIOUS PLAYER</b>
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
<b>UNDERGARMENTS</b>
USSSA 3.8.B All exposed undergarments solid color; undershirts same; undershorts same 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 must be a solid color - black, white, gray or a single solid school color 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.
<b>UNREPORTED SUBSTITUTE</b>
USSSA 5.5 All play stands. First offense: A team warning is issued. Second offense: The manager is ejected. ASA 4.6.C Unreported substitute is now in the game (not disqualified) and all rules regarding reentry still apply 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 & coach restricted to bench. NCAA 8.3.3 Offending team reports <u>1st</u> - no penalty; Offended team reports after pitch, 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.

<b>2009 Fast Pitch Rules</b>
<b>WHEELCHAIRS</b>
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.
<b>10&amp;Under DROP THIRD STRIKE</b>
USSSA 15.3 10&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 & NCAA N/A