

2023 Softball





2023 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State
High School Associations



Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis

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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NFHS)



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- NFHS (located in Indianapolis, IN – Est. 1920):
 - National leader and advocate for high school athletics and performing arts programs.
 - Serves 51 state associations, 19,500 high schools and 12 million student participants.
 - Writes playing rules for 17 high school sports for boys and girls.
 - Offers online education courses for high school coaches, officials, parents, students and others.
 - Ensures that students have opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement and good sportsmanship in education-based athletics.



NFHS RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

- The NFHS Rules Review Committee is chaired by the chief operating officer and composed of all rules editors. After each committee concludes its deliberations and has adopted its recommended changes for the subsequent year, such revisions will be evaluated by the Rules Review Committee.



Davis Whitfield
Chief Operating
Officer



Lindsey Atkinson
Basketball, Girls
Lacrosse and
Volleyball



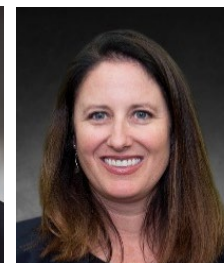
Bob Colgate
Football and Sports
Medicine



Sandy Searcy
Softball, Swimming &
Diving and Water Polo



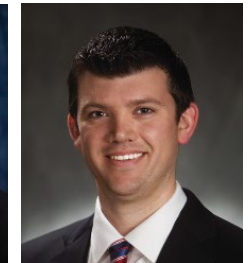
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Baseball and
Wrestling



Julie Cochran
Cross Country, Gymnastics,
Field Hockey, Soccer and
Track & Field



James Weaver
Boys Lacrosse
and Spirit



Dan Schuster
Ice Hockey





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Oregon
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Association



Willie Moore
NFHS Officials
Association

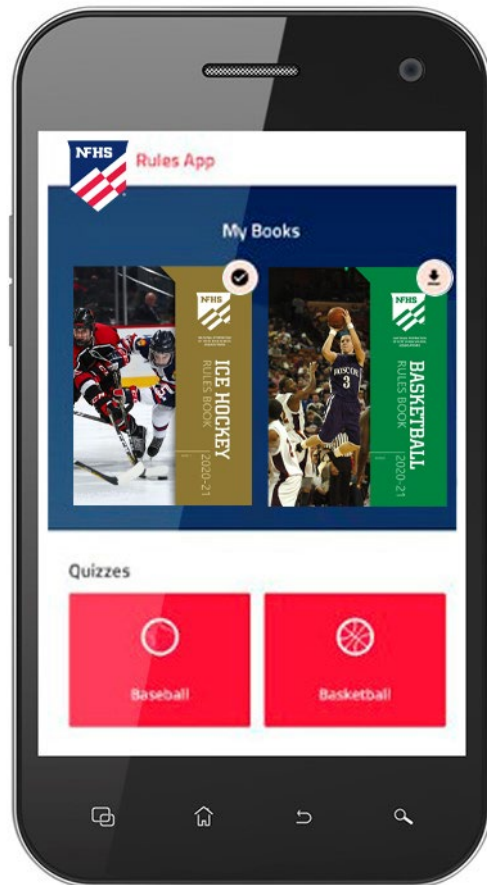


NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.
 - Publishes 4 million pieces of materials annually.



NEW NFHS RULES APP



- Rules App features:
 - Searchable
 - Highlight notes
 - Bookmarks
 - Quizzes for all sports
 - Easy navigation
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 - 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

