

# THE VILLAGES RECREATION SOFTBALL DIVISION 5

## PLAYING RULES

**Summer 2024**

**Effective 5/1//2024 All changes are in RED.**

The Senior Softball USA Rules, as modified by Division V, will govern the rule of play. The Official SSUSA Rule Book can be viewed at [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com). In the event a rule is not specified in the Division V or Senior Softball USA Rules, the ISA (Independent Sports Authority) rule book will govern.

The Playing Rules will only be changed during a season in progress as directed by The Village Recreation Department or by the Board of Directors for Division 5 for safety reasons. Documented clarifications of items below can be issued by the Board of directors if required.

### A. EQUIPMENT

- 1) Only the following are allowed: Rubber spikes or sneakers; regulation sized gloves and bats that have been approved as seen in 3) below. Mitts and gloves may be used by any player. Pitchers **MUST** wear a face mask while pitching. Face masks are optional for all other players.
- 2) All players on a team must wear a conforming uniform shirt with the player's last name visible on the back of the shirt and a baseball cap – See Policies and Procedures “H-TEAMS #3” for more details. The only exception to this rule would be if a player requires additional protection due to a medical condition, then they may wear modified headgear or a helmet. Players assigned to a team with 8 games or less in a season will not be required to have the conforming items. Should be approved by the BOD prior to ordering. New uniforms not conforming to league policies **must be replaced immediately at the team's expense (are subject to BOD action which may require replacement.)** Team names must represent college sports teams. Custom logos and colors may be used but should be approved prior to ordering or risk being rejected by the BOD.
- 3) The official bat will not measure more than 34 inches long and 2 ¼ inches in diameter and not weigh more than 31 ½ ounces. The BPF rating must not exceed 1.21 and have the SSUSA approval stamp. **The use of electrical or other tapes is limited to one wind around the handle of the bat at the top and/or bottom of the grip.**
- 4) The Safety Base at first base will be positioned so that the white portion is in fair territory and the orange or red portion is in foul territory. Batter-runner must use the safety base if there is a play being made at the base unless avoiding a collision with the defender. To avoid a collision, the batter-runner can use either bag. Defender **must** touch the white bag to record an out on the

initial play **unless making the play from foul ground.** After the initial play, the double base/safety base become one base.

## B. PLAYERS

- 1) A team plays with twelve (12) players may have a DH (designated hitter) who is a player who volunteers to be a DH. The DH does not play defense only offense (bats). The manager may elect to have a player play a minimum of three (3) innings on defense unless the game ends early. If there are 2 or more volunteer DHs on a team the manager will select the player who bats only or who plays a minimum of three innings defensively if the game does not end early.
- 2) Players who know they will not be able to participate in a game should notify their managers as far in advance as possible.
- 3) **Players must be present at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled game time** – that is the player must have reported to their manager or the manager must see the player on the walkway from the parking lot to the scoring tower 30 minutes before the schedule game start time. Any team member arriving after thirty (30) minutes prior to game time will not play in that scheduled game. A player that has been listed on the official lineup but is not present 30 minutes before published scheduled start of the game, will not play in that game, no substitution will be allowed, and the team will be charged with an out when it is the missing player's turn to bat.
- 4) A team must have eight (8) roster players available to start the game or the game will be forfeited. At no time will a team start a game with more than four (4) substitute players ~~unless for medical reasons – see Policies and Procedures I #16~~. In the event of a player injury, the team will receive a replacement player who will take the injured player's spot in the batting order. In the event there are not enough substitutes available to fill out a team to twelve players, the team will be permitted to play with eight (8), nine (9), ten (10) or eleven (11) players without penalties and they will receive substitute players as they become available.
- 5) Players should not start a game if they know they will not be able to complete it. Unless there has been an injury, a player suffering heat exhaustion or any medical or family emergency, a team losing a player will be charged an out when it is the missing player's turn to bat.
- 6) Decisions regarding the batting order and defensive assignments are the exclusive responsibility of team managers except when subs have been assigned to the team (See P&P). Managers will try to honor a player's position preference, but it may not always be possible. Each player on the lineup sheet shall play three (3) innings in the field unless the game ends early. Substitute players assigned to a team will be added at the end of line-up in the order determined by the manager. If the manager does not indicate the batting order of the subs they will bat in the order they were selected.
- 7) Eligibility of players due to violation of the VCDD Recreations and Parks code of conduct is the duty of the Recreation Department. A two-game suspension is mandatory for any player or manager ejected from a league game. In the case of any physical contact the minimum suspension is one month. The Recreation and Parks has the sole ability to

discipline or suspend players from all Recreation sponsored leagues. A player who has been ejected or suspended may remain at the softball complex but may not sit in the dugout until suspension has ended. A player's suspension will begin after the incident has been reviewed by the Recreation and Parks Department. starts the game after ejection and may be extended after review by the Villages Recreation Department.

