

BAJA ALLISON LEAGUE 2023 RULES

Preface: In order to clarify and govern the conduct of Allison League play, this addendum is published. BAJA has and will continue to follow SSUSA rules for the 2022 season. Any rule not contained in this addendum will be ruled in accordance with the 2021 SSUSA rulebook. BAJA exceptions to the 2021 SSUSA rulebook are as follows:

A. Playing Fields:

1. **Dimension:** Our fields meet the specifications of a SSUSA field other than the 275 ft. fence distance.
2. **Batting Mats:** The artificial turf mats purchased will be used as batter's boxes for all games.
3. **Batter's Boxes:** The batter's boxes marked on the mats are not SSUSA dimensions. BAJA will use the established box dimensions on the mats. A batter will be considered out of the batter's box and therefore called out when a foot is on the ground, completely off the mat or completely over the interior white line when the ball is struck.
4. **Alternate bases:** Alternate bases will be used at both first base and home plate.
 - a. First Base: A batter will be called out if there is a play at first base and he fails to run to the alternate base. The alternate base will be placed 2 ft. outside the first base and even with the 2nd base line.
 - b. Home: As per current SSUSA rules.
5. **Base Distance:** Bases will be 70 ft. as is the current SSUSA standard.

B. Equipment:

1. **Ball:** BAJA will not use the current approved SSUSA softball. Instead we will continue to use the 44/375 ball.
2. **Bats:** Bats that are banned by the SSUSA are automatically banned from the Allison League. Bats with cracks, flat spots, etc. will not be used. Use of illegal bats will be dealt with by the Commissioner using SSUSA rules.
3. **Gloves:** There are no glove restrictions.
4. **Pitching Screen:** A pitching screen will be used in the Allison League. The screen will be placed 3.5 ft. in front of the pitching rubber and that one end of the base of the screen will be centered to the pitching rubber. A batted ball hitting the pitching screen will be considered a DEAD BALL. A thrown ball hitting the pitching screen is considered a LIVE BALL.
5. **Pitcher Face Mask:** Allison League pitchers WILL wear an USA/SSUSA approved face mask when on the mound.

C. Rosters/Lineup:

1. **Accountability:** Managers are responsible for the Roster and Lineup. Failure to comply with the rules set forth will result in forfeiture of that game *whether protested by the opposing manager or not.*
2. **Playing Time:** All players in attendance and in uniform will play a minimum of 4 innings per 7 inning game. The only exceptions are a Designated Hitter (see 3 below) or a player in the lineup removed early due to injury or personal issue (see 4 below).
3. **Designated Hitter (DH):** Prior to the game, managers may designate one player to be named the DH. The team must have at least 11 players in the lineup, and the DH MAY NOT play the field unless the lineup drops below 10 players. Courtesy Runner rules apply (see D5) **A player may NOT be the DH for both games of the double header unless requested by a player..**

Updated 6/30/2022

Effective date 1/1/2023

4. **Injured Player:** If a player is injured during the game and cannot continue, or has to leave the game for ANY legitimate reason, he/she is simply removed from the lineup without any penalty. If this causes the lineup to drop to or below 8 players, the Forfeit Rule (see 6 below) applies.

5. **Paired Players:** Paired Players (Two players drafted as one) may only play in the same game when a rostered player is missing from the lineup and that player would be the 10th player of the lineup. Paired Players MAY switch which day they play, however, unless there is a missing player from the lineup, they may only play one day of the week.

6. **Forfeit Rule:** Teams with only seven drafted players in the batting lineup will forfeit. A team that is unable to field 9 players will forfeit. A 'short handed team' (8 or 9 players) may elect, but is not required to borrow a catcher. Any BAJA softball player may catch. The borrowed catcher will not be placed in the batting lineup and will only play that position.

7. **Waivers: MANAGERS MAY NOT WAIVE THESE RULES!** If a forfeit situation occurs, scores of 7 to 0 will be recorded for league standings. Managers may agree to use the field time to play a pickup game or scrimmage. These pickup games will have no effect on league standings.

D. Conduct of Play:

1. **Time Limit:** Double Headers will begin at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.. If no extra innings occur, no non-open inning will be started after 12:00 noon. The first inning starting past 12:00 noon will be announced as an "open inning" by the umpire. There are no time restrictions set for the games.

a. **Mercy Rule.** 12 runs after five complete innings.

b. **Flip-Flop Rule.** 9 runs.

2. **Batting Count:** All batters will begin each at bat with a 1 ball and 1 strike count with **NO** waste foul ball.

