

National Federation of State
High School Associations



NFHS Softball

2011
Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

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NFHS Softball

2011
Rules Changes



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Lineup Card Inaccuracies
(3-1-3 Penalty)

- New penalty established for changes made to submitted lineup card
- First offense = **Team warning**
- Second offense = **Head coach restricted to dugout/bench for remainder of game**
- Applies to changes made to name and number – not defensive position



Lineup Card
Rule 3-1-3 Penalty





New penalty established for lineup card inaccuracies.

Frame 1

Concussion Procedure Revised
(3-3-9; 10-2-3k)

- Concussion language revised in all NFHS rules books.
- Removed references to “unconscious or apparently unconscious.”
- New procedure requires an athlete *exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion* to be removed from the contest.



Concussion Procedure Revised
(3-3-9; 10-2-3k)

Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion

Common Symptoms of Concussion include:



- Headache
- Nausea
- Loss of consciousness
- Empty, confused
- Slurred speech
- Loss of memory
- Loss of energy
- Irritability
- Balance, poor balance
- Blurred vision
- Sensitivity to light and sound
- Mood changes (anxiety, irritability)


Suggested Concussion Management:

1. No athlete should return to play (PTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be removed from play and transported to a sports medicine professional for care.
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health care professional.
4. After medical clearance, PTP should follow a team-managed protocol and guidelines for return to PTP based upon return-to-play or symptoms.

For further details please see the "NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion" at www.nfhs.org. ©2010 NFHS

See Appendix A
on Page 86
of the 2011
NFHS Softball
Rules Book

 **Concussion Management**
Rule 3-3-9, 10-2-3k 




Player exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion is immediately removed from the game.

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Concussion Recognition and Management (3-3-9; 10-2-3k)

- A concussion is a brain injury that results in a temporary disruption of normal brain function.
- A concussion occurs when the brain is violently rocked back and forth or twisted inside the skull as a result of a blow to the head or body.




Concussion Recognition and Management (3-3-9; 10-2-3k)

- The game official is not responsible for the evaluation or management of the athlete after he/she is removed from play.
- If an appropriate health-care professional determines that the athlete HAS NOT suffered a concussion, the athlete may return to play.




Suggested Concussion Management

- If there is no appropriate health-care professional available to evaluate the athlete, the athlete **SHOULD NOT** be permitted by the coach to return to play.
- Athletes with continued concussion symptoms are at significant risk for recurrent, cumulative and even catastrophic consequences of a second concussive injury.




Suggested Concussion Management

1. No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a concussion.
2. Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
3. Any athlete with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.



Suggested Concussion Management

4. After medical clearance, RTP should follow a step-wise protocol with provisions for delayed RTP based upon return of any signs or symptoms.



www.nfhslearn.com

Concussion In Sports - What You Need To Know

When in doubt, sit them out!

Dr. Mark Reinsel, Chair of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Director of the Tucson Sports Concussion Program, Oregon.

Scored/Retired Runner Interference (8-6-18)

- Intent no longer the determining factor in ruling interference by a runner who has scored/been retired
- Rule now consistent with definition of interference
- Rule easier to enforce, enhancing more consistent application

Interference Rule 8-6-18

Intent is no longer a factor in judging interference by a retired runner or a player who has scored.

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2011 Major Editorial Changes

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Glove Rule (1-4)

- Glove rule reorganized
- Clarified that any gray, white or optic colored **marking** that gives the appearance of a ball – on the outside or inside of the glove – is not permitted (1-4-1c)
- Previous rule prohibited a circle that gave the appearance of the ball

Glove/Mitt Rule Rule 1-4

Any gray, white or optic-colored marking that gives the appearance of a ball is not permitted.

Force Play Reinstatement

(2-24-4)

- Clarifies the force-play reinstatement rule
- **ART. 4 . . .** If a forced runner, after touching the next base, except home, retreats for any reason towards the base she had first occupied, the force play is reinstated and she may again be put out if the defense tags the base to which she is forced.



Force Play Reinstatement

(2-24-4)

- The “home” exception was necessary to be consistent with Rule 2-49 and Case Book play 2.49 B
- Once a runner legally scores, she cannot be put out – BUT, she could be guilty of interference (runner closest to home declared out)



Guards, Casts and Braces

(3-2-13)

- The language regarding guards, casts and braces was edited to clarify:
 - Must be padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam no less than 1/2” thick
 - Knee and ankle braces unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design/production are permitted and need not be padded/covered



Guards, Casts and Braces Rule 3-2-13



Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design/production DO NOT require any additional padding/covering.

