

North Shore District Softball Association Inc.

NSDSA 2020 Rule Changes Addendum

The following rule changes are to be read in conjunction with the NSDSA 2019 Competition Rules Ver 3 dated 10 June 2019 and replace the relevant rules in that document. The Rule changes have been divided up into permanent rule changes and 2020 rule changes for COVID-19 which are only effective for this 2020 season.

Permanent Rule Changes

Division 2 Pitching

All Division 2 players are to use an 11" ball and pitch from 40' except for any U16 Rep players who must pitch off 43'.

A Grade Batting Through up to 12 players

All A Grade teams may now elect to bat through regular players listed in the scorebook to a maximum of 12 with unlimited positional changes, the same as every other grade. They may of course continue to elect to only bat 9 in which case normal substitution rules will apply.

Division 4 Pitching Rule Changes

Commencing this Saturday 25 July 2020 (Week 4) Div 4 games will trial the following:

- The team pitcher pitches the first 3 pitches, then, if needed;
- The Batting Team's Coach pitches 2 pitches, then, if needed;
- The tee is brought out.

- If the Team Pitcher happens to pitch a K2, then the batter is out.
- If not then the strike/ball count re-sets when the coach comes on to pitch – the batter cannot be struck out by the Coach nor can they get a walk.
- If the batter does not hit either of the 2 Coach pitches then the Tee is brought out.

The aim is to completely remove the tee after two weeks (week 5) – to promote hitting from a live pitch.

2020 rule changes for COVID-19 which are only effective for the 2020 season.

Game Duration

The game duration is 1 hour and 20 minutes this season. A bell is still used to start and finish all games other than Teeball (1 hour) and Division 4 (1 hour 15 minutes). If there is a play in progress at the sound of the finishing bell then this play will be completed and then Game Called. We do not finish the batter in the box.

No Forfeit if less than 7 players

Rule 8.5 states that "A team competing in any grade except Teeball, Division 4 and Division 5 must have at least seven players available throughout any preliminary series game or a forfeit is declared", for the 2020 season this rule has been suspended so teams can play with any number of players less than 9 without forfeit.

No Minimum Number of Players to Play

Teams are allowed to play with less than 9 players without forfeit for this season. Teams can choose to either play with a reduced number of players OR forfeit the game.

No Play Ups/Downs/Across

Where teams have less than 9 players, play-ups, play downs or play acrosses are no longer allowed.

No Automatic Outs

Automatic outs as required under rule 8.5.2 for A grade and Division 1 are now suspended. Hence there will be no automatic outs for any team playing with less than 9 players.

Process for Ball Usage & Sanitation

- At the start of each game a dedicated person from each team who will maintain the ball sanitation protocol should be advised to the plate umpire.
- At the commencement of the game as well as at the end of each innings (also when returned from out of bounds by someone other than a team member or team official), the ball in play is given to the dedicated person in the dugout who will oversee washing/sanitation then return the ball to the plate umpire.
- The plate umpire will give a ball to the catcher who will return it to the pitcher.
- If the plate umpire does not have a ball bag (often the case with Club umpires) then the ball, after sanitising, can be returned direct to the pitcher/catcher by the ball sanitiser when necessary but must be dried before this happens. This can be achieved by continuing to rub the ball once sanitiser is applied – it works the same as on your hands,