2020 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES POWER POINT

Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NFHS)
VISION

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is the national leader for education-based high school athletics and activities, which prepare tomorrow’s leaders for the next level of life through innovative programs, healthy participation, achievement, and development of positive relationships.
The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members by providing leadership for the administration of education-based high school athletics and activities through the writing of playing rules that emphasize health and safety, educational programs that develop leaders, and administrative support to increase participation opportunities and promote sportsmanship.
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.

www.nfhs.org
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.
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.
The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.
• Publishes 4 million pieces of materials annually.
NFHS RULES BOOK AS E-BOOKS

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

www.nfhs.org
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](http://www.nfhs.org/erules) for more information
GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Request from Student to School for Accommodation(s)
2. School Conducts Individual Student Assessment
3. Request from School for Accommodation(s) to State Association
4. Notice and Opportunity to be Heard
5. State Association Review of Request
6. State Association Provides Written Determination for Accommodation(s) to School
7. If appropriate, School Provides Letter of Authorization to Head Official for Local Contest Allowing Competition with Accommodation(s)
2020 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES
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.
With both feet in contact with the pitching plate (PlayPic), the pitcher shall take (or simulate taking) a signal from the catcher.
In Florida, both feet must be in contact with the pitcher’s plate. PlayPic A shows an illegal position in Florida (2020).
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.
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
Game management or a state administrator may establish a media area as needed. This edit clarifies that game management, or a state administrator may establish a dead-ball media area within the confines of the field, but that area will remain a dead-ball area throughout the game.
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.
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
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.
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.
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.
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

www.nfhs.org
• 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
NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB

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

www.nfhs.org
Umpiring Softball

Unit 1: Game Management

Unit 2: Obstruction

Unit 3: Interference
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