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Frame 5

Powdered Resin

(6-2-2; 6-4-5)

- Clarified that powdered resin or any comparable drying agent is permitted
- New products are being manufactured that “dry” the hands, but leave no residue on the ball or glove
- Any material that DOES leave a residue on the ball is prohibited – i.e. rock resin



Resin and Drying Agents Rule 6-2-2, 6-4-5



Cloth Grip Enhancer



Small Resin Bag




Rock Resin

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Frame 6

Ball-Rotation (6-5 New)

- Ball-rotation procedure moved from 4-1-4 (Starting a game) to new 6-5 (Pitching regulations)
- New location in Rules Book more appropriate and easier to find



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Sportsmanship

- Any form of behavior intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others is unacceptable
- Public Address (PA) systems have been utilized to intimidate/taunt visiting teams by playing negative sound effects or playing “motivational” music only for the home team



Sportsmanship

- When the PA system is used for announcements, introductions, sound effects, music, etc., the presentation should be as neutral as possible
- Clear guidelines and expectations should be developed by school administrators and shared with the individuals serving in this capacity so presentations are not viewed as acts of intimidation





Sportsmanship





Music presentations should be neutral.

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Team and Player Equipment

- NFHS rules require umpires to check most equipment (10-2-3a) prior to the contest.
- The following are of specific concern/interest:
 - Bats
 - Gloves/Mitts
 - Drying Agents



  **Team and Player Equipment** 




Bats should be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges.

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Bats

- Bats should be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges
- Materials inside the bat or treatments/devices used to alter the bat specifications and/or enhance performance (i.e. bat warmers) are prohibited and render the bat illegal



  **Team and Player Equipment** 




Bat warmers are prohibited.

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Bats

- Broken, altered or bats that deface the ball are also illegal
- A nick or paint chip in the bat from a player knocking their metal cleats against the bat to loosen debris should not render a bat illegal




Gloves/Mitts

- Glove/mitt rule reorganized for clarity
- Gloves/mitts (excluding lace color and logo) containing more than two colors are illegal
- Any gray, white or optic colored **marking** (not just a circle) giving the appearance of a ball is prohibited – markings may be colored in
- Ball appearance or “distracting” is determined by the umpire




Drying Agents

- Pitchers permitted to utilize powdered resin to dry the hands under the supervision and control of the umpire
- Editorial change added any comparable drying agent
- Please note: “rock resin” is not considered a comparable drying agent and is still prohibited



Field of Play

- All high school softball fields used for competition should be properly maintained.
- This includes ensuring:
 - Grass is well groomed and mowed to a proper height
 - The field is level with no obstructions between the foul lines



Field of Play







All lines should be white and properly marked.




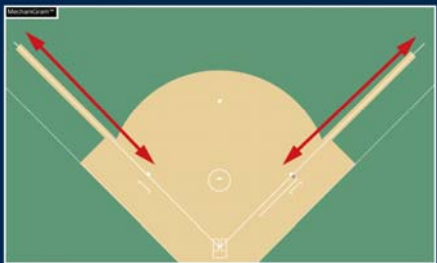
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Field of Play

- All lines are white and properly marked
- Foul lines extend from home plate, beyond the bases, to the outfield fence – if no fence, extend at least 185 feet into the outfield
- Catcher's box is marked 10 feet deep and 8 feet, 5 inches in width behind the batters boxes
- Designated media areas, if used, are marked prior to the start of the game



Field of Play







Foul lines extend 185 feet.

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Game Management

- There are several game-management areas that will assist in a smooth-running contest.
- The following are of particular concern:
 - Lineup Cards
 - Field Areas
 - Pace of Game




Lineup Cards

- Lineup cards shall be verified by the head coach as correct – with name and uniform number and all substitutes listed – at the pregame conference
- New rule provides a penalty for a coach who fails to submit an accurate lineup card
- Umpires can assist with managing this situation by reminding coaches of the new rule and giving them ample opportunity to verify the lineup card before final submission



Field Areas

- Designated warm-up areas should be located in an area adjacent to the field and be in view of the umpires
- During the contest, players must warm up within the confines of the field or in the adjacent warm up area
- Coaches must remain in their designated dugout/bench area while his/her team is on defense



Game Management






During the game, players must warm up within the confines of the field or in the adjacent warm up area.




Coaches must remain in their designated dugout/bench area while his/her team is on defense.



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Pace of Game

- Umpires must enforce the one-minute warm-up period between innings to ensure the appropriate pace of the game
- The one minute period begins with the last out of the previous half inning
- Since umpires do not wear watches, an indication of compliance is the defensive team *hustling off* the field AND the offensive team *hustling on* the field



Game Management







To ensure an appropriate pace of the game, umpires must enforce the one-minute warm-up period between innings. It begins with the last out of the previous inning.

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QUESTIONS?

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