


1  **NFHS Softball**


**2013
Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis**


2  **NFHS Softball**

**2013
Rules Changes**


3  **Softball Glove
(1-4-1b,c)**


- Added that the color of the softball glove/mitt not be entirely optic yellow and that they do not have optic yellow markings on the outside or inside of the glove/mitt resembling the appearance of a softball.

4  **Glove With Optic Marking
1-4-1b, 1c**
Illegal


5  **Scorekeeping Materials
(3-6-10)**

- ▪ Notes that objects other than stopwatches, scorekeeping materials and devices are prohibited in the coach's box.


6  **Stop Watch/Scorekeeping Device
3-6-10**
Legal

7  **Batter Awarded First Base
(6-1-1 Exception)**

- ▪ Clarifies when a batter is awarded first base from an illegal pitch.

8  **Post-Illegal Pitch
6-1-1 Exception**

The penalty is more consistent whether the batter hits the pitch or not.

9  **Hit Batter
(8-1-2 Penalty 1)**


- Identifies when a hit batter is awarded first base and that she may not deliberately move to allow the ball to touch her in the batter's box.

10  **Batter Hit By Pitch
8-1-2 Penalty 1**


If pitch is within the batter's box, batter does not have to make an attempt to avoid getting hit.

11  **NFHS Softball**


**2013
Major Editorial Changes**

12  **Defines the Knob
(1-5-2a)**


- Defines the knob component of the bat and clarifies that it may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened.
- Devices, attachments or wrappings that cause the knob to become flush with the handle are permitted.
- The knob may be covered with grip tape.
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13  **Bat Knob**
1-5-2a


Legal

14  **Head Coach**
(3-3-3)


- Identifies that the person the Plate Umpire should announce any changes to and substitutions on the lineup card would be the opposing Head Coach.

15  **Substitutions**
3-3-3


Umpires should record all substitutions on the lineup card and immediately announce any change(s) to the opposing team's head coach.

16  **DP/FLEX Option**
(3-3-6)

- A team that intends to utilize the DP/FLEX option advises the Plate Umpire and their opponent during the exchange of line-up cards at the pregame conference.

17  **DP/Flex Option**
3-3-6


Any change with the DP/Flex must be made at the pregame conference.

18  **Interference**
(3-5-6 Penalty)

- Clarifies that if in the judgment of the umpire, the interference prevented a possible double play, the batter and runner closest to home shall be declared out. Other runners shall be returned to the last base at the time of interference.

19  **Interference**
3-5-6 Penalty


If, in the judgment of the umpire, the interference is intentional, base runners shall be returned to the last base touched at the time of interference.

20  **Clarification of Legality**
(6-1-2c)


- Clarifies the legality of a hole created in front of the pitcher's plate.
- If a hole has been created in front of the pitcher's plate, the pivot foot may be no higher than the level plane of the ground.
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22  **Illegal Pitch**
6-1-2c

Illegal

23  **Batter's Feet Position**
(7-3-1)

- Clarifies the batter's feet position within the batter's box.
- The batter's feet must be completely within the batter's box when the pitcher is ready to pitch.

24  **Batting**
7-3-1

Batter risks having a strike called while being out of position.

25  **NFHS Softball**

2013

Points of Emphasis

26  **Flex/Designated Player Education**

- The DP/Flex Rule was instituted to encourage further participation and flexibility of the game. The overall impact of this rule has been positive, however there still remains some confusion/challenges with the understanding of the rule.
- Support Information can be found at
 - Officials – NFHS Central Hub www.arbitersports.com under Softball Resources and Video tab
 - Coaches – www.nfhs.org

27  **DP/Flex**

Many umpires and coaches need to better understand the DP/Flex rule, which enables more participant opportunities for student-athletes and more flexibility to coaches.

28  **Bench Personnel Conduct (Homerun Celebrations)**

- When a batter hits an over the fence or out of the park home run it is an exciting event which many times results in a celebration by all team members coming onto the field.
- This celebration is allowed, however, the following precautions need to be taken:
 - All team members must remain behind the home plate umpire;
 - Allow all runners to contact home plate before engaging in the celebration.

29  **Bench and Field Conduct**


Plate umpire should restrain players from gathering around home plate after a home run to ensure that runner properly touches the plate.

30  **Risk Minimization (Sliding Injuries)**


- The NFHS has always been committed to risk minimization. Citing an increase in injuries associated with sliding during competition, the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has suggested an emphasis on teaching proper sliding techniques during practice.


31  **Proper Sliding**

Coaches are encouraged to teach proper sliding techniques, which are essential for student-athletes to avoid injuries.

32  **Concussion Procedure Reminder (3-3-9; 10-2-3k)**

- Procedure requires an athlete *exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion* to be removed from the contest.

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

34  **NFHS Officials Association Central Hub**

www.nfhs.arbitersports.com

Contains

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

35  **www.nfhslearn.com**

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37  QUESTIONS?