Request of Accommodation by School



State Association Review



Written Determination from State Association



Competition with Approval of Accommodation



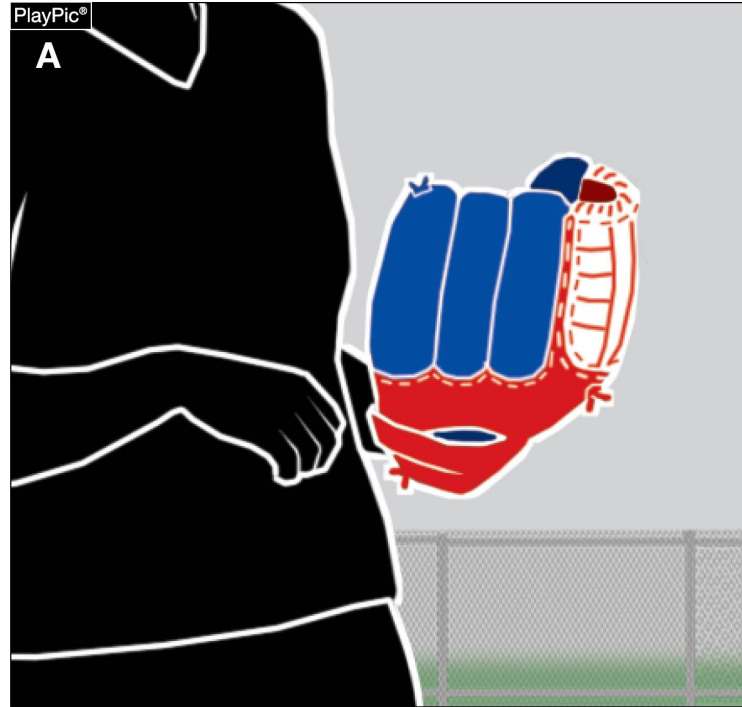


2023 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES

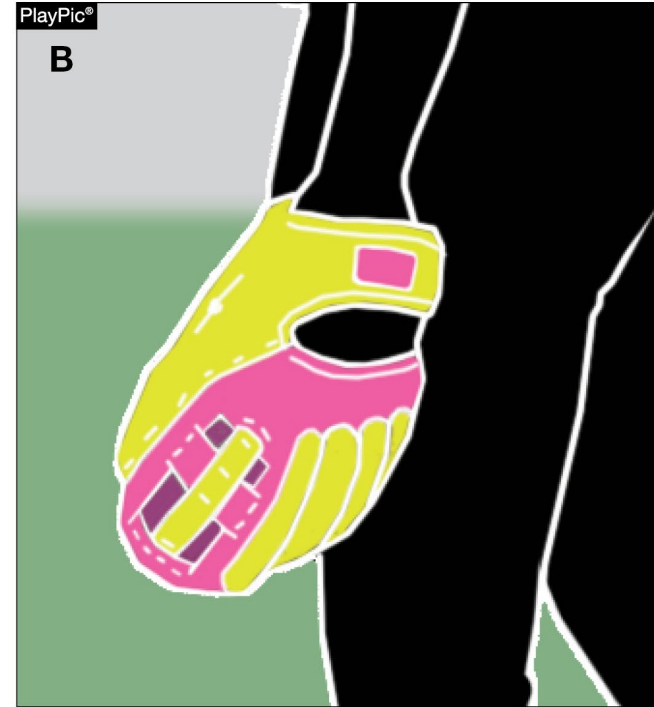




GLOVES/MITTS RULE 1-4-1a, b



Legal glove



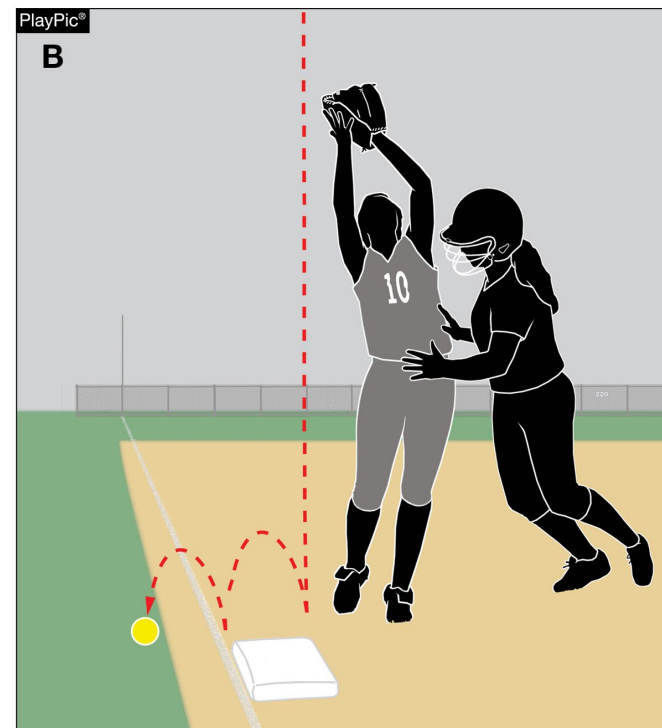
Illegal glove

- Gloves/mitts are now permitted to be more than two colors. Gloves/mitts, lacing and seams still may not be the color of the ball.





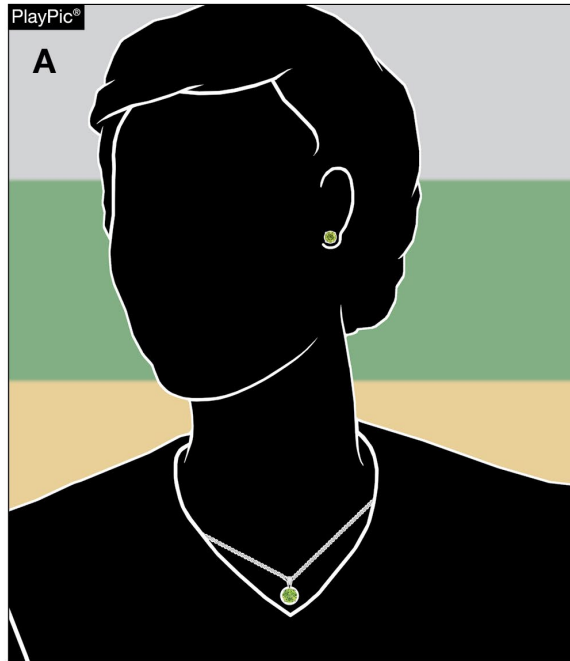
FAIR BALL RULE 2-20-1g (NEW)



- If an offensive player interferes with a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball while the ball is over fair territory, it is a fair ball.



