

3 Score Softball

Special meeting: To Review Rules Committee Report

Date of Meeting:
Time of Meeting:

August 10, 2022
11:14 A.M.

Location of Meeting:
Eddie C Moore Softball Complex
3050 Drew Street Clearwater Fl 33759

Present at Meeting:

Members: Jack Albertson, Mike Powell, Avery Stiglitz,
Lake Scaranda gave written response in his absence,
Dan Dulin gave verbal response in his absence
While there was not an in-person quorum meeting presence, there was a five-person quorum based on feedback given to Jack Albertson.

Meeting objective is to address a set of rule suggestions submitted by a member. These rules suggestions were given to a board member for inquiry. The member rule inquiry was turned over to the rules committee for a report out and recommendation. This Special meeting is to review the rules committee report out and the board to give a final decision.

A general observation: Often times we have a member or members that for whatever reason would like to see certain playing rules changed or new rules implemented. The board does look at this and tries to allow member input from time to time. The board also understands there is a bigger picture for 3 Score Softball to take into consideration on whether changing certain rules will impact: Fairness of the game, Safety considerations, Competition, Score outcomes, and overall accommodates playing competitive softball and having fun. There is a balance that 3 Score tries to strike. This is not easy and not perfect, when every member has their own opinions on playing rules. 3 Score from time to time has and will experimented with implementing certain rules. However for the most part the board feels it's in our best interest to try and keep our playing rules simple and consistent. 3 Score American league plays slightly modified ISA rules.

Often times Florida half-century rules are cited as a reason to change or modify 3 Score rules. 3 Score is not a tournament league:

Examples, Many leagues have:

- Seven innings, 3 Score plays nine innings (longer play)
- A mercy rule, 3 Score plays a catch-up rule and or a Flip flop rule (longer play & allows behind team a chance to be competitive and or speed up the game)
- 4 outfielders, 3 Score plays 5 outfielders (allows more players and accommodates older players)
- Designated runner from home plate, 3 Score does not, we have a National league

The board reviewed the member rule submissions and rule committee comments trying to take all this into consideration. **Board Discussion and decision in Red**

1. Replacing the current scoring chalk line - Comments: Use of the Chalk line was a safety improvement to using a throw down plate. A throw down plate could lead to injuries. Keep as is: The board feels a plate can be slipped on. Also its harder for umpire to see a defensive throw to catcher at home plate timed with the offensive player stepping foot on small plate. Additionally adding Plate back does not significantly impact the play of the game. Also 3 Score uses several fields around the county and it's more equipment to lug around for an extra home plate.

2. No warmups after the first inning. - Comments: We all agree that we need to restrict infield practice to the 1st inning only, but the pitcher gets only 3 warmup pitches after the 1st inning. Keep as Is: The board feels it's up to the managers to get their players out on the field as quickly as possible if they want to get a couple practice pitches in and in-field warm-ups. In addition it's up to the umpire to move the game along. If umpire allows three practice pitches, its umpire's discretion. Also we encourage captains to have three batters on deck quickly to keep the game moving.

3. Remove 5th outfield - Pros & Cons on this one! Comments: Definitely, this one will need a league-wide vote by all members. We all see that this could go either way depending on if you prefer offense or defense. Keep as Is: Board feels five outfielders allows more players especially when we have 13 or 14 on a team. However when two teams only have 11 players and the captains can't agree on whether to play with 5 or 4 outfielders, the rule will be 3 Score plays with 5 out fields. Therefore the two teams will have to provide an additional player to accommodate the five player outfielders. As a note for those tournament players getting a hit in 3 Score with five outfielders means you should even do better in tournament play with four outfielders. The 5 outfielder has been a precedent for 10 years. This does not require a member vote.

4. No Flip - Flop Rule - Comments: We all agree that we should just eliminate this rule! Too confusing and takes too much time just to explain it to each player. This can be done by the board. Keep as is: The board overall does not feel that flip-flop rule is that big of an issue. It does not happen that often. It allows to speed up the game. If during the flip-flop rule the team caught up. It still allows the opposing team to have at bat again. Afterall why massacre a team when they are already beaten by 12 runs.

5. If a batter walks, a runner is put on 1st base and original batter bats again?
Comments: We all agree on this! NO WAY! However, we could create a rule that allows you to intentionally walk any batter only ONE time per game. Keep as is: This loading the base is a strategic play by the defensive team and does not happen that often.

6. Courtesy Runner Rule Proposal

1. Team captains will designate no more than 3 players for use of courtesy runners. Captains may add another player at any time in the game if he has not designated 3 players. Keep rule as is:
2. If another player is injured while running the bases, then the team captain can replace him with another courtesy runner, however must remove one of the original designated players. (Exception: That all previous 3 designated players are actually injured). Keep rule as is:

3. A courtesy runner on base when it is his turn to bat will be declared out. The runner will be removed from the base and a second courtesy runner cannot be substituted. Substitution for the original player will not prevent this out. The courtesy runner called out does not lose his turn at bat. EFFECT: The out occurs at the base the courtesy runner abandons to take his required turn at bat unless it is the third out. Keep as is:

The board overall feels that the current courtesy Runner rule while it may not be perfect, it works, with minimal issues. The times that you have the same courtesy runners run more than 3 times in a game is rare. Pure inning logistics makes it hard for same courtesy runner to run more than 3 times in a single game. If someone is injured, they can currently get a courtesy runner. You are currently out if courtesy runner is on base and it's their turn at bat.

Adjourned 12:36pm

Meeting minutes:

Jack Albertson in absence of Secretary