

IMPORTANT NOTES

The Playing Rules Committee, at its December 2014 meeting, voted to reorganize and recodify the Official Baseball Rules into a more logical and organized manner. No wording or language was changed (other than the amendments made for that year); only the order and placement of the rules were modified. In this edition Comments to the Official Rules are highlighted in a shaded box rather than being printed in smaller typeface as had been the case in prior to 2015.

The Playing Rules Committee, at its December 1977 meeting, voted to incorporate the Notes/Case Book/Comments section directly into the Official Baseball Rules at the appropriate places. Basically, the Case Book interprets or elaborates on the basic rules and in essence have the same effect as rules when applied to particular sections for which they are intended. This arrangement is designed to give quicker access to any written language pertaining to an Official Rule and does not require a reader to refer to different sections of the Official Baseball Rules book in considering the application of a particular rule.

Summary of Rule Changes

The Official Playing Rules Committee made the following changes that will be in effect for the MLB season:

- Amended Rule 4.08(c) to change the length of time between doubleheaders.
- Amended Rule 5.07(b) regarding warm-up pitches that a pitcher may throw.
- Amended Rule 5.09(c)(1) Comment regarding a runner who takes a “flying start” from behind a base when tagging up; namely, such violation is now considered an appeal play.
- Re-titled Rule 5.10(l) and amended Rule 5.10(l) Comment regarding warm-up pitches when a substitute pitcher enters a game in the situation described in the last paragraph of Rule 5.10(l) Comment.
- Established new Rule 5.10(m) limiting the number of mound visits per game. ***NOT APPLICABLE TO CANADIAN AMATEUR BASEBALL***
- Amended Rule 6.01(a)(5) Comment to clarify that a runner who is returning to his last legally touched base after being put out is considered the same as a runner who continues to advance after being put out relative to interfering with a subsequent play.
- Amended Rule 8.02(c) to set limits on when a ball/strike count may be corrected.
- Amended Definitions of Terms—Spectator Interference (“Interference,” Part (d))—to include additional situations when Spectator Interference may be invoked.

In addition, an Index has been compiled and is located at the end of this book. Minor revisions were made to Diagrams #1, #2, and #3