UNIFORMS, PLAYER EQUIPMENT RULES 3-6-11



- Jewelry is no longer prohibited. However, Rule 1-8-6 is still in effect, which prohibits team personnel from using electronic devices to communicate or transmit data outside of the dugout.

BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT RULE 3-6-11



- Clarifies where electronic devices may be used for coaching purposes during a game.



BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT

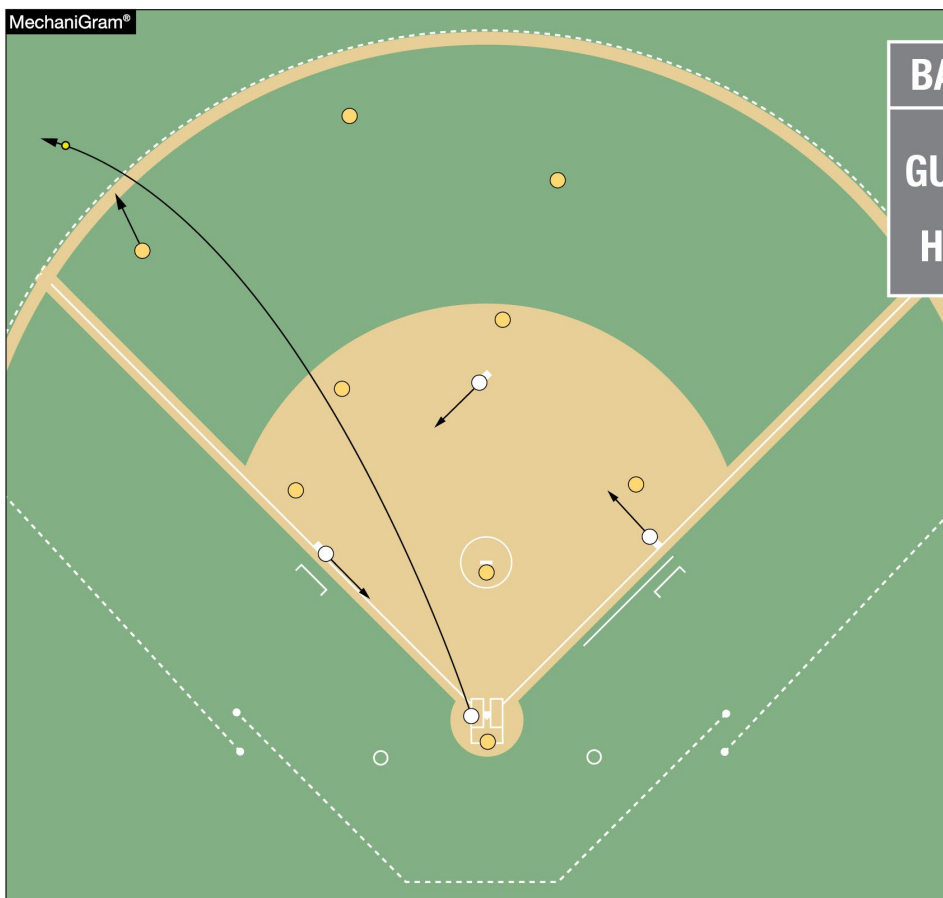
RULE 3-6-11

IMPROPER CONDUCT PENALTY SUMMARY CHART

Penalty	Infraction	Additional Info
<p>Ejection Unless judged to be of a minor offense. If minor, offender is warned and ejected if repeated.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electronic communication devices (3-6-11). 2. Use of tobacco products (3-6-12) 3. Unsporting acts (3-6-13) Charging an umpire (3-6-14) 4. Arguing balls and strikes or judgement calls (3-6-15). 5. Deliberately throwing equipment (3-6-16) 	<p>1 and 3. Coaches who violate may be restricted or ejected (3-6-11, 3-6-13).</p>