- 7) Any player engaged in hassling, verbal abuse, any threat, or act of physical aggression towards a scorekeeper, umpire, manager, or another player shall be reported to the Villages Recreation Department for disciplinary action.
- 8) A member of a team who cannot play in a scheduled game may, at the discretion of the team manager, coach bases or occupy a spot on the bench. The player will not be entered into the line-up and therefore not eligible to play in the game. Managers may not ask a player to sit out if they are capable of and desiring to play.

## C-GAMES

- 1) Both teams must be ready to play when the umpire signals to "play ball". The umpire may then start a ten count to call balls or strikes if one team is not prepared to begin or continue.
- 2) The BOD may alter playing rules due to field conditions such as a 1 & 1 count and time limit so that all games can be played within a reasonable time. These changes will apply to all games that day.

### 3) Game Limitations

- a. Games will be limited to nine (9) innings. Should the game have a tie score after completing nine (9) innings, the game will be scored a tie.
- b. If in the view of the BOD, and/or, The Villages Recreation Department, that it is necessary to enforce a game time limit, each team will be notified before the start of their game that a time limit is being used.
- c. Teams are limited to five (5) runs per inning, except a team that is behind by more than five (5) runs may score enough runs to catch up. The only exception to the five (5) run rule is an over the fence home run which scores the fifth (5) run will be scored as the sixth (6) run of the inning.
- d. In the seventh (7) and subsequent innings, scoring is limited to catch up plus five (5) runs.
- e. Tie Breaker Rule-When the score is tied after seven (7) innings, teams will start the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> inning with a runner on second base. The base runner is the last player to bat from the previous inning who did not require a courtesy runner. The runner who starts at second base cannot get a courtesy runner.
- f. **Mercy Rule.** If a team is leading by 12 or more runs after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning (4 and a half innings if the home team is ahead) the game will be considered complete. If the visiting team is ahead by 12 or more runs after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, the home team must bat in the bottom of the inning.

## **2) Cancellations**

- a. Prior to commencement of play for the day The Villages Recreation Department will determine if games are to be canceled due to weather or field conditions that would impact the safety and well-being of participants. One game cancellation does not necessarily mean that all games are cancelled. For example, if one field is unplayable, the other fields may play as scheduled, or if the temperature limits are unacceptable at game time, the later games may be played should the temperature limits become acceptable.
- b. Games may be cancelled by the Villages Recreation Department when the heat index **exceeds** one-hundred-three (103) degrees, or the temperature is **below** thirty-five (35) degrees wind chill factor.
- c. Should the Villages Recreation Department Representative advise the Board Member assigned to games that day that the heat index or wind chill level described above has been reached and they recommend the game be stopped, the Board member will call a halt to play. Games being played in the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) inning or more will complete that inning and the game will end at the point and scored as a completed game. If a game is being played with three (3) or less innings being played, the game will end at that point.
- d. The umpire(s) are empowered to stop or delay a Game at any time because of rain, fog, lightning in the area **(20 minute wait period)**, darkness or any other cause which puts the umpires, players or the spectators in peril. The umpires may stop a game for a 5-minute heat break when they determine it is necessary.
- e. **The Commissioner, DIC or the Villages Recreation staff are the only authorities to cancel play.**
- f. If possible, games being played in the fourth inning or more will complete that inning except if the home team is leading, only the top half will be completed. Games not meeting the requirement will end and statics will not be maintained.

## **3) Emergency Wind or Sun Affects**

- a. In case the sun or wind is affecting the accuracy of the pitchers, the umpire may lower the height of a legal pitch.

## **4) Pre-Game Warm Up**

- a. The home team will take infield practice first. The home team pitcher will be granted five (5) warm-up pitches. After which the umpire will call for a batter and the game will begin. When the visiting team takes the field for the first time, they will be permitted infield practice and the visiting pitcher will be granted ten (10) warm-up pitches. Further infield or pitching practice is prohibited unless there is a pitching change, and the new pitcher will be granted ten (10) warm-up pitches.

