### 2017 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

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| 6-2-2  | **ART. 2** ... The pitcher shall not at any time during the game be allowed to use tape or any other substance on the ball or contact points of the pitching hand or fingers; nor shall any other player apply a foreign substance to the ball. A pitcher who licks her fingers shall wipe them off before bringing them in contact with the ball. Under the supervision and control of the umpire, powdered resin or any comparable drying agent may be used to dry the hand. It is not necessary to wipe off the drying agent before making contact with the ball. The pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.  

**Rationale:** Confusion exists regarding whether drying agents must be removed from the hand before making contact with the ball. This language clarifies the rule. |
| 7-4-8 NOTE | **ART. 8** ... The batter hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box or while touching the plate.  

**NOTE:** A follow-through with the bat may carry one of the batter's feet entirely outside the box so it touches the ground as the ball is leaving the bat. It is customary for the umpire to ignore this if both feet were in legal position at the start of the swing and if it is not considered an attempt to circumvent the spirit of the rule.  

**Rationale:** The note does not clarify the rule, and often creates confusion in the administration of the rule. |
| 8-1-2  | b. (F.P.) a pitched ball is entirely within the batter’s box and it strikes the batter or her clothing. No attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required. However, the batter may not obviously try to get hit by the pitch.  

**c. (F.P.)** a pitched ball (not entirely in the batter’s box) not swung at nor called a strike touches any part of the batter’s person or clothing. It does not matter if the ball strikes the ground before hitting the batter. The batter’s hands are not to be considered part of the bat.  

**Rationale:** Language that was originally inserted in 2013 was inadvertently omitted. |
| 8-2-4 Exception | The batter-runner shall be called out when:  

**ART. 4** ... The batter-runner fails to advance to first base and enters the dugout/bench area after a batted fair ball, a base on balls, a hit batter (F.P.), a dropped third strike (F.P.), or catcher obstruction.  

**EXCEPTION: (S.P.)** The ball is dead on a base on balls (S.P.), or on a hit batter who is injured (F.P.), the ball is dead, the batter-runner is not out and runners cannot advance unless forced.  

**Rationale:** Rule 8-2-4 states that the batter is out if the player does not advance to first base and enters the dugout/bench area after being hit by the pitch. The exception (F.P) excludes a batter who enters the dugout because the player was injured by a pitched ball. The change clarifies language in the exception. |