ENDING A GAME RULE 4-2-1

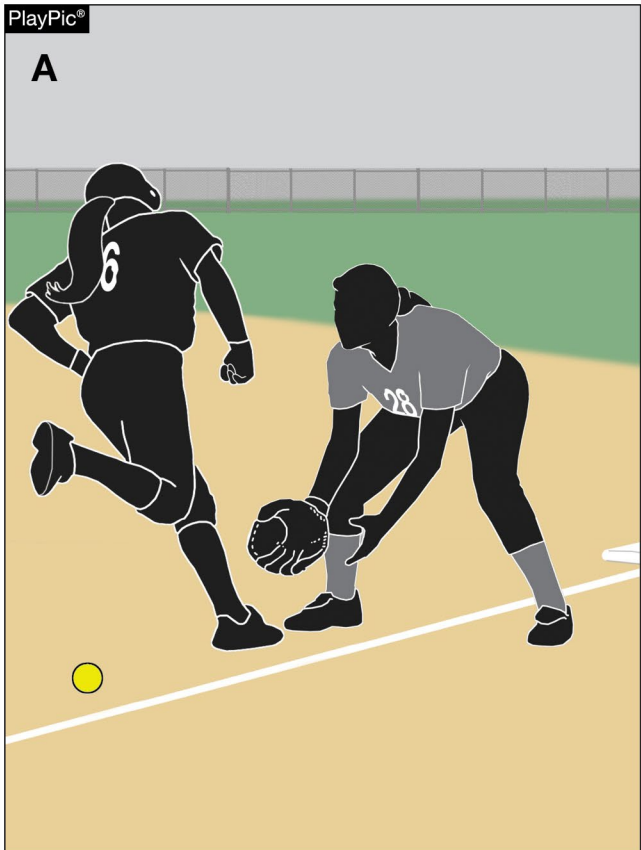


BALL	1	STRIKE	2	OUT	2					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL		
GUESTS	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	5		
HOME	0	0	0	3	0	1		4		

- Allows for all runs to be counted when a fair batted ball clears the home run fence to end the game.



BATTER-RUNNER IS OUT RULE 8-2-7



- Clarifies and further defines what constitutes batter-runner interference; including while a fielder is attempting to field a fly ball over foul territory.

SOFTBALLS

RULE 1-3-3

Play	Size	COR	Compression	Weight & Circumference
Slow Pitch	11"	.44 max	375 lbs. max	5 ⁷ / ₈ to 6 ¹ / ₈ ounces 10 ⁷ / ₈ to 11 ¹ / ₄ inches
Slow Pitch	12"	.44 max	375 lbs. max	6 ¹ / ₄ to 7 ounces 11 ⁷ / ₈ to 12 ¹ / ₄ inches
Fast Pitch	12"	.47 max	375 lbs. max <u>*325 lbs. +/- 50</u>	6 ¹ / ₄ to 7 ounces 11 ⁷ / ₈ to 12 ¹ / ₄ inches *6 ¹ / ₂ to 7 ounces 11 ⁷ / ₈ to 12 ¹ / ₄ inches

*Mandatory January 1, 2025

- The new ball specifications are permissible currently and will be required January 1, 2025, for high school competition.
- Balls manufactured with the current specifications will be permitted for use through 2024.

