



2025 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES POWERPOINT



**PLAY.
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Rule Changes Major Editorial Changes Points of Emphasis

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NFHS INFORMATION



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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- NFHS (located in Indianapolis, IN – Est. 1920):
 - National leader and advocate for high school athletics and performing arts programs.
 - Serves 51 state associations, 19,500 high schools and 12 million student participants.
 - Writes playing rules for 17 high school sports for boys and girls.
 - Offers online education courses for high school coaches, officials, parents, students and others.
 - Ensures that students have opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement and good sportsmanship in education-based athletics.



NFHS RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

- The NFHS Rules Review Committee is chaired by the chief operating officer and composed of all rules editors. After each committee concludes its deliberations and has adopted its recommended changes for the subsequent year, such revisions will be evaluated by the Rules Review Committee.



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Chief Operating
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Basketball, Girls
Lacrosse and
Volleyball



Bob Colgate
Football and Sports
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Sandy Searcy
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Diving and Water Polo



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James Weaver
Boys Lacrosse
and Spirit



Dan Schuster
Ice Hockey



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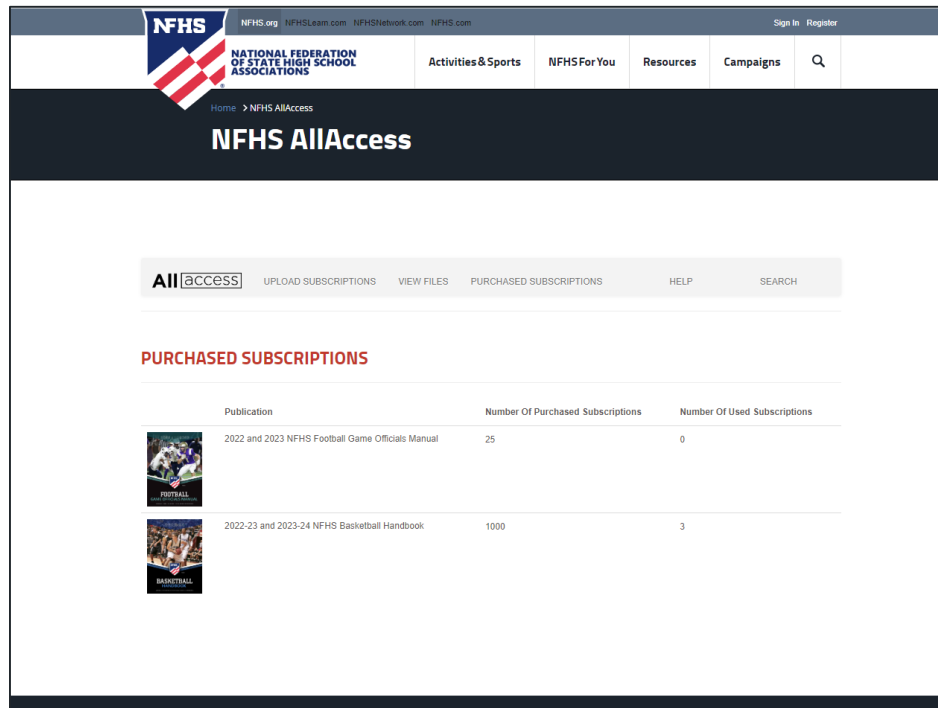
NFHS PUBLICATIONS

- The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.
 - Publishes 4 million pieces of materials annually.



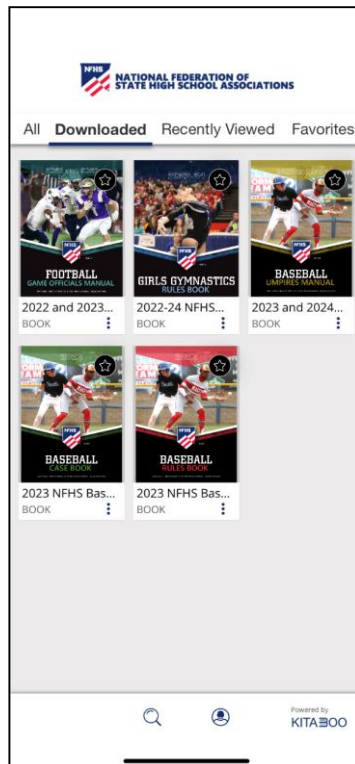
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NFHS AllAccess – WEBSITE



- AllAccess is the **NFHS Digital Publications Platform** that includes:
 - Rules Publications
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 - Policy Debate Quarterlies
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- Website organized for associations and individuals to assign books and manage purchases
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GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACCOMMODATIONS

Request of Accommodation by School



State Association Review



Written Determination from State Association



Competition with Approval of Accommodation



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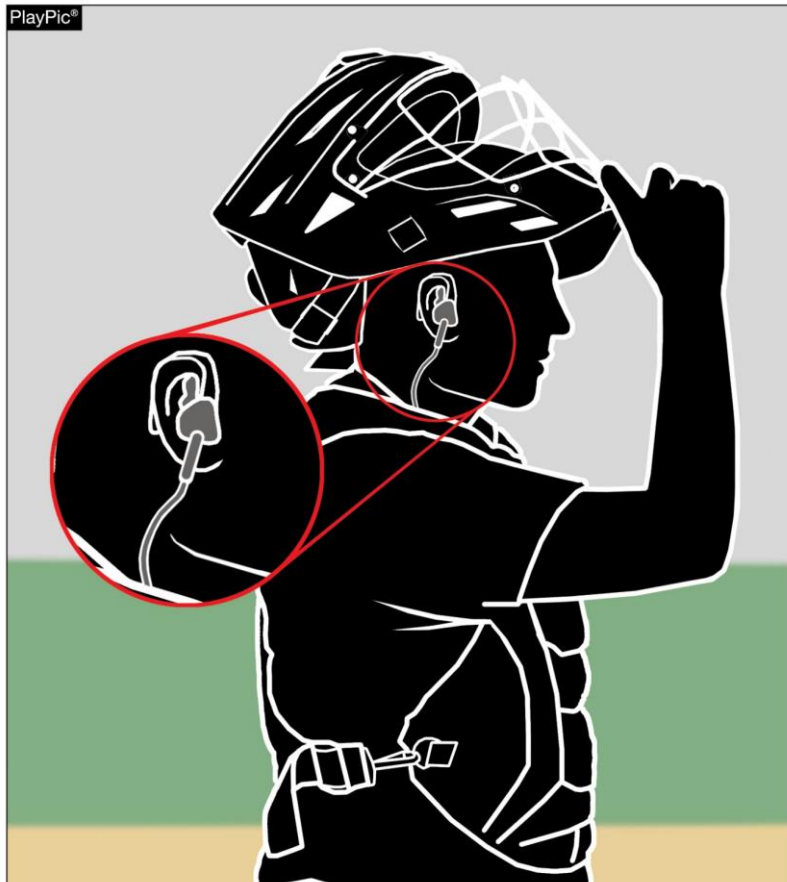


