



SOFTBALL

As an official registered with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) in the sport of softball, you may officiate games at the junior high level. When those contests involve members of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA), rules of play are exactly the same as the National Federation rules with the following exceptions:

2010-11 ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION EXCEPTIONS TO NATIONAL FEDERATION SOFTBALL RULES

- New** 1. Metal cleats are prohibited [3-2-11] **IESA Penalty: If a player is found wearing metal cleats, the player must be immediately removed from the game without the opportunity to return to the game.**
- Penalty** 2. **Pitching Distance shall be 40 feet from the rear tip of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher's plate. [1-1-2b]**
- New** 3. The 15-runs in 3 innings and 10-runs in 5 innings rules are in effect. [4-2-3]
4. The use of Safe-Base, or a reasonable facsimile thereof, shall be mandatory in all regular season and tournament play. Please refer to the guidelines in the NFHS rules book for double first base application. [1-2-1note]
5. Adult coaches are not required to be in the uniform of the team but it is recommended that coaches be attired in school colors. [3-5-3]
6. Number appearing on the front of the softball uniform, although not required, may be smaller than six inches. [3-2]
7. **Any state series game** that is suspended for reasons of weather, darkness, or mechanical failure (i.e. lighting problems, power outage, water system problems) will be treated as a suspended game and continued from the point of suspension when the game is able to resume provided it is not a completed game. A completed game is one that has five full innings played or if the home team has scored a greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat. The line-up and batting order shall be the same as the line up and batting order at the point of suspension. 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. [4-2-2]
- 8** **Any regular season game** that is called before completion of the required number of innings shall be declared a "no game" by the umpire. Conferences and regular season tournaments may adopt a suspended game policy. [4-2-4]
- New** 9. Upon agreement of both coaches, prior to the start of a regular season game, the international tie breaker rule may be used anytime after the 7th inning. The international tiebreaker rule will not be used for state series games. [4-2]

Regional Hosts on fields without lights cannot start any later than 5:00pm.

Player and/or Coaches Ejection

Any player or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IESA or school may assess. Any player or coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred, in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess. For Example: a player is ejected one time during the softball season for unsportsmanlike conduct and one time during the volleyball season also for unsportsmanlike conduct. That player is not allowed to participate in the next two volleyball matches following the second ejection.
By-law 5.120

If a coach is ejected from the contest and he or she is the only person responsible for the supervision of spectators, the contest would have to be forfeited as no one would be available to coach and/or supervise.
By-law 2.020

Thank you for your service with the IESA and its member schools.