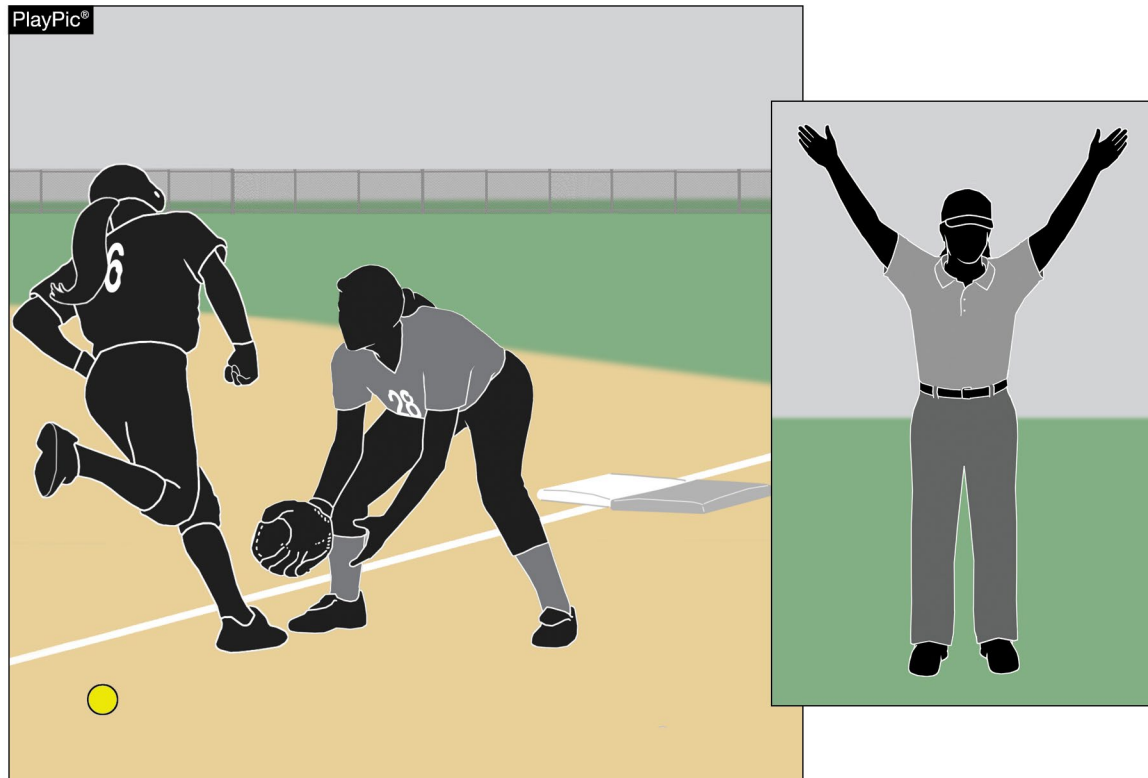




2023 NFHS SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

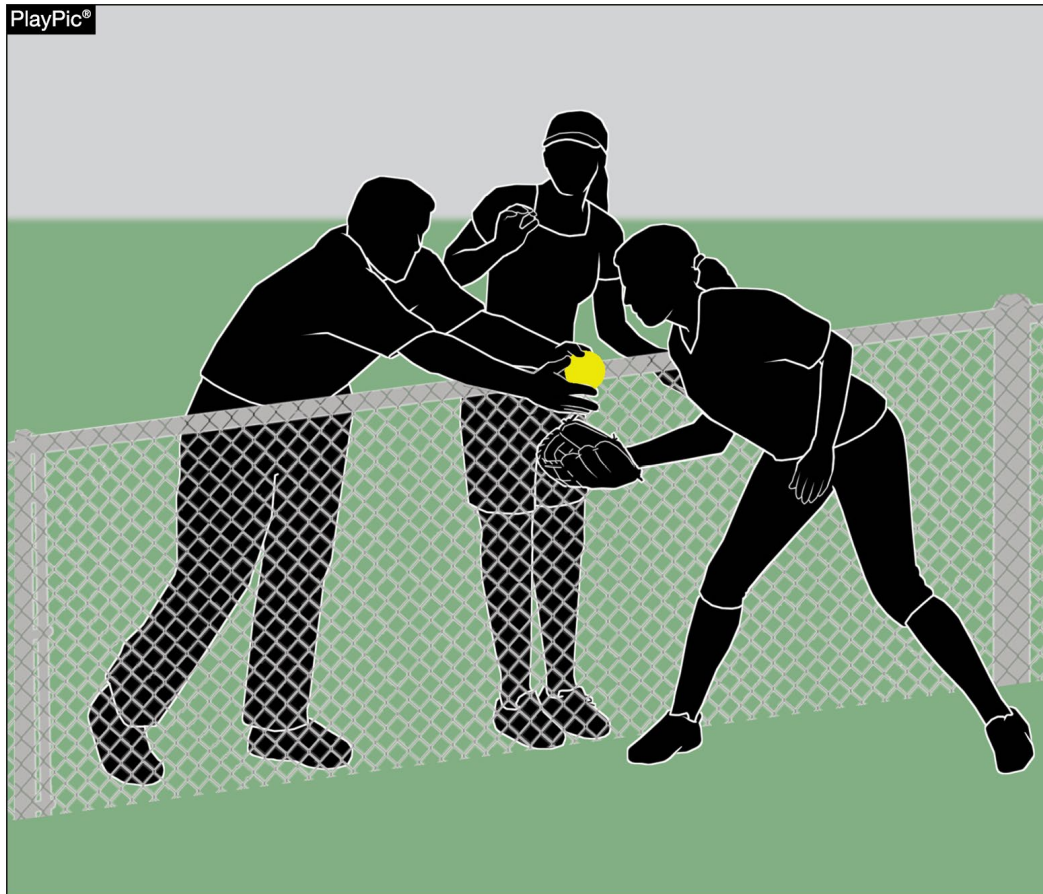


FOUL, FOUL TIP RULE 2-25-1e



- While over foul territory, an offensive player a runner interferes with a defensive player attempting to field a batted ball.

BATTER IS OUT RULE 7-4-11



- When a spectator reaches into live ball territory and interferes with a fielder's opportunity to catch a fly ball. ~~A fair or foul (other than a foul tip, not a third strike) ball is caught in flight by a fielder or such catch is prevented by a spectator reaching into the playing area.~~



2023 NFHS SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS





SPORTSMANSHIP

- NFHS playing rules are written to encourage sportsmanship. Participation in these programs should promote *respect, integrity* and *sportsmanship*.
- However, for these ideals to occur, everyone involved in these programs must be doing their part.





SPORTSMANSHIP

- There must be a collaborative, working relationship between contest officials and game administration to promote good sportsmanship and safely conduct the contest.
- Everyone has their roles to play in creating a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at contests.





