



2012 NFHS/GHSA



SOFTBALL RULES CLINIC

2012-2013 BY-LAW CHANGES



EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

- Mandated for athletic practices and games
- Include responses to:
 - weather-related emergencies
 - serious illness/injury situations
 - violence/terroristic incidents
- Solicit assistance from
 - local law enforcement agencies
 - first responder/rescue agencies
 - medical personnel

E.A.P. PROCESS

- Formulate the plan carefully
- Practice the plan regularly
- Implement the plan precisely

INSTITUTIONAL HEAT POLICY

- Applies to practices and voluntary workouts in all sports
 - ratio of work to rest and hydration
 - length of workout session
 - cancellation of outdoor workouts
- Policy must be signed by coach & distributed to parents each season.
- All heat/humidity readings must be taken with a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature instrument.
- NOTE: WBGT “degrees” not same as thermometer

BY-LAW 2.67

WBGT	GUIDELINES
Under 82	Normal activities – 3 rest/hydration breaks per hour in a “cool zone” (minimum: 3 minutes each)
82.0 – 86.9	Watch at-risk players – 3 rest breaks per hour in a “cool zone” (minimum: 4 minutes each)
87.0 – 89.9	Maximum practice time: 2 hours <u>Football</u> : helmets, shoulder pads, shorts only for practice; no protective equipment during conditioning drills <u>All Sports</u> : At least 4 rest breaks per hour in a “cool zone”(minimum: 4 minutes each)
90.0 – 92.0	Maximum practice time: 1 hour <u>Football</u> : No protective equipment; No conditioning drills <u>All Sports</u> : 20 minutes of breaks in a “cool zone” distributed throughout the hour
Above 92.1	No outdoor workouts

COACHING ISSUES

- Community Coach may not coach same sport at two schools – even in same system
- Retired coaches (49%) do not have to do more than just coach to be head coach
- GHSA official and/or officiating assignor may not coach at GHSA school in same sport

MISCELLANEOUS

- No student may practice during the school day.
 - School sets beginning/ending time
 - Early release students may not practice during this time in the GHSA season for that sport
- Undue influence rule applies to student transferring to school whose coach coached player in an all-star game.



BY-LAW REMINDERS

- **COACHING** – A “Community Coach” may not function as a Head Coach, or be named by the school as the Head Coach on publications and in the media.
- **UNSPORTING ACTS** – Such acts committed after the completion of the contest shall be the responsibility of the host school Game Administration. If witnessed by a game official, a Game Report shall be submitted to the GHSA Office.



OFFICIAL STARTING DATES

Date for 1st official practice is August 1, 2012

Date for 1st official game is August 10, 2012

(1) Official scrimmage at any time after August 1
And prior to the 1st official game of the competing schools

Cancer Awareness Week – September 10-15



General Information

- The number of games allowed (not including region or state tournament) shall not exceed a total of (28) games, in any combination of single games and invitational tournament games.
- Teams may not play more than (7) games, in any format, during invitational tournaments. It is recommended that invitational tournament games be only scheduled to play on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and must be sanctioned through the GHSA Office.
- Teams may not play more than (8) games, in any format, during region tournaments with a minimum of (2) games per day, per field. (Exception: Championship Game). NOTE: “Play-in” games are considered part of the regular season, and shall be officiated by the host school association.
- Sub-varsity teams are allowed to play 70% of the varsity schedule of their respective school, but no more than (19) games.
- Players who participate at both the varsity and sub-varsity levels shall not exceed a combination of the number of games scheduled by their respective varsity team.



Class A Power Rankings

* Each Class A school is responsible to submit the following information within (48) hours of the completion of EVERY game won:

- * Opponent
- * Opponent’s Win-Loss Record
- * Result of Current Game

NOTE: Failure to provide the required information within the allowed time will result in a \$50.00 fine per occasion.

Submit information via email to: ery@ghsa.net



DUGOUT DECOREM

- Defensive coaches are not allowed outside the physical confines of the dugout, regardless of the location of the dugout.
- Media individuals are NOT allowed in live ball territory (inside the fences) and temporary lines to extend the dugout are NOT permitted.
- Only certified school personnel are allowed in the confines of the dugout i.e. players, coaches, trainers, doctors, etc. Scorekeepers and statisticians who are not school certified employees are not allowed in the dugout.
- In the event of inclement weather umpires should allow more flexibility in the "Coaches' Apparel" rule.