## **D. PITCHING REGULATIONS**

### **1) Strike Zone Mat**

a. Division 5 will utilize a strike zone mat that is 34.5” deep and 19” wide. Any pitched ball landing on or touching any portion of the strike zone mat will be called a strike. A defensive player making a play at the plate is permitted to touch any portion of the strike zone mat.

### **2) Pitching Zone**

a. A 24” by 6” pitching rubber will be placed 50’ from and directly in front of home plate. The pitching zone is the width of the pitching rubber and up to ten (10) feet behind the pitching rubber. The pivot foot of the pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber or within the pitching area when the ball is released.

## **E) THE PITCH / PITCHER**

- 1) A legal pitch must be thrown within an arc ranging from six (6) feet to twelve (12) feet above the playing surface. A pitch outside the legal arc, in the judgment of the umpire, shall be called illegal and declared to be a “ball”. Should a batter swing at a pitch called illegal the ball is in play.
- 2) The pitcher must come to a full and complete stop with the body facing the batter and the ball in front of the body in either one or both hands. This position must be maintained for at least one (1) second before starting the delivery motion.
- 3) The pitcher must deliver the ball toward home plate in a continuous motion, underhanded, with the first forward swing of the pitching arm. The pitcher must not use a delivery with which a stop or reversal of the pitching motion is used. Should this type of motion occur, in the judgment of the umpire, the pitch will be declared illegal, and a ball will be called.
- 4) The pitcher must deliver the ball toward home plate within 10 seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball, and the batter has taken position in the batter’s box. Once the pitching motion has started the umpire should not call time unless player safety is involved. If the pitcher does not start the delivery motion after ten seconds the umpire will call a ball. If the pitcher delivers the ball after the umpire has call “ball” and the batter hits the pitch the ball is live.
- 5) When the pitcher bats and gets on base and wears safety equipment it is encouraged that the pitcher receives a courtesy runner, so the game is not delayed at the end of the inning by having to put on the safety equipment. A pitcher who takes a courtesy runner to speed up the game will not be required to use a courtesy runner for the rest of the game.
- 6) A pitcher may use a pitching screen. The pitching screen may be placed no more than 3 feet toward the home plate mat, and must cover at least half the pitcher’s plate. The screen must be placed to the left of a right-handed pitcher and to the right of a left- handed pitcher.

- 7) If a pitching screen is used the pitcher **MUST** step behind the screen after every pitch. The umpire will warn the pitcher for the first instance, and thereafter an illegal pitch will be called for subsequent violations.
- 8) If a pitching screen is used, any ball hit off the screen is a dead ball and counts as a strike and with the third such occurrence of the at bat, the batter will be called out.
- 9) The pitcher may field a batted ball once a complete step behind the screen is performed.
- 10) **NOTE:** A thrown ball by a defensive player that hits the screen is a **LIVE** ball.
- 11) The team that the pitcher plays for is responsible for carrying the screen off and onto the field.
- 12) All pitchers **MUST** wear a protective mask whether they are the designated team pitcher, authorized sub pitcher or roster player who for whatever reason is utilized as a pitcher during a game.
- 13) If a team's designated pitcher is in the lineup either he or another roster player on that team must pitch. If your designated pitcher is injured a pitcher will be assigned as a substitute from players signed up to sub pitch or another of a team's roster players that are in the lineup may pitch.
- 14) Pitcher Certification
  - a During the course of a season the board and their appointed designees will post an email to all players in Division 5 to encourage them to become certified pitchers.
  - b The date and/or dates will be published by email to have the players come to the field to start the process of becoming certified pitchers. The players will have the opportunity to learn the basics of pitching, the rules and practice pitching.
  - c Future dates will be made available for players who now have attended the pitching class(es) to become certified.
  - d Once a player has demonstrated pitching skill for certification, they must complete the following:
    - i PHASE 1-Must be able to pitch 12 or more strikes out of 20 pitches thrown.
    - ii PHASE 2-Pitch a 2-inning live game allowing only 2 walks in the 2 innings pitched

- iii Must be able to come to outside practices, to continue to pitch live batting practice and gain experience.
- e Certified pitchers are now selected at the draft as either a P1 or P2 depending on their preference listed on their application.
- f The minimum for a pitcher to remain certified will be to pitch a total of 9 innings or more within one calendar year (January-December).
- g Pitchers certified during a season will be added to the certified list and be able to pitch in live games,
- h Managers must allow all certified pitchers drafted on their team during the season to pitch 3 innings during that season to comply with the pitcher's certification.
- i A record will be kept during the season from the stats, showing all certified pitchers meet the minimum 3 inning requirement..