3. **Pitching:** The delivery of the pitch is as per SSUSA rules. The pitcher must start his delivery behind the pitching screen. Once the pitcher releases the ball, he **MUST** remain behind the pitching screen and **may not** make any defensive move until the ball is struck. A pitch will not be delivered over the pitching screen. Penalty for violation is an illegal pitch.

4. **Home Runs:** Teams will be given a 3 homerun allowance. After the third homerun, BAJA will use a "one up" rule for home runs. Any home run canceled by the rule will be scored as a "Ground Rule Single" with all **forced** runners advancing as appropriate. Inside the park home runs do NOT count on this limit.

5. **Extra Innings:** One extra inning per game will be played if needed. The batter making the last out of the previous inning will be placed on second base at the start of the inning. This runner must advance one base before being provided a courtesy runner. Regular softball will be played from that point. The batting team will have three outs to score as many runs they can. If the score is still tied at the end of the inning, the "Half-Run Rule" will be used. The visiting team will be awarded .5 runs and declared the winner.

6. **Warm-Ups:** At the start of the game, a pitcher is given five warm-up pitches. Each infielder may take 2 balls from the first baseman. Between innings, a pitcher may elect to take up to 2 warm-up pitches. Infielders may elect to take 1 ball from the first baseman. A pitcher in relief may elect to take 5 warm-up pitches. An infielder in relief may elect to take 2 balls from the first baseman.

7. **Courtesy Runners:** Any player on the Courtesy Runner List or with an artificial joint below the waist may elect to have a Courtesy Runner from home plate. The Courtesy Runner list will be established before the draft and given to the managers. A manager may petition the opposing manager to add an injured player to the list for special medical/health reasons prior to or during the game. If agreed, that player may obtain a courtesy runner for that day. **NO OTHER PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COURTESY RUNNERS.** All other rules regarding Courtesy Runners are in accordance with SSUSA rules:

- a. A courtesy runner may only run once per inning.
- b. A courtesy runner may not be granted a courtesy runner.
- c. If a courtesy runner is on base when his/her turn at bat comes up, the courtesy runner will be removed from base, an out recorded, and the runner will bat his turn.

10. **Walks:** No player may be walked more than once per game. If a second or subsequent walk is given, the batter has the option of taking the walk or placing a team member on first base (Courtesy runner rules do not apply) and remain at bat. If the batter chooses to remain at bat, a new count is given to the batter after the walk is issued. If the batter is walked again in the same at bat, the option to take the walk or hit again is repeated; however no runner is placed on base .

11 **High Wind Situations:** Managers may agree prior to or during any game where high winds are present to not call balls. If this agreement is made, the walk rule is waived.

12. **Official Protests/Appeals:** Notification of an official protest or appeal must be made to the umpire as per SSUSA rules. Appeals will be adjudicated immediately by the umpire. It will be the umpire's responsibility to notify the Commissioner of any protest for adjudication. The Commissioner will recuse himself in any situation that may be perceived as a conflict of interest for him. If this arises, the Catino Commissioner will resolve the issue.

13. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Will not be tolerated. Managers are the only players to address the umpire.** Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players. If the two managers cannot resolve the issue, then the issue is brought to the Commissioner for resolution. This may be done either during or after the game. The Commissioner reserves the right to impose a more serious penalty. This includes, but is not limited to, ejecting a player with habitual misconduct for additional games. Any fan exhibiting bad conduct will be reported to the Commissioner for resolution.

14. **Umpire Selection:** The league will be self umpired. The opposing manager may decline the umpire presented by the other team. Another will be appointed.

15. **Scoring:** Managers may designate anyone their scorekeeper. The home team book will be the official book for that game. If the home team cannot keep a complete scoring record for both teams, the visiting team's book will become the official book if it maintains a complete scoring record. If neither team can keep a complete scoring record, then the home book is official.

16. **Rain Outs/Make Up Games:** No regular season game will be made up if canceled. If at the end of the regular season, a tie in the standings exists, a one game playoff will be played on the first day of the tournament between the tied teams. The winner will be declared season winner and first seed for the tournament.

176. **Manager Selection:** During the summer and fall leading up to the season, The Commissioners will select the Managers for both leagues. Managers will be required to attend a brief Manager's Clinic to review rules, guidelines and tips for managing.

18. **Waiver:** Except where specifically stated, **NO SSUSA OR BAJA RULE IN EFFECT WILL BE WAIVED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER.**