

4.014 Exceptions to National Federation Rules

Regulation baseball uniforms are not necessary. A minimum uniform shall be a baseball cap, shoes, long pants, and a T-shirt with numbers. Rubber-soled or rubber-cleated baseball shoes are required as metal cleats are prohibited. [1-4-1]

Diamonds for all regular season and state series games shall be 80 feet square with the pitching distance at 54 feet. The distance from home plate to the middle of second base is 113 feet, 1 5/8 inches. All other sections of NFHS rule 2-1 should be followed. If a school desires to host the semi-final and championship games of the regional and/or a sectional contest their field must have the specifications listed above and a fence 225 feet or more from home plate. The recommended minimum distance from home plate to the backstop is 20 feet. Schools should not apply to host a regional or a sectional if their field does not meet these requirements. In cases where no field meets these specifications, then the schools assigned to the regional will meet to determine the regional host. First-round regional games which are played at the site of the higher seeded teams do not have to meet the home run distance. [1-2-1]

The use of Safe-Base, or a manufactured reproduction thereof, shall be mandatory in all regular season and tournament play. No game shall be played unless the Safe-Base is in use. The rules pertaining to Safe-Base shall be as follows: The batter-runner should use the orange portion only on the first attempt at first base. A runner is never out for touching the white base rather than the orange portion. Once the runner reaches first base, the runner shall then use only the white base. The defensive player may use only the white portion of the bag in making any play at first. One exception--On a missed third strike the first baseman may use the orange portion for the putout throw from the catcher. A batted ball must hit totally in the orange to be foul. [1-2-9 Note]

The ten-run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 runs or more after 4 1/2 innings, or after the 5th inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. A 15 run rule is also in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 runs or more after 2 1/2 innings, or after the 3rd inning, if either team is 15 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. [2-17-1, 4-2-2]

It is strongly recommended that coaches be attired in school colors although adult coaches are not required to be in the uniform of the team. [3-2-1].

In any instance in which a team does not have an eligible substitute for a player who becomes ill, injured, or is ejected from the lineup by an umpire, the player last removed from the lineup by the team coach, who is otherwise eligible to play, shall be used as a substitute, taking the batting-lineup position of the replaced player. When a team's last available substitute enters the game as part of a multiple substitution, the team coach shall advise the umpire and official scorekeeper which player is to be considered the last player removed from the lineup. [3-1-3]

Any non-wood bat that has a barrel diameter greater than 2 5/8 inches is illegal. All non-wood bats must meet the following NFHS standards: a maximum barrel diameter of 2 5/8 inches; maximum length of 36 inches, a Ball Exit Speed Ratio (BESR) silkscreen label on the bat; and in weight, the bat shall not weigh, numerically, more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 31-inch-long bat cannot be less than 28 ounces).

Non-wood bats 30 inches and under in length which have a greater than three ounce weight vs. length differential may be used provided the barrel diameter does not exceed 2 1/4 inches (e.g., a 29-inch-long bat may weigh 20 ounces and is legal provided the barrel diameter does not exceed 2 1/4 inches). The BESR label is not required on this type of bat.

Wood bats that are manufactured in accordance with National Federation rules may be used.

Note: Effective January 1, 2006 no BESR label, sticker or decal will be permitted on any non-wood bat. All non-wood bats that require the BESR performance standard shall be labeled with a completely visible silkscreen or permanent certification mark. [1-3-2; 1-3-4]

The following are examples of legal and illegal non-wood bats:

Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
31	28	2 5/8"	Legal assuming BESR labeled
30	20	2 3/4"	Illegal--Max. barrel diameter for a 30" non-wood bat that has a greater than minus 3 differential is 2 1/4"
30	20	2 1/4"	Legal---BESR label not required
32	29	2 5/8"	Legal assuming BESR labeled
29	22	2 3/4"	Illegal--Max. barrel diameter for a 30" non-wood bat that has a greater than minus 3

			differential is 2 1/4"
31	25	2 5/8"	Illegal--All 31" and over bats must meet NFHS standards
28	19	2 1/4"	Legal---BESR label not required
31	28	2 3/4"	Illegal--Maximum barrel diameter for a non-wood bat is 2 5/8"
30	19	2 1/4"	Legal---BESR label not required
29	26	2 5/8"	Legal assuming BESR labeled
32	22	2 1/4"	Illegal--All 31" and over bats must meet NFHS standards
30	27	2 5/8"	Legal assuming BESR labeled