## **F) THE BATTER**

- 1) Division 5 utilizes a green mat to indicate the batter's box. The batter will position himself with both feet on the mat.
- 2) Should the batter hit a pitched ball and either foot is entirely off the green mat and in the dirt, the ball will be declared a dead ball and the batter will be called out.
- 3) Should a batter swing at a pitched ball and any portion of one or both feet contact the strike mat, the batter will be called out and the ball is a dead ball.
- 4) Any batter approaching the batter's box with an illegal bat, as defined above, will be called out and ejected from the game. His team will not be permitted a substitute and an out will be recorded each time the ejected batter was to appear at the plate.
- 5) Should a batter foul off a third strike pitch, the batter will be called out and the ball is dead.
- 6) A batter wishing to change sides of the strike mat must do so prior to the pitcher starting the pitching motion. If the batter steps in front of the catcher to change sides and the pitcher has started their motion, the batter will be called out and the ball is a dead ball.
- 7) A batted ball contacting the batter in fair territory will result in the batter being called out and the ball is a dead ball.
- 8) If the umpire determines that a batter intentionally bunts, chops the ball to the ground, or hits a fair ball but fails to take a full swing he will call the batter out and the ball will be declared a dead ball. A full swing will be defined as the bat going beyond the front edge of the home plate.
- 9) If in the opinion of the umpire the batter is not ready and causes a delay of the game, they may begin a ten count and start calling strikes.

- 10) Batting out of order** is an appeal play that can only be made by the defensive team. The defensive team forfeits its right to appeal when one pitch has been made to the following batter.
- a If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed his turn at bat and before a pitch has been made to the following batter:
    - i the player who should have batted is out.
    - ii any advance or score caused by the improper batter shall be nullified.
    - iii the next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failure to bat.
    - iv If the batter declared out is the third out, the correct batter in the next inning shall be the player who would have come to bat had the player been put out by ordinary play.
  - b If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the correct batter may take his place and assume any balls and strikes. NOTE: The offensive team may correct a wrong batter at the plate with no penalty.
  - c If the error is discovered after the first pitch to the next batter the turn at bat of the incorrect batter is legal, all runs scored and bases run are legal and the next batter in order shall be the one whose name follows that of the incorrect batter. No one is called out for failure to bat. Players who have not batted and who have not been called out have lost their turn at bat until reached again in the regular order.
  - d Any batter-runner who carries the bat during a live ball and legally touches or passes first base while still holding the bat will be declared out, the ball is dead and all runners must return to the base legally held at the time of the pitch.

## **G) RUNNING BASES**

### **1. General Rules for Running Bases**

- a) A runner may leave his base only when a pitched ball is batted, the batter swings or the ball crosses home plate. A runner leaving a base before the ball is hit, or the batter swings or the ball crosses the strike plate may be called out by either umpire and the ball is dead. This is NOT an appeal play.
- b) There are no rundowns. If the defense makes a play on a runner who is off the base, the runner MUST return to the base previously occupied. The runner has only one (1) attempt to return to that base and he must touch the base safely. Once the runner has touched the previously occupied base, he may occupy the base or he may advance to the next base subject to being put out. Failure by the runner to return to the previously occupied base will result in the runner being called out.
- c) Runners who have rounded a base and paused in the base path, and no play is being made on them, may proceed to the next base without having to return to the previously occupied base.
- d) Runners must touch all bases in their proper order. When a base runner acquires the right to a base by touching it before being put out, he may hold the base until he has legally



- touched the next base in order or is forced to vacate the base for a succeeding runner.  
EFFECT: Base runner will be called out even if he remains in contact with the base and yet fails to vacate the base for a succeeding runner.
- e) It is the responsibility of all base runners to avoid contact with a defensive player. The umpire may call a runner safe if he determines the runner was put out trying to avoid a collision with the defensive player making a play. The umpire may call a base runner out if he determines the base runner interferes with a defensive player making a play.
  - f) Both teams are responsible for keeping the dugout gates closed during play. If the team at bat leaves its dugout gate open and a live ball enters the dugout, there will be no runner advancement awarded. If the defensive team leaves its gate open and a live ball enters the dugout area, it will be declared a dead ball and runners may advance to the bases they were attempting plus one more base.
  - g) A runner who leaves a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched may be called out on appeal. The umpire may not make this call until an appeal is made by the defensive team.