2025 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES



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OTHER EQUIPMENT 1-8-6 EXCEPTION & PENALTY



A coach is permitted to use electronic devices in the dugout for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense.

The penalty from Rule 3-6-11 was added to Rule 1-8-6 as well, with violators subject to ejection unless the offense is ruled to be of a minor nature.

BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT

3-6-11

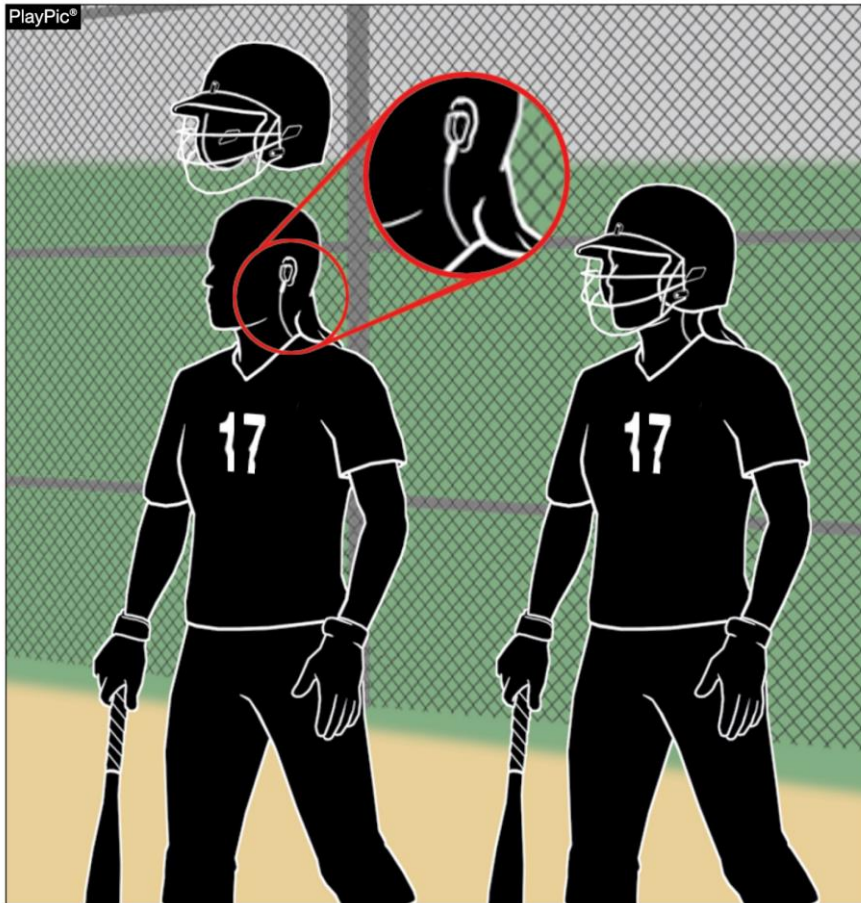


Communication may only be to the catcher and may not be to any other player on defense or to any offensive player.

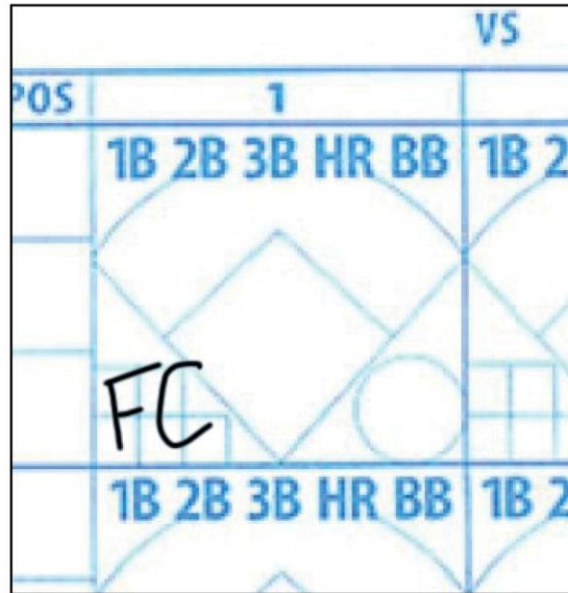
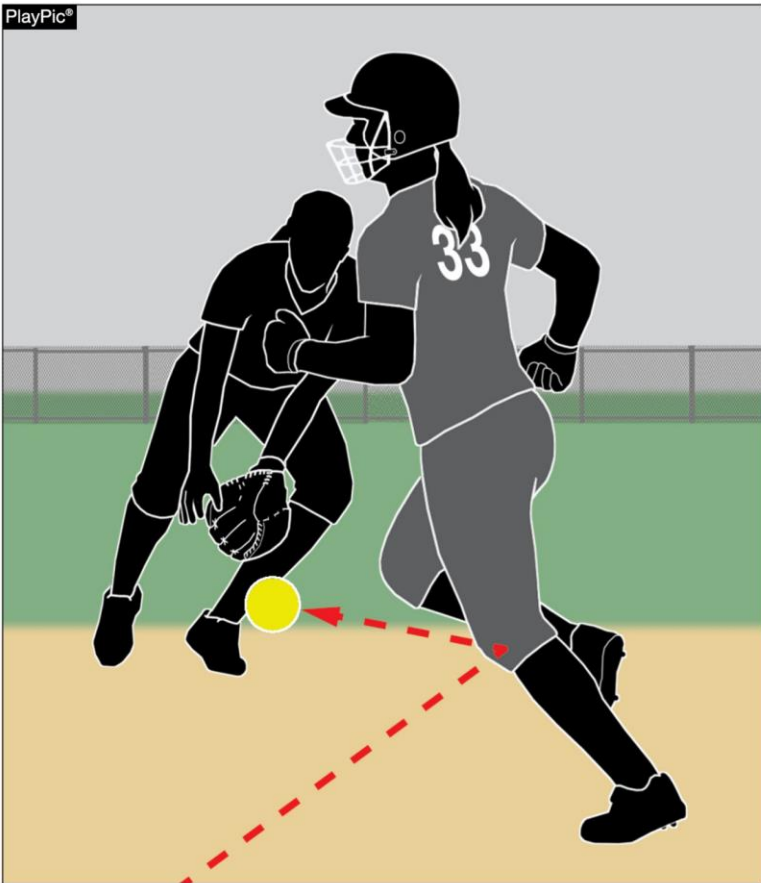
While players other than the catcher are permitted to use jewelry, such as watches, they may not use them for the purpose of receiving communication from the dugout. Violators are subject to ejection unless the offense is ruled to be minor in nature.

BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT

3-6-11



The catcher is not required to remove the one-way communication device while on offense but may not use the device to receive communication.



If a batter-runner is awarded first base due to a baserunner's interference, the batter-runner is credited with a fielder's choice, not a base hit.



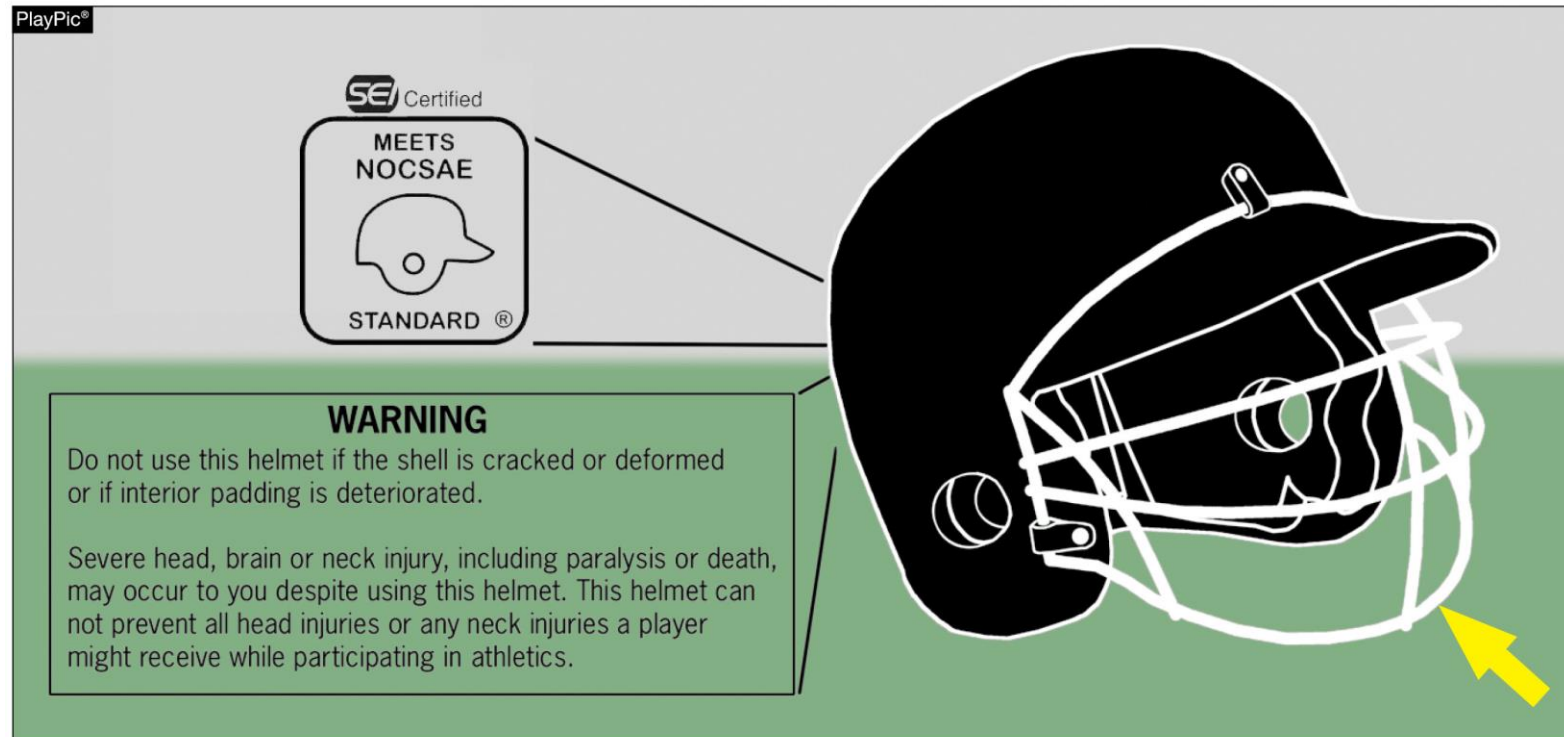
2025 NFHS SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES



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BATTING HELMETS

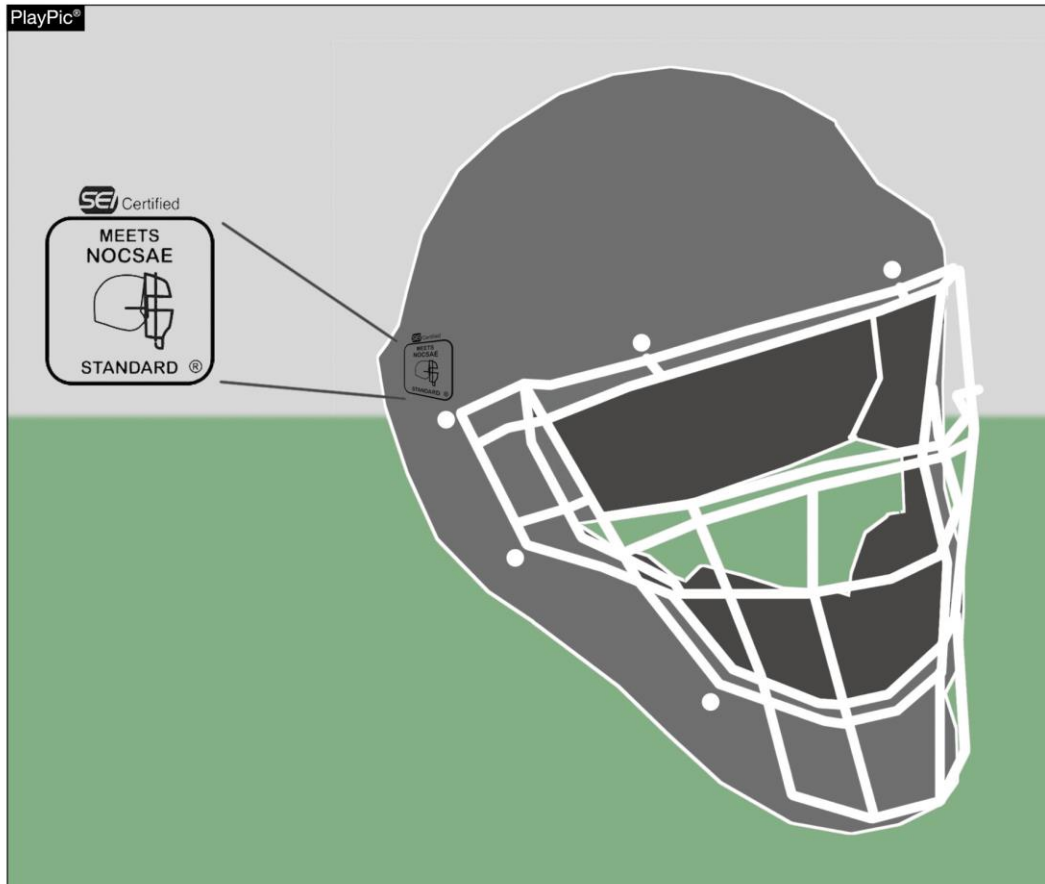
1-6-6



Batting helmets shall be equipped with a face protector that is certified by SEI to meet the NOCSAE standard.

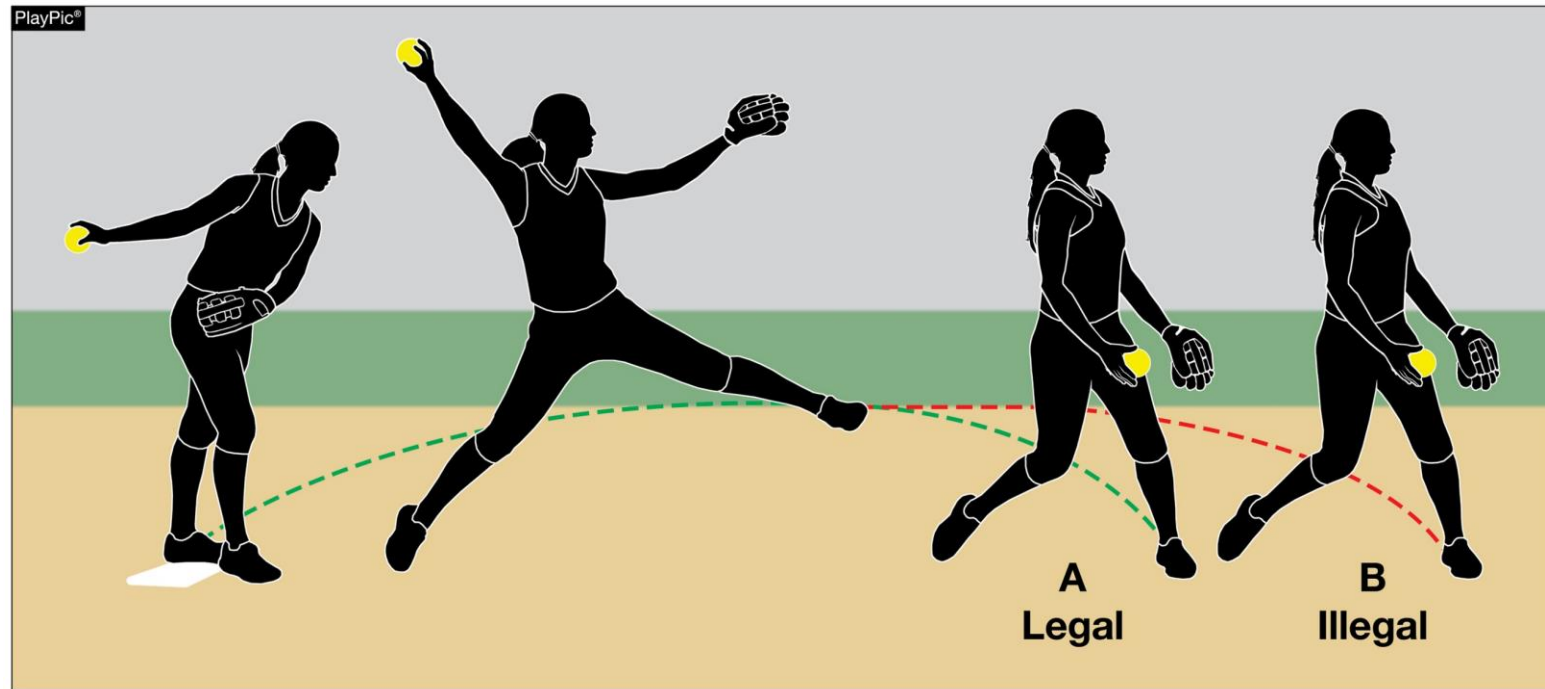
CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT

1-7-1



The catcher shall wear a catcher's helmet and mask combination that has been certified by SEI to meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

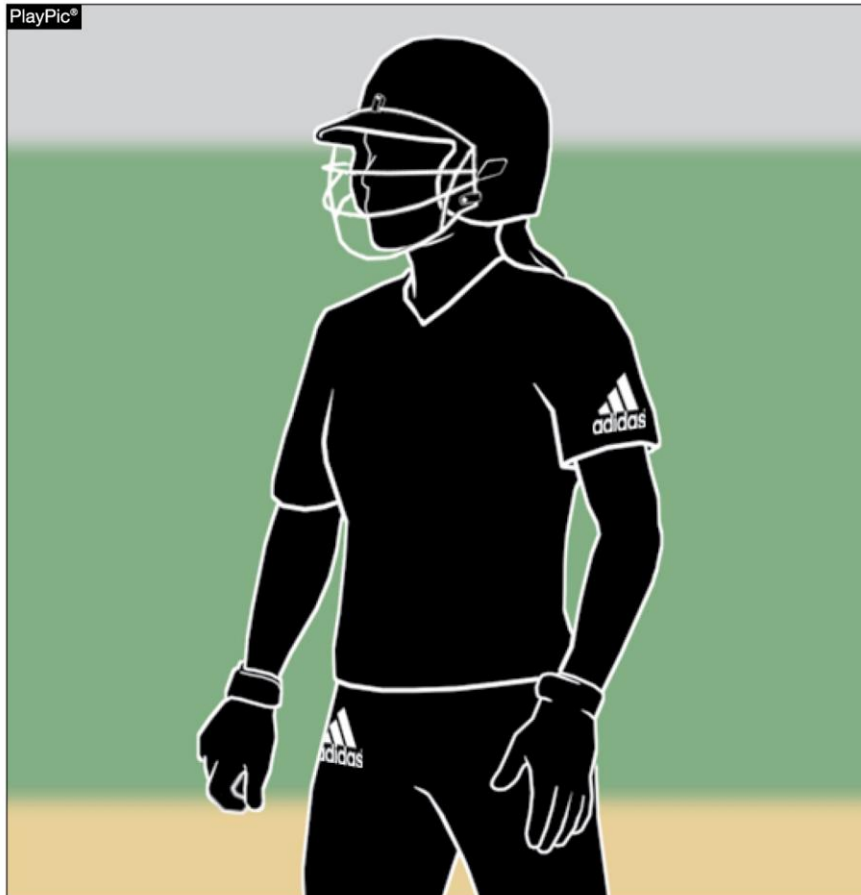
REPLANT 2-47



A replant of the pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate prior to the act of delivering the pitch.

UNIFORMS, PLAYER EQUIPMENT

3-2-3



Each portion of the school's official uniform may bear a single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference as long as each does not exceed 2 ¼ square inches.



BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT, UMPIRING

3-6-12, 10-1-6

The rules prohibiting the use of any form of alcohol, illicit substances or tobacco now include participants, coaches, game officials beginning with the arrival at the competition site until departure from the site following the game.



DEAD BALL TABLE

5-1

BALL DEAD IMMEDIATELY

19. Awards or Penalties/References 5-1-1i ~~NOTE~~, 8-4-3h.

20. References 8-4-3i ~~8-4-3h~~, Awards or Penalties/References 8-4-3i ~~8-4-3j~~

DELAYED DEAD BALL

1. Awards or Penalties The batter is awarded a ball unless the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified. Or if the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch. The pitch is ruled a ball if the ball is not hit or batter becomes base runner. Otherwise, if ball is hit and all runners do not advance one base safely, the team at bat has the choice of accepting the play or penalty.

2. Awards or Penalties/References 6-4 ~~6-1-4 (S.P.)~~



PITCHING REGULATIONS

6-1-2c

About the pitch:

While pushing off from the pitcher's plate, both feet may be disengaged from the playing surface as long as they remain within the 24-inch length ~~width~~ of the pitcher's plate and do not create a replant of the pivot foot resulting in the pitcher being farther away from the pitcher's plate. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate is illegal.



THE BATTER BECOMES A BATTER-RUNNER

8-1-2a EFFECTS 3

ART. 2 . . . A batter is awarded first base when:

- a. fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment, or clothing of an umpire or a runner.
- 3. If before passing a fielder without being touched, the ball is dead. If the runner is hit by the ball while off base and before it has passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher, or if it passes an infielder and another fielder has an opportunity to make an out, the runner is out and the batter-runner is entitled to first base without liability to be put out, and credited with a fielder's choice. When a fair batted ball touches a runner who is in contact with a base, the ball is dead or live depending on whether the closest fielder is in front of the base (live) or behind the base (dead). The runner is not out unless the runner intentionally interferes.



THE RUNNER IS OUT

8-6-4

The runner physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been put out. If this was the third out of the inning, any runs scoring prior to the out for passing a preceding runner would count. A runner(s) passing a preceding obstructed runner is not out. (8-4-3b PENALTY 3)



2025 NFHS SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



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TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY



There has been a lot of emphasis on pace of play the past several seasons. This year, the focus is on coaches, who play a vital role in creating and maintaining pace-of-play standards.

