

# *2010 Softball Managers'*

---

## *Meeting*



March 31<sup>st</sup>

Ames Public Library

# Meeting Overview

---

- League Information
- Miscellaneous Items
- League Rules/Changes
- Softball Fees & Number of Games

# League Info

---

## League

- Assignments
- Team Names by April 15
- Preseason Games (Men's Leagues)
  - April 26 – April 29
  - 55 minute time limit
  - One or two umpires

# League Info

---

## Regular Season Games

- May 2 – middle of August
- League schedules
  - Teams not included without 50% of league fees paid
  - Distributed at least one week prior to start of season
- Times/Days
- Conflicts
- 280' Fences vs. 300' Fences

# League Info

---

## Regular Season Games

- Standings
- Cancellations
  - Information Line: 239-5434, then Press 1
  - 1.5 hours before first scheduled game
- Player Pool (e-mail to managers)
- Awards

# League Info

---

## Season Ending Tournament

- League's choice
- Dependent on regular season length
- Single elimination
- Held same days as league
- Awards

# Dates to Remember

---

- April 15 (4:00pm) – 50% league fees due
- June 28 – Men's ASA District deadline
- June 28 (5:00pm) – Men's ASA District pairings drawn
- July 10 & 11 – Men's ASA District Tournament

# Dates to Remember

---

No league games on the following dates:

- May 31.....Memorial Day
- July 4.....Independence Day
- July 16 – 18.....Iowa Games (youth)
- July 11 or 25.....Iowa Games (adult)

# Miscellaneous Items

---

- District Player Representative
  - Tim Killam



# Miscellaneous Items

---

- APR operating concessions
- No beer sales
- Normal park rules – bring your own
- No drinking during games
- Concession item ideas?

# Miscellaneous Items

---

- Take Pride in the Softball Complex
  - “Leave nothing but cleat marks” (throw your trash away)



# Miscellaneous

---

- Facility items
  - Fencing and lighting on 5 & 6
  - Replace in FY 12/13



# 2010 Playing Rule Changes

12/11/09

## Rule 2, Section 3H:

---

- Half of the base is white (over fair territory) and half of the base is a contrasting color (over foul territory)
- **Comments:** This allows the host of National Championship more options with the foul territory portion of the base.

## **Rules 3, Section 1A Official Bat**

---

1. The Official bat shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear. The official bat shall be marked OFFICIAL SOFTBALL by the manufacturer, be no more than 34 inches long nor exceed 38 ounces in weight. The official bat shall not be more than 2.250 inches in diameter at its largest part, including any tolerance for expansion.

## **Rules 3, Section 1A Official Bat (cont'd)**

---

The official bat shall be smooth and round to 0.050 inches in diameter and bear either the ASA 2000 certification mark or the ASA 2004 certification mark as shown below (in the 2010 ASA Rule Book) and must not be listed on the ASA Non Approved Bat List.

**AND**

## **Rules 3, Section 1A Official Bat (cont'd)**

---

- 2. must be included on a list of approved bat models published by the ASA or
- 3. must in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000 and, if tested, would comply with the ASA bat performance standards then in effect.
- **Comments:** A better description of the ASA approved bat.

## Rule 3, Section 1B: Safety Knob:

---

- The knob shall have a diameter of at least 1.6 inches with no sharp edges. The knob will be permanently attached to the bat and may be taped with safety tape.
- **Comments:** Describes the minimum knob used in ASA and allows a less restricted knob design.

## Rule 3, Section 1C Handle:

---

- The region of the bat from the knob, not including the knob, to the start of the taper where the diameter increases. The handle will include a safety grip.
- **Comments:** Adds a definition of a handle to the rule book

## **Rule 3, Section 1D Safety Grip:**

---

Covers the handle region of the bat. The safety grip shall not be less than 10 inches and not more than 15 inches. There shall be no exposed metal in the 10 – 15 inch area. The safety grip may be a molded finger formed grip as long as it is permanently attached to the bat, or attached with safety tape. Resin, pine tar or spray substances are permissible on the safety grip only. Any tape applied to the safety grip must be a continuous spiral. A bat having a flare or cone shaped grip attached is legal.

