



WBSC 2022-2025 Rule Changes



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Introduction

The WBSC & Softball New Zealand Rule book has been updated for the period 2022-2025 and is available on line at

<https://static.wbsc.org/assets/html/2022-2025-official-rules-of-softball-fast-pitch/index.html#p=1>

and

<https://www.softball.org.nz/site/softballnz/files/SNZ%20Umpires/RULES/2022-2025%20SNZ%20Rule%20Book.pdf>

The purpose of this presentation is to highlight the changes to the Rule Book that have been approved by the Rules Commission in October 2021

The changes were accepted by SNZ and will be introduced for the 2022-23 season

Some of the changes are simply clarification and/or inclusion for definition purposes

This presentation's focus will be on the changes that will affect you and the game



Incorrect Runner – 1.2.4 c), 1.2.6 a)iv & 1.2.6 e)x

- **Previously**, if an incorrect runner was placed on second base in extra innings, there was no penalty. If this was discovered, the correct runner was simply placed on base. Any advances made prior to the discovery remained legal
- **Now**, If an incorrect runner is placed on second base they ***shall be called out*** if a proper appeal is made. If the correct runner is placed on base before a proper appeal is made there is no penalty. Any advances made prior to an appeal remain legal
- It is a requirement for the offensive coach to ensure the correct runner is used. ***Take care!***



Temporary Runner – 3.2.7

- A **Temporary Runner** may now be used for the catcher &/or pitcher of record who is on base with two (2) outs: The following provisions apply:
 - a) It is optional
 - b) It can be used anytime after the second out
 - c) The temporary runner is the player scheduled to bat last at the time the option is taken
 - d) There is a penalty for the use of an incorrect runner if properly appealed – the incorrect runner will be called **out**
 - e) If corrected before any appeal there is no penalty



Unreported Substitution 3.1.9

- Occurs when a player enters the game without being reported to the plate umpire as:
 - a) A substitute
 - b) A player eligible to enter, return to or stay in the game under the provisions of the Replacement Player rule
 - c) A declared ineligible player
 - d) An illegal re-entry

This is not really a change but it is highlighted to ensure that you always inform the umpire if you are making changes ***including*** entering a TR or DR (SNZ)



DP/Flex 3.2.5 c) ii)i

A Flex listed on the line-up at the start of the game may re-enter the game as the FLEX but only once. For example

- At the plate meeting For Team A the DP# 17 is listed in the 7th Position and the FLEX #15 in the 10th position. The coach advises the plate umpire that the DP will pitch, taking the line-up down to 9 players. In the bottom of the fourth, Team A substituted #15 for #29 and advised that #29 will pitch with #17 remaining in the line-up reverting the line-up to 10 players. In the bottom of the fifth inning the coach asked to re-enter #15.
- **Ruling:** the umpire correctly allows #15 to return to the line-up. Despite the change at the plate meeting being treated like a substitute 3.2.4 liv) allows re-entering the original starting FLEX, **but only once**



Erasing the Batters Box 5.4.2 c)

- No manager, coach or player may erase the batter's box at any time
- If a defensive team member erases the lines a ball will be called on the next scheduled batter
- If an offensive team member erases the lines a strike will be called on the next scheduled batter
- A pitch does not have to be thrown
- **Don't do it!**



Uniforms 2.5.1 a) ii) & 2.5.1 b) ii)

- Caps visors and headbands are optional for female players and they are free to choose which of these they wear. But, they must be the same colour and style of the teams uniform colours
- A player may wear one or two compression sleeves provided that each is the same one solid colour and that it is a team uniform colour that matches all other undershirts worn by any player on that team



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 1

B2, the pitcher, gets on base with one out. B3 goes out on strikes. Now with two outs the offensive coach wants to have a **TR** for the pitcher

Ruling:

They can only use B3 as a **TR**, as they are the batter due to bat last in the inning, at the time the **TR** is used. Note: If B3 is the catcher B2 may be used as the **TR**

Play 2

With the pitcher and catcher on base with two outs, can the coach use a **TR** for either of them or for only one of them?

