



# ASA Courtesy Runner Rule Change:

*Effective February 2016*

**Rule 8, Section 9B2:** This is the new rule for Adult Slow Pitch allowing a courtesy runner. This new rule states, *(All Adult Slow Pitch, except Seniors) Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.*

A question came up regarding if you have only one available substitute on base as the courtesy runner and the next player at bat gets injured, what would be the ruling? In similar cases where a new rule does not cover every situation, we review the entire rule book to see if there is any rule discussed in the rule book that would cover that play. In this situation we do, in the Fast Pitch and Modified Pitch courtesy runner rule, this is covered. Therefore, the interpretation for this question would be that the only available substitute, which is being used as a courtesy runner, would be removed from the base and entered as a substitute for the injured player and the player the courtesy runner was running for would return to the base and run for them. This would make the new rule read as follows:

*(All Adult Slow Pitch except Seniors) Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.*

**Exception:** *Should an injury or disqualification occur and no substitutes are available, the courtesy runner must be used as a substitute and take the place of the injured player. Should the courtesy runner be on base and is entered as a substitute, the person for whom the courtesy runner is running must run in their place.*

**Rule 8 Section 9B2:** This new rule states, *(All Adult Slow Pitch except Seniors) Any eligible player on the official line-up including available substitutes may be used as a courtesy runner. A courtesy runner may be used once per inning.*

A question came up on the definition of an eligible player. Can a player who has used up their reentry, run as a courtesy runner. In ASA/USA Softball an eligible player is a rostered player. The intent of the rule change was to allow any rostered player to be a courtesy runner. **This is interpreted as any rostered player not ejected and or disqualified from the game may still be used as a courtesy runner.**

Safety Awareness Guide: Page 188 in the Safety Awareness Guide, under Helmets, still contains the sentence, Please note: ~~chin straps are mandatory on all youth batting helmets~~. This sentence needs to be removed or changed to may be worn.

Rule change is posted on ASA website:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/news/2016/February/08/February-2016-Plays-and-Clarifications>