

2021 Softball





2021 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES POWER POINT

National Federation of State
High School Associations



Take Part. Get Set For Life.®

Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis



**TEAM IP IS PROUD TO BE THE
EXCLUSIVE CORPORATE PARTNER FOR NFHS SOFTBALL**



www.teamip.com | Toll Free: 1-877-821-8643



Inc. 500 || **5000**

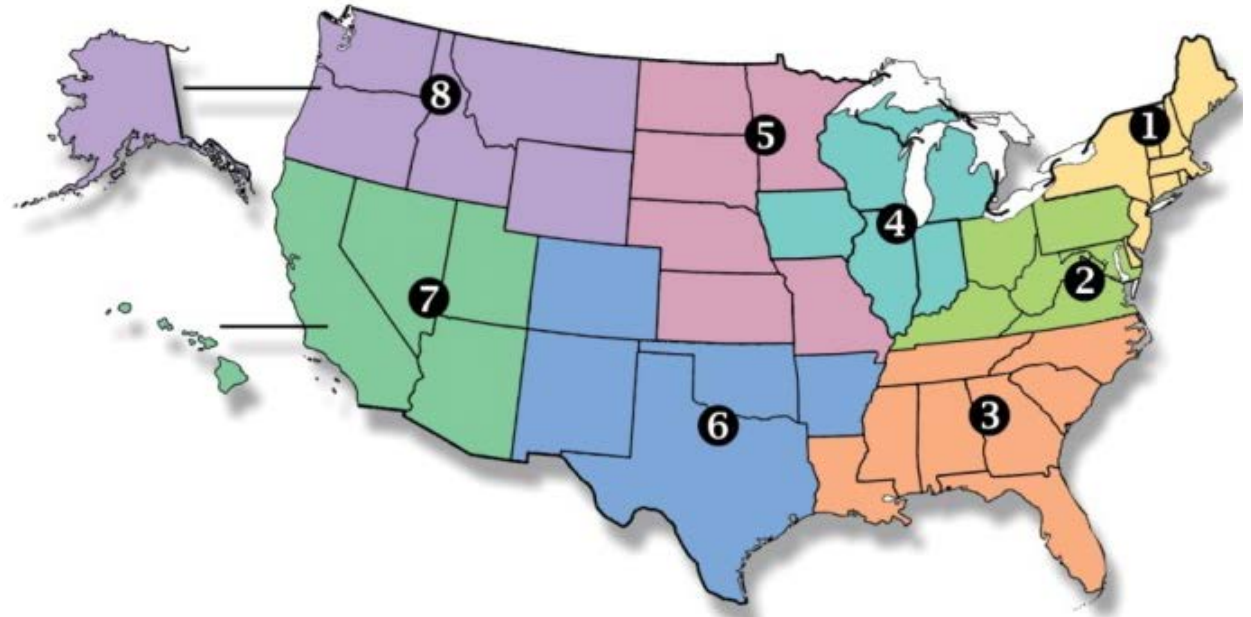
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- NFHS (located in Indianapolis, IN – Est. 1920):
 - National leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities;
 - National authority on interscholastic activity programs.
 - Conducts national meetings;
 - Sanctions interstate events;
 - Produces national publication for high school administrators;
 - National source for interscholastic coach training and national information center.



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- Membership = 50-member state associations and D.C.
- NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.8 million in high school sports.



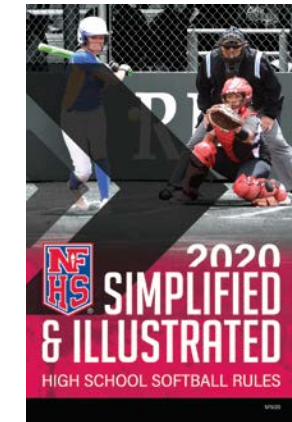


NFHS SOFTBALL RESOURCES



NFHS SOFTBALL PUBLICATIONS

- NFHS Rules Books, Case Books and other softball resources can be ordered:
 - online at www.nfhs.com
 - by calling 1-800-776-3462



NFHS RULES BOOK AS E-BOOKS

National Federation of State High School Associations



GET NFHS RULES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Have you been without your printed rules book and needed to find an obscure rule quickly, make a note or highlight a rule?

E-books Features:

- Searchable
- Highlight Areas of Interest
- Make Notes
- Easy Navigation
- Adjustable Viewing Size
- Immediate Availability



www.nfhs.org/ebooks

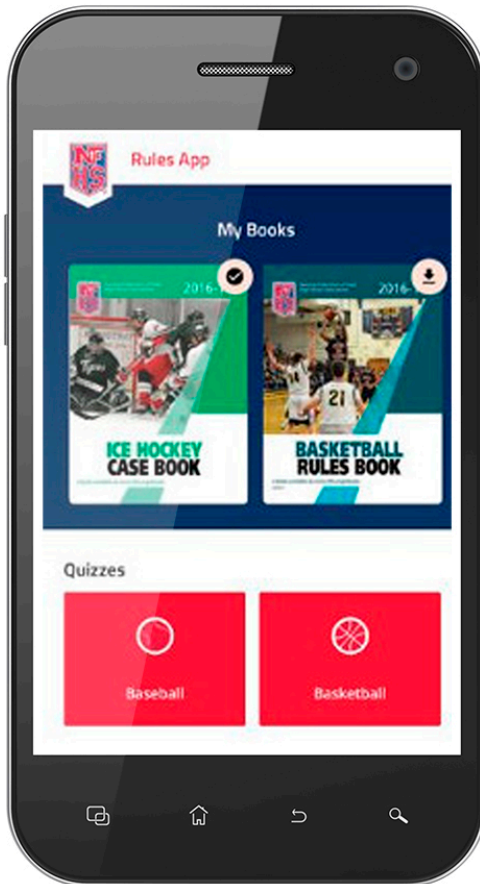
NFHS Rules and Case e-books for \$6.99 each

Download from iTunes or Amazon

- E-books features:
 - Searchable
 - Highlight areas of interest
 - Make notes
 - Easy navigation
 - Adjustable viewing size
 - Immediate availability