The Suggested Speed-Up Rules pertaining to courtesy runners have been adopted. [2-33-1]

Any state series game that is suspended for reasons of weather, darkness, or mechanical failure (i.e. lighting problems, power outage, water system problems), and does not meet game ending regulations as described in rule 4-2-3, will be treated as a suspended game and continued from the point of suspension when the game is able to resume. The line-up and batting order shall be the same as the line up and batting order at the point of suspension. Pitching limitations will still apply whenever the game is resumed. The coach of the team trailing at the time of the suspension may forfeit the contest at which time the game will be considered a complete game. [4-2-3, 4-2-4]

4.015 Pitching Exceptions (Applies to all regular season and state series contests)

As soon as a pitcher delivers one pitch, the pitcher has pitched one inning. [6]

The starting pitcher withdrawn from the mound or the game can return once in the game to the pitching position. A relief pitcher does not have the opportunity to return to the mound once per game. A relief pitcher withdrawn from the mound may not return to the pitching position. [3-1-2 note]

Sixteen innings will be the maximum total number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a calendar week (Sunday-Saturday).

A pitcher may not pitch more than a total of seven innings in any one day or nine innings on two consecutive days. If more than four innings are pitched on two consecutive days, then two days of rest must follow. [6-1-6]

Illustrations for Section 4.015

The following are provided for illustrative purposes only and are neither binding nor to be construed as having the effect of the By-laws or Constitution of this organization. In the event of a conflict, whether actual or believed, between an illustration contained in this section and any by-law or constitutional provision then in effect, the by-law or constitutional provision, as interpreted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 1.420 of the Constitution of this organization, shall control.

Q. My starting pitcher is removed from the mound during the third inning but remained in the game as the shortstop. Can he return to the mound in the 5th inning to finish the game as the pitcher?

A. Yes, assuming he has sufficient numbers of daily/weekly inning eligibility remaining. Starting pitchers can return to the mound once per game.

Q. I removed my starting pitcher from the game in the second inning and he returned to the mound in the 4th inning. Because he does not hit very well, I want to pinch hit for him in the 6th inning. What is his playing status if I pinch hit for him?

A. In this instance, the player has to be removed from the game. Although you legally entered him back in the pitching position (starting pitchers may re-enter as the pitcher once per game) once you pinch hit for him, regulation re-entry rules prohibit him from re-entering the contest.

Q. I removed my starting pitcher in the 4th inning. He did not stay in the game. Can he re-enter in the pitching position to get the final out of the game?

A. Yes, assuming he has sufficient number of daily/weekly inning eligibility remaining and he re-enters according to the re-entry rules.

Q. I brought in a relief pitcher to face one batter in the 5th inning. After he retired that batter he stayed in the game as the right

fielder. Can he pitch to one batter in the bottom of the 7th inning?

A. No. Relief pitchers once removed from the mound cannot return to the game as the pitcher.

Q. Our game was suspended due to weather conditions in the middle of the 4th inning. Can my pitcher complete the game the next day?

A. The pitcher can pitch a maximum of 9 innings on two consecutive days. If the pitcher has thrown five innings, then he could throw 4 innings the next day.

Q. My team has advanced to the semi-finals of the Class 3A state tournament. Can my pitcher throw 5 innings in the semi-final game and then come back and throw 2 innings in either the third place or championship game?

A. Yes, provided your pitcher has seven innings of eligibility that day.

4.016 Pitching Limitation Penalty

In addition to automatic forfeiture of the contest, should a student exceed the individual limitations listed, the coach of the team shall be ineligible to coach for the next two interscholastic contests at the level where the violation occurred and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim.