

## **VSS Proposed Rule Changes for 2022 Rules Committee Recommendations January 18, 2022**

The following summarizes the proposed rule changes were discussed and voted on at the January 18, 2022 rules committee meeting:

### **1. Change the over the fence home run rule so the second and subsequent balls over the fence are doubles, not outs.**

Comments: The rules committee voted 3-2 in favor of this change. None were in favor of keeping it an out. The two votes wanted it to be additional home runs.

### **2. Change the infield fly rule such that if the umpire calls “infield fly” and the ball drops untouched, it’s a dead ball, the batter gets first base and all other runners advance one base.**

If the ball is caught or touched, it’s a regular infield fly (batter is out, runners advance at own risk).

Comments: The will remove player skill and umpire’s judgment of catchability from the call. Also, the SSUSA rules allow that if an umpire improperly calls an infield fly (e.g. called with two outs or called with only a runner on first or does not call it when it should be called), this can be corrected after the play.

### **3. Subs during playoffs: Allow teams that are short players to have substitutes during the playoffs.**

Comments: The rules committee was in favor of this provided the substitutes were an even swap for the missing players.

### **4. Add an additional paragraph to *Section N – The Lineup* of the rules: With the approval of the board of directors, a player returning from injury can be a designated hitter only for up to two weeks or four games, exempt from the two innings in the field requirement. A player may only receive this exemption once per season. The player cannot play the field when this designated hitter only exemption is in effect.**

Comments: The rules committee was in favor of this change.

**5. In the last sentence of Section J, replace the phrase “the ball is put in play” with “the ball is hit by the batter.”**

Comments: The rule committee is in favor of this change. This sentence is addressing when the infielders are allowed to move in. This change will make this consistent with rest of Section J on the 160 line where we want the ball hit before the outfielder comes in.

**6. Add a sentence in section K on Courtesy Runners from home that says: “A courtesy runner from home cannot leave until the ball is hit by the batter.”**

Comments: The rules committee is in favor of this change.

**7. Add a sentence in Section K on Courtesy Runners from home that says: “Players approved by the board to have a courtesy runner from home must use a courtesy runner from home or they will be called out once the first pitch is thrown.”**

Comments: The rules committee is in favor of this change.

**8. Criteria for #1 players:** The rules committee noted that a #1 player should have consistent execution at a high level in all areas. The rules committee recommends that rather than the board determining #1 players, the managers meet and discuss the possible #1 players on each team and submit the recommendations to the board for approval.

**9. Umpiring at Henry Park:** The rules committee recommends that we note in the rules we will be self-umpiring regular season games at Henry Park unless volunteer umpires are available.

**10. Pitcher’s Box:** The rules committee recommends that we enforce pitchers pitching from the pitcher’s box. The SSUSA defines the pitcher’s box as the area 50’ from home plate, 24” wide, and 10’ back. The pitcher must start their delivery with one foot touching the box. (SSUSA rules, p12).

There was some discussion amongst the rules committee as to whether the pitching rubber at Community Field/Henry Park was 50’ back or if it was further. If the rubber is further back, we may need to include a line at 50’.

## **Changes approved by the Board on December 6**

**10. Change to Section Q on Postponements: If the heat index using the National Weather Service data for Windsor Locks at 1 pm is 97 or above, the games will be canceled.**

**11. Change to Section C on the Scoring Line: We are going to replace the scoring line a second home plate the runner must touch.** This will help the umpires judge when a runners scores and keep runners from getting too close to the catcher.

## **Changes discussed and rejected by the rules committee**

**“When the ball hits the board and comes straight back out ( it hit the edge not the top) is there a way to amend that so it’s not a strike?”**

Comments: The rules committee was NOT in favor of this change. This change was suggested by a league member.