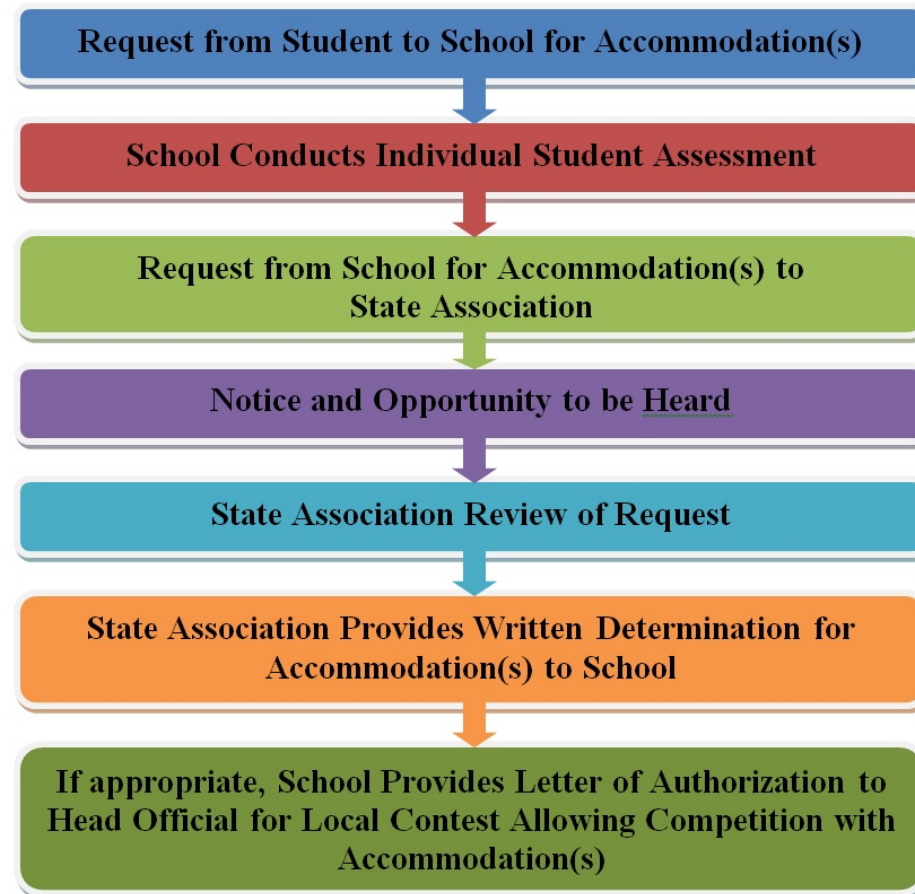
NFHS RULES APP



- Rules App features:
 - Searchable
 - Highlight notes
 - Bookmarks
 - Quizzes for all sports
 - Easy navigation
 - Immediate availability
 - Free to paid members of the NFHS Coaches and Officials Associations
 - www.nfhs.org/erules for more information



GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACCOMMODATIONS





2020 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES



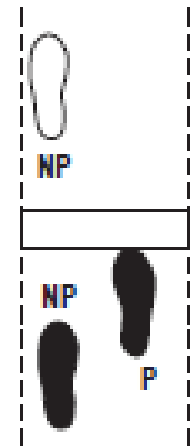
EDITORIAL CORRECTIONS – RULES BOOK

- **Rule 2-4-3**

ART. 3 . . . Damaged Bat – A bat that was once legal but is broken, cracked, dented, rattles, or has sharp edges that might deface the ~~bat~~ ball. Damaged bats shall be removed from the game without penalty as in Rule 7-4-2 PENALTY NOTE.

- **Rule 6-1-1 Playpic 6**

The caption for figure 6 is incorrect in the rules book. It is legal for a pitcher to have toe of the pivot foot touching pitcher's plate and non-pivot foot behind the pitcher's plate.



No. 6 LEGAL

P = In Contact With (Legal)
NP = Behind/Within (Legal)

EDITORIAL CORRECTIONS – UMPIRES MANUAL

- Plate Mechanics (Page 23)

If the ball is near the foul line and lands in ~~foul fair~~ territory untouched, give a dead-ball signal and verbal call of "foul" or "foul ball."

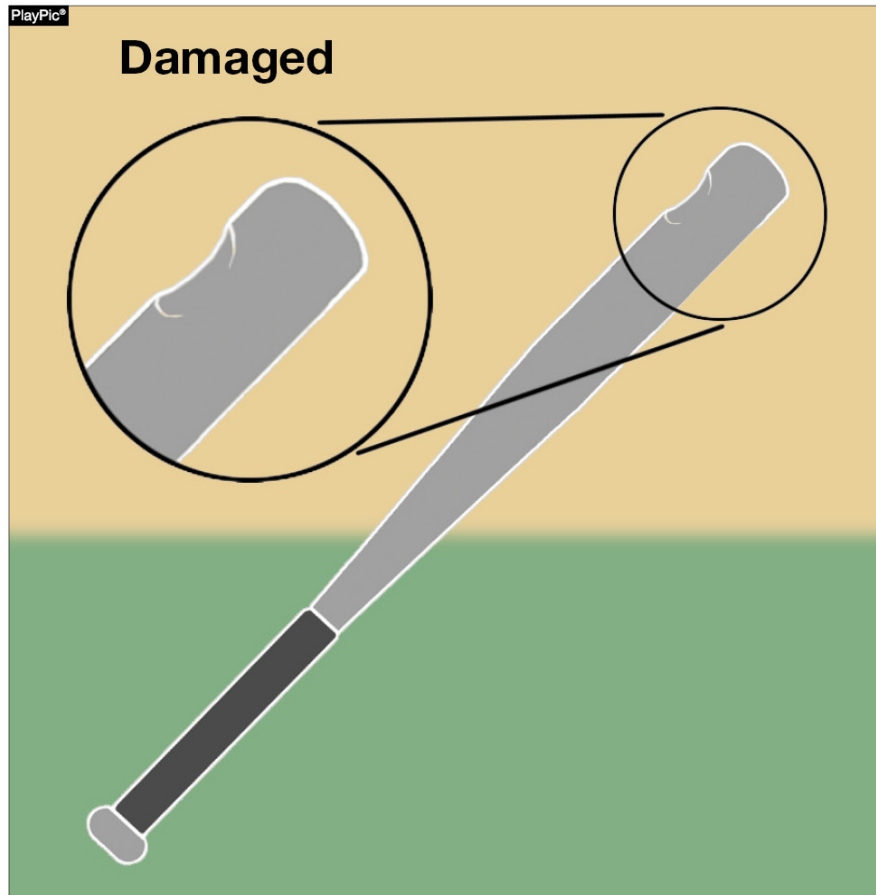
- Plate Mechanics (Page 25)

...If not, the head coach of the offended team is given the option of taking the result of the play, or having a ball awarded to the batter ~~and all runners advanced one base~~. If an illegal pitch hits a batter, the batter is awarded first base and all runners are advanced one base only if forced. ~~as a result of the illegal pitch.~~