**Comments:** Eliminates the extra tape issue and allows cone and flare grips.

## Rule 3, Section 1E Taper:

---

- The transition area between the handle and the barrel. The taper shall have a generally conical shape. It starts where the barrel decreases in size and ends where the handle diameter becomes constant. The taper shall be free of burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges, and audible rattles and show no signs of excessive wear.
- **Comments:** Adds a definition of a taper to the rule book and helps the bat manufacturers with their designs.

## Rule 3, Section 1F Barrel:

---

- The region of the bat from the end of the taper to the end cap, not including the end cap. The barrel region shall be round within 0.050 inches.
- **Comments:** Better defines the barrel of the bat.

## Rule 3, Section 1G End Cap:

---

- The cap placed at the barrel end of the bat. The end cap shall be permanently affixed to the bat to prevent alterations to the interior of the bat. It shall be affixed so that it can not be removed by anyone other than the manufacturer without damaging or destroying the end cap or barrel.
- **Comment:** Adds a better definition of an end cap.

## **Rule 3, Section 1H Altered Bat:**

---

- The official bat shall not be an altered bat. The distribution of weight and length of the bat shall remain fixed at the time of manufacturing and may not be altered in any way thereafter, except otherwise specifically provided in Rule 3, Section 1 or as specifically approved by the ASA. Inserting material inside the bat, or painting a bat other than the top for identification purposes are examples of altering a bat.

## Rule 3 Section 1H Altered Bat: (cont'd)

---

- Laser marking for ID purposes is not considered an altered bat. Engraving ID marking on the barrel end of a metal bat is considered an altered bat. Approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer and shall be considered an altered bat.
- **Comments:** Clarification of an altered bat.

## Rule 3, Section 7:

---

- Characteristics of approved equipment cannot be changed. Examples include icing or cooling of any equipment. In addition, approved bats shall not be rolled, shaved or modified to change their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer. Warming Sleeves on bats are now approved
- **Comments:** Changes the rules to allow bat warmers and includes rolling or shaving of bats to be an illegal act.

## Rule 4, Section 6C 3:

---

- Replaces the words “when they reached base safely” with “when they complete their turn at bat and are discovered.”
- **Comments:** Clarifies the rule that previously stated when the batter reached first base safely.

## Rule 4, Section 7C [5]:

---

- No electronic equipment, to include cell phones, pagers, etc., is allowed to be worn or carried on the playing field.
- **Comments:** This would change the rule from “communication” to “electronic” and eliminate the use of video equipment from the dugout.

## Rule 6, Section 3H:

---

- The ball must be delivered with a perceptible arc and reach a height of at least 6 feet from the ground while not exceeding a height of **10 feet** from the ground.
- **Comments:** The Slow Pitch players wanted this to improve our game.

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 1 – Strike Zone
  - Mat will be used
  - CC4 will use plate and mat

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 2 (Coed C)
  - 175' line in outfield
  - Outfielders behind line until ball is hit
  - Effect: Delayed dead ball with batter choosing
    - To take the result of the play or
    - Take a one base award with all runners advancing 1 base at the time of the pitch

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 2, Sec 6.G
  - Metal cleats not allowed

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 3, Section 1, B (All Leagues)
  - All bats must have City of Ames sticker

# ASA Exceptions

---

- **Rule 4, Section 1, A, 1 (All Leagues)**
  - If a team has less than 8 players, it is permissible to use non-rostered players to bring total to 8
  - Team must inform umpire and opposing manager
  - Once approved, no right to protest
  - Rostered players are to be subbed in for non-rostered players once they arrive unless manager OK's continued participation

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 4, Section 1, C, 3 (All Leagues)

League	Minimum Players Required to Start Game	Must Spot Out When Playing Shorthanded?
Men's B	8	No
Men's C	8	No
Women	8	No
Coed B	8 (4 men, 4 women)	Yes, when playing with 9
Coed C	8 (4 men, 4 women)	No

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 4, Section 4 (All Leagues)
  - 2 EP's are optional
  - Men's teams can bat up to 12
  - Co-Ed can bat up to 14 (Must be in multiples of 2)
  - EP's must be present at the start of game

