

# BAJA ALLISON LEAGUE 2015 RULES

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**Preface:** In order to clarify and govern the conduct of Allison League play, this addendum is published. BAJA has and will continue to follow ASA rules for the 2015 season. Any rule not contained in this addendum will be ruled in accordance with the 2014 ASA Rulebook. BAJA exceptions to the 2014 ASA rulebook are as follows:

## A. **Playing Fields:**

1. **Dimensions:** Our fields meet the specifications of an ASA field other than our 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 Box:** The batter's boxes marked on the mats are not ASA 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 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 first base and even with the 2<sup>nd</sup> baseline.
  - b. **Home:** BAJA will use a home line during the games. A line is placed in line with the front left corner of home plate extending to the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side fence and parallel to the first base line. This line will represent home plate. This line will be used at all times. A runner must have a foot in contact with the ground on or beyond the line prior to the catcher touching home plate in order to score. If a player running home touches the pitching plate on the mat, he/she will be called out and the run does not count. The catcher must be touching the original home plate and catch the ball before the runner touches the line to make an out. Under no circumstances is the catcher to tag the runner once the runner has crossed the "Commitment Line" between 3<sup>rd</sup> and Home.
5. **Base Distance:** Bases will be 70 ft. as is the current ASA standard.

## B. **Equipment:**

1. **Ball:** BAJA will not use the current approved ASA softball. Instead we will continue to use the 44/375 ball.
2. **Bats:** Bats that are banned by ASA are automatically banned from the Allison League. Bats with cracks, flat spots, rattles etc. will not be used. EXCEPTION: Women, and men whose 75th birthday occurs in or before 2015, may use any bat in proper condition. Use of illegal bats will be dealt with by the Commissioner using ASA rules.
3. **Gloves:** There are no glove restrictions.
4. **Pitching Screen:** A pitching screen will not be used in the Allison League.
5. **Pitcher Face Mask:** Allison League pitchers WILL wear an ASA/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 appealed 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.
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 below 8 players, the Forfeit Rule (see 5 below) applies.
5. **Forfeit Rule:** Teams with only seven players in the batting lineup 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. In addition, a standby pool from the Rec League will be established. Managers may draw a enough players whose team has a bye for that day to ensure he has enough players to field a team. An out will be recorded each time a gapped lineup spot is due to bat. Only one out per rotation through the line-up will be recorded no matter how many gapped lineup spots are present.
6. **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 pick-up game or scrimmage. These pick-up games will have no effect on league standings.
7. **Player Pool:** The Allison League **WILL ATTEMPT** to create a Player Pool of replacement players to fill gaps in a team's roster due to injury or personal issue. All Pool Players will be assigned a draft round rating based on skill level. This will be done by the managers and the Commissioner with the Commissioner settling all disputes. A manager may petition the Commissioner to draw from the Player Pool to replace a player off the roster for an extended period of time (one week (4 games) or more). The player chosen will have a comparable (one up/one down) draft round rating as the one being replaced (i.e. a 6<sup>th</sup> round draft choice may be replaced by a pool player with a 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> draft round rating). If there is no appropriate Pool Player available, the manager may elect to draw a lower rated player or continue drawing from the Rec standby pool. The replaced player may elect to resume his spot on the roster at any time. When this occurs, the Pool Player will be returned to the pool.

8. **Catino League Substitution Pool:** A coordinated pool of substitutes from the Rec League has been established. This pool has been established in order to replace an injured or absent players on a one game basis only. Managers may draw only the number of players needed to bring his roster up to 10 players. Allison League managers may contact the player directly but must inform the Commissioner prior to the start of the game of the replacement. In a case where more than one team needs a substitution on the same day, the team with the lowest league standing will have first choice of players. A substitute player may only enter the game when no other rostered player is available to play.

D. **Conduct of Play:**

1. **Time Limit:** Double Headers will begin at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If no extra innings occur, no non-open inning will be started after 12:15 p.m. The last inning starting past 12:15 p.m. will be announced as an “open inning” by the umpire. There are no time restrictions set for the games.
2. **Batting Count:** All players will begin each at bat with a 0 ball and 0 strike count. The Commissioner reserves the right to change the starting batting count to 1 ball/1 strike if he see a trend of slow or lengthy games.
3. **Extra Innings:** ASA rules will be used and games will be played until there is a winner. The batter making the last out of the previous inning will be placed on second base at the start of the inning. 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 process will be repeated.
4. **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 pitches for warm-up. Infielders may elect to take 1 ball from the first baseman. A pitcher in relief may elect to be given 5 warm-up pitches. An infielder in relief may elect up to 2 balls from the first baseman.
5. **Slow Play:** Umpires will be encouraged to keep the games moving. Conferences whether offensive or defensive will be kept at a minimum and will not exceed ASA rules. Umpires, at their discretion will issue balls or strikes as appropriate.
6. **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 player may petition the Commissioner to be added to the list for special medical/health reasons prior to a game. **NO OTHER PLAYERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR COURTESY RUNNERS.** All other rules regarding Courtesy Runners are in accordance with ASA rules:
  - a. A Courtesy Runner may only run once per inning.
  - b. A Courtesy Runner may not be granted Courtesy Runner.
  - c. If a Courtesy Runner is on base when his/her turn to bat comes up, the Courtesy Runner will be removed from the base, an out recorded, and the runner will bat his turn.
7. **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 himself/herself, or placing a team

member on first base (courtesy runner rule 5.c. applies) 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, the option is repeated.

8. **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.
9. **Official Protests/Appeals:** Notification of an official protest or appeal must be made to the umpire as per ASA rules. Appeals will be adjudicated immediately by the umpire. It will be the umpire's responsibility to notify the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of the protest for adjudication. The Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner will recuse themselves in any situation that may be perceived as a conflict of interest for them. Since the two are in different leagues, the non-affected commissioner will resolve the issue.
10. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** The umpire is authorized at their discretion to warn or eject any player who exhibits bad conduct. The Commissioner reserves the right to impose a more serious penalty when a non-ASA certified umpire is presiding over the game. This overruling 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.
11. **Umpire Selection.** During the season, any person who attends the BAJA Umpire Clinic or is a certified ASA umpire may umpire a game. Umpires will be assigned by the Chief Umpire. Managers may NOT waive these assignments. During the End of Season Tourney, the Commissioner and Chief Umpire will assign umpires.
12. **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, the umpire is the official scorer. He may consult with either or both books at his discretion.
13. **Rain outs/Make-up Games:** No regular season game will be made up if cancelled. If at the end of the regular season, a tie in the standings exists, a one game play-off 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.
14. **Manager Selection.** During the summer and fall leading up to the season, the Commissioner 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.
15. **Waiver:** Except where specifically stated, **NO ASA OR BAJA RULE IN AFFECT WILL BE WAIVED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER.**