

# DSMA Rule Changes/Highlights for 2011

*Check the DSMA Constitution and By-laws for more details.*

- ◆ **All bats on the ASA or USSSA 2011 approved bat lists are LEGAL in ALL DSMA leagues.**
- ◆ **A player can play in more than one classification, but is restricted to playing not more than one level lower than his highest classification.**
- ◆ **Pitcher Protection Rule:** Any ball that when directly hit (i.e. line drives) places the pitcher into a defenseless mode and either hits the pitcher or glances off the pitcher's glove or clothing will be considered a violation according to the "pitcher protection" rule and will result in the following penalties:
  - 1st occurrence for either team – dead ball, batter is out; BOTH teams receive a WARNING
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence for each team – dead ball, batter is out and ejected from the game; both the batter and the bat used must leave the field of play, including the dugout
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence – forfeiture of game (i.e. if one team has incurred 3 pitcher protection violations, they will forfeit the game)Balls that strike the ground first MAY be included in this rule interpretation.
- ◆ **"No Digging In" rule:** When getting set in the batters box, a batter is prohibited from performing any action that removes or redistributes dirt in a way that will create a hollow in the batters box. **Managers are responsible for informing team members. Penalty: a strike will be called. If the batter has two strikes and is charged with "digging in" a third strike will be called and that batter will be called "out".**
- ◆ **DSMA will provide all softballs for league and playoff games.**
- ◆ **Home Runs:**
  - Class C = Unlimited**
  - Class C/D = 5, then "1-up"**
  - Class D = 1, then "1-up"**"1-up" means that teams can never be more than 1 home run ahead of the other team. Example: if in a Men's Class D game Team A hits a home run, they are not allowed a 2<sup>nd</sup> home run until Team B hits one. If Team B hits a 2<sup>nd</sup> home run, they cannot hit a 3<sup>rd</sup> until Team A has hit a 2<sup>nd</sup> home run.
- ◆ **Batters will come to the plate with a count of "1 ball and 1 strike";** the batter will have a possible 3 balls and/or 2 strikes to complete their at bat. **NOTE: Coed Class D leagues will be allowed an extra foul ball; Men's C/D, Coed C/D and Men's D do not get an extra foul.**
- ◆ **ROSTERS must be turned in to your scorekeeper at the FIRST LEAGUE GAME.** However, changes can be made until the roster deadline of **September 26**, when the FINAL ROSTER is due. Rosters may be turned in at the field ONLY on the first league night. If changes are made from the initial roster, then you must submit a final roster to the Athletic/Reservations Office or Kiest Softball Complex by September 26. **PLEASE NOTE: A new roster DOES NOT have to be turned in every time you make a change; turn one in at your first game and turn in a final roster no later than September 26.** Additional roster forms may be obtained online at [www.dsma.com](http://www.dsma.com) .
- ◆ **Base stealing is allowed in all Men's leagues.**
- ◆ **Teams have a choice of using a traditional batting order or "bat-the-bench", in which all players bat.**
- ◆ **All Spring & Summer league champions will be eligible for the Metroplex Tournament of Champions at Keist Park on October 29.**