

# Summary of December 2024 Men's Section Rules Changes

## Men's Section Rules and Regulations

Officers (page 1)

Change:

#1.d. to read: "a Registrar appointed by the 3 elected members of the Executive".

e. to read: "an Umpire-in-Chief appointed by the 3 elected members of the Executive"

f. to read: "a Chairman of the Men's Rules Committee appointed by the 3 elected members of the Executive"

Item (f), the managers' rep, now becomes (g)

There are 3 paragraphs following item 11 under the heading Duties of the Executive. These will be moved up to the bottom of the Officers section.

Duties of the Executive (page 1)

#2. Change to: "approve the appointment of the chairmen of all committees, other than the Rules Committee"

#3. Change to: "make decisions regarding any changes to the rules"

#4. New item, to read: "render decisions on protests"

#8 delete, now redundant.

President-Elect

Change #4 to read: "prior to contacting the web admin to have any rule changes posted to the website, refer the changes to the Constitution Committee for their review, to ensure there is no conflict with the Constitution. Once cleared, communicate with the web admin to affect any amendments and have them posted prior to the annual meeting.

Moved as item 4 to Chairman of the Men's Rules Committee

Chairman of the Men's Rules Committee (page 3)

#3. Change to read: "review the rules and make recommendations for changes"

new #4, see above

Protests (page 4)

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Of the Playing Rules

#3. To read: "all protests of the playing rules must be lodged by the manager of a team"

# Summary of December 2024 Men's Section Rules Changes

## Men's Playing Rules

1. Page 2, General rule #16, Switching Playing Positions, part (a), is to be amended to read as follows;

“Once the defensive team takes the field for their half inning and after the first pitch of that half inning, the players are not allowed to switch positions with other players for that inning. The pitcher may be switched during an inning, but must take the position of his replacement and may not return to pitch until subsequent innings. The rover can play anywhere and is still considered the rover, however he must place himself deeper than the infielders until the ball is hit. The umpire shall give a warning to a rover who is playing out of position. Should a rover playing out of position be involved in making an out, the out shall be nullified.”

2. The subheading ‘EXCEPTIONS’ under rule 16(a) and item (i) is to be deleted and item (ii) is to be covered under player substitution.

3. Page 4, Base Running rule #2 is to be amended after the second sentence to read as follows;

“If there are still teams without a non-runner, then the Player Placement Committee shall designate a non-runner before the start of the season. Players who have declared as non-runners and who remain in the pool, plus any who fail to meet the running requirement, shall be placed on the Reserves, and can only substitute for non-runners.” 4. Page 5, Base Running rule 8(d) is to be amended to read as follows;

“A substitute runner may not have a substitute runner. If an infraction of this rule is brought to the attention of the umpires by the opponents before a pitch is thrown to the next batter, the original runner will be called out and the substitute runner will vacate the base. A substitute runner leaving the game due to injury shall be replaced, and the replacement player shall not be charged with a time running. This does not preclude a substitute runner from leaving the field temporarily for medical treatment and then returning to play.”

4. Page 5, Base Running rule 8(f) is to be amended following the first sentence to read; “If the batter swings and hits the ball and the substitute runner, or any baserunner, drops the rope or leaves the base before the ball is hit, he shall be called out. If a batter swings and misses the ball, or does not swing at a pitch, and the substitute runner, or any baserunner, drops the rope or leaves the base, he shall be called out. When multiple runners jump off base in anticipation of a hit, only the lead runner who jumps off will be called out. The umpires should consult with the official scorekeeper for the game if there is any question about the eligibility of a player to be a substitute runner.”

### **Pitching Screen (page 5)**

In the interests of safety, all pitchers are required to use the pitching screen. The pitching screen shall be 4' wide by 6' high.

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## **Screen Placement (page 6)**

The screen will be placed 30 feet from the front of home plate in a direct line from the center of home plate to the center of the pitching rubber.