BATS

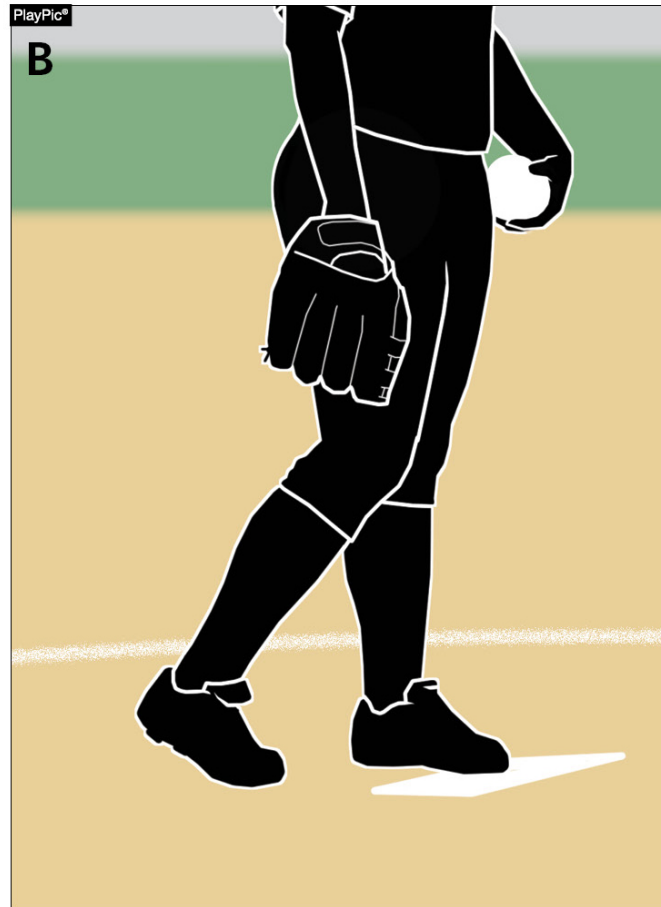
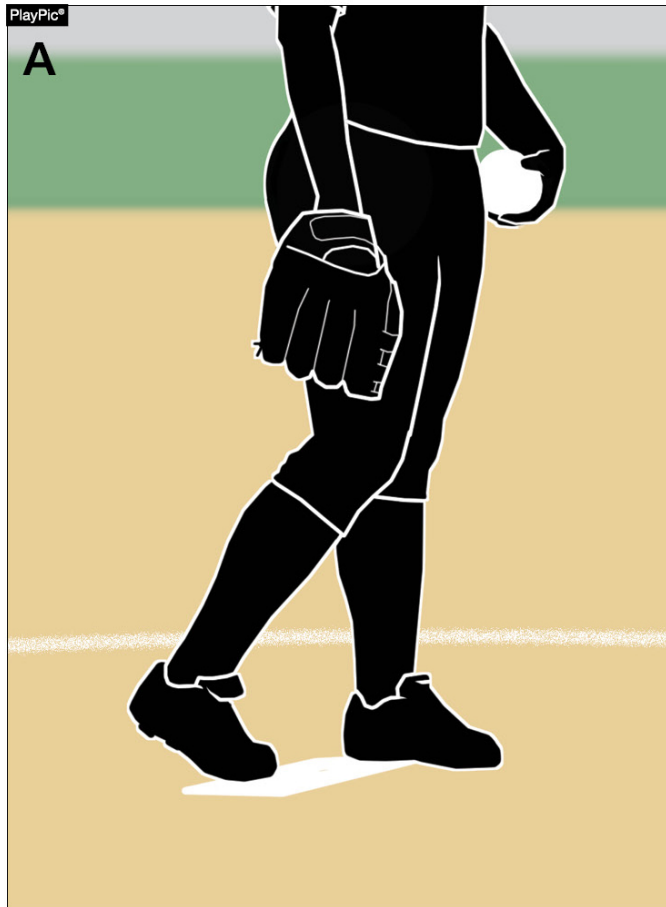
RULES 1-5-1c,d,e, 2-4-3, 7-4-2 PENALTY NOTE



A damaged bat has been defined as a bat that was once legal but is now broken, cracked or dented. A damaged bat shall be removed without penalty. A bat that continually discolors the ball may be removed from the game with no penalty at the discretion of the umpire. Players who attempt to use damaged bats after they have been removed are then subject to the penalties for unsporting behavior.

PITCHING REGULATIONS

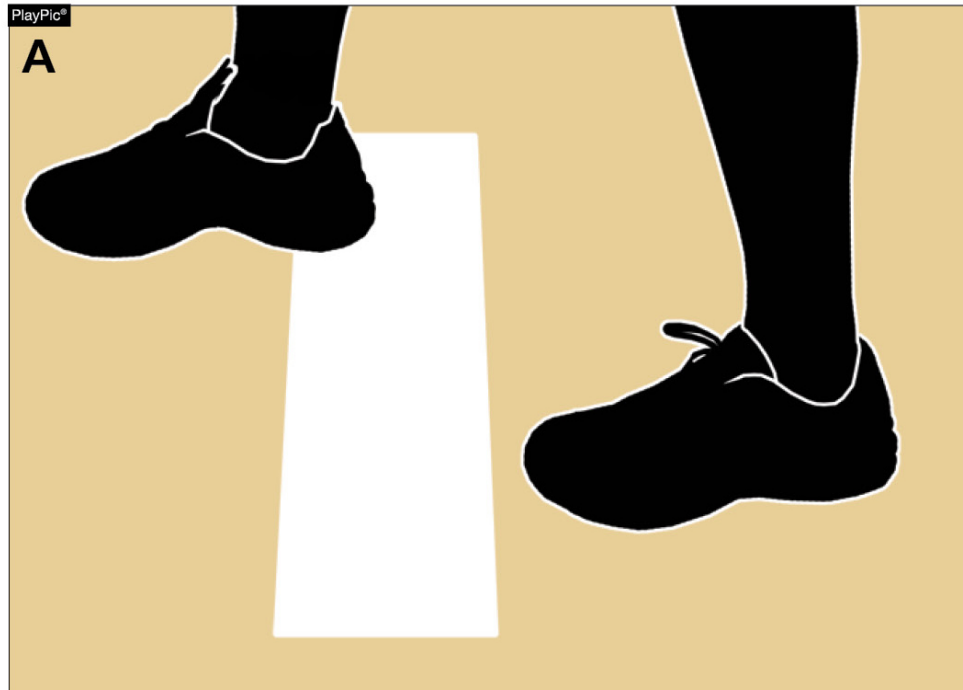
RULES 6-1-1, 6-1-2a



Whether both feet are in contact with the pitching plate (PlayPic A) or only the pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate (PlayPic B), the pitcher shall take (or simulate taking) a signal from the catcher.

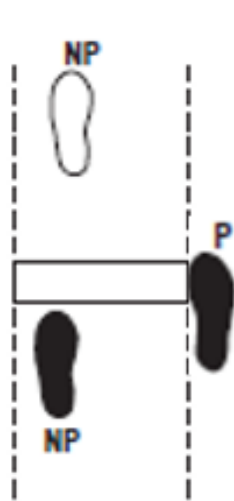
PITCHING REGULATIONS

RULES 6-1-1, 6-1-2a



Because the pivot foot in PlayPic (A) and (B) is in contact with the pitcher's plate, this is legal. Previously, it was required that the pivot foot be on top of the pitcher's plate. The rule change allows it to be on top or in contact with the plate.