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 4, Section 5 (Coed C)
  - Unlimited substitutions

# ASA Exceptions

---

## Game Administration Details Displayed by League

League	Time Limit	Game Run Rule	Inning Run Rule	Extra Innings
Men's B	65 min.	15 after 5	None	2 innings or 15 min.
Men's C	65 min.	15 after 5	None	2 innings or 15 min.
Women	65 min.	15 after 5	None	2 innings or 15 min.
Coed B	65 min.	15 after 5	None	2 innings or 15 min.
Coed C	55 min.	None	8 runs per inning	only if time allows

# ASA Exceptions

## Rule 5, Section 8, B

---

### HOME RUN LIMITS

League	Home Runs
Men's B	6
Men's C	3
Coed B	3
Coed C	3

“One-up” rule will be used. If both teams have reached the home run limit, either team is allowed to hit an additional home run, to go one home run ahead of the opposing team. This can continue throughout the game until the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. The home team can only equal the number of home runs by the visitors in this inning. If neither team has hit 6 home runs by the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup>, the home team can hit their sixth.

# ASA Exceptions

---

- **Rule 7, Section 6, B (All Leagues)**
  - Any player using a non-approved bat will be suspended from play for one year

# ASA Exceptions

---

- Rule 8, Section 4, G (All Leagues)
  - Stealing rule will not be used

# ASA Exceptions

---

- **Rule 8, Section 9, B-C (Coed C)**
  - Courtesy runner may be used for injured player
  - Last player to make an out who is the same sex as the injured player
  - No courtesy runners for any other league

# Suggested Changes

---

- Pitcher Protection Rule
  - If the pitcher is hit while in the pitcher's box and, in the umpire's judgment, the pitcher has no chance to make a defensive play on the ball.
  - Effect: Dead ball and batter is out

\*\*Pitcher Protection Rule NOT adopted for 2010 season\*\*

# Suggested Changes

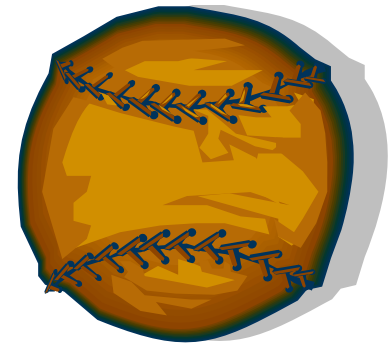
---

- **Softballs – 2009**
  - Teams received a set number of balls
  - Teams provided own balls for each game
  - Softballs sold at concession stand
  
- **Softballs - 2010**
  - Same as 2009

# Suggested Changes

---

- **Softballs**
  - Trump X-Rock or
  - Dudley Thunder Advance
- **Must be**
  - ASA stamped
  - .44 Core
  - 375 lb compression



# Suggested Changes

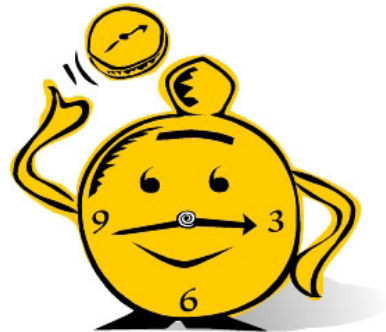
---

- **Forfeits**
  - Encourage teams who are not going to make their game to contact the manager of their opponents

# Clarifications

---

- When does the clock start for each game?
  - When umpire says “Take the field”



# Clarifications

---

- Does a player have to slide?
  - No
  - A player must avoid contact
  - Runner may slide, jump over the defender holding the ball, go around the defender, or return to the previous base

# Clarifications

---

- How much warm-up time do teams get before each game?
  - It depends
  - Can be from “no time” to 10-15 minutes

# *Fees & Number of Games*

---

- League fees include:
  - Administration, field maintenance, game balls, one umpire, and awards
- ASA Team Registration (\$26)
  - Non-resident fees (\$15 per non-resident)
  - Season-ending tournament (\$30)
- 50 % of fees due by April 15 along with roster, no exceptions.
- Rest of fees due April 27
- Number of games & league info sheet

---

Thank you!  
Have a great season!