

2025 USA Softball Rule Changes with Comments as of October 31st, 2024**NOTE: All changes below are EFFECTIVE January 1, 2025, unless otherwise noted**

Rule 4, Section 7C [1B&5]

1B. An exclusively one-way electronic communication device to relay signals to the offense.

5. An exclusively one-way electronic communication device may be used by the defense to relay the pitch or play call from the dugout.

Effect: If a two-way communication device is used, disqualification or ejection from the game occurs after a warning.

Comments: Allows the use of one-way electronic communication to all players both on offense and defense.

Rule 5, Section 1 Exception: In the Championship game only, the undefeated team shall decide the home team. If there is more than one undefeated team or in the event of an "IF" game, the home team shall be decided by a coin toss.

Comments: Allows in the Championship game, the undefeated team to decide if they want to be home or visitors.

Rule 6C, Section 1B Exception: (Men's, Women's and Coed Class C, D and E/REC) The pitcher may take a position from the front edge of the pitcher's plate to 6 feet behind the pitcher's plate within the 24-inch width of the pitcher's plate with both feet firmly on the ground.

Comments: Allows pitchers to position themselves up to 6 feet behind and within the 24" pitcher's plate to start their pitch in the listed classifications.

Rule 8, Section 9A [2]

2. Any eligible player may be a courtesy runner once per inning for any player other than the pitcher. This player or any other eligible player may also courtesy run for the pitcher whenever the pitcher is on base.

Comments: Allows the same player to be the courtesy runner for the pitcher and one position player in the same half inning.