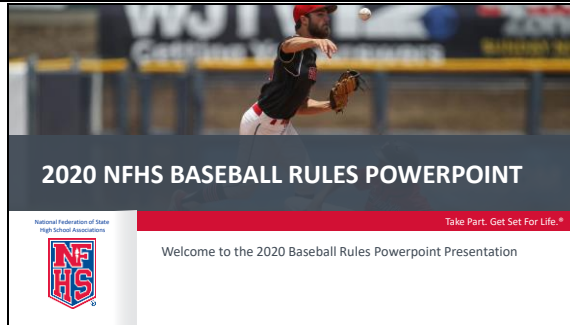


2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 1



Thank you for participating in this annual interpretation meeting. While the rules of baseball are in great shape, we continue to work toward improving the sport by recruiting and retaining more young people. We have to continue to strive to provide safe conditions and place them in situations that they are able to find success in some aspect of the sport. Ultimately, our goal is for them to be safe, have fun and gain some valuable life lessons from participation. New additions to our rules are indicated by underlining of the change. Deletions are noted by a ~~strike-through~~ of the deleted text.

Slide 2




- The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports, publishes High School Today (HST) along with several other key publications totaling over 4 million pieces annually.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 3

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Slide 4

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- Rules Book Apps for all NFHS rules books and case books are available on iTunes and Google Play. Rules books and case books are cross-linked and enabled for searchable content.

Slide 5



2020 NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

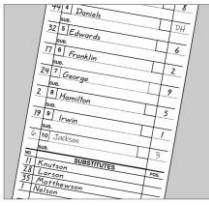


2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 6

Rule Change

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4



The DH may still be a 10th starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players.

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The designated hitter has been a mainstay rule for decades. It has not changed. We have only added another option with the same concept.

The DH may still be a 10th starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players.

Slide 7

Rule Change

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4a1



- While there is no change from the previous DH rule.
- When using a standard designated hitter, the role of the DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when the defensive player for whom the DH batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs.

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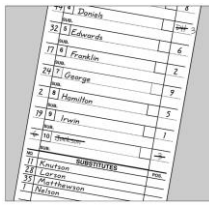
While there is no change from the previous DH rule.

When using a standard designated hitter, the role of the DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when the defensive player for whom the DH batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs.

Slide 8

Rule Change

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4a2



- While there is no change from the previous DH rule.
- The role of a standard DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

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While there is no change from the previous DH rule.

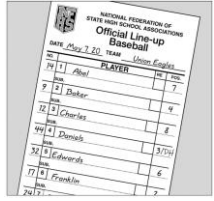
The role of a standard DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 9

Rule Change

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4b



The image shows a portion of an official baseball lineup card. The player listed at position 1 is 'Abel' with jersey number 24. The player listed at position 7 is 'Franklin' with jersey number 17. The 'DH' column has a checkmark next to 'Franklin'.

- The starting designated hitter (DH) may now be any one of the starting defensive players, including the pitcher.
- A Player/DH then holds two positions: defensive player and designated hitter.

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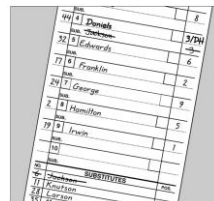
The starting designated hitter (DH) may now be any one of the starting defensive players, including the pitcher.

A Player/DH then holds two positions: defensive player and designated hitter.

Slide 10

Rule Change

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4b



The image shows a portion of an official baseball lineup card. The player listed at position 7 is 'Franklin' with jersey number 17. The 'DH' column has a checkmark next to 'Franklin'. The player listed at position 1 is 'Dennis' with jersey number 44.

- In the case where one player is listed as a starting DH and a starting defensive player in the lineup, the role of the defensive player may be substituted for by any legal substitute.
- The original player/DH may re-enter defensively one time.

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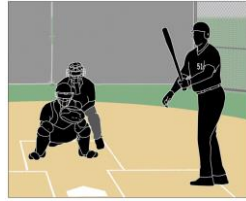
In the case where one player is listed as a starting DH and a starting defensive player in the lineup, the role of the defensive player may be substituted for by any legal substitute.

The original player/DH may re-enter defensively one time.

Slide 11

Rule Change

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4b-1




The image shows a silhouette illustration of a batter at the plate and a catcher in a crouch. The batter is wearing a jersey with 'DH' on the back.

When using the P/DH, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when any player substitutes offensively for the DH.




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When using the P/DH, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when any player substitutes offensively for the DH.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

<p>Slide 12</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f00; color: white; margin: 0;">Rule Change</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4b-2</p>  <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">As a reminder from the previous rule, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when the starting defensive Player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or a runner.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">www.nfhs.org</p> </div>	<p>As a reminder from the previous rule, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when the starting defensive Player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or a runner.</p>
<p>Slide 13</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f00; color: white; margin: 0;">Rule Change</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DESIGNATED HITTER (DH) RULE 3-1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ART. 4 . . . A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the startup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">www.nfhs.org</p> </div>	<p>ART. 4 . . . A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the startup. A designated hitter for said player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer.</p>
<p>Slide 14</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f00; color: white; margin: 0;">Rule Change</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DESIGNATED HITTER (DH) RULE 3-1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A team forfeits the use of a designated hitter if it fails to declare a designated hitter prior to the game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation. <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">www.nfhs.org</p> </div>	<p>If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the DH is used, that player becomes the new DH under the first option (the standard DH).</p> <p>A team forfeits the use of a designated hitter if it fails to declare a designated hitter prior to the game. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for whom he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation.</p>