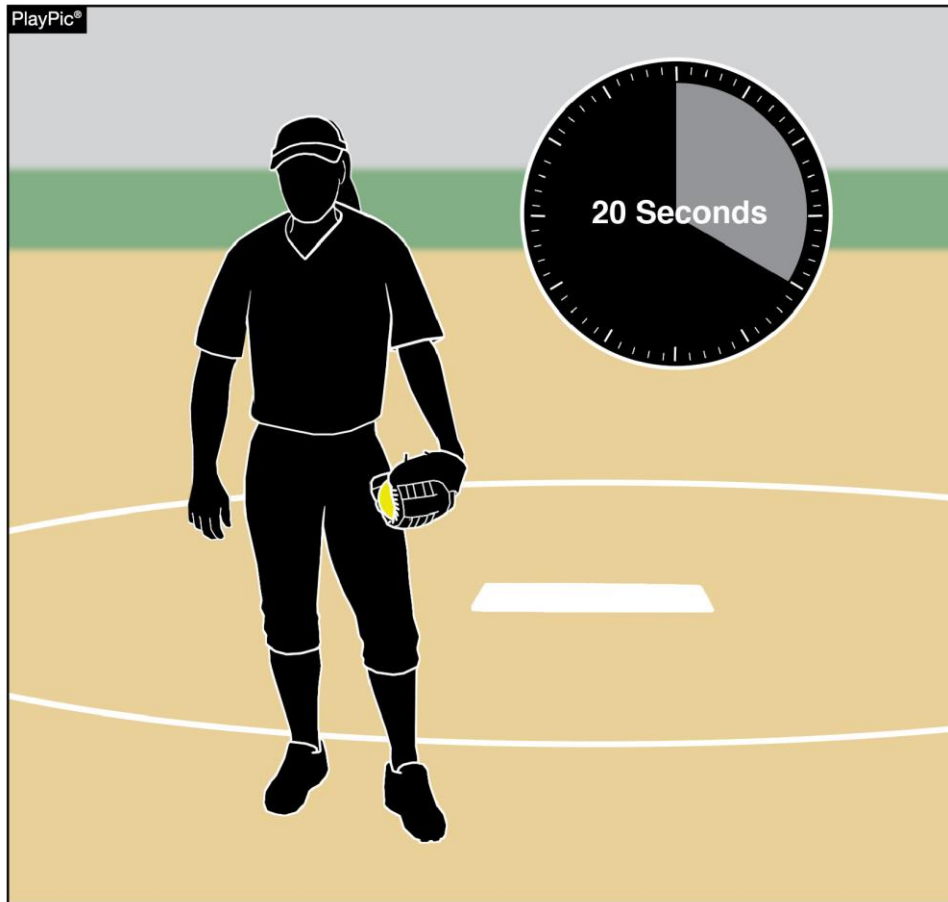
Between innings, 60 seconds is provided for the defense to take the field and throw warm-up pitches. If the catcher was batting when the inning ended, coaches should have another teammate prepared to receive warm-up pitches.

TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY



The offense also has 60 seconds to prepare to bat. While coaches may choose to huddle with their team as they come off the field, coaches should encourage their lead-off batter to gather their equipment and get ready to bat.

TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY



Once the 60 seconds between innings has elapsed, the batter has 10 seconds to enter the batter's box and the pitcher has 20 seconds to legally deliver a pitch.

The pitcher also has 20 seconds to release a pitch once the ball has been returned from a previous pitch and the batter has 10 seconds to enter the batter's box after the ball is returned.

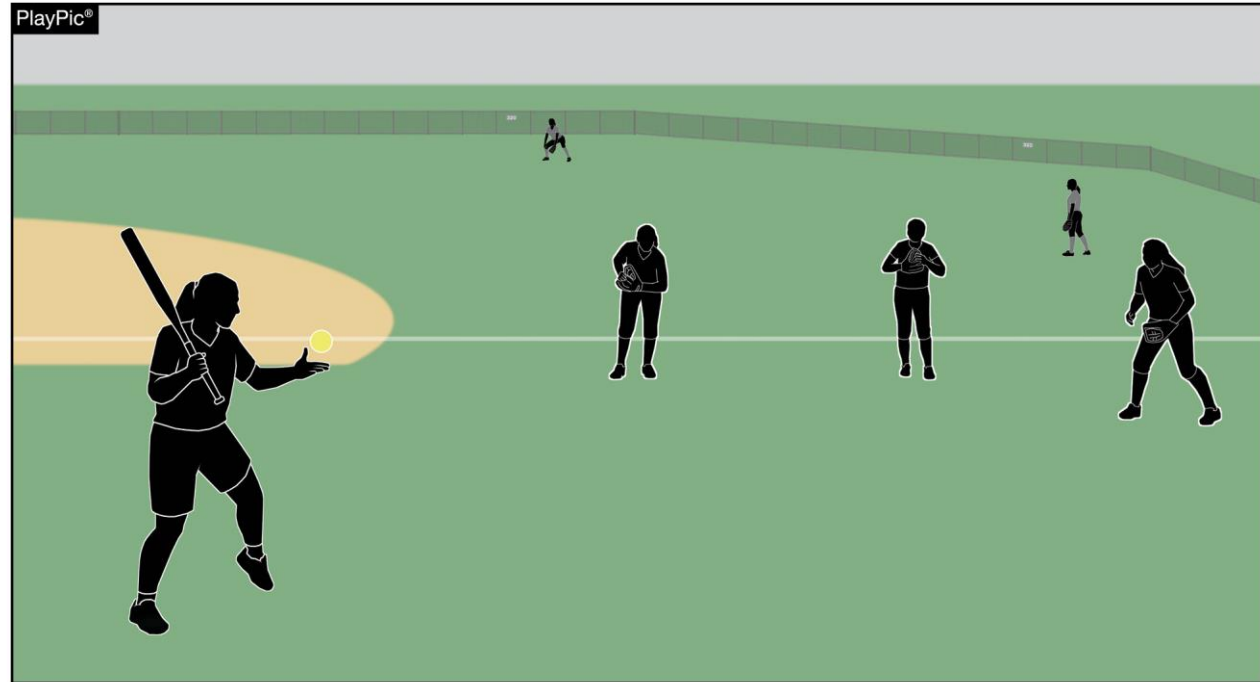
A ball or strike is added to the count, depending on the tardy party.

TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY



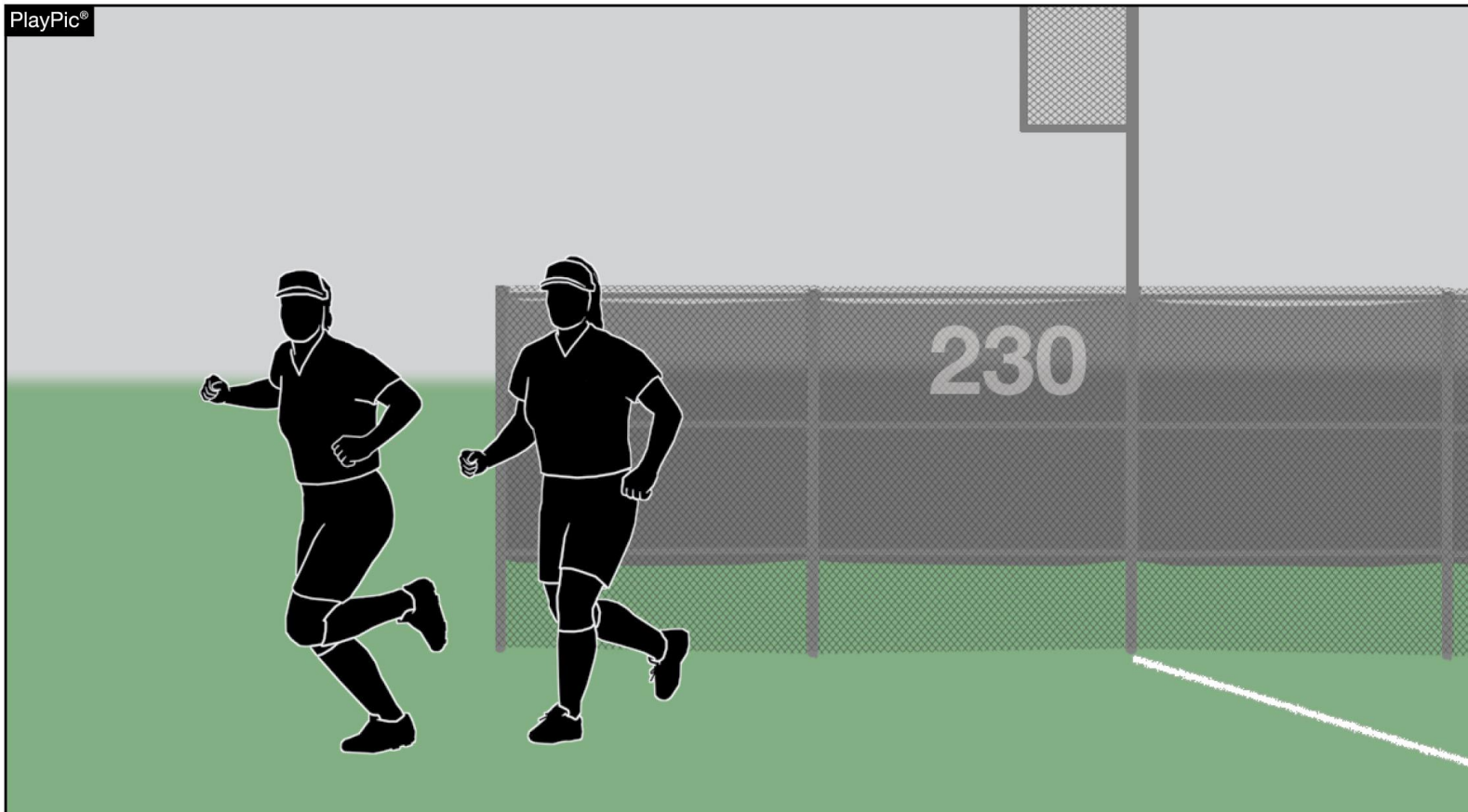
Pregame lineup exchanges should be brief and to the point. In order to start games on time, both umpires and coaches should limit talking to pertinent information during this meeting. Remember, this is not meant to be a rules clinic.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



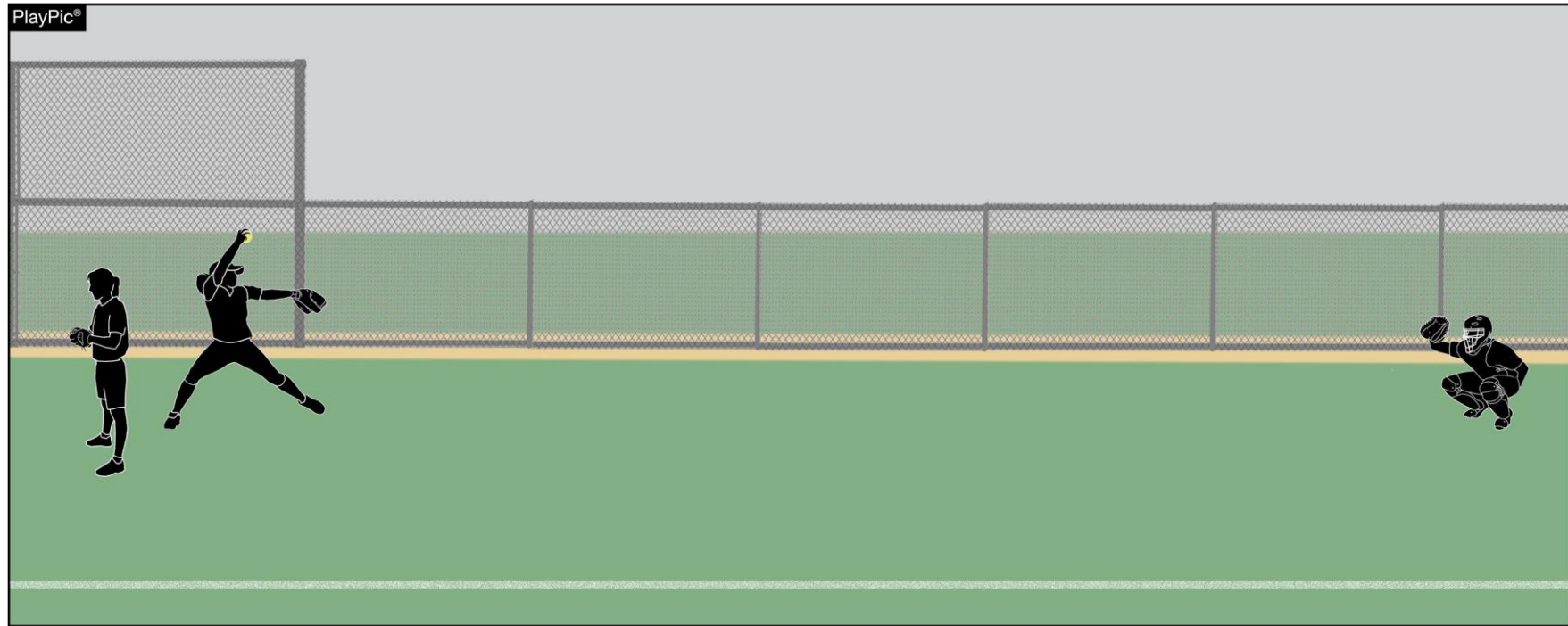
The safety of all participants is a priority for all involved in game management. All bench and field conduct rules must be enforced, including not allowing the hitting of balls to teammates on defense once the game begins.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



