

MLB - Summary of Rule Changes

The Official Playing Rules Committee made the following changes that will be in effect for the 2017 MLB season:

- Re-titled Rule 3.10 and added Rule 3.10(b) to prohibit the use of certain field markers on the field.
- Amended Rules 4.04(a) and 4.04(b) to clarify that, for the purposes of this Rule, the second game of a doubleheader includes conventional or split doubleheaders.
- *For National Association Leagues:* Amended Rule 4.08(a)(1) so that completion of a suspended game may not be played prior to the start of a scheduled doubleheader. (See also additional Rule 7.02(b) Comment.)
- Amended Rule 4.08(b) to clarify that the first game of a conventional or split doubleheader must be completed before the second game of such doubleheader begins.
- Amended Rule 5.03(b), added Rule 5.03(c), and amended 5.03(c) PENALTY regarding positioning of base coaches within the coaching boxes. Also deleted Rule 5.03 Comment.
- Deleted the fifth paragraph of Rule 5.04(b)(2) Comment.
- *For National Association Leagues:* Amended Rule 5.04(b)(2) Comment regarding a batter who steps out of the batter's box after the pitcher has begun his windup or has come to a Set Position with a runner(s) on base.
- *For National Association Leagues:* Amended Rule 5.04(b)(4)(A) regarding multiple violations of The Batter's Box Rule.
- Amended Rule 5.05(b)(1) Comment regarding the responsibilities of the batter-runner when the defensive manager signals his intent to intentionally walk the batter. (See also the amended definition of "Base on Balls" in Definition of Terms.)
- Amended Rule 5.07(a) Comment specifying that a pitcher may not take a second step towards home plate with either foot or reset his pivot foot in his delivery of the pitch. Specified penalty for such violation.
- Amended Rule 5.07(a)(2) Comment regarding the positioning of the pitcher's pivot and free foot and whether he will pitch from the Windup or Set Position. Specifies that the pitcher shall notify the umpire if he (the pitcher) is going to pitch from the Windup Position when his pivot foot and free foot are in a particular position.
- *For National Association Leagues:* Added Rule 7.02(b) Comment regarding resuming a suspended game when no single game remains on the schedule (i.e., only a doubleheader(s) remain on the schedule). In such cases, only a single game may be played following completion of the suspended game. (See also amended Rule 4.08(a)(1).)

- Amended Rule 7.02(b)(5) regarding the League President determining when an incomplete game be played to a completed regulation game with respect to eligibility for the post-season and/or home-field advantage for any Wild Card or Division Series game.
- Added Rule 9.14(d) regarding how the official scorer shall score an intentional walk when the defensive manager informs the umpire that a batter will be intentionally walked without the pitcher pitching four balls to the batter.
- Amended Definition of Terms (“Base on Balls”) to permit the manager to elect to intentionally walk a batter by notifying the umpire without the pitcher being required to pitch to the batter. (See also amended Rule 5.05(b)(1) Comment.)

In addition, minor revisions were made to Diagrams 1 and 3; and minor typographical errors were corrected.