

2023 NATIONAL DIVISION SUMMER RULES

GAMES:

- Two, 7-inning games; one extra inning if tied after 7 innings.
- 5 run limit per half-inning for innings 1-6.
- Play two innings at a time innings 1-6; one inning at a time for 7th inning, and 8th if needed.
- Flip-flop if home team is behind by 5 or more runs in the 7th inning.
- 7th inning is open. When the score is tied at end of the seventh, one extra inning is played. Last batters out in the 7th inning starts the extra half inning on second.
- 8th inning is also open.
- Home and visiting teams are determined in advance and indicated on the schedule.
- 10- 12 defensive players in the field.
- If 12 players, the 2 short fielders/ rovers start each play on opposite sides of a mid-field line from home to second to the outfield. Shortstop and 2nd baseman play on opposite sides of second base.
- No home run limits.
- If walked, batter can advance to first base or get a pinch runner and bat again.
- Pool players are added to rosters to balance team numbers, managers decide.
- If one team has more players than the other team, they can give players to the smaller team to balance the team sizes within one player. (Choice of three.) The team with the larger roster can keep all players if they want to.

PINCH RUNNING

- A player can pinch run once per inning.
- Batters must advance themselves to 1st base, and then a pinch runner is allowed.

PITCHING

- Screen required and is placed a few feet in front of the pitching rubber partially to one side, the side depending on whether the pitcher is R or L-handed.
- When starting the pitch, the pitcher must have at least one foot on the rubber or in an imaginary box the width of the rubber and 10 ' back.
- Pitcher must face batter and pause before pitch. Quick pitches and deceiving movements are not allowed, called a no pitch.
- Arch on pitches- minimum 6 ft. to maximum 12 ft.
- The pitcher pitches the ball to the side of the screen then immediately steps behind the screen for safety until the ball is put in play.
- After stepping behind the screen and the ball is put in play, the pitcher may then move to make defensive plays. A pitcher who has not stepped behind the screen is not allowed to field hit balls. If the home base umpire determines that the pitcher did not adequately move behind the screen before touching the ball, the batter is awarded 1st base and on-base runners advance one base.
- 3 balls, 2 strikes count and one Courtesy Foul allowed.
- The first ball that strikes the screen is "inert"- a no pitch, play continues with same count; subsequent hit screens are strikes.

The above rules can be modified if opposing managers agree. This should be used in specific situations, not permanently changing the above rules. For example, bases are slippery due to rain; managers may agree that a runner can step near a bag for safety.

Reviewed 4-2023