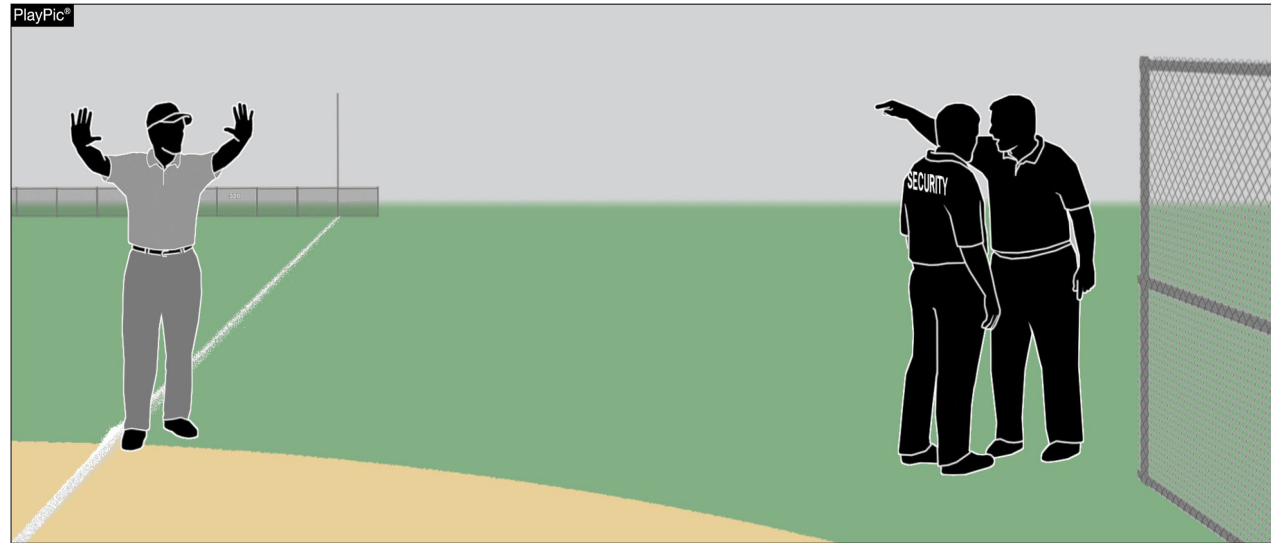
SPORTSMANSHIP

- Contest officials should never engage with spectators who are exhibiting unsporting behavior.
- Once the contest begins, school administration is responsible for dealing with unruly spectators.
- If spectators are using demeaning or profane language at officials – or at others in the stands – those individuals should be removed from the contest by school administration.





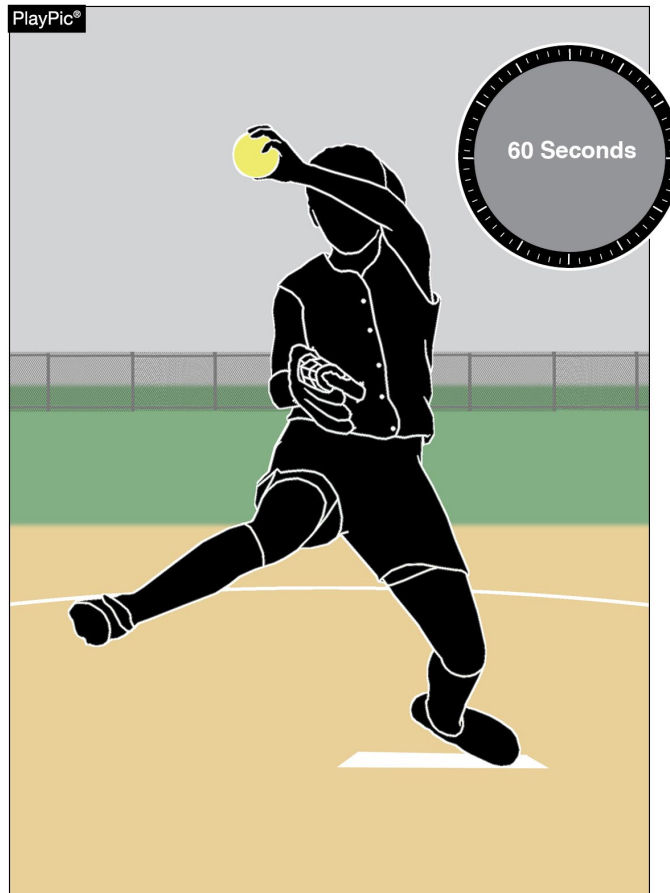
SPORTSMANSHIP



- Good sports win with *humility*, lose with *grace* and do both with *dignity*.
- It takes the efforts of everyone every day to ensure that sportsmanship remains one of the top priorities in education-based activity programs.

