

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. [1-4-1]

**A regulation game shall be played to a full 7 innings (6 ½ if the home team is ahead). For regular season games, no inning shall start 2 hours after the first pitch of the game. Any inning in progress shall be completed. If teams are tied after the time limit has been reached it shall be considered a tie game. The current 10 run, 12 run, and 15 run rules remain in place. However, by mutual agreement before a game begins, teams may play a 5 inning or 6 inning contest at which time the game will be considered a regulation contest. All state series games shall be played to 7 innings except in the case of a mercy rule game; a game shortened by weather or darkness; or the third-place game of the state finals. The third-place game shall be played to a maximum of 5 innings. If both teams are tied after five innings, both teams will be awarded 3rd place. [4-2-1; 4-2-3]

**All regular season games that require extra innings to determine the winner shall start with a runner on second base and no outs. The runner placed on 2nd base shall be the player in the batting order position previous to the leadoff batter of the extra inning. Each team has the opportunity to bat each inning. The game is over when one team has the lead at the end of an inning. [4-2-2]

**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 1-2 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]

**The on-deck batter may use either on-deck circle. The on-deck batter may only move to the on-deck circle during a dead ball. The on-deck batter must remain in the on-deck circle unless the batter switches hitting positions at which time the umpire would have the discretion to allow the on-deck batter to change circles. [1-2-3]

**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 12 run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 12 runs or more after 3½ 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 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]

**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]

BATS (NFHS Rule 1-3-2)

**The following bats are legal for use in IESA contests:

- Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in section 1-3-2 of the NFHS baseball rules book or;
- Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop and a barrel diameter of 2 5/8 inches provided that bat contains the USA Baseball logo or;
- Any wood bat that meets the NFHS standards as detailed in section 1-3-2 and 1-3-3 of the NFHS baseball rules book.

NOTE 1: All bats 31 inches and over must meet the NFHS bat guidelines and contain the BBCOR label

NOTE 2: All bats with a 2 1/4" barrel diameter are illegal

NOTE 3: Any bat with a USSSA logo is illegal

NOTE 4: Any bat with a BESR label is illegal

The following are examples of legal and illegal non-wood bats. This list is not intended to be all inclusive or all exclusive:

Examples of Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats That Do Not Contain a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
31	28	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	22	2-3/4"	Illegal—Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally, this bat will not contain the BBCOR label
30	20	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	20	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
28	19	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	28	2-3/4"	Illegal—Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally, this bat will not contain the BBCOR label.
29	26	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	27	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
32	22	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	25	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
30	27	2-1/2"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal

Examples of Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats That Are Marked With a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
30	20	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
31	20	2-5/8"	Illegal—All bats 31" and over for use in IESA contests must meet NFHS guidelines including BBCOR label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball logo. A 31" bat must be BBCOR labeled.
28	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	21	2-5/8"	Illegal—All bats 31" and over for use in IESA contests must meet NFHS guidelines including BBCOR label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball logo. A 31" bat has to be BBCOR labeled.
27	15	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	19	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	20	2-1/2"	Illegal—Any bat with a USA Baseball logo must have a 2-5/8" barrel diameter.
30	22	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	25	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat

**In addition to the penalty as listed in NFHS rule 7-4-1 for the use of an illegal bat, a player who uses an illegal bat shall be immediately ejected from the contest and cannot return to that contest under any circumstance. [7-4-1]

**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 lineup 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]

**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:

- Suspend the game and mutually agree to resume the game at the point of suspension at a later date and time; or
- 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
- 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
- the schools mutually agree to record the game as a "no game." [4-2-3, 4-2-4]

**A portable pitching mound may not be used in the state series. [1-2-7]

IESA PITCH COUNT LIMITATIONS---REGULAR SEASON AND STATE SERIES

PITCH COUNT PER DAY	REQUIRED DAYS OF REST	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PITCHES ON NEXT APPEARANCE	NEXT APPEARANCE CAP Note: Pitch count caps are soft, meaning that the pitcher will be afforded the opportunity to finish the at bat if the maximum is reached in the middle of an at-bat.
1-20	0 days	70 pitches	A pitcher who throws 1-20 pitches may pitch on two consecutive days without rest. The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown on the second day is 70. A pitcher who throws on two consecutive days must rest for one day.
21-35	1	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 21-35 pitches must rest for one day. After one day of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
36-50	2	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 36-50 pitches must rest for two days. After two days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
51-65	3	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 51-65 pitches must rest for three days. After three days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
66-90	4	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 66-90 pitches must rest for four days. After four days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.

