

2024 D2 Major Rules Changes (with 2025 clarifications)

- Equipment
 - Bats: Players may use any softball bat that is stamped with a SSUSA, USSSA, or ASA stamp.
 - Balls: The league will provide 52 COR/300 ball for use in all games
- Game Rules
 - Reinststitute the infield fly rule
 - Courtesy Runner
 - From home plate –all runners must reach first base under their own power. A courtesy runner from home plate is not permitted.
 - From a base - a courtesy runner is available when needed. The last batted out would perform the running. A player may act as a courtesy runner one time per inning with no limitations on the number of times you can be a runner in a game but you must be the last batted out.
 - D2 will have 12 players in the field in 2025.
 - A team that is short players can request a courtesy catcher from their opponent. The courtesy catcher shall make all basic plays defensively.
- Manager Expectations
 - All teams must keep a scorebook, no exceptions. Names of players attending the game and runs scored should be at a minimum.
 - The team manager (one person designated as the coach for this game) is the only one who can have an in-game discussion with the umpire. All other players should not address the umpire.
- Bases
 - There will be an orange safety base placed at first base in foul territory.
 - There will no longer be a safety base at third base. All rules for third base follow standard baseball rules.
- Runners
 - It is always runner's responsibility to PROACTIVELY avert physical contact with other players.
 - Fielders must take steps to not block runners.
 - Runners must take steps to avert contact with fielders, including veering.
 - Umpires must get into position to make calls at 2B and uniformly enforce rules:
 - Call interference and declare runners safe, if fielders impede them.
 - Call interference and declare runners out if they do not avert contact.
 - Call veering runners safe, if they would have been safe without veering.
 - First base
 - A runner shall run to the safety base whenever a ball is hit to the infield and a play may be made. Failure to run to the safety base will result in an out being declared by the umpire with no further advance by other runners. If a ball is hit to the outfield, the runner has the option to run to either bag. If the runner runs to the safety bag, he/she must tag the white base before moving to the next base.
 - It is incumbent on the fielder to not block the base or base path if there is no chance for a play to be made. If **in the umpire's judgment**, the fielder has blocked the base or interfered in the base path, he/she may call interference and allow the runner (the runner interfered with and the runner on the immediate base in ahead if applicable) to advance to the next base. In this case, during the play, the umpire would raise their hand to signal there is interference while the play continues. If the interference does not change

anything, then no one would advance. It is entirely in the umpire's judgment whether the interference impacted the outcome of the play.

- Second base or third base - a runner has three options: Slide, Veer, Slow up
 - Sliding is permitted to the base. Takeout slides are not permitted and the runner shall be called out by the umpire. If a takeout slide is attempted on a double play, both runners shall be called out.
 - Runners shall avoid contact with the fielder. If to avoid contact, a runner does not touch second base (veer), it is the umpire's judgment on whether the runner is safe or out. If a runner who has veered off to avoid contact attempts to advance to third base, the runner has to actually touch second base before advancing to third.
 - Runners cannot overrun second or third base without risking being put out unless veering off.
 - It is incumbent on the fielder to not block the base or base path if there is no chance for a play to be made. If **in the umpire's judgment**, the fielder has blocked the base or interfered in the base path, he/she may call interference and allow the runner (the runner interfered with and the runner on the immediate base in ahead if applicable) to advance to the next base. In this case, during the play, the umpire would raise their hand to signal there is interference while the play continues. If the interference does not change anything, then no one would advance. It is entirely in the umpire's judgment whether the interference impacted the outcome.

- Pitching

- Masks and protective equipment is encouraged/recommended but not required.
- A league provided pitching screen shall be present at all times. It will be oriented parallel to the pitching rubber, 3-6 feet in front of the pitching rubber, with some portion of the screen in line with the rubber. In other words, the screen cannot be completely to the side of the rubber, it has to be fashioned as part of the pitching rubber alignment.
- A pitcher is not required to but encouraged to go behind the screen after throwing a pitch.
- A pitcher can field a ball anywhere including in front of the screen.

- Intentional walks

- Shall following the existing Codger rule which states, "INTENTIONAL WALK: A defensive team may elect to intentionally walk a batter by notifying the umpire and the batter will proceed directly to first base. An individual batter may only be intentionally walked **once** during a regulation game."

- Playoff eligibility

- All players must attend 7 games in order to be eligible for the playoffs.
- Exceptions may be made after a meeting discussing the reason of the exception with the board president.