Ruling:

The coach can decide to use no, one or two **TR**'s in this situation. If they use two **TR**'s it will be the players scheduled to bat last and second to last who are not on base at the time the option is taken



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 3

With one out the pitcher (B2) strikes out and the catcher (B3) gets on base. The coach wants to use the **TR** for the catcher. Who is the correct **TR**?

Ruling:

The coach can use either B2 or B1 - as B2 is the pitcher and they have the right for a **TR** as well

Play 4

R1 (catcher) at 2B, R2 (pitcher) at 1B, one out. B4 is the second out. Who will be the **TR** if;

- a) only R1 (catcher) gets a **TR**
- b) only R2 (pitcher) gets a **TR** or
- c) both pitcher and catcher get(s) a **TR**?



Temporary Runner Examples

In a) and b) B4 will be the **TR**.

In c) B4 and B1 will be the **TR** and the offensive coach can decide who will be **TR** for which player.

Why can the Coach choose? Because technically they can take one option after the other and by that decide who is going to run for which player

If the Coach elects to first have a **TR** for R1 at 2B (catcher) it will be B4 at 2B; and B1 will be **TR** for R2 at 1B (pitcher). If the Coach elects to first have a **TR** for R2 on 1B (pitcher) it will be B4 at 1B; and B1 will be **TR** for R1 at 2B (catcher). As this rule is supposed to speed-up the game, with both the catcher and pitcher on base when the option is taken, the coach's gets to pick who of the two possible **TR**'s will be running for which player



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 5

With two outs B3 the pitcher gets on base and the coach has B2 run for them. With the next at bat B4 the catcher gets on base and the coach wants B2 to run for B4 and B1 for B3. Is that legal?

Ruling:

No. At the time the coach takes the option for the second **TR** (for B4) B2 is already on base and therefore cannot be the **TR** anymore

Play 6

With two outs B3 the catcher gets on base and the coach has B2 run for them. With the next at bat B4 the pitcher gets on base and the the coach wants B3 (the catcher) to run for B4. Is that legal?

Ruling:

No, that is not legal. A player for whom a **TR** is on base cannot be a **TR** for another runner



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 7

B1 strikes out for the first out of the inning. B2 the pitcher, hits a two base hit. B3 the catcher, flies out to F9 for the second out. B2 advances to 3B. The offensive coach exercises the option to put in a temporary runner for the pitcher. B3, the catcher is now scheduled to bat last and is entered as the **TR** for B2. The offensive coach now exercises the option to put in a temporary runner for the catcher, Is this legal and who is the correct the correct **TR** for the catcher?

Ruling:

Yes, this is legal. B1 is the correct **TR** for the catcher



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 8

With two outs, the pitcher B3 hits a two base hit. B4 the catcher, hit a one base hit advancing B3 to 3B. The offensive coach firstly exercise the option to put B1 in as the **TR** for the pitcher, then exercises the option to put B2 in as the **TR** for the catcher. B5 hits a home run and all runners score. The defence appeal the incorrect **TR** were used

Ruling:

For either **TR** to be called out on appeal they must be on base at the time of the appeal. The appeal is denied and all 3 runs scored count



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 9

With 2 outs, B4, the pitcher draws a walk. The coach asks for B4 to be replaced by the DR. After a pitch is thrown the coach asks for the DR to be replaced by B3 who would have been the TR

Ruling:

Do not allow the change. The DR is not the pitcher of record so cannot be given a TR



Temporary Runner Examples

Play 10

Top of the 4th inning. The Flex has been pitching for the visiting team and the DP is batting 4th. There are two out when the DP hits a double. The Visiting Team manager asks to have the Flex enter the game for the DP. The Flex is now running at 2nd base. The Visiting team manager then asks to put in a temporary runner for the Flex who is the pitcher of record from the previous inning

Ruling: Yes, this is legal. [3.2.7]





Questions?

