

## NEAAU Softball 2010 Playing Rules

Participation, play, field and equipment requirements will all be in accordance with the ASA “*2010 Participation Manual: Official Rules of Softball*” with the following NEAAU League exceptions or emphasis:

1. The Run-ahead rule is not in effect. (This is to ensure maximal playing time and to make it worthwhile for teams traveling from greater distances). Instead, a team’s at bat per inning will end for three outs recorded or 5 runs scored. A play which results in more players crossing the plate than would be 5 runs, will result in only the 5 runs recorded for the team. However players’ individual stats should reflect their actual contributions (RBIs, etc.). The 5-run limit is waived in the 7<sup>th</sup> or last declared inning.
2. Time limit will be in accordance with ASA Rule 5-10-B: No new inning shall start 1:40 after the first pitch of the game. The umpire may declare the final inning before its first pitch based on his/her judgment with regard to the time limit,
3. Tie-breaker rule (ITB) (ASA 5-11) is in effect subject to the time limit. (Games may end in a tie).
4. “4A” Extra player (adopted from ASA slow-pitch rules 4-4). A team may have 10 offensive players in starting batting order, 9 defensive fielders and free substitutions among those starting 10. Any additional “bench” players on the roster are subject to regular ASA substitution rules (any player may be substituted for or replaced and re-enter the game once if: a) the reentry occupies the same place in the batting order, and b) the starting player and her substitute may not be in the line up at the same time). ALTERNATIVELY “4B” if both managers agree at pregame plate conference, a continuous batting order may be used with free substitution of all defensive fielders and thus “4A” does not apply.
5. A courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher and catcher only. Such runner shall be either a player who has not yet entered the game, or the last player scheduled in the current line-up to hit (last player to complete an at bat in the immediate prior inning), or the next-to-last if a second courtesy runner is used for both pitcher and catcher. If the courtesy runner is on base whose time at bat comes up, an out will be declared. A courtesy runner (same person) may not be used twice in the same inning.