

# **UTAH NCS RULES 2026**

## **LEAGUE NIGHT**

(Please double check city rules any rule not changed or noted revert back to here and any not listed here revert to the National NCS rules, also we use the 2023 NSA rules for gameplay, field dimension etc. not specifically written here or online)

## **THE GAME**

- A Game will consist of 7 innings or 50 minutes. No new inning may begin after 50 minutes. In the event of a tie 1 international tiebreaker inning will occur (last out will start at 2<sup>nd</sup>). If game remains tied after the international tiebreaker inning the game will end in a tie. Playoffs game will continue in the international tie breaker rule until a winner determined.

- Dimensions. Pitching rubber to be 53 ft. Bases to be 70 ft. A safety base (orange or otherwise) at 1<sup>st</sup> will be utilized. Runners on an initial play at 1<sup>st</sup> must use the safety base. If the runner only contacts the inside base the umpire can call the runner out. If the runner contacts both bases or any part of the safety base it is considered as touching the complete safety base. Some leagues will utilize a scoring line at home that will begin at the corner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side batters box and extend to the fence (or 3 feet off home plate) If there is a safety line, once they pass the commitment line (drawn at the halfway point between 3<sup>rd</sup> and home) the runner may not return to 3<sup>rd</sup> base and it becomes a force play only. No tags allowed at home. In order for the runner to score they must have a foot on the ground on or passed the line before the defender has control of the ball and has touched home plate. In the air crossing the line does not count. No sliding at home when a safety line is utilized and running through the batters box or inside the 3 foot barrier of home plate can result in runner being called out.

- There is no must slide rule but runners must try to avoid excessive contact with fielders. If deemed excessive or unnecessary by the umpire player will be called out and be subject to ejection.

- Run rules will be in effect in all leagues. 20/15/10. 20 runs after or in home half of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning 15 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. The “FLIP FLOP” rule only be used at the discretion of the umpire or if time is a factor.

- Men’s and Women’s will consist of 10-12 players when utilizing the Extra players rules. Teams can play with a minimum of 8 players. Less then that will resort in a forfeit. A 10 minute grace period will be allowed on the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the night only. But the clock will be running.

- Coed will utilize the 5/5 format. You may play 6/6 if utilizing the extra players rules. Batting order must alternate between males and females. You can have more females than males with no penalty, but if you have 1 more male than females you will take an auto out in the missing female spot in the batting order. Maximum of 1 additional male batter. No cascading batting orders. Fielding will be 2 males and 2 females in both the infield and outfield with a pitcher/catcher combination of 1 male and 1 female.

- Clean and sober and Cities that have leagues that run a 7/3 format will have an alternating batting order through the number of females on the lineup then can bat the rest of the males to the top of the lineup. Max 12 batters in this format.

- Bat regulations (please note these have changed) a bat to be legal for Utah NCS leagues must have a visible 2012 or newer USSSA 220 or 240 thumbprint, or NSA 2012 bat stamps are allowed. No ASA only bats. No senior bats period. No illegal or altered bats. If a player hits the ball with an illegal/altered bat the umpire must discover this illegal action before the next legal pitch either by observation or appeal by the defense. If caught with a senior bat or altered bat batter will be ejected immediately and suspended from NCS play until you have contacted and been cleared to play by the State Director. An umpire may inspect a bat at any time for cracks, rattles etc and if it is deemed broken or any other concerns arise by umpire they can rule the bat illegal for use and remove it from the game. If used after that the 1<sup>st</sup> time will result in an out 2<sup>nd</sup> time will result in an ejection of the player and the coach. If you feel it was removed from play incorrectly contact the State Director.

-Wood bat leagues the bat must say Softball or Official softball. No wood baseball bats allowed. Demarini Corndog is allowed.

### **-Ball**

As some of our cities still have stockpiles of old balls We will be allowing use of balls stamped with any of the following stamps, NCS stamped or NSA Icon balls with a current and visible association stamp. As long as it is 44/400, 44/375 etc. It is the responsibility of the pitcher and defense to make sure the ball has a proper stamp prior to the pitch. If in doubt call time and show to the umpire. Don't throw in any non approved ball. Pitchers if in doubt present the ball to the umpire. NOTE... Once out cities have used up their old stockpiles of NSA balls only NCS stamped balls will be allowed. Some cities are already to that point. So again when in doubt ask umpire, field monitor or director as to what balls are allowed.

### **•Courtesy Runners**

Men's and Women's – See each leagues rules as they may vary and we will use whatever the city has written. If not Each team will be allowed 1 courtesy runner per inning. Runner must be for the previous batter only and take place before the next legal pitch.

Coed- Each team will be allowed 1 courtesy runner per inning per gender. For the batter only and before the next legal pitch. Males must run for males and females for females.

Note- Anyone on the roster can run, does not have to be the last out. You cannot run for the courtesy runner. In the situation where the courtesy runner's spot in the order comes up while they are on base it will result in a dead ball out so plan accordingly.

\*(Note) IN THE EVENT A TEAM BATS THROUGH THEIR ORDER THE SAME PERSON MAY BE RAN FOR AGAIN (Doesn't have to be the same runner, just the same person being ran for).

•When utilizing a double base at 1<sup>st</sup> base, the batter-runner must touch the safety base (usually orange). A runner must touch all or part of the safety base and the defender must

touch the white base when the initial play is being attempted at 1<sup>st</sup> base unless safety (in the umpires discretion) dictates that they switch to avoid contact. Touching any part of the safety base is considered to have touched the entire base. Failing to properly touch the designated bag or touching the wrong base is the umpires call and not an appeal play. After the initial play at 1<sup>st</sup> both bases become one base.

