

## 2019 Review List for Umpires

Flip coin for home team. Check bats against 2019 & past (2003-04 & 09-18) USA lists of illegal bats. Game time limit... ➡ no new inning begins *after 55 minutes* pass...be ready to play 15 minutes prior to your team's LISTED scheduled start time. Forfeit called if teams not ready 5 minutes after DECLARED start time.

Designate 3 "Female" positions in batting order and 3 females must be in the field defensively at all times.

➡ Extra Hitter is 11th batter in the lineup and is a starting position. Starters may reenter the game only once as per USA Rules and **MUST BAT IN ORIGINAL SPOT IN BATTING ORDER** when reentered.

➡ **NEW USA COURTESY RUNNER RULE:** Once per inning, the batting team may use ANY player on the team (regardless of other substitution rules' limitations) to substitute for a runner (same gender) who has reached base. **NOTE** that if the courtesy runner is also in the batting order, and that position comes to bat while the runner is still on base, then that position shall be declared vacant and an out called.

Report all substitutions to umpire or official scorekeeper.

➡ Teams declare at the pregame conference their outfield defensive alignment (3-outfielders who must remain outside the cones at least 120 feet or twice the length of the base path from home plate until the ball is hit, and a short fielder-who must remain inside the cones until the ball is hit or 4 across-all of whom remain outside the cones until the ball is hit) and must play that alignment for all batters during the game.

Pitcher/catcher must be one male and one female.

➡ *As per USA Rules*, the pitcher must pitch from a stopped position **ON THE RUBBER** and **MAY** use backhanded delivery.

Balls and strikes are called from a zone of **THE PLATE PLUS 4 INCHES ON THE OUTSIDE AND 2 INCHES ON THE INSIDE OF THE PLATE** which crosses between the lowest knee or the highest shoulder when the batter takes a natural stance...in other words, a strike will be a hittable pitch.

➡ A ball is called when the ball does not cross the strike zone, is more than 12 feet high, **HITS ANY PART OF THE PLATE INCLUDING THE BLACK EDGE**, or is lower than the pitcher's head.

If a male batter walks, the designated\* female batter after him may also walk only when 2 outs. *The male batter/base runner goes to second base in all cases* (whether or not the female bats).

➡ Count starts at **ONE (1) ball, ONE (1) strike**. A foul after 2 strikes is subject to the USA courtesy rule. If extra innings are played, the count continues at 1 ball and 1 strike for all batters.

➡ The home run limit is three (3). Both teams must reach the limit before going one up at a time. Home runs not assisted off a defensive player and other than the first 3 or one up per team after the limit will result in the batter being awarded first base.

➡ The losing team must bat four times with a ten (10) run rule in effect (except finals), unless twenty (20) runs is reached by a team...at which point it's the last full inning to play if a ten (10) run difference.

Baserunners must avoid opponents fielding batted or thrown balls at all times. If the fielder blocks the base, a **RUNNER MAY COLLIDE WITH OPEN PALMS OR BODY ONLY...NO HEAD, SHOULDER, OR FOREARMS**. ➡ ➡ Male baserunners may not run into a female fielder unless he is sliding.

➡ The **WHITE PART** of first base is for the fielder and is in fair territory. The **colored part of first base** is for the runner (except for rounding after a clear hit), and is in **fair territory**...depending on the foul line.

➡ **COACHES MUST STAY IN COACHES' BOXES AND ONLY PLAYERS ON THE ROSTER MAY BE IN THE DUGOUT**. Only the on deck batter may be on the field for the batting team. **ALL OTHER PLAYERS AND EQUIPMENT ARE TO BE IN THE DUGOUT OR OFF OF THE FIELD OF PLAY**.

➡ No overthrow is automatic. **AS LONG AS THE BALL IS WITHIN THE FENCE, THE BALL IS LIVE AND PLAYERS MAY ADVANCE AT THEIR OWN RISK**.

Any questions? **PLAY BALL!**