Between innings, bench personnel are permitted to engage in throwing and running activities.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



If a bullpen is in an area where a foul ball or overthrow could contact a pitcher or catcher, the team should assign bench personnel with a glove to stand nearby to shield those warming up.

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



On-deck batters should be aware of potential foul balls and overthrows and be prepared to move as necessary to avoid contact.

By rule, on-deck batters **MUST** use the on-deck circle closest to their own dugout.



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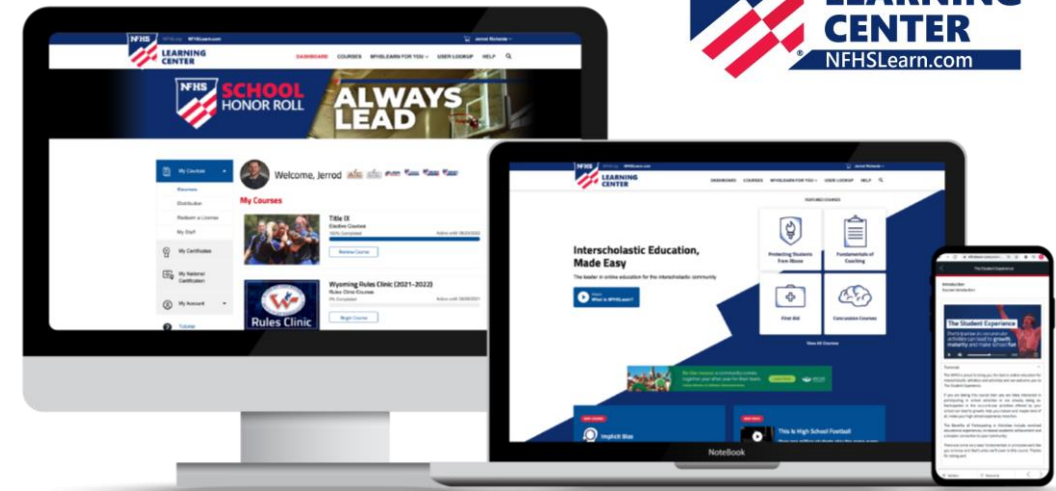
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NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK UPDATE



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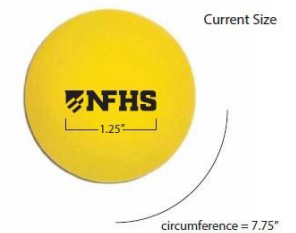
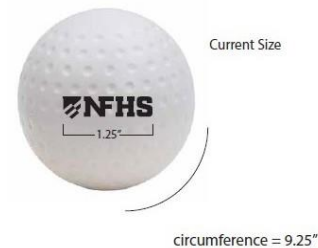
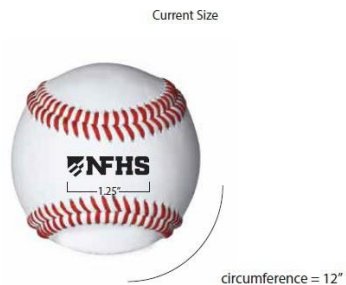
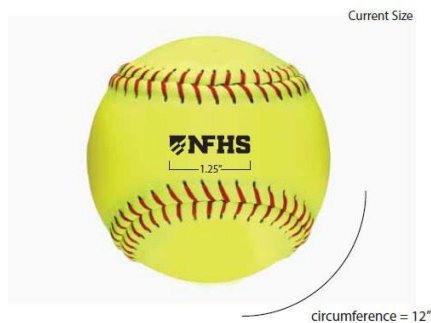
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SOFTBALL

Old Size



OR

Current Size



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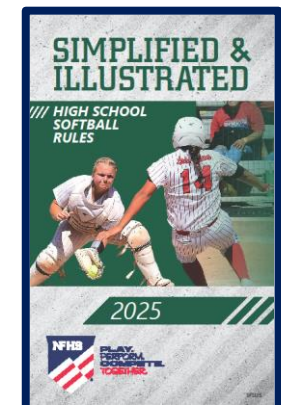
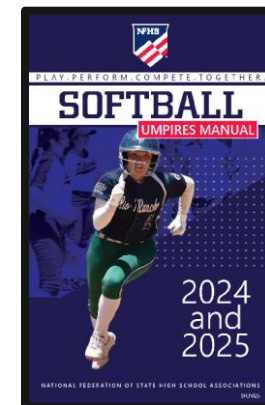
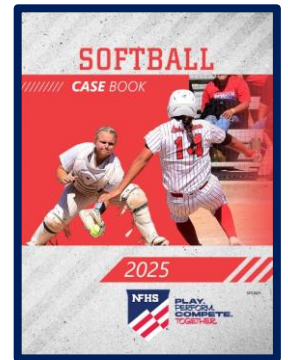
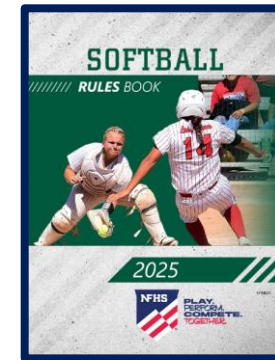
NFHS SOFTBALL RESOURCES



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NFHS SOFTBALL RESOURCES

- NFHS Rules Books, Case Books and other softball resources can be ordered:
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NFHS SOFTBALL RESOURCES

- Rules Power Points
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- Mid-Season Meetings
- Virtual Case Book



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