

IESA Activity Information

Illinois Elementary School Association

IESA Season Introduction

Please distribute/review this information with Association members.

As an official with the IHSA in the sports of softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, or track/cross country, you may occasionally officiate games/matches 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 some exceptions. The exceptions for each activity will be listed in the information contained in this handout.

If you have questions pertaining to the IESA, or if you would like to add your name to our approved list so you can be eligible to receive state series as-

signments at the junior high school level, please contact us at 309-829-0114 or iesa@iesa.org. You must be registered with the IHSA for at least 5 years before you will be considered for a state assignment.

Good luck this season!

IESA Staff

Steve Endsley, Executive Director:
Baseball, Cross Country, Wrestling

Nicole Schaeffbauer, Associate Executive Director: Girls/Boys Basketball

Julie Cochran, Assistant Executive Director: Volleyball, Track and Field

John Venerable, Assistant Executive Director: Softball

2014-15

Inside:

Softball	2
Baseball	3

IESA Sportsmanship Initiative

- * Sportsmanship continues to be a point of emphasis for the IESA.
- * The IESA continues to enforce the automatic next game suspension for an unsportsmanlike ejection.
- * Any official who ejects a coach or player from an IESA contest should report the incident to the IESA Office within 48 hours of the contest. Forms are available

- on the IESA website (www.iesa.org) by accessing the Official's Department.
- * Good Sport Report Forms are also available online. If you encounter an act of good sportsmanship at a contest, please submit a good sport report to the IESA Office. The IESA will post the report online and send a copy to the school.

Special points of interest:

- Baseball and Softball– Required use of the Safety Base
 - All Sports– Required pre-game meetings.
-

IESA Exceptions to NFHS Softball Rules

- Game uniforms must in accordance with National Federation rules [3-2].
- Metal cleats are prohibited. The penalty for wearing metal cleats in a game shall be immediate removal from the contest without the opportunity to return to the game. [3-2-1]
- The ten-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. 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]
- **The use of Safe-Base, or a manufactured reproduction thereof, shall be mandatory in all**



IESA Softball Season Dates

Practice May Begin	July 28, 2014
Games May Begin	August 9, 2014
Regional Games	September 10, 13, 15, 2014
Sectional Games	September 20, 2014
State Games	September 26, 27, 2014

- 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]
- 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]
 - Numbers appearing on the front of the softball uniform, although not required, may be smaller than six inches. [3-2-2]
 - 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. It is a completed regulation game provided: a) Five full innings have been played or; the home team has scored a greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat or; b) Play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat. The score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team in its half of incom-

- plete inning scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called. 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]
- **Pitching Distance shall be set at 40 feet . [1-1-2b]**
 - Any regular season game that is called before completion of the required number of innings as listed in NFHS rule 4-2-2 shall be declared a no game.
 - The international tie breaker rule may be used anytime after the 7th inning. The international tiebreaker 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—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]
 - First and last names must be included on the line-up card presented to the umpire prior to the start of the contest.

IESA Softball Items of Interest

- * Please make sure that you are conducting the pre-game meeting with head coaches prior to all contests.
- * Please make sure you are checking bats at all regular season games and all levels of state series play. Additionally, you can access the ASA list of approved and non-approved bats with the certification mark from the IESA website girls softball activity page. Please print this page prior to your games.

IESA Exceptions to NFHS Baseball 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. The penalty for wearing metal-cleats in a game shall be immediate removal from the game without the opportunity to return. [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 4½ 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 2½ 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]
- 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 NFHS 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 lineup 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]
- 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]
- 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].
- **Any non-wood bat that has a barrel diameter greater than 2 5/8 inches is illegal.**
- All non-wood bats 31 inches and

(Continued on page 4)

IESA Exceptions to NFHS Baseball Rules (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

over in length must meet all of the NFHS standards as detailed in NFHS rule 1-3-2 including: a maximum barrel diameter of 2 5/8 inches; maximum length of 36 inches, a Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) silk-screen 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 BBCOR label is not required on this type of bat.



IESA Baseball Items of Interest

The IESA Office fully expects that any IESA contest you officiate will be called according to the National Federation rule book and the exceptions to those rules that are listed below. You do not have the authority to waive a given rule just because it is a Jr. High contest. For instance, the use of the safety base is required. Do not allow any

game to be played if the safety base is not used. You are exposing yourself to tremendous liability by disregarding a safety rule if you allow a game to be played that does

Please make sure that you are conducting the pre-game meeting with head coaches prior to all contests.

not have the safety base. If the safety base is not in place, the game shall not be played. Even though NFHS rules do not require you to check bats and helmets prior to games, it is still a good practice at this level of play to do so. In particular, cracked helmets are all too common and with the new BBCOR bat rule there are likely to be several illegal bats.

IESA Baseball Season Dates

Practice May Begin	August 4, 2014
Games May Begin	August 16, 2014
Regional Games	September 16, 20, 22, 2014
Sectional Games	September 27, 2014
State Games	October 3, 4, 2014