Any pitcher (either the starting pitcher or any relief pitcher) withdrawn from the mound or game may return to the pitching position once per game as long as it is within the legal reentry rule. [3-1-2 note]

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 pitcher has a maximum of 90 pitches to throw today. My "intent" is to limit the pitcher to 20 pitches so he can throw the next day. In the middle of an at-bat the pitcher reaches 20 pitches. What happens if he ends up throwing 25 pitches because he finished the at-bat?

A: The pitcher would have to rest one day if he threw between 21-35 pitches. The "soft-cap" does not apply here. The soft cap applies when the *maximum* number of pitches for a day has been reached. In this instance, the maximum for the day was 90 pitches; not 20. By allowing the pitcher to throw 25 pitches, one day of rest must now follow.

Q: My pitcher can throw 90 pitches today. In the middle of an at-bat, he reached his 90th pitch. Can he finish the at-bat?

A: Yes. This is a soft-cap issue and a pitcher can finish the at-bat when it is the maximum number of pitches in a day is reached in the middle of an at-bat.

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 pitches 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 pitches 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: Yes. Effective with the 2018 season, relief pitchers removed from the mound may return to the game as the pitcher as long as he has sufficient pitches remaining for the day.

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: Maybe. Once a pitcher throws 21 pitches, at least one day of rest is required. In this instance, if he threw 21-35 pitches before the game was suspended, he cannot pitch until he has had at least one full day of rest making him ineligible to pitch the next day.

Q. My team has advanced to the semi-finals of the Class 3A state tournament. Can my pitcher throw 45 pitches in the semi-final game and then come back and throw 20 pitches in either the third place or championship game?

A. Maybe. It all depends on the number of pitches that your pitcher can throw that day. If he can throw 90 pitches on Saturday, then he can throw in both games in any combination up to a maximum of 90 pitches. If he can only throw 50 pitches on Saturday and he throws 45 in the first game, then he would only have 5 pitches to throw in the second game. The pitching limitation is based on the number of pitches allowed on a given day and it is no longer based on innings.

Q. My pitcher has pitched 7 innings. The score is tied after 7 innings. May he continue to pitch in the 8th inning since the game is tied?

A. Maybe. A pitcher is allowed a maximum of 90 pitches in one day if he has had the required rest between outings. Assuming he has 90 pitches available in one day and in this instance he has only thrown 80 pitches after 7 innings and the score is tied, he still has 10 pitches remaining that day. A pitcher who pitches more than he is allowed is considered an ineligible player at that point and the game shall be forfeited in accordance with By-Law 5.071.

Q. Our game is in the top of the 7th inning. My pitcher has 4 pitches left to throw before he will reach his maximum for the day. After his 4th pitch of the inning, the count on the batter is 2-2. Can he finish pitching to the batter?

A. Yes. However, once the batter has completed his at bat, in this instance, the pitcher must be immediately removed from the mound. Coaches need to have a new pitcher ready to come into the game when the pitcher has been removed from the mound.

Q. My pitcher threw 10 pitches on Monday and only 7 pitches on Tuesday. How many pitches can he throw on Wednesday?

A. None. A pitcher who throws on two consecutive days must rest for at least one full day before he can pitch again. In this instance, the next time the pitcher could throw would be on Thursday---up to a maximum of 90 pitches.

Q. Our regional championship game was scheduled for Monday. Due to weather, it was not played until Tuesday. On Tuesday, my best pitcher threw 85 pitches and shut out the opponent. Can he pitch in the sectional championship game on Saturday?

A. No. When a pitcher throws between 66 and 90 pitches, the pitcher must rest for four days before he can pitch again. In this case, he would have only rested three days (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) which would make him ineligible to pitch on Saturday.

Q. Our regional championship game was scheduled for Monday but was not played until Tuesday due to weather. However, I noticed that our opponent for the sectional was able to play on Monday. Their starting pitcher will be able to throw in the sectional on Saturday because he has had four days of rest but if my #1 pitcher throws 66 or more pitches on Tuesday he will not be able to throw on Saturday because he will not have had four days rest. Is this fair?

A. The rules are in place for the safety of the pitchers. The rules do not take into account for any weather delays. In this instance, you will either want to limit your #1 pitcher to 51-65 pitches in the regional championship being played on Tuesday so he can throw again on Saturday or if he pitches 66-90 pitches on Tuesday, he will be ineligible to pitch on Saturday.

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.