STATE TOURNAMENT

Region Tournament – Completed no later than October 6

Results to GHSA Office no later than 9:00 AM, October 8

Round 1 (AA – AAAAAA) – October 10 & 11 @ Higher Seed Hosts

Round 1 (A Private & A Public) – October 17 & 18 @ Higher Seeds

Round 2 – (AA – AAAAAA) - October 17 & 18 – Higher Seed Hosts

Elite Eight – All Classifications - October 25 – 27



STATE TOURNAMENT ADMISSION

- 1ST & 2ND Round Games
- Double Headers \$7.00
- Single Games \$5.00
- Elite Eight/Final Four - \$10.00 per day

NFHS Softball

2012
Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis

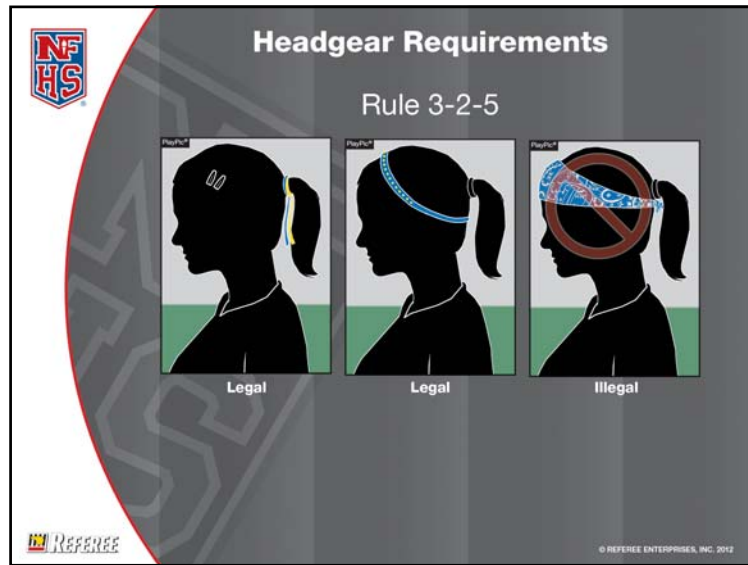
Equipment

- The color “white” was removed from the list of permissible colors for softballs. All softballs used for competition must now be optic yellow.
- The requirement that the bat knob protrude at a 90-degree angle from the handle was removed. “Ax handle” bats are legal.

Headwear Requirements

(3-2-5)

- Headwear (caps, visors, headbands, ribbons, etc.) may be mixed, but if worn, they must be white, black, beige or school colors (the colors are not required to be the same among team members). The logo may be any color.
- Flat items, no longer than 2 inches, used to control the hair, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips are permitted.
- Plastic visors, bandannas and hair-beads are prohibited.



Penalty Increased For Altered or Non-Approved Bat

(7-4-2 Penalty)

- Coaches must be responsible for the equipment being used in each game, even when it is not issued by the school, but a player’s personal equipment.
- In addition to an out being called on the batter, the batter and head coach will be ejected from the contest.
- Player safety and the integrity of the game must be maintained. This type of illegal equipment has no place in the game.

NFHS Softball
2012
Major Editorial Changes

**Legal Apparel and Equipment
Equipment Check**

- The Softball Rules Committee and softball administrators continue to be concerned about the use of illegal and/or non-approved equipment. Thus, a rules change was approved this year to strengthen the penalty for use of altered or non-approved bats.
- Umpires are required to check bats and helmets prior to each contest.
- Teams must make all bats and helmets available for the pregame equipment check.

Altered Bats
(1-5-1c)

- Clarified that shaving, rolling or artificially warming the bat barrel are prohibited.
- The clarification now clearly states the prohibition in the rule, not just in a Point of Emphasis.
- Editorial change coincides with previously mentioned rules change – use of an altered bat results in ejection of player and coach.
- The definitions of legal and illegal bats were revised and updated.
- Illegal bats include altered bats and non-approved bats.

Offensive Interference

(2-5-3; 3-5-6; 7-5 New; 7-4-12; 8-6-15; 8-6-16 New)

- Several rules were updated and reorganized to clarify the different types of offensive interference and the penalty associated with each.
- The rules were all related, yet inconsistently described/ penalized.
- Several rules were updated and reorganized to clarify the different types of offensive interference and the penalty associated with each.
- Text was moved from the on-deck batter definition to a new Rule 7-5. The new section specifically addresses actions permitted and prohibited of an on-deck batter.

