

IMPORTANT NOTES

The Playing Rules Committee, at its December 2014 meeting, voted to reorganize and recodify the Official Baseball Rules into a more logical and organized manner. No wording or language was changed (other than the amendments); only the order and placement of the rules were modified. Throughout the text of this edition, each rule number and Comment is followed by, in parentheses, the corresponding rule number from which the “new” rule originated.

Summary of Rule Changes

Note: Rule Changes are underlined in this edition of the Official Baseball Rules.

- Amended Rule 3.05 to increase the length of the first baseman’s glove or mitt to a maximum of 13 inches.
- Amended Rule 3.06 to increase the measurement of a fielder’s glove to a maximum of 13 inches from top to bottom.
- Added new Rule 4.04(c) regarding postponed games and “No Games.”
- Amended Rules 5.04(b)(4)(A) and 5.04(b)(4)(B), the Batter’s Box Rule, to include additional situations when the batter may legally step out of the batter’s box.
- Amended Rule 5.06(b)(3)(C) and 5.06(b)(3)(C) Comment regarding a fielder stepping or falling into an out-of-play area.
- Amended Rule 5.08(b) regarding game-ending plays.
- Amended Rule 5.09(a)(1) Comment to include that a fielder stepping into any out-of-play area will render the ball dead, and all runners shall be awarded one base.
- Amended Rule 5.09(b)(9), passing of runners, by adding Comment and Play.
- Amended Rule 5.09(c)(3) regarding the batter-runner overrunning or oversliding first base.
- Amended Rule 5.12(b)(6) regarding a fielder stepping or falling into an out-of-play area after catching a fly ball.
- Amended Rule 6.01(a)(1) regarding interference by the batter-runner when he hinders the catcher attempting to field the ball after a third strike not caught.
- Added new Rule 6.01(j) regarding a runner sliding to bases on double-play attempts. Cross-references to this rule added to appropriate rules as necessary.

- Added new Rule 6.03(a)(4) regarding a batter who throws his bat and hits the catcher. Exception now applies to Rules 6.03(a)(3) and 6.06(a)(4). Comment now applies to 6.03(a)(3) and 6.06(a)(4).
- Renumbered previous Rule 6.03(a)(4) to Rule 6.03(a)(5) and renumbered previous Rule 6.03(a)(4) Comment to Rule 6.03(a)(5) Comment.
- Amended Rule 7.01(e) regarding postponed, suspended, and “No Games.”
- Changed the title of Rule 7.02 to “Suspended, Postponed, and Tie Games.”
- Amended Rules 7.02(b)(4), 7.02(b)(4)(A), and 7.02(b)(4)(B), and 7.02(b)(5), and 7.02(b) Comment regarding regulation, suspended, or tie games not completed prior to the last scheduled game between two Clubs.
- Changed the numbering of 7.02(b)(4)(C) to 7.02(b)(5) and amended that section regarding postponed, suspended, or tie games that have not been completed prior to the last scheduled game between two Clubs.
- Amended the definitions of “Touch” and “Tag” (Definitions follow Rule 9.00, The Rules of Scoring). Added new Comment to the definition of “Touch.”
- Revised Diagram #4 (Appendix 4) on page 156 to reflect new maximum length of fielder’s glove.

In addition, minor typographical errors were corrected from the previous Edition.