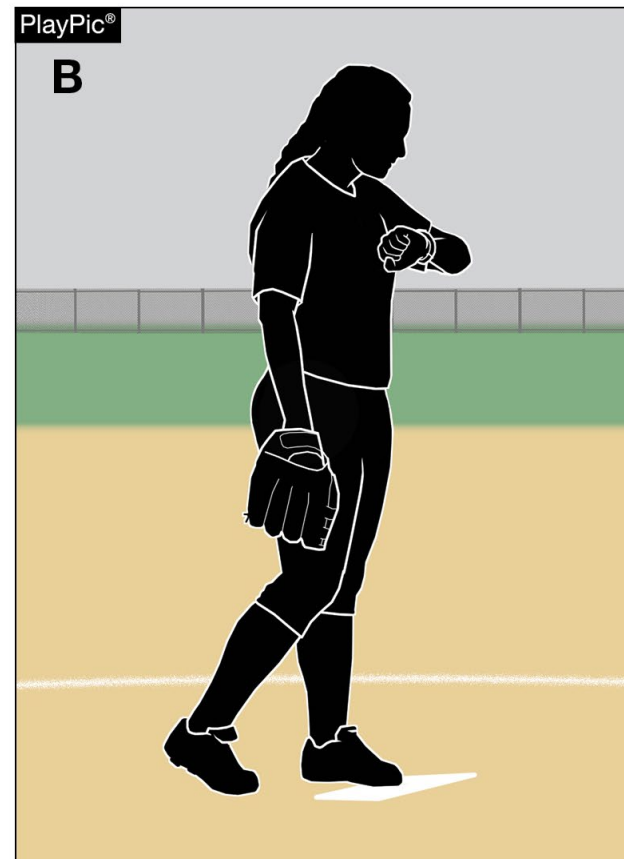
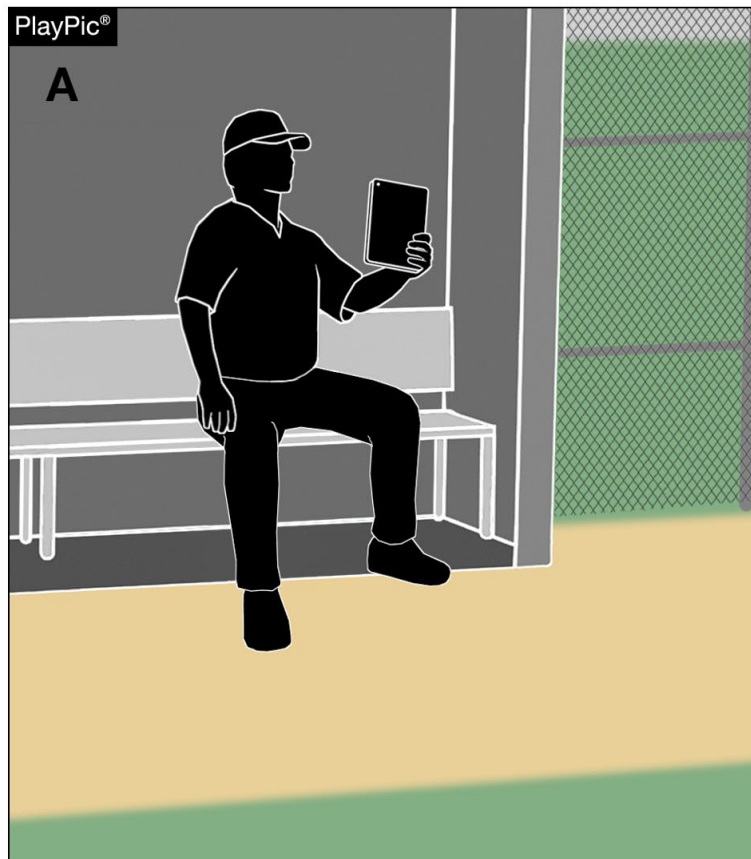


TIME BETWEEN INNINGS



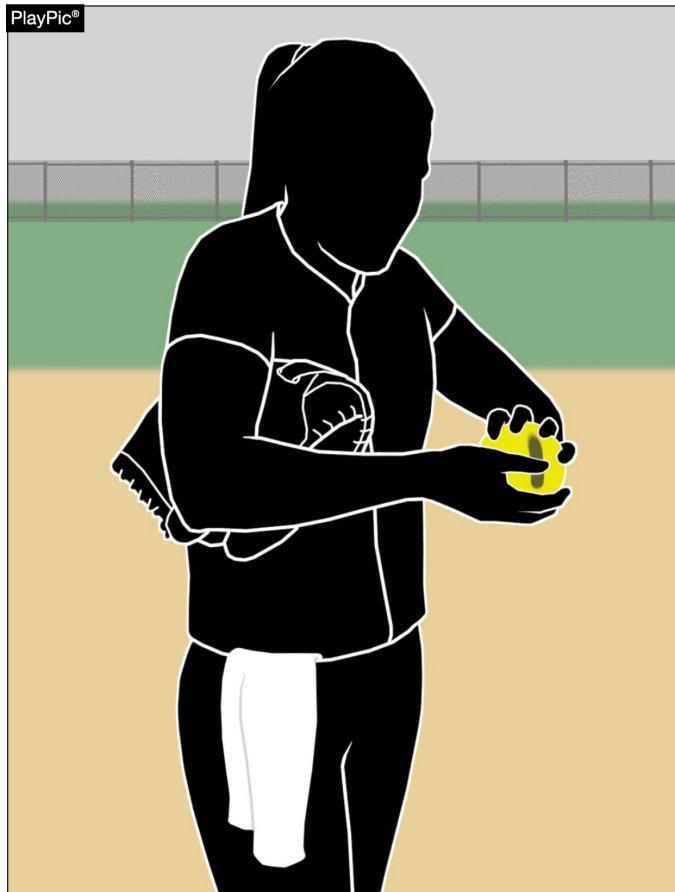
- Umpires and coaches should pay strict attention to the 60-second time limit between half-innings.
- At the beginning of each half-inning no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than five pitches to the catcher or other teammate.
- The one-minute time limit begins from the third out of the previous half-inning.
- A pitcher returning to the pitching position in the same half inning will not be granted any warm-up pitches.
- Umpires may authorize more pitches during inclement weather or if a pitcher was removed due to injury or by rule.