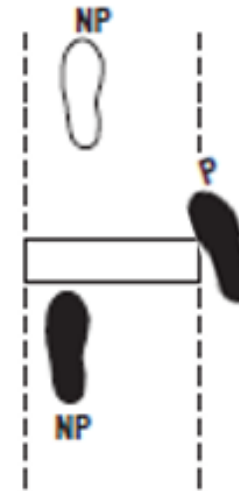
6-1-1 PIVOT FOOT PLACEMENT



Illegal: Although the pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate, it is not within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitching plate.



Legal: The pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate and partially within the 24-inch length of the pitching plate.



Legal: The pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate and partially within the 24-inch length of the pitching plate.



Legal: The pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate and partially within the 24-inch length of the pitching plate. The pivot foot is slightly on top of pitching plate which puts it within the 24" requirement.



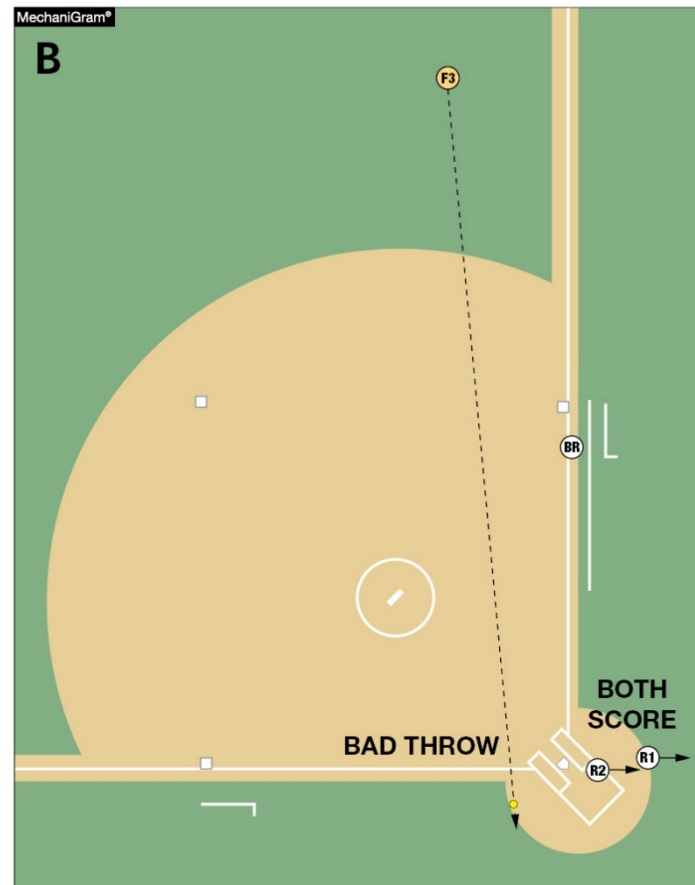
HOW A TEAM SCORES RULE 9-1-1 EXCEPTION C

- A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by a preceding runner who is declared out on an appeal play.
- Previous wording only described a runner failing to touch a base. This new wording makes it clear that if the preceding runner is called out for any appeal play, the following runs would not score.



HOW A TEAM SCORES

RULE 9-1-1 EXCEPTION C



In MechaniGram A, the fly ball is caught for the second out. Both runners tag. R1 on third base leaves early and scores, R2 on second base leaves legally to advance to third base. In MechaniGram B, the throw is over the defensive player's head and R2 scores. The defense then appeals that R1 left early. No runs score since R1 is declared out and no runner can score if the preceding runner is called out on appeal for the third out of the inning.

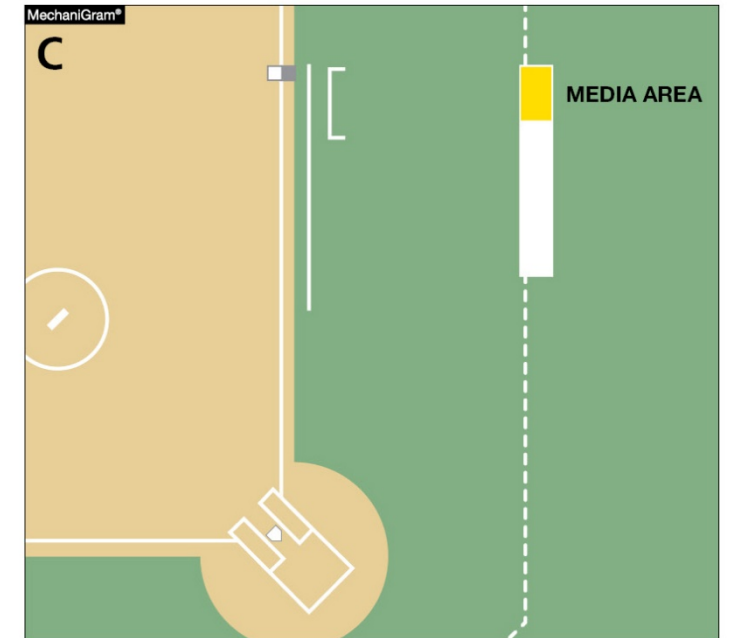
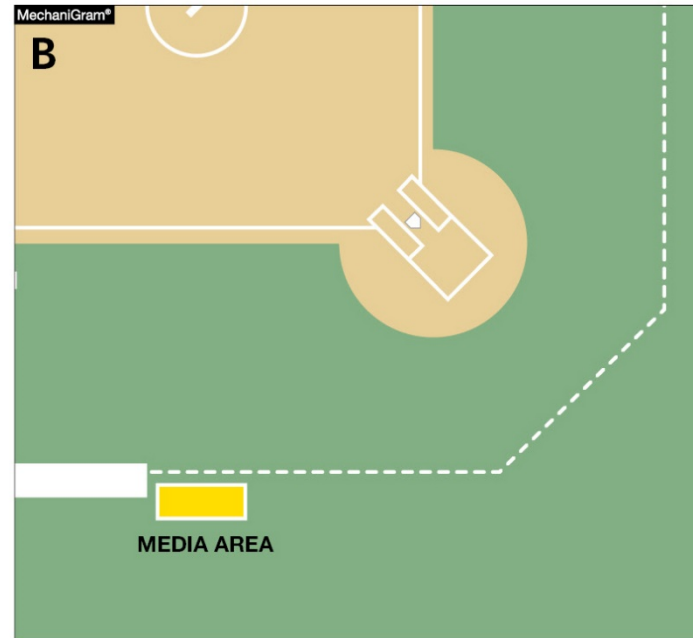
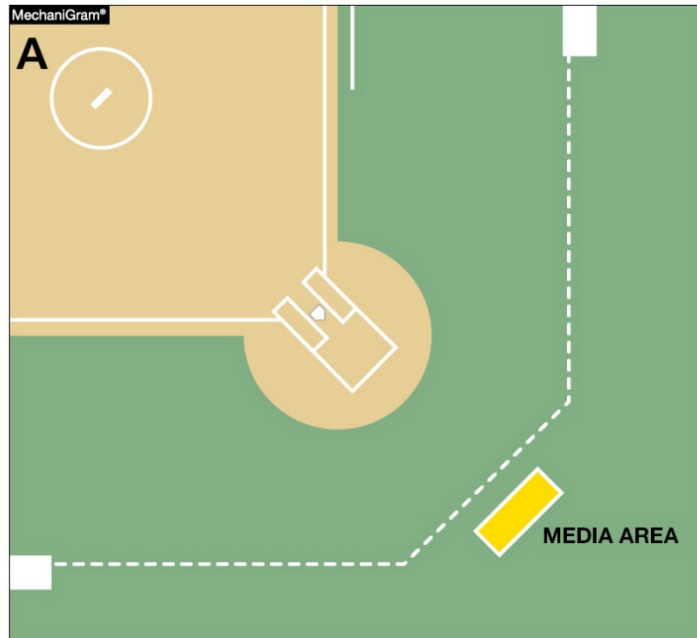


