



Baseball regulations OBR and WBSC Europe at the SBSF

The OBR (Official Baseball Rules) 2021 baseball regulations are valid for the 2022 season.

According to the SBSF league regulations, the WBSC Europe regulations are valid for the 2022 season.

Some of the most important changes to the regulations are listed below:

OBR 3.03 (e) Clothing: Picher sleeve color

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

(e) Sleeve lengths may vary for individual players, but the sleeves of each individual player shall be approximately the same length; no player shall wear ragged, frayed or slit sleeves; and no pitcher shall wear sleeves that are white, gray, nor, in the judgment of an umpire, distracting in any manner.

Specification: Pitchers are not allowed to wear white or gray sleeves. [2020]

OBR 5.07 (a) Pitcher's second step illegal ...

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

The pitcher disengages the rubber, he must drop his hands to his sides.

Pitchers will not be allowed to disengage the rubber after taking each sign.

The pitcher may not take a second step toward home plate with either foot or otherwise reset his pivot foot in his delivery of the pitch. If there is a runner, or runners, on base it is a balk under Rule 6.02(a); if the bases are unoccupied it should be treated as an illegal pitch under Rule 6.02(b).

Clarification: An illegal second step by the pitcher when taking the pitch or the illegal repositioning of his standing foot is treated as an illegal pitch under Rule 6.02(b) if there are no runners on base. [2020]

OBR 5.09 (a)(2) Term Definitions - Conditions for a foul tip

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

(2) A third strike is legally caught by the catcher;

Rule 5.09(a)(2) Comment: "Legally caught" means in the catcher's glove before the ball touches the ground. It is not legal if the ball lodges in his clothing or paraphernalia; or if it touches the umpire and is caught by the catcher on the rebound.

If a foul tip first strikes any part of the catcher's body or paraphernalia and is caught by hand or glove against his body or protector, before the ball touches the ground, it is a strike, and if third strike, batter is out. [2020]



OBR 5.10 (g) Expanding the number of batters a pitcher must decide (three-batter rule)

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

Comment: To qualify as one of three consecutive batters, the batter must complete his plate appearance, which ends only when the batter is put out or becomes a runner. If the offensive team is put out prior to any substitute pitcher completing his first three consecutive batters, the pitcher may be removed from the game between innings; but, if he returns for the subsequent inning, he must complete pitching to as many batters as necessary to satisfy the three consecutive batters requirement, which total would include any batters that completed a plate appearance with that pitcher the prior inning (i.e., if he completed 0 PA in inning 1, he must complete 3 PA in inning 2; if he completed 1 PA in inning 1, he must complete 2 PA in inning 2; if he completed 2 PA in inning 1, he must complete 1 PA in inning 2). An intentional walk counts toward fulfilling the number of required batters. Picking off a runner does not fulfill the minimum batter requirement, but would permit the early removal of the pitcher if the out recorded by the pickoff ends the inning.

Exceptions see SBSF Pitch-Count regulations

OBR 6.01 (a)(1) Accidental interference at home plate

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

Comment: If the pitched ball deflects off the catcher or umpire and subsequently touches the batter-runner, it is not considered interference unless, in the judgment of the umpire, the batter-runner clearly hinders the catcher in his attempt to field the ball.

Clarification: If a pitch that was not caught is accidentally touched by the batter or umpire near home plate, the ball is not playable and all runners return to the base they were holding at the time of the pitch. The batter will not be called out in this situation unless the pitch was the third strike.

[2021]

OBR 6.01 (a)(10) Clarifying the batting order in the event of a interference at the end of a inning

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

Clarification: If the third out in a inning is caused by a runner being called out due to interference in connection with a batted ball over foul territory, then the batter in progress is deemed to have completed his batting run and is therefore in the next inning goes to the batter who succeeds him in batting order. [2020]

OBR 6.01 (d) Description of unintentional obstruction

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

In case of unintentional interference with play by any person herein authorized to be on the playing field (except members of the team at bat who are participating in the game, or a base coach, any of whom interfere with a fielder attempting to field a batted or thrown ball; or an umpire) the ball is alive and in play. If the interference is intentional, the ball shall be dead at the moment of the interference and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference. [2020]

OBR 6.02 (d)(4) Consequence of prohibited actions in pitching

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

Change: Regarding "Prohibited Actions in Pitching" (6.02 (c)(2) to (7)), describes the action taken by the umpire if the opposing manager does not choose the situation that has arisen - here an "and" has been added changed to an "or". [2020]

OBR 6.04 (d) Behavior of suspended people

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

When a manager, player, coach or trainer is ejected from a game, he shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. He shall remain in the clubhouse or change to street clothes and either leave the park or take a seat in the grandstand well removed from the vicinity of his team's bench or bullpen.

Comment: If a manager, coach or player is under suspension he may be in uniform and may participate in the regular pre-game routines of the Club. At game time, however, suspended personnel must be out of uniform, may not be in the dugout, and must be away from areas where players are expected to be during a game. Suspended personnel also are not permitted in the press box or any broadcast areas during the course of a game, but are permitted to watch the game from the stands or suite level. [2020]

OBR 7.04 Protesting games

The following change to the Official Baseball Rules applies to all leagues! (incl. youth)

Protesting a game shall never be permitted, regardless of whether such complaint is based on judgment decisions by the umpire or an allegation that an umpire misapplied these rules or otherwise rendered a decision in violation of these rules. [2020]

This change will not be introduced in the SBSF! See regulations disciplinary!