## 2. Double Bag/Safety Base

- a) The safety double bag shall be used at first base. Batter-runner must use the safety base if there is a play being made at the base unless avoiding a collision with the defender. To avoid a collision, the batter-runner can use either bag. Defender **must** touch the white bag to record an out on the initial play **unless making the play from foul ground**. After the initial play, the double base/safety base becomes one base.
- b) This rule is in effect only on the initial play at first base. This does not include returning to base after over running, or running on a ball hit to the outfield, or re-tag to advance on a caught fly ball when either bag may be used by the runner and fielder.
- c) Any batted ball hitting the white portion is fair and any ball hitting the orange/red portion is a foul ball.
- d) A batter/runner who safely reaches first base must return to first base in foul territory. A batter/runner who steps into fair territory when returning to first base is in jeopardy of being put out by either being tagged or a fielder touching first base while in possession of the ball.

## 3. Courtesy Runners

- a) Players who need a courtesy runner must be identified when the line-up is submitted and designated with an "R". Players requiring a courtesy runner must inform the plate umpire of this need. The player requiring a courtesy runner may proceed to any base they can safely reach and then must get their courtesy runner. They may turn left after reaching first base without penalty, if they stay in foul territory. A batter-runner who turns left and steps into fair territory is in jeopardy of being put out. The courtesy runner for the player designated needing one must be on base before the first pitch to the next batter. A player who requires a courtesy runner as indicated with an "R" in the lineup must continue to use a courtesy runner for the rest of the game.

- b) A runner, if he agrees, may be replaced at any time, at any base with a courtesy runner.  
**NOTE:** Any player who starts at second base in an extra inning game CANNOT get a courtesy runner.
- c) A pitcher who takes a courtesy runner to allow them to put their equipment on, or a player who needs a runner for any reason, (injury, equipment failure, out of breath, etc.) is not required to use a courtesy runner their next at bat. Only players indicated by an “R” on the lineup are required to use a runner every time.
- d) The first base coach shall be the runner for the batter requiring a courtesy runner. The batter then becomes the first base coach until replaced by another player who can become a courtesy runner. Running across the field to become a first base coach is discouraged since it can delay the game and a ten count and called strike may occur.
- e) A batter requiring a courtesy runner must reach first base safely unless the batter is walked.
- f) A courtesy runner on base when it is his time to bat shall take his turn at bat and be replaced on the base by another courtesy runner without penalty - no out will be recorded.
- g) A courtesy runner is in the game when they touch the base last occupied by the batter requiring a courtesy runner. This exchange will occur when the umpire calls “time-out” immediately following the batters at bat. Once a courtesy runner steps on base they are the official runner.
- h) A player can only be a courtesy runner for one batter per inning. If a player has been a courtesy runner more than one batter in the inning an out will be recorded when the infraction is identified, and the ball will be declared dead with runners returning to their original bases. If a batter who requires a courtesy runner comes to bat more than one time in an inning the same courtesy runner may be used.
- i) A player who requires a courtesy runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for another player, in the same inning. If a player who requires a courtesy runner steps on the base, they must be replaced by a different courtesy runner without penalty.

#### **4. Sliding**

- a) Sliding or diving into any base or the scoring plate is not permitted, and such players will be called out. The exception to this rule is players may slide or dive when returning to any base.

#### **5. Overrunning Bases Is Prohibited**

- a) A batter may overrun first base at any time and can advance without returning to first base, but is in jeopardy of being put out, either by being tagged or by a defensive player touching second base while in possession of the ball. A runner who over runs 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base may be put out either by being tagged or by the defensive player touching the base prior to the runner touching the base. The same is true of a player attempting to return to a base after a fly ball or attempting to advance to the next base.

- b) In the event of collision avoidance at either 2<sup>nd</sup> base or 3<sup>rd</sup> base, the runner may not overrun the base but must stop adjacent to the base when trying to avoid a collision. When the play is completed, the umpire will render a decision as to whether the runner was safe or out.

