

**WOSL Rule Amendments & Modifications**  
**3-24-17**  
**National Federation of State High School Association**  
**(U-12) Grades 5 – 6**

1. Players cannot be 13 before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and must be in grade 6 or lower.
2. Any parent ejected from a game will result in their daughter being ejected from the game. The player must serve a one game suspension at the completion of said game.
3. Each team is permitted 7 turns at bat. Each team must start with at least 8 players but may not field more than 10 players in the field at one time. The defense may not have more than 6 players on the infield with any fielder closer than 30 feet when the pitcher releases the ball.
4. Mandated distances between the bases shall be 60 feet. Between the rear tip of home plate and the front edge of the pitchers plate shall be 40 feet.
5. A fast pitch strike zone will be used, which is any part of the ball that crosses any part of the plate and is between the top of the knees and the batters forward armpit.
6. Players may re-enter more than once. A player may re-enter the pitching position one time. All players must play 2 innings defensively providing the game was not shortened less than 4 innings.
7. No coach or player may address or refer to another team's player by name or by any term, that identifies another member of an opposing team for the purpose of harassing, ridiculing, embarrassing or intimidating. Players may chatter but must refrain from yelling swing at batter.
8. The maximum amount of runs a team can score in any inning is 6 runs. If a team is winning by 13 runs after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning (or after 4 ½ if the home team) the game shall be officially over. If both teams desire and time permits, teams may continue without regards to keeping score. No new inning shall be started after 1 hour & 40 minutes of first pitch. Official game is 4 ½ innings if home team is ahead. The time limit will be enforced for the first 2 rounds of the tournament. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> round there will not be a time limit on tournament games.
9. Game will be forfeited if a team cannot provide 8 players to start & finish the game.

10. No player shall pitch more than 5 innings in any game. One pitch constitutes an inning. A player may re-enter the pitching position one time.

Penalties / Infractions – Each player shall be warned after committing an illegal pitch by the umpire. After the first warning, the pitcher may be called for an illegal pitch by the umpire and the penalty shall be a called ball or the result of the play. The opposing coach has the choice. If a pitcher hits 5 batters in a game they must be removed and cannot re-enter into the game as a pitcher.

11. A continuous batting order will be used i.e. everyone is in the batting order. If a player is unable to bat when it is their turn for any reason, an out shall be recorded.

12. There is no infield fly rule.

13. Courtesy runners are allowed for the catcher, or any injured player unable to run the bases. The last player to record an out shall take the place of the runner.

14. 12” ball must be used.

15. No metal cleats are allowed.

16. **On a dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> strike the batter is automatically out.**

## WOSL Sliding Rule

WHEN A RUNNER (OTHER THAN A BATTER-RUNNER APPROACHING FIRST BASE) IS APPROACHING A BASE WHERE A FIELDER EITHER HAS THE BALL OR IS ABOUT TO CATCH THE BALL, IT IS THE RUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO AVOID CONTACT WITH THE FIELDER BY EITHER SLIDING OR ATTEMPTING TO EVADE THE FIELDER. A RUNNER WHO FAILS TO SLIDE OR ATTEMPT TO EVADE THE FIELDER MAY BE CALLED OUT EVEN IF HE/SHE IS NOT TAGGED OR THE BALL IS NOT HELD BY THE FIELDER. A FLAGRANT ATTEMPT TO CRASH INTO THE FIELDER TO BREAK UP THE PLAY MAY ALSO RESULT IN THE RUNNER'S BEING EJECTED FROM THE GAME.

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The intent of this rule is to avoid injury. If a fielder has the ball and is waiting to make a tag, the runner must slide, return toward his previous base, or attempt to run around the fielder. This will prevent the fielder's being blindsided by the runner or the ball.

Please note that the rule does NOT say that the runner must slide. The runner must slide or attempt to avoid contact, which can be done by trying to return to a previous base or run around the fielder. Of course, in these instances, rules about running out of the baseline to avoid a tag still apply. There are going to be some times when the runner is going to be out and there isn't much he/she can do about it.

Even between bases, a runner must still attempt to evade a tag; he/she may not run into a fielder who has the ball or is attempting to play the ball.

If a fielder neither has the ball nor is playing the ball, the fielder must stay out of the runner's way. Otherwise, "obstruction" may be called.

In all cases, the invocation of this rule is a judgment called by the umpire. Umpires should be instructed to call this rule as firmly and consistently as practical, but it remains within the umpire's discretion not to invoke this rule when there is negligible, incidental contact.

If most cases where a play is about to be made on a runner, the runner is more likely to be safe if he/she slides, so the rule encourages good play as well as safe play. In any case, if players are instructed to slide at a base when there is any possibility that a play may be made on them, there will be very few instances of controversy.