



2011 WSL Rule Modifications

Below are the rules for the 2011 **98 MPH** Championships. We encourage tournament/league directors to use the rules below in 2011 WSL/Miken Championship Series Qualifiers if possible.

WSL Legal Pitch:

6' from the ground to a maximum height of 10' from the ground. Pitchers legal motions allowed in actual delivery of the pitch. After assuming the pitching position on the pitcher's plate, the pitcher must present the ball in front of his body (for at least one second) in either one or both hands before starting the delivery motions. Note: All pitching rules that apply to the pitcher's actions before and during the release of the pitch along with the restrictions on height, speed, etc., shall remain the same. The pitcher may hold or grip the ball in any manner before delivery. Only a definite underhand motion is permitted in the delivery of the pitch.

After the pitcher presents the ball, he/she must deliver the ball underhanded at a slow rate of speed, in front of his body without pausing. If the pitcher pauses, fakes, jukes, throws overhand, sidearm, behind the back, or any type of pitch that is not a deliberate underhanded motion in front of the body will be called illegal and will be a ball if the batter does not swing at the pitch. If the batter swings at the pitch, it is a live ball.

Once the pitcher begins his delivery motions; the umpire shall not give a call or signal for "time" unless something unusual occurs. The pitched ball must be released within 5 seconds from the time the pitcher has the ball and the batter has taken his position in the batter's box. From this point, the umpire shall not give a call or signal for "time" unless something unusual occurs. Pitcher must face home plate on delivery of pitch.

- Batter starts with a 1 & 1 count.
- Batter is allowed a free foul with 2 strikes.
- WSL / ASA approved 98 MPH bats only! In all men's divisions, all bats must be 34" in length and have a minimum weight of 26 ounces and a maximum weight of 30 ounces.
- Official WSL Ball: Must use the official WSL stamped Trump Stote, 44 core, 375 compression for Championship Play.
- No base stealing.
- No metal spikes.
- Base distance: 70'
- Pitcher's Plate: 53'
- **Batters Allowed:** May bat 12, 2 Additional Hitters
- **Shorthanded Rule:** Teams must start with a minimum of 9 players; the 10th position is an out in the last spot in the batting order. You may add the 10th player at anytime during the course of the game. You may not add the 11th or 12th players once the game has started.
If you drop below the number of players you started with due to an injury and do not have a legal sub, that position is an out. If you drop below what you started with due to an ejection and do not have a legal sub, the game is a forfeit! You may not drop below 9 players, if you drop below 9 players and do not have a legal sub, the game is a forfeit!
- **Run Rule:** All Men's/Women's/Coed Divisions: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4 innings, and 12 after 5 innings.
- **Courtesy Runners:** No courtesy runner allowed!
- **Extra Runner:** A runner can pinch run once per inning for any base runner. This extra runner must be a legal player on your roster, but not in the lineup. This runner may enter the game as a batter or fielder, in this case the extra runner would be eliminated the remainder of the game. You cannot sub for the extra runner. If the extra runner becomes injured on the bases and has to come out of the game, the original runner may return to run the bases.
- **Home Run Rules:**
 - Men's "B" 6 & 1 up
 - Men's "C" 4 & Then they are outs.
 - Men's "D" 2 & Then they end the inning!
 - Men's "E" 0 & Then they end the inning!
 - Women's 2 & Then they are outs.
 - Coed 2 & Then they are outs.

- **Player Restrictions / Classifications:**

Men's "B" teams can have a maximum of 1 player from the WSL Restricted Player List & 1 player who appears on a USSSA/ASA/NSA "A" Roster or they may have 3 other players that appear on an ASA/NSA/USSSA "A" Roster & no players from the WSL Restricted Player List.

No one from the WSL Restricted Player List or any player on a USSSA Men's Major Roster can play below the "B" Level or in Coed Recreational. If your name appears on a USSSA / ASA / NSA Men's Class "A" roster, but you are not on the WSL restricted list, you may not play below the "C" level. A Men's "C" team may not have anyone from the WSL restricted list, but may have a maximum of 1 player that appears on a men's "A" roster in USSSA / ASA / NSA. Any men's player appearing on a class "B" roster in ASA, NSA, or USSSA may not play below the men's class "C" level. Any men's player appearing on a class "C" roster in ASA, NSA, or USSSA may not play below the men's class "D" level. WSL still reserves the right to put a team in the classification that we feel you will be competitive. Teams are classified by their teams overall strength offensively & defensively. Your state director has the right to classify you at his/her discretion. If your state doesn't have a state director, then your classification will be done by your regional director. If your region has not yet been assigned a director, then your classification will be decided by the National VP & President of the WSL. If you wish to appeal your classification, you may do so in writing to the National VP & President of the WSL. It is the team manager's responsibility to ensure his/her team is legal to play in the classification you signed up for. All rosters **MUST BE** submitted online a minimum of 7 days prior to the Championship Event.

National Bump up rules: There is no national bump rule for the men's "B" class or women's division. In men's "C", the champion of 98mph & 1.20bpf at the North American Championships is automatically bumped to class "B" the following season. If the team returns 5 or more players the next season, or has any combination of 5 players (ex. 1 national bump & 4 players that played the higher class), it is still an automatic bump to "B". In men's class "D" & "E" the top 10% (rounded up) finishers at the 98mph & 1.20bpf at the North American Championships will be automatically bumped to "C" & "D" respectively. If the team returns 5 or more players the next season, or has any combination of 5 players (ex. 1 national bump & 4 players that played the higher class), it is still an automatic bump to "C" & "D" respectively.

- **Penalty:** If you use an illegal player you will be removed from the tournament and placed last in the standing. No refund or compensation will be made to your team for entry fees, travel, lodging, etc. The offending player(s) and team manager will be subject to a 1 year suspension from WSL play!

- **Bat Testing Procedures:**

All bats must be inspected and tested prior to play. If your bat passes inspection & testing, your bat will be given a WSL Holographic sticker. Sticker must be on the bat at all times for the bat to be legal. If the sticker falls off, you must have the bat re-inspected and tested, if passed, a new sticker will be issued. If the bat fails, the bat will be kept until your team is eliminated from the tournament. The bat will be tagged and you will get a receipt for your bat. You will need this receipt to pick up your bat. Refusal to allow WSL to keep your bat until the completion of your team in the tournament will result in your team being removed from the tournament with no refund, and you will be suspended from WSL for 1 year without the right to appeal.

- **Bat Protest Procedure:**

If a bat has a legal sticker on it and you want to protest the bat during a game, you must notify the umpire that you want the bat checked & pay a \$100 cash protest fee, the umpire will stop the game, both team manager's & umpire will accompany the bat to the tester. The bat will be inspected and tested, if it passes, the protest fee is forfeited and the game will resume. If the bat fails, the player using the bat will be called "out" and ejected from the game. The bat will be kept under the guidelines of the Bat Testing Procedures. If a bat is used that has not been stickered, the batter is out & ejected from the game for using non-approved equipment. The bat will be inspected and tested, if it passes, the bat will be stickered and legal for future play in the tournament. If the said bat fails, we will keep the bat per the Bat Testing Procedures, but the team now must forfeit that game.

- All rosters must be online at www.worldsoftballleague.com a minimum of 7 days prior to championship play!
- All rosters freeze on July 1st. You may add or release 3 players to your roster after the freeze date. These additions or releases must be done by the team manager with approval of your state director. If your state doesn't have a director, then it must be approved by the National Vice President, or President/CEO of the WSL.
- All other rules that are not modified will follow the ASA Rule book. For championship play, the official tournament director has final say on all rules & protest.



Welcome To The Next Level!