### **Pitching**

Pitching distance will be 53 feet. For league play the Pitcher must be in contact with the rubber at the time of release. The Ball must be clearly presented then delivered in an underhand motion, no pumps, fakes or jukes (also no between the legs, behind back, quick pitches etc). Any of these will result in a Dead Ball call and a ball will be issued to the batter. For league we will utilize the mat strike zone. Any pitch between 5 ft and 10 ft from the ground that touches any part of the mat without touching the plate will be called a strike. No quick pitching, ball must be clearly present for 2 second after umpire calls play before delivering. If warned for repeated violations and done again the umpire may remove pitcher from pitching for the remainder of the game.

### **•Batting**

The batter will take his or her position inside the batters box when the umpire calls them in. The count will start with 1 ball and 1 strike. No courtesy fouls will be allowed. After the first pitch resulting in a strike (foul ball, called strike etc) the next swung at pitch must to be fair or the batter will be out. When in a must be fair situation In the event of a caught foul ball the play is dead and no runners may advance.

°Batters must start and remain inside the batters box. If a batter makes contact with a pitched ball while his or her foot is completely outside of the batter's box the result will be a dead ball and the batter will be called out. All runners will return to the base they occupied at the time of the pitch. Touching any of the line is considered to be inside the box. (NOTE, some times the box isn't the correct size and that unlike baseball where batters set up as far back in the box as possible, as long as the batter makes contact with their back foot behind the front of home plate they will be considered inside the box as well as long as they don't step out of the sides of the box as well).

°Ball is dead once it bounces and may not be hit after.

°Homerun rules may vary by city. Check your city rules for homeruns allowed etc. All homeruns will be hit and sit. Some cities provide game balls. If they do Please assist us and the cities by getting your homerun ball. We understand at times the ball is not findable or has been picked up by someone else. But If an attempt to find the ball has not taken place by the next at bat by the individual who hit the homerun they will be declared out. Help us keep the cities costs and thusly the teams costs down and get your balls. Or have a ball ready to donate back to the league but make sure it has the proper stamps. If you receive balls with your league fees you are responsible for throwing in a ball on all homeruns and foul balls out of play. Make sure you throw in a legal ball. If caught throwing in a non approved ball 1<sup>st</sup> offense will be issued a warning, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense an out will be assessed 3<sup>rd</sup> offense will result in an ejection of the coach 4<sup>th</sup> offense a forfeit will be declared.

°Coed only, if a male is walked the female behind him has to bat unless there are 2 outs in which case she will have the option to take the at bat or to walk. The walked male automatically goes to 2<sup>nd</sup> base regardless of number of outs.

°IF A PITCHER OR DEFENDER (INFIELDER) LEAVES THE GAME BECAUSE OF A BATTED BALL INJURY, THE BAT WILL BE TAKEN BY THE UMPIRE OR FIELD MONITOR AND REMOVED FROM PLAY UNTIL THE STATE DIRECTOR HAS TESTED/INSPECTED THE BAT. A 10.00 DOLLAR TESTING FEE WILL BE CHARGED TO THE OWNER OR PERSON SWINGING THE BAT BEFORE IT WILL BE RETURNED. STATE DIRECTOR CAN AND WILL BAN INDIVIDUALS CAUGHT WITH AN ALTERED OR ILLEGAL BAT. IF YOU ARE KNOWINGLY SWINGING A DIRTY BAT DO NOT BRING IT OUT HERE.

•Defense

Men's and Women's- up to 10 defenders are allowed. Positioning will be up to the coach or captain. Defense may play any configuration they please. IE middle infielders, rover etc.

Coed- since we will utilize the 12 inch softball for men and the 11 inch softball for women the defense shall be 2 males and 2 females in both the infield and the outfield with the

pitcher and catcher being a combination of male/female. No rovers allowed and all infielders must start with both feet on the dirt until the ball is pitched. Only 2 infielders on either side of 2<sup>nd</sup> base before pitch. If the infielders start on the grass and it is called by the umpire the hitting team can choose to take the result of the play or replay the at bat with the count accrued at the time of the offense. Females can request to hit the 12 inch ball, but if it isn't requested and the batting team discovers the big ball was batted by a female they can choose to take the result of the play or to choose to take the at bat over with a new 1-1 count.

\*\*Note that in coed if playing a fielder down the defensive alignment you start the inning with is the one you must utilize the entire inning. No shuffling from 3 infielders to 4 when a female comes to bat.

- No foul or abusive language will be tolerated. No fighting will be tolerated. Penalties for each of these violations are spelled out in each cities "Player Code of Conduct". Team captains are responsible to see that all team players know and adhere to the "Code of Conduct." Use of the "F" word may result in an automatic ejection. If ejected you will be ejected for your next game as well. Fighting will result in an ejection from all NCS leagues and tournaments until cleared by the State Director.

- Pitchers must have a helmet on in order to pitch. Not just a face mask. Safety is a main concern. Shin guards and other protection is recommended but not required.

- ONLY PEOPLE ON YOUR ROSTER WHO HAVE SIGNED THE ROSTER ARE ALLOWED IN THE DUGOUT. NO CHILDREN IN THE DUGOUT!!! NO EXCEPTIONS.

- Music may be played from your dugout IF it is appropriate and when you are batting. Please turn it down if heading into the field as to not have a battle of the bands going. Acceptable volume and content will be determined by the umpire.

- IF you choose to protest an illegal player you must do so before the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning or you lose the right to do so. No waiting until bottom of the last inning being behind and deciding to roster check the opposing team