2020 NFHS SOFTBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES





THE FIELD RULE 1-1-7



Game management or a state administrator may establish a media area as needed.

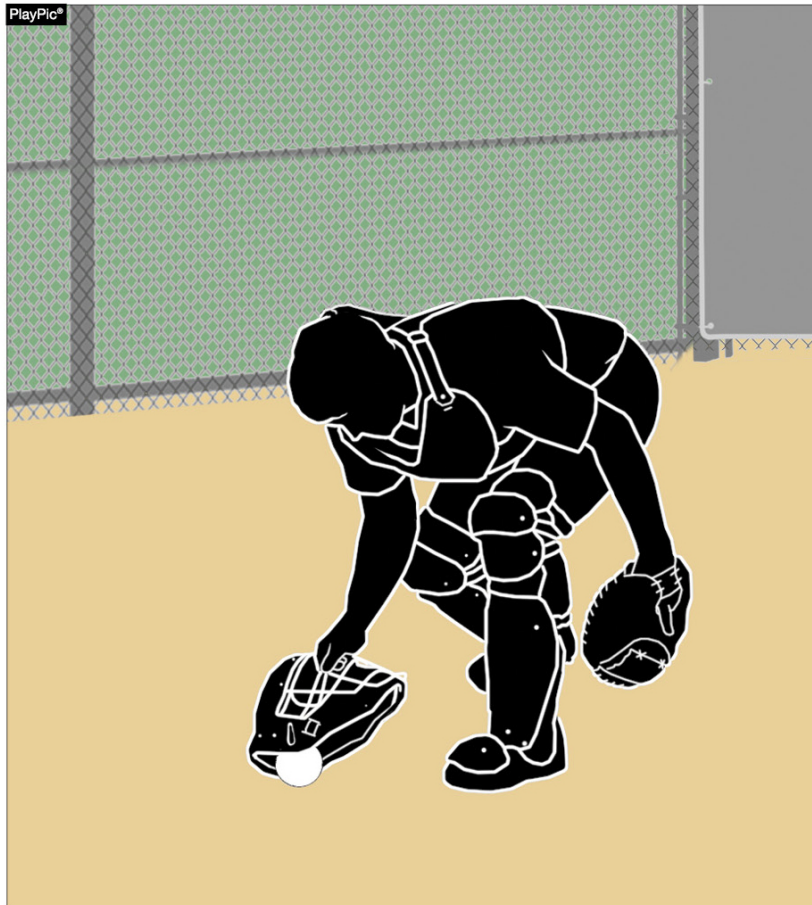
FIELD AND EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1d

- Updates to add the new USA Softball All Games certification mark.
- This new mark is very similar to the 2004 ASA Softball Logo just with USA Softball wording.
- This new mark will begin to be seen in 2020 and beyond.



RUNNERS ENTITLED TO ADVANCE

RULE 8-4-3d PENALTY



Language was clarified to indicate that when F2 stops a wild pitch or passed ball with detached equipment, the batter is not awarded bases. But if that pitch completed the batter's turn at bat, the batter-runner is awarded first base.