On-Deck Batters/Location

- It is the responsibility of the home team/game management to place the on-deck circles in the appropriate locations (Rule 2-37) so as to reduce risk to those players.
- Additionally, it is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that his/her players are aware of the rules related to the on-deck circle.
- Players must be in the on-deck circle (Rule 2-5-3) and be aware of the status of the ball at all times.

Exceptions to NFHS Playing Rules (3-2-13 NOTE)

- Clarifies that an individual state association may authorize exceptions. Such exceptions are not considered rules modifications since they are not general in nature; rather, they are limited to the circumstances of specific individual participants.
- The Note was revised to clarify that state associations may grant exceptions to NFHS playing rules for participants with disabilities, special needs and/or extenuating circumstances.

Courtesy-Runner Procedure

(8-9-2 New Exception)

- Clarified the courtesy-runner procedure for when the pitcher/catcher on the lineup card is unable to face the first batter in the bottom of the first inning due to injury/disqualification.
- Player who ran for her is retroactively her substitute and no longer a courtesy runner. All substitution rules apply and the pitcher/catcher has left the game.

Umpires: Administrative Duties

(10-1-2 New Note)

- A note was added clarifying the administrative responsibilities of umpires through the completion of required reports.
- State Associations may continue to develop and implement policies that allow for review of unusual incidents that occur while the game officials have jurisdiction or after the completion of the game. NOTE: GHSA Policy

Pitching NFHS Rules

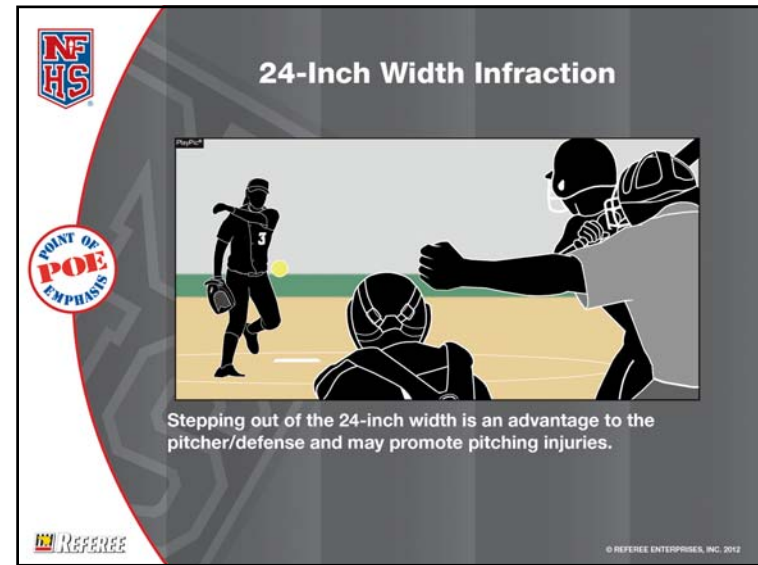
- NFHS pitching regulations were created and are maintained for high-school-age pitchers of all skill levels, not just those seeking participation opportunities at other levels, i.e. travel or college ball.
- A high school pitcher may begin with one or two feet on the pitching plate. The pitcher may also step back (before the hands come together) and then forward to gain momentum in her pitching motion.

Pitching NFHS Rules

- When the pitcher steps onto the pitcher's plate, the hands must be separated, and the ball can be in the pitching hand or the glove.
- This enables younger and/or less experienced players to have success within the rules of the high school game.
- The interscholastic community believes the high school rule in this regard is appropriate for the participants it serves.

Pitching 24-Inch Width Infractions

- The NFHS Softball Rules Committee is still concerned over the enforcement of the 24-inch width pitching requirement, when the landing foot is "clearly outside" the 24-inch boundaries.
- In addition, research indicates that pitchers are more susceptible to arm injuries when they attempt to throw a "screwball."
- It is the primary responsibility of the home-plate umpire to make the illegal pitch call in this infraction, but the base umpire(s) may also make this call based on where the landing foot comes to the ground.



24-Inch Width Infraction

Stepping out of the 24-inch width is an advantage to the pitcher/defense and may promote pitching injuries.

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Legal Apparel and Equipment Pitcher's Uniform

- A pitcher is prohibited from wearing or using any item that, in the umpire's judgment, distracts the batter.
- Any use of equipment or part of the uniform that, in the umpire's view, would distract the batter, shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis and could require the removal of such equipment.



Good Luck in 2012