JEWELRY AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

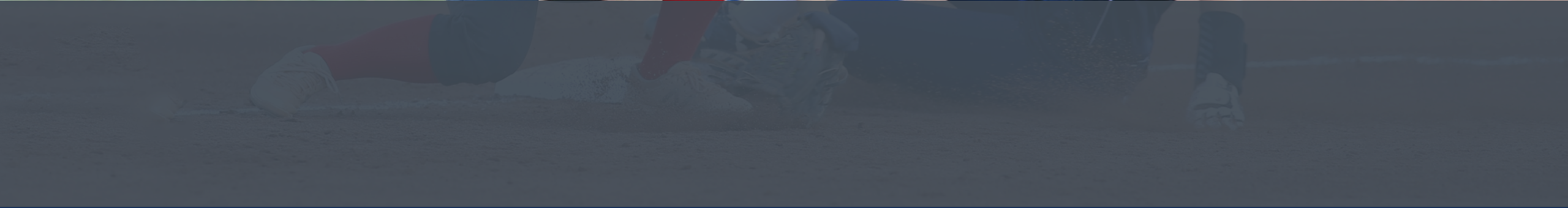


- The rule prohibiting jewelry has been removed.
- The rule regarding the use of electronics is still in place.
- The use of electronic devices by team personnel to transmit or record information pertaining to their players or team's performance is only permitted within the dugout.
- Items such as smart watches are permitted to be utilized as a watch but cannot be used to transmit or receive data outside of the dugout.

COMPARABLE DRYING AGENTS



- Pitchers are not permitted to use any foreign substance on the ball or on contact points of the pitching hand or fingers.
- No foreign substances may be applied to the ball.
- If a pitcher licks their fingers, the player must wipe their fingers prior to touching the ball.
- Comparable drying agents listed on the USA Softball website (USAsoftball.org) are permitted, and powdered rosin is also permitted.
- It is not necessary to wipe off the drying agent before making contact with the ball.



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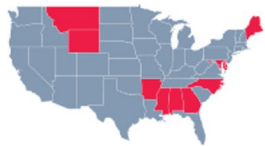




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14

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\$50

- Identify stages of the throwing motion and recognize the proper receiving body position
- Understand the mechanics of hitting, baserunning, leads and sliding
- Identify key elements of the swing including measures, phases and positions
- Recognize the starting positions and footwork for all players
- Identify defensive responsibilities and tactics for all positions

Available at **NFHS**Learn.com



NFHS NETWORK



NFHS NETWORK

- By 2025, every high school sporting event in America will be streamed live.
- The NFHS Network will be THE DESTINATION for fans to view these broadcasts.
- 27 Different Sports and Activities.



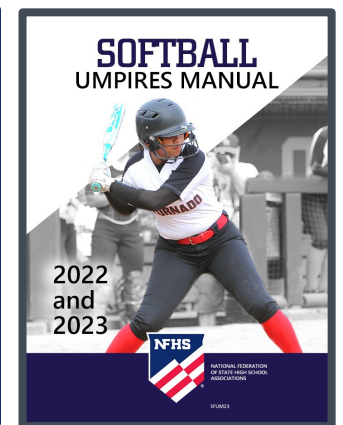
www.NFHSnetwork.com

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NFHS SOFTBALL RESOURCES

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





THANK YOU

National Federation of State High School Associations

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www.nfhs.org | www.nfhslearn.com | www.nfhsnetwork.com





2023 SOFTBALL REMINDERS



2023 SOFTBALL REMINDER



Uniform Modifications

Players may participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons (notification to NJSIAA) or inclement weather





2023 SOFTBALL UP-DATES



Recertification Test

- Hosted on the Zebra Web
- Test will open on February 1st
- Test will close on March 15th for all registered officials
- 95 question test
- Passing score of 80 to be considered a NJSIAA Softball Official

NJSIAA



ArbiterSports

2023 SOFTBALL REMINDER

- 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!

NJSIAA



2023 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.



2023 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



REMINDERS



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.

2023 SOFTBALL

REMINDERS

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.