2020 NFHS SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

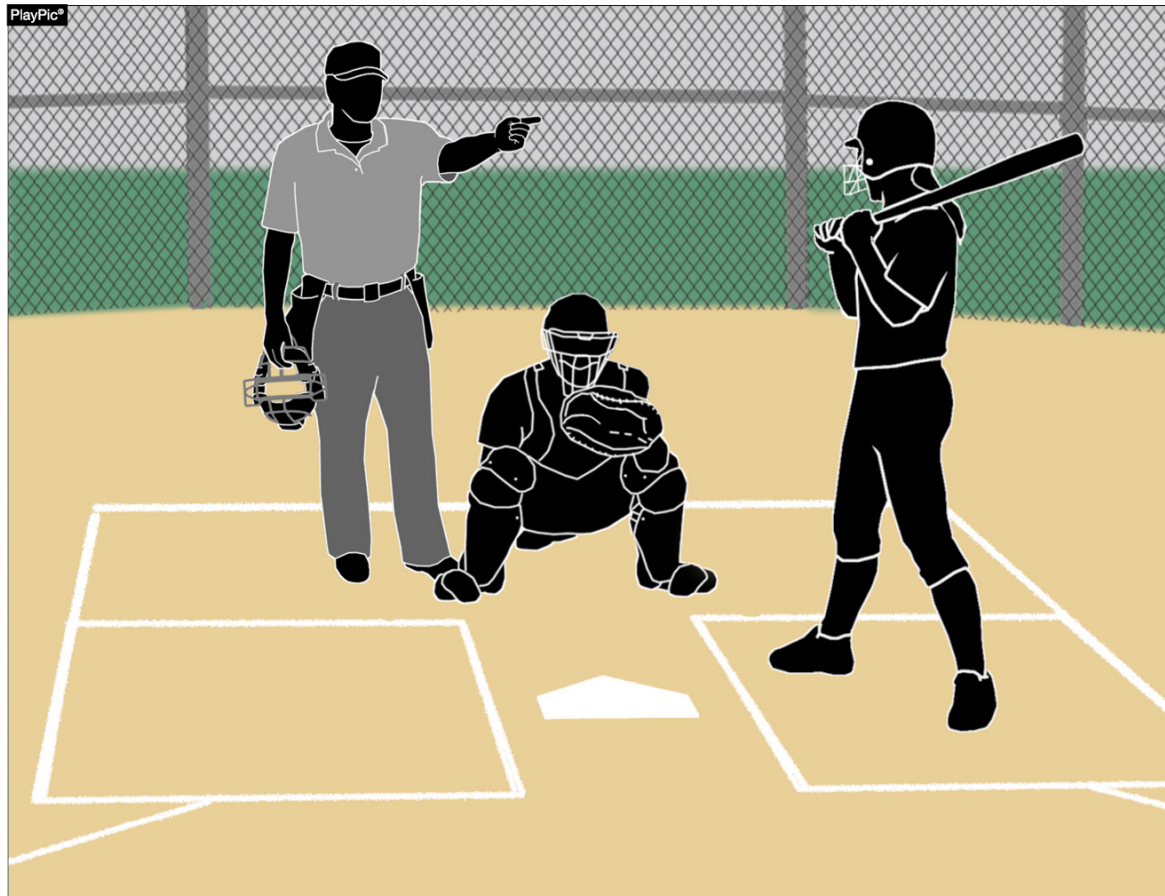


DAMAGED BAT VS. ILLEGAL BAT



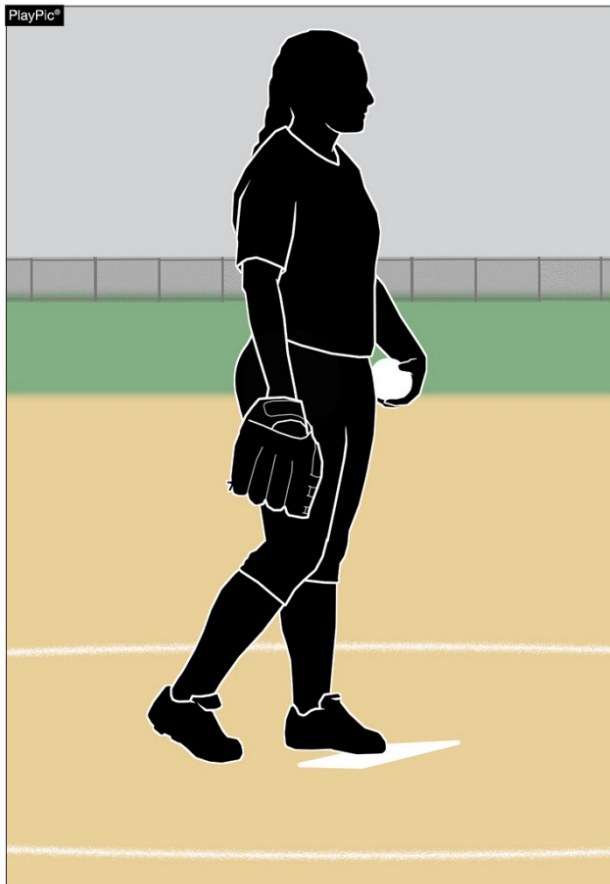
Bats must bear either the 2000, 2004, or the USA Softball All Games certification mark. Additionally, the bat must not appear on USA Softball's Non-Approved Bats With Certification Marks list (www.usasoftball.com). Bat barrels made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear a certification mark but shall not exceed 2-1/4 inches in diameter.

DAMAGED BAT VS. ILLEGAL BAT



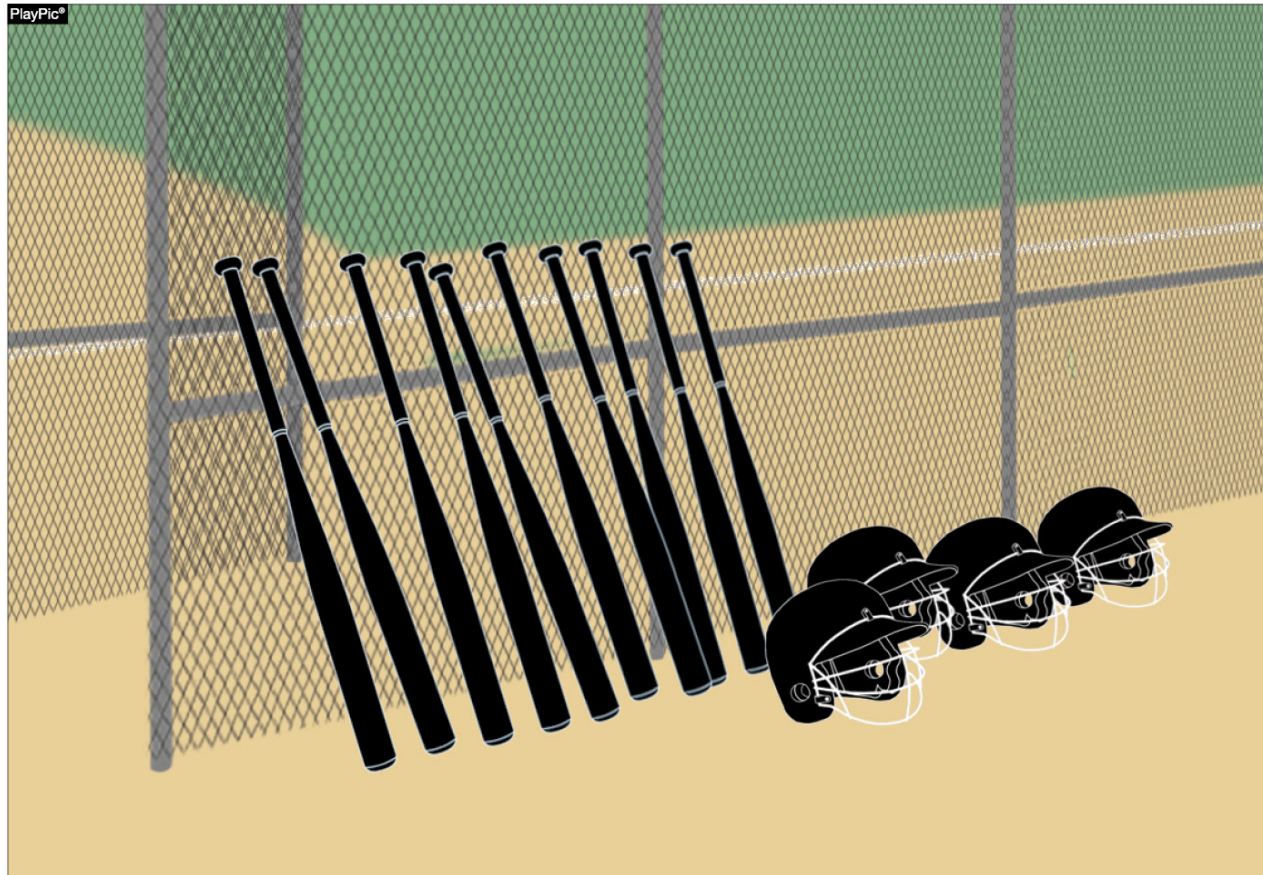
Clarification was needed to delineate the difference between a player using a bat that is damaged versus a bat that is illegal for high school play. By definition, a bat that is damaged (Rule 2-4-3c) is removed from the game without penalty (7-4-2 NOTE). An illegal bat that is non-approved or altered will continue to result in the head coach and the batter being ejected.

CONTACT WITH THE PITCHER'S PLATE



Due to the varying levels of play and accompanying variation in pitching skills while pitchers develop, prior to the start of the pitch, NFHS rules allows the pitcher to choose her foot placement. The pitcher may choose to take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the plate and the non-pivot foot behind the pitcher's plate or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. Prior to the start of the delivery, both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. This allows for personal preference and developing pitchers to work through levels of progression.

INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT



It is the head coach's responsibility to make certain all players are legally and properly equipped, which includes checking bats, helmets and catcher's gear prior to every contest. Umpires may inspect equipment but are not required to do so. It is critical that coaches remain vigilant in inspecting equipment before every contest to ensure no damage has occurred or new noncompliant equipment has been purchased since their last inspection.

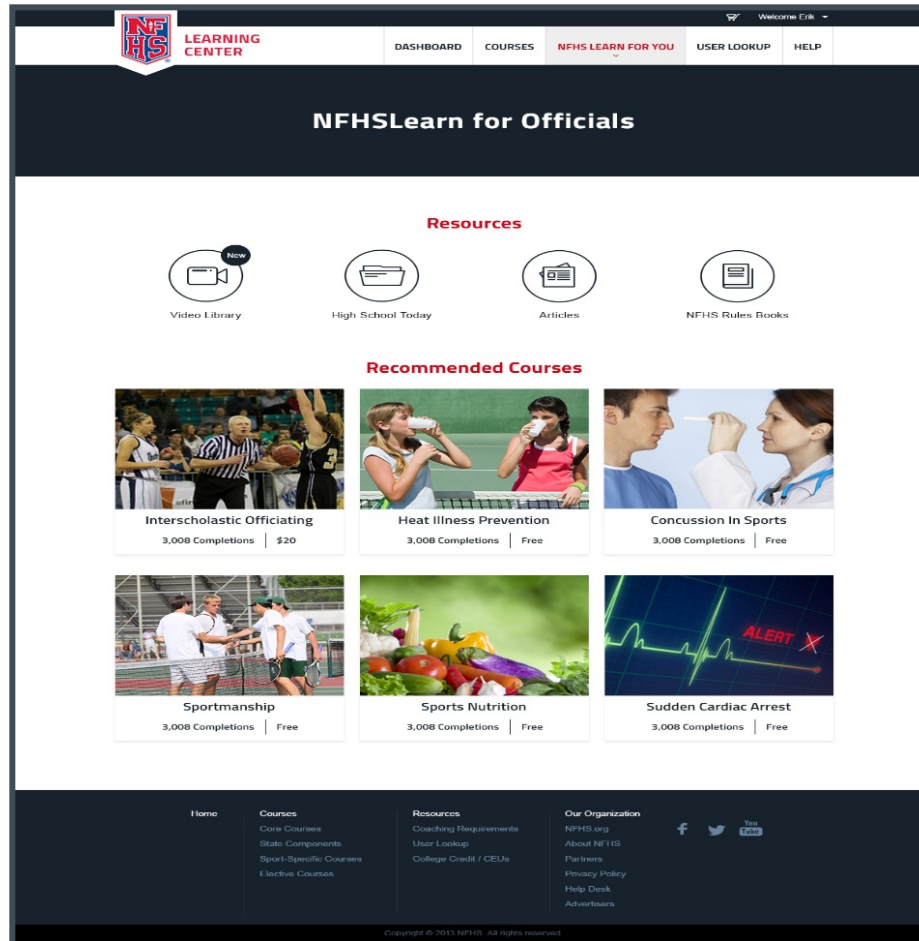


NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION



SPORTS-SPECIFIC OFFICIATING COURSES

WWW.NFHSLEARN.COM



- Introduction to mechanics and techniques used in each sport
- Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating
- 30-45 minutes to complete
- Topics vary based on the needs of the officials in the sport
- NFHS Officials Association members cost is \$10
- Non-members - course is \$20
- API available to state associations to collect results





NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION SPORT-SPECIFIC COURSES

▪ Courses Available

- Officiating Football
- Soccer – Fouls and Misconduct
- Swimming and Diving
- Officiating Wrestling
- Officiating Basketball
- Umpiring Softball
- Officiating Volleyball – Ball Handling

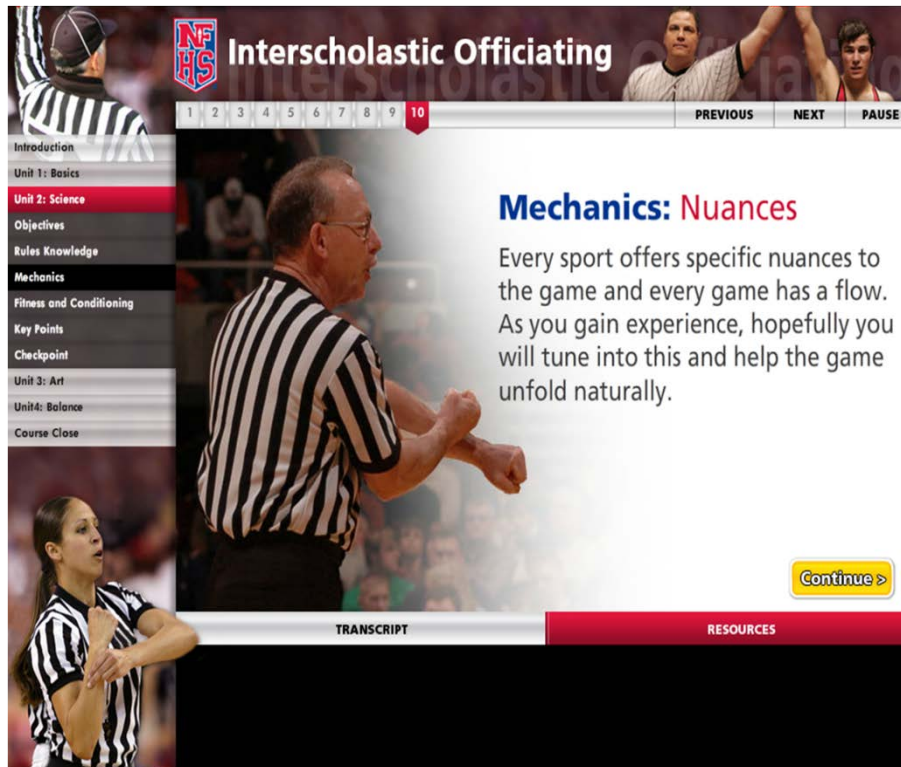
▪ Future Courses

- Officiating Baseball
- Basketball – Three-Person Mechanics
- Field Hockey
- Track and Field
- Volleyball – Overlapping
- Softball – Mechanics
- Communication Among Officials and Coaches
- Soccer - Offside



INTERSCHOLASTIC OFFICIATING

WWW.NFHSLEARN.COM



- Introduction to skills and concepts used as an official
- Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating
- 30-45 minutes to complete
- Topics include: basics of becoming and staying an official, science of officiating, art of officiating, how to combine these skills for successful officiating
- Course is **FREE** to any **NFHS Officials Association member**
- Non-members course is \$20
- API available to state associations to collect results





Welcome To The New NFHS Video Library!

Search For Your Sport Below

Video Filters

Sort By

Select Categories

Select Sports

Search our videos...



Total videos: 373



3-Man Mechanics - Runners At ...

Baseball



ULL Court Coverage - Trail Of...

Basketball



THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATION WAS SHOT AND PRODUCED BY THE NFHS
IN COOPERATION WITH BEN DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL (IND.) AND
BREMEN JESUIT PREPARATORY SCHOOL (IND.) IN 2016.
WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT.

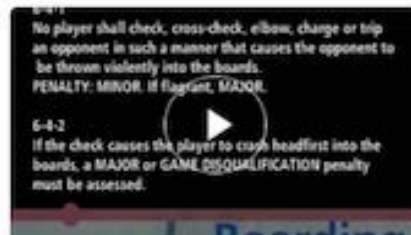
Final Run Out Before Start

Cross Country



Football Mechanics: Coin Toss...

Football



Ice Hockey Rules Concepts - B...

Ice Hockey

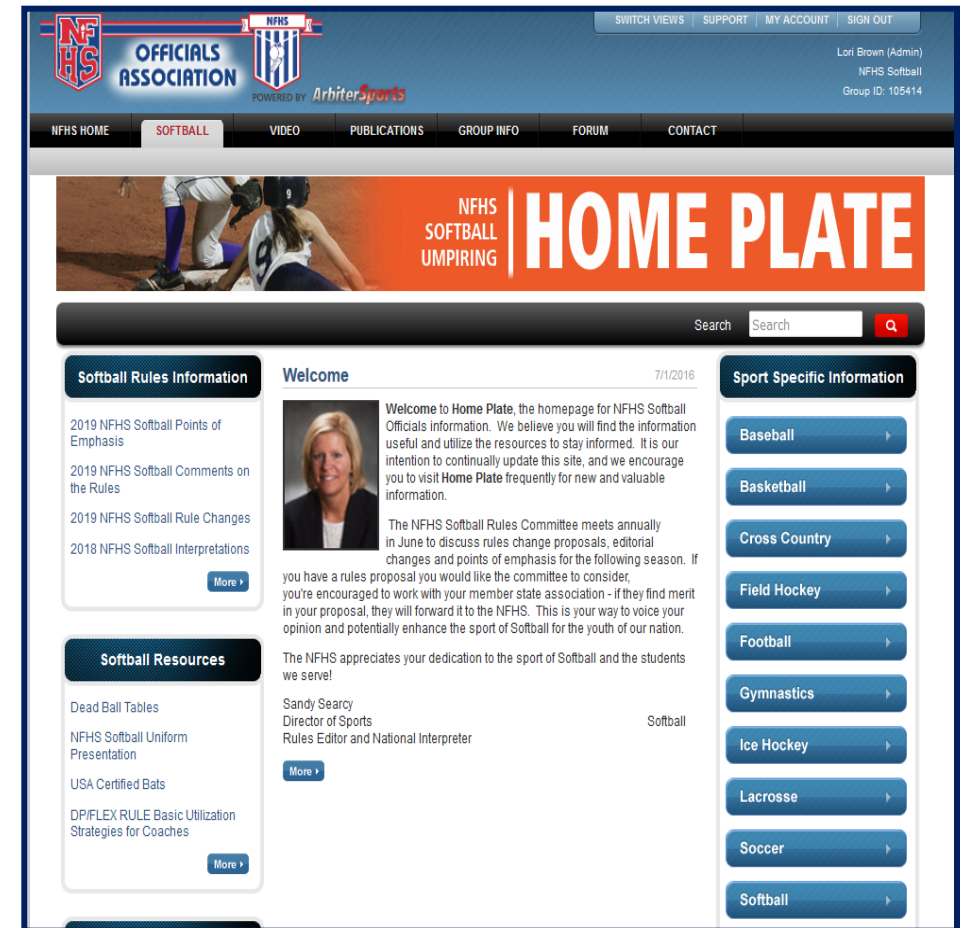


NFHS Soccer Rules: Referee Me...

Soccer

NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB

- Contains:
 - Sport information
 - Rules information
 - Rules library
 - Searchable rules book
 - Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations





Umpiring Softball

Unit 1: Game Management

Unit 2: Obstruction

Unit 3: Interference

THANK YOU

National Federation of State High School Associations

PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, IN 46206

Phone: 317-972-6900 | Fax: 317.822.5700

www.nfhs.org | www.nfhslearn.com



2021 SOFTBALL

REMINDEES

Suspended Games During Regular Season and In Season Tournaments

- For use in regular season games when the games have not reached the required number of innings to be considered a regulation game
- For in-season tournaments, host has option of either suspending game if a full 7 innings have not been reached.



2021 SOFTBALL

REMINDEES

Suspended Game Rule During State Tournament Games

All NJSIAA post Season tournament games must be played to the full 7 innings unless extra innings are necessary because of a tie score or unless shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the 7th inning or only a fraction of it. The exception to this is the 10 run rule.



2021 SOFTBALL REMINDER



Rule Modification Eye Black

- Is to be used as intended: one single color, one single line under the eye to prevent sun glare.
- No intimidating markings on the face or under the eye is permitted.
- Umpires are cautioned that smearing is not a violation.

2021 SOFTBALL REMINDER



Rule Modification for Lower Level Play

- 3 Outs or 1 rotation of the batting order can be used
- Permissible by League and Conference adoption with NJSIAA approval.
- Schools can implemented at the sub varsity level

*When a Team/Schools goals are the development of
a softball program and really are
challenged to compete*

NJSIAA



2021 SOFTBALL UP-DATES



Recertification Test

- Hosted on the Zebra Web
- Test will open on January 15th
- Test will close on March 31st
- 80 question test
- Passing score of 80 to work Varsity Softball games



ArbiterSports

2021 SOFTBALL UP-DATES

Recertification Requirements

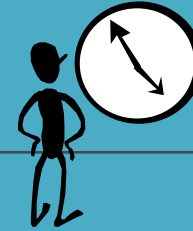


- Your test results will be available after March 31st.
- **3 attempts are available to pass the on-line test**
- If a NJSIAA registered official fails 3 attempts at the on-line test, the chapter is authorized to administer a 3rd written test using the NFHS Softball 100 question Part 1 test
- **The 3rd attempt will preclude the official from being selected to work in the State Softball Tournament**

NJSIAA



2021 SOFTBALL TEST CONCERNS



Large Group Test Review

Umpires not opening the test until final 3 days and spending less than 30 minutes on the test. How do they achieve scores of 90-100?

No issue if 5 or 6 guys print their test questions and then meet and review their tests before submitting. The committee will take more restrictive action if sessions are held where all 80 questions are presented; especially if there is an admission charge, supposedly to cover refreshments.

N^SIAA



2021 SOFTBALL UP-DATES

- Please remember, an umpire represents the **NJSIAA** and is the formal representative of the game of Softball at all times
- Be professional
- Good luck and good umpiring!

