

IESA Exceptions to NFHS Softball Rules

4.024 Exceptions to National Federation Rules

1. 2-Hour Time Limit – For regular season play, no inning shall start 2 hours and after the first pitch of the game. [4-2-2] Home plate umpire will keep the time. The 10-run, 12-run and 15-run rules are still in effect.
2. The 10-run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 runs or more after 4 ½ 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. The 12-run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 12 runs or more after 3 ½ innings, or after the 4th inning if either team is 12 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 ½ 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. [2-26-2, 4-2-3]
3. 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 application of the Safe-Base rule shall follow NFHS guidelines. [1-2-1]
4. 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]
5. 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 regulation game. 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; 4-2-3]
6. When a regular season game is stopped for any reason, the school administration of the participating schools may choose to do one of the following:
 - a. Suspend the game and mutually agree to resume the game at the point of suspension at a later date and time; or
 - b. the team losing at the time of the suspension can forfeit and the team winning at this time would claim this as a win on their record; or
 - c. the team winning at the time of the suspension can forfeit and thus the team losing at this time would claim this as a win on their record; or
 - d. the schools mutually agree to record the game as a "no game." [4-2-3]
7. The pitching distance shall be set at 40 ft. [1-1-2 b]
8. The international tie breaker rule may be used any time after the 7th inning upon agreement of both coaches prior to the start of the contest. The international tie breaker rule will not be used in the state series. If used in a regular season contest, the following tiebreaker rules shall be in effect:
 - a. The last batter from the previous inning is placed on 2nd base and play then continues under regular rules;
 - b. It is not sudden death;
 - c. Each team has the opportunity to bat each inning;
 - d. The game is over when one team has the lead at the end of an inning. [4-2-5]
9. First and last names must be included on the line-up card presented to the umpire prior to the start of the contest. [3-1-3]

10. The on-deck batter may use either on-deck circle. The on-deck batter may only take their position during a dead-ball. [2-5-3, 7-5]