

DESL Summer 2020 COVID-19 - UPDATED Rules – July 25, 2020

- Games will be approximately 1½ hrs,
 - Any inning that starts just before **1hr 20min** will be a 5 run max inning
 - The inning that starts at or after the **1hr 20min** mark will be the final & open inning (and will be played to the completion of the inning, even if longer than 1 ½ hrs).
- All games will be official after 5 complete innings (4½ if the home team is in the lead).
- Only show up 5-10 mins before your game and leave right after your game.
- No hanging around after your games.
- Hand Sanitizer will be supplied and be on the benches.
- Players must be 6ft apart and not use the benches unless:
 - On Offence: only the batter in the hole can wait there.
 - On Defence: the players sitting can be on the bench. 1 at each end, if more than 2 sits, they must be in the bleachers
- No sharing of gloves, snacks, drinks, etc...
- Absolutely no spitting (on batting gloves or bats).
- Defensive team will have 9 fielders:
 - No infield rover
 - Batting team provides the pitcher
- Pitching Rules
 - **Batter has 4 pitches to put the ball in play**
 - **A batted ball that hits the screen is a dead ball and counts as a pitch.**
 - **The pitcher is an extension of the screen if he is not behind it. If the batted ball hits the pitcher, it is just like hitting the screen and it's a dead ball.**
 - **A batter that hits the pitcher, the screen or fouls off the 4th and final pitch is called out.**
 - Pitcher will have the 4 balls for the atbat behind the screen
 - Pitcher can not field the batted balls
- Catcher must be 6 feet from the plate
 - Can crouch 6 ft behind the plate
 - Can stand against the backstop
 - Can stand in the on-deck circle
 - Catcher only throws the ball's back to the pitcher after each atbat
- No home plate umpire
- Base umpire stands behind pitcher (has to cover all bases)
- There will be commit lines between 1st and 2nd & 2nd and 3rd (at 50% of the distance)
- No run downs, if you have not crossed the commit line and turn back, you must go back, if you stop and head for the next base again, you are automatically called out.
- All plays are force plays, no tags. If a fielder tags the runner, they will automatically be awarded the base they were going to, even if the ball is thrown to that base and beats the runner.
 - Example: runner at 1st and a groundball is hit to the 2nd baseman, he fields it, forgets the rule, tags the runner but immediately throws the ball to the SS covering 2nd base. The runner is still awarded 2nd base.
- Tagging from 1st & 2nd is permitted on flyballs.
- **We are removing the safe base circles. All plays at the bases are force plays, no tagging and sliding is allowed.**
 - **A runner is permitted to overrun the base and still be safe as long as he does not make a turn towards the next base. If he turns left towards 3rd or home, the umpire has the right to call him out.**

- To avoid this happening, the runner should overrun the base by running straight or veering to the right.
- 1st base coach is optional
- 3rd base coach must be at the fence
- A runner that scores (crosses home plate) must leave the playing field immediately (not wait for additional runner(s) to score).

**** THE ABOVE ARE THE PLAYING RULES FOR THIS « UNUSUAL » COVID-19 SEASON. ALL REGULAR RULES FOR PLAYER CONDUCT, SPORTSMANSHIP, ETC... STILL APPLY ****