## **Pitching screen rules (page 6)**

- #1. A batted ball hitting the screen shall be a dead ball and considered no pitch.
- #2. A pitched ball hitting the screen shall be called a ball.
- #3. A thrown ball hitting the screen is in play. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the pitch is thrown around the screen rather than over it, the pitch shall be called a ball.
- #4. If, in the opinion of the umpire, a pitch is thrown around the screen rather than over it, it shall be called a ball.
- #5. The pitcher must remain behind the screen until the ball is hit.

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## Men's Player Placement Regulations

1. Page 1, rule #1 under the subheading Player Rating Committee, the last sentence will be deleted.
2. Page 3, the subheading will be amended to read, "Player Substitution" and following that to read,

"The Player Substitution Committee is responsible for the substitution of all players who are not available to play due to injury, illness, absence, etc. It is the responsibility of each team manager to request a substitute when needed. At no time shall the manager of a team attempt to make those substitution arrangements or to influence the selection of a substitute player. The Player Substitution Committee and the Field Player Substitution members have the authority to assign subs. Once a substitute player has been assigned, the manager shall accept him.

All players are requested at the beginning of the season to indicate their willingness to sub at the time of registration. Substitutions will be made from the list of those who have agreed to sub. Players may at any time be added to or removed from the substitution list."

Pages 4 and 5 will be amended to read as follows;

### **Substitution Rules**

These rules will be followed whenever possible when selecting substitute players, however, there may be occasions when these rules must be tempered to facilitate the playing of the game. The important thing is to play the game.

1. Substitute players are assigned for one game at a time.
2. A substitute player may not sub in more than one game per day.
3. A substitute player may not sub in two consecutive games for the same team.
4. A player substituting for a non-runner will become a non-runner for that game.
5. Once a substitute player has been assigned, he will play, even if the player being replaced is able and willing to play.

### **Substitution Prior to Game Day**

1. It is important that managers notify the Player Substitution Committee as soon as they know that they will need a sub.
2. Substitutes will be selected from the closest rated available player; a rule of thumb of 8 up or 8 down is suggested. This process will apply to the following pools of players, in order;
  - a) Reserves
  - b) Teams that are idle on game day
  - c) Teams that are playing on game day.

Finding no substitutes, a player closest to the rating from any pool will be selected.

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## Substitution on Game Day

1. Once a player is determined to be unable to play, or unable to continue playing, the manager shall ask the umpire for a substitute.
2. The umpire shall inform the Field Player Substitution member assigned to the game.
3. A player of the closest **lower** rating will be assigned from those in the vicinity. The goal is to get the game underway as soon as possible.
4. Game play will resume once the umpires, managers and official scorekeepers have been informed of the change by the Field Player Substitution member.
5. Field Player Substitution members should be organized so that;
  - a) there is always someone at the field to provide subs
  - b) Player Substitution members who are playing do not provide subs; and
  - c) there are not two people assigning subs for the same game.

## Playoffs

1. Reserves may only be used as substitutes during the first two rounds of the playoffs, i.e., until some teams have been eliminated.
2. Stand-bys will only be assigned during the playoffs.
3. During the playoffs, no player may substitute for the same team twice during the same playoff series.

## Permanent Replacement

When a manager determines that a player cannot continue playing for the remainder of the season, he will request a permanent replacement. If the Player Substitution Committee is satisfied that the request is legitimate, they will assign a permanent replacement to the team from the Reserves, matching a player as close as possible to the rating of the player being replaced.

Players who are in the park, but unable to play due to injury, will be allowed to miss up to 6 consecutive games and remain on their team. After missing a 7th consecutive game, they will be placed on the Reserves and a replacement player will be assigned to the team. Injured players returning after a 6 game absence must play a full game to restart the clock. Players who are not playing because they are absent from the park for personal reasons will be allowed to miss up to 4 consecutive games. After missing a 5th consecutive game, they will be placed on the Reserves and a replacement player will be assigned to the team.

## Pitching

When requesting a replacement for a pitcher, if a manager has another player on the team who can pitch, he may request that the replacement need not be a pitcher. This may result in the replacement being closer to the rating of the player being replaced. If this occurs on game day, it may also result in the substitution being made more quickly.