

# Oregon School Activities Association

Softball SRI Bulletin / February 6, 2014

2014 SRI Pre-Season Bulletin #3 REVISED

## 2014 SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES

1-5-2C The taper is the transition area which connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat. The taper shall have a solid surface and shall have a conical shape. Its length and material may vary.

1.5.1 SITUATION A: During the umpires' inspection of equipment prior to the game it is observed that several bats are (a) designed with holes in the taper; (b) bat has a textured surface. RULING: In (a), the taper must be solid surface; therefore the bats are illegal and may not be used in the game; (b) Legal, the taper must be solid and conical.

1-8-6 The use of electronic devices by team personnel to transmit or record information pertaining to his/her player or team's performance shall be permitted within the team's dugout/bench area only. Information obtained from an electronic device may be used for coaching purposes during the game.

1.8.6 SITUATION A: During a game the team manager (a) videos the game from the dugout and gives it to the coach to review footage with players in between innings; (b) videos a game from the stands and gives it to the coach during the game to review with his/her pitcher in the pitching circle; (c) videos the play and gives it to the coach to protest a ruling made by the umpire on the field. RULING: (a) Legal, manager is part of "team personnel" and can use electronic devices for coaching purposes within the dugout or bench area; (b) Illegal, only video can be reviewed in the dugout or bench area; (c) Illegal, video footage cannot be used to protest a call made by the umpire.

2-5-8 TEAM MEMBERS: Team members are players listed on the team's roster and lineup as submitted to the umpire at the pregame meeting.

2-59 TEAM PERSONNEL: Team personnel consist of all school representatives located in the team dugout, including but not limited to coaches, managers, certified athletic trainers and scorekeepers.

3-6-11 The use of electronic devices is permitted during a game; however any information obtained shall not be used to review decisions made by the umpires.

## 2014 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-5-2A The bat shall consist of the following components. The knob 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. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal. CHOKE-UP DEVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

- 1-6-3** A violation while in live-ball area shall result in a warning to the coach of the team and individual. A subsequent violation may result in the individual and **coach** not being permitted on the field.
- 3-2-13** The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, **heighten** risk to the athlete/  
**NOTE** others or place opponents at a disadvantage.
- 7-3-1** ...move to end of paragraph-However, if the batter steps out of the box or holds up her hand to request time and the pitcher legally delivers the ball, it shall be called a strike and the ball remains live.
- 7-3-2** A pitched ball that is entirely within the batter's box strikes the batter or her clothing. No attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required. However, the batter may not obviously try to get hit by the pitch.

## QUICK TIPS

The **preparation** for your season cannot begin when the **first game** is just a week away. Get in the rule book, the gym and mechanics manual. The teams and your partners deserve the official who is ready to go with the first game.

With every new batter, **base umpires** should always allow the **plate umpire** to get established behind the catcher and initiate any non-verbal signals with the **base umpire(s)**. That is best accomplished when the **plate umpire** steps behind the catcher or the batter stepping into the batter's box.

## CASEPLAY

**Did Batter-Runner Interfere With Play on First? Play:** B1 hits a fair "topper" in front of the plate. F2 throws to first base, but B1 is ruled safe when F3 bobbles the ball. The defensive team's coach argues strenuously that B1's dive into first occurred in fair territory and she should be declared out for three-foot lane interference. **RULING:** Providing B1 ran legally within the three-foot lane while advancing to first, she is entitled to leave the lane to touch first base if fair territory on her last step, stride, slide, dive or reach. **NFHS 8-2-5**

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