



COMMENTS ON THE 2011 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES REVISIONS

PENALTY ESTABLISHED FOR LINEUP CARD INACCURACIES (3-1-3 PENALTY): A new penalty was established for a head coach who submits a lineup card that must subsequently be corrected with the proper name/number of a player or if substitutes are added after the lineup card is submitted and verified. The new penalty will be a team warning. If the head coach has to again make a change to the lineup card after the initial team warning, he/she will then be restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game. This penalty establishes a consequence for a head coach who submits an inaccurate lineup card. Opposing coaches and scorekeepers use a player's jersey number to identify them as the proper batter and for substitution purposes. Previously, when the number was incorrect or substitutes were not listed, it caused a great deal of confusion without penalty. The new rule establishes a penalty if a coach fails to submit an accurate lineup card regarding name and number; similar to other team sports where a team's roster and a specific playing order are paramount. This new penalty does not affect the illegal substitution or batting out of order rules.

CONCUSSION PROCEDURE REVISED (3-3-9; 10-2-3k): Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion must be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. The previous rule directed umpires to remove an athlete from play if "unconscious or apparently unconscious." The previous rule also allowed for return to play based on written authorization by a medical doctor. The new rule requires that any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from play and shall not return until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional. Umpires, coaches and administrators should be looking for signs of concussion in all athletes and should immediately remove any suspected concussed athlete from play and make every effort to ensure a concussed athlete does not continue to participate.

SCORED/RETIRED RUNNER INTERFERENCE RULE REVISED (8-6-18): The word "intentionally" was removed from the rule relating to interference by a runner who had been declared out or who had scored. Intent should not be the determining factor in ruling whether interference has occurred by a runner who has scored/been retired. The rule is now consistent with the definition of interference.