

Softball Activity Update - 2009

NFHS Rule Changes/Clarifications

1. Pitching Windup

Revolutions (6-1-4d):

Pitcher may not exceed 1.5 clockwise (as viewed by 1st base umpire) revolutions in windmill windup.

Rule was changed to provide better balance between offense and defense and helps make the illegal pitches easier to identify and enforce by umpires.

2. Pitcher Time Limit

Penalty (6-2-3 Penalty):

When the pitcher exceeds the 20-sec time limit to release the next pitch the ball is awarded to the batter.

Previous rule was severe as the runners also advanced. Count begins once returned to the pitcher in preparation for next pitch. Note: Pitcher may NOT intentionally violate time limit four times to issue an intentional walk to the batter. Violation of this is ejection of player and coach.

3. Catchers Helmet Eye

Shield (1-7-1):

Attached eye shields must be constructed of rigid material and permit 100% allowable light (no tint)

Note: face masks on defensive players must have NOCSAE approval.



4. Exposed Undergarments (3-2-7):

All exposed undergarments must be a solid color. (Black, white, gray or a school color)

Note: All exposed undergarments have to be the same color.

NFHS Points of Emphasis

- Pitching
- Obstruction/Interference
- DP/FLEX Rule

IESA Points of Emphasis

- SPORTSMANSHIP
- Coaching Education



Coaching Education

All coaches must be in compliance with the coaching Education Bylaw (2.120) prior to the start of softball season.

Any coach who does not meet the IESA coaching qualifications will be suspended for a minimum of two games and will not be permitted to coach again until he/she has completed an approved IESA coaching education course. Additionally, any contest in which the coach participated while in violation will be forfeited.

Online Seeding

New for the 2009 Softball Season, regional seed meetings will be conducted completely online. This will eliminate another night of travel for coaches and the conflict with seed meeting times.

The process for inputting information will be mandatory for all schools participating in the activity. The following information will be completed online in the IESA member center.

Step One: All schools entering the volleyball state series must enter the following information by Wednesday of week 8 (08/26/09) in IESA standardized calendar:

1. Team record,
2. Regional entry form,
3. Season schedule and results,
4. Written summary on your team (this is your 2-min. talk on your team)

Step Two: Ranking of regional teams - beginning Monday of week 9 (08/31/09). Teams in each regional will be able to go online and rank the teams based on the information provided to them online in step one. This will only be open for three (3) days and will close at midnight on Wednesday of week 9 (09/02/09).

Following step two in the process the computer will tabulate the results and host school will then confirm the results to post them in the host administration section of the web page.

IMPORTANT IESA DATES

- Entry Deadline (Mon.) 6/8/09
- Practice may begin (Mon.) 7/27/09
- Cooperative Agreement due 6/8/09
- Games may begin (Sat.) 8/8/09
- Final Entry Deadline (Fri.) 8/14/09
- On-line Roster & Record Deadline (Wed.) 8/26/09
- On-line Ranking 8/31-9/2/09
- Class A/AA Regional (Wed., Sat., Mon.) 9/ 9, 12, & 14/09
- Class A/AA Sectionals (Sat.) 9/19/09
- Class A/AA State (Fri. & Sat.) 9/ 25 & 26/09
- Season must end (Sat.) 10/3/09

IESA
1015 Maple Hill Road
Bloomington, IL 61705
Phone: 309-829-0114
Fax: 309-829-0625
E-mail: iesa@iesa.org
www.iesa.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Regional Host Changes

- On Regional Host Fields without lights, games cannot start any later than 5:00pm.

Pitching Distance Survey

- Prior to completing your regional entry form in the first step of the online seeding process each school will need to complete an online survey concerning the pitching distance in IESA softball. Please make sure you have your coaches' input when completing this survey.

NFHS RULE CHANGES

- 1-3-3** Added to the softball specifications, a requirement that the dynamic stiffness of softballs not exceed 7500 lbs/inch when tested under current proposed ASTM test methods. Effective January 1, 2010.
Rationale: This standard will better control softballs and should bring more consistency to the softball marketplace without lowering the current static compression of 375lbs/inch.
- 2-8-2** Changed the definition of a bunt attempt to holding the bat in the strike zone and requiring the bat to be withdrawn in order to take a pitch.
Rationale: The new definition will make the bunt attempt easier for an umpire to determine and creates a better balance between offense and defense.
- 6-1-4d** Changed the pitching windup requirement to a maximum of one and a half clockwise revolutions.
Rationale: Pitchers are attempting to gain an advantage by deceiving the batter. The rule change will make an illegal pitch easier to identify and enforcement more consistent.
- 6-2-3** Changed the penalty for a pitcher exceeding the required 20 second-time limit to a ball awarded to the batter and not an illegal pitch.
Rationale: The change makes the violation of the time to pitch by the pitcher consistent with a batter failing to be ready within 10 seconds after the ball has been returned to the pitcher. An illegal pitch penalty is excessive as it also awards runners on additional base.

MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

- 1-4-2** Clarified the one American flag (2"x3" max) is permitted on the glove.
- 1-7-1** Clarified that if an eye shield is worn attached to the catcher's helmet, it must be constructed of a molded, rigid material that is clear and permits 100 % allowable light transmission (no tint).
- 3-2-7** Clarified that exposed undergarments must be a solid color.
- 6-2-3** Clarified that the timeframe for delivering the next pitch or being in the batter box begins when the ball has been returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch. Also clarified that a pitcher is committed to delivering the pitch when the hands are brought together.