## **6. Commitment Line**

- a) A commitment line twenty (20) feet from the scoring plate will be used. Once a runner's foot touches the ground on or past this line, he/she is committed to continue to the scoring plate. If the runner re-crosses the commitment line, he/she will be declared out and the ball remains alive.

## **7. Retiring Runner At Home**

- a) Tagging the runner who has crossed the commitment line is not allowed. The runner will be called safe, and the ball remains live. The runner is called out if he touches or crosses any portion of the green batter's mat and/or the strike (wooden) plate. A defensive player may only touch any portion of the strike (wooden) plate to make the play to record an out.

## **8. Foul Third Strike**

- a) Upon hitting a foul ball on a third strike, the batter is out, and the ball is dead.

## **9. Base Runners Are Called Out**

- a) Ball is dead and involved runner is out:
  1. When a base runner is struck by a fair batted ball on fair ground while off his base and before it touches a fielder or passes a fielder.
  2. When a base runner intentionally kicks a live ball, or intentionally interferes with a ball in play.
  3. When a batter-runner is hit by their own batted (fair) ball after leaving the batter's box.
  4. When a base runner physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been put out. EFFECT: the ball remains live, the base runner passing another base runner is out and other base runners are in jeopardy.

## **10. Advancing Runners**

- a) When a fielder deliberately contacts a batted or thrown ball with his cap, glove or any part of his uniform or equipment, while it is detached from its proper place on the fielder's person. The umpire will declare the ball dead and all base runners are entitled to advance:
  1. On a fair batted ball - advance three (3) bases from the time of the pitch.
  2. On a thrown ball - advance two (2) bases from the time of the **throw** .

## 11. Obstruction

a) The act of obstruction occurs when:

1. A defensive player, or team member, hinders or prevents a batter from striking at or hitting a pitched ball.
2. Any action by a fielder not in possession of the ball, or not in the act of fielding a batted ball, or about to receive a thrown ball, which impedes the progress of a runner. This act may include using a fake tag to slow the progress of the runner. Defensive players not involved in a play on the runner must yield the base path to the runner or be charged by the umpire for obstruction.
3. The obstruction does not have to be intentional and may be vocal.
4. When an umpire declares an obstruction, he will determine the course of action. This action may include advancing all runners to the base they would have attained had the obstruction not occurred.

## 12. Interference

a) The act of interference occurs when:

1. An act of any offensive player or team member, umpire, or spectator, that impedes, hinders, or confuses a defensive player attempting to make a play. Contact is not necessary and may be verbal.
2. When a batter-runner intentionally interferes with a play at home in an obvious attempt to prevent an out, both the batter-runner and the base runner are to be called out.
3. When a base runner, who has been called out, they must divert from the base path away from the defensive player attempting to make a throw. Should the base runner continue in the base path to prevent or hinder an attempted throw by the defensive player the base runner closest to home will also be called out. **(ISA Batter – Runner is Out paragraph D)**
4. When an offensive player interferes with a defensive player the ball is dead and the player is out. All runners must return to the base they occupied at the time of the interference.
5. If an offensive player interferes in an effort to prevent a double play that player is out as well as the runner closest to home. This includes a runner who has been called out who continues to the base to prevent a throw by the defensive player. **(ISA Batter – Runner is Out paragraph D)**

## H. PROTESTS

1. There are no protests. Umpires' judgment decisions may not be appealed on grounds that he was not correct. All decisions of the umpire are final on the following calls:
  - a) Decisions involving Balls and Strikes.
  - b) When a game is called for conditions stated in Section C.2.

## I. APPEAL PLAYS

1. A play in which an umpire may not make a decision until requested by the manager of either team. The appeal must be made before the next legal pitch, intentional walk, illegal pitcher action, or before the defensive fields have left fair territory for a runner missing a base or a player batting out of the official line up order. On the last play of the game, an appeal can be made until the umpires leave the field
2. There are only three types of appeals:
  - i. Missing a base.
  - ii. Leaving a base early on a caught fly before the ball is first touched.
  - iii. Batting out of order.
3. When only a manager, or a manager's designated representative, asks an umpire who made a call to consult with his umpire partner, **as a courtesy**, the umpires will review the play in question. Following the consultation, the umpire making the original call will overturn or confirm the original call for a ball was fair/foul or that a base runner was safe or out.

## J. TIME OUT

The umpire will call time out when a defensive team's infielder has the ball secured in their glove and the base runner is not attempting to advance. Time out may also be called when players' safety is concerned.