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

<p>Slide 15</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f00; color: white; margin: 0;">Rule Change</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DESIGNATED HITTER (DH) RULE 3-1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when: A designated hitter may be used in one of the two scenarios:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>a. The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits, or pinch-runs for the designated hitter; or</u> ▪ <u>a. The designated hitter may be a tenth starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players. If the designated hitter (DH) is used in this manner, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:</u>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">www.nfhs.org</p> </div>	<p>The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game <u>when: A designated hitter may be used in one of the two scenarios:</u></p> <p>a. The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits, or pinch-runs for the designated hitter; or</p> <p>a. <u>The designated hitter may be a tenth starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players. If the designated hitter (DH) is used in this manner, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when:</u></p>
<p>Slide 16</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f00; color: white; margin: 0;">Rule Change</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DESIGNATED HITTER (DH) RULE 3-1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>1. The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits, or pinch-runs for the designated hitter; or</u> ▪ <u>2. The designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.</u>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">www.nfhs.org</p> </div>	<p><u>1. The defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits, or pinch-runs for the designated hitter; or</u></p> <p><u>2. The designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.</u></p>
<p>Slide 17</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #f00; color: white; margin: 0;">Rule Change</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">DESIGNATED HITTER (DH) RULE 3-1-4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rationale: This rule change will provide coaches some options to strategize how to keep their better players in the game, to contribute to the offensive output of the team and give another player a chance to participate on defense. In addition, considering the pitch count rules, this change would help pitchers to keep their bat (because they are typically the best hitter) in the game, but can come out of the game to protect their arms from overuse.  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">www.nfhs.org</p> </div>	<p>Rationale:</p> <p>This rule change will provide coaches some options to strategize how to keep their better players in the game, to contribute to the offensive output of the team and give another player a chance to participate on defense. In addition, considering the pitch count rules, this change would help pitchers to keep their bat (because they are typically the best hitter) in the game, but can come out of the game to protect their arms from overuse.</p>

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 18



Slide 19

Points of Emphasis

DESIGNATED HITTER

There are now two options when using a designated hitter: the standard DH and the player/DH. Teams may also still choose to start the game without using a designated hitter (straight 9). All options must be declared prior to the start of the game.

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Slide 20

Points of Emphasis

DESIGNATED HITTER

The courtesy runner (CR) can never have any function with a designated hitter (DH). When a DH comes to bat, he is a DH (regardless of either lineup option); when at bat, he can never assume a defensive position. As a result, a CR is never a legal substitute for a DH.

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2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 21

Points of Emphasis

DESIGNATED HITTER



If the DH is batting for another player, when he bats, he is a DH. As a result, if a runner comes in for him when he gets on base, it is a substitution, and that player is now the DH. If the DH is a Player/DH, he is batting as the DH. A substitution by an offensive player would eliminate the role of the DH.

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If the DH is batting for another player, when he bats, he is a DH. As a result, if a runner comes in for him when he gets on base, it is a substitution, and that player is now the DH. If the DH is a Player/DH, he is batting as the DH. A substitution by an offensive player would eliminate the role of the DH.

Slide 22

Points of Emphasis

GAME-ENDING PROCEDURES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
VISITOR	3	2	4	1	4			14
HOME	1	0	0	0	0			1

A state association may adopt game-ending procedures that determine how games are ended, including suspended games. However, if a state does not adopt game-ending procedures, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief, any remaining play may be shortened or the game terminated. If a state association has adopted game-ending procedures, only those game-ending procedures may be used, unless the opposing coaches wish to terminate the game (4-2-4).

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Interrupted Contests Procedures. The following procedures shall be followed by the umpires and teams in these situations:

- The umpires, both head coaches and both scorekeepers shall gather together to document the point of interruption on the lineup card and in the official scorebook (including inning, score, outs, runners on base, defensive charged conferences, etc.). The crew chief shall sign the lineup card and the official scorebook to ensure that there are two copies.
- The crew chief should then give the signed lineup card to the home coach to be kept with the official scorebook.
- The umpires shall send their game report to their local assigner. If a different umpire crew is assigned, the local assigner shall send the game report details to the new crew as part of accepting the assignment.
- The lineup card shall be given to the new or returning umpire crew during the pre-game when the game is to be continued from the point of interruption.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 23

Points of Emphasis

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide at any base, it must be legal. A legal slide can either be feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground.

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Slide 24

Points of Emphasis

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.

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Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.

Slide 25

Points of Emphasis

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Runners may not have a leg raised higher than the fielder's knee.

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Runners may not have a leg raised higher than the fielder's knee.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 26

Points of Emphasis

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.

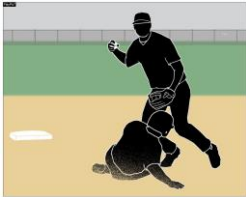
www.nfhs.org

Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.

Slide 27

Points of Emphasis

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from a fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.


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Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from a fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.

Slide 28

Points of Emphasis

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



The runner is out when he illegally slides. On a force play, the runner is also guilty of interference. The batter-runner is also declared out and all other runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

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The runner is out when he illegally slides. On a force play, the runner is also guilty of interference. The batter-runner is also declared out and all other runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.


2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 29

Points of Emphasis

COMPLIANT BASEBALL

Weight: 5 - 5.25 ounces
Circumference: 9 - 9.25 inches



The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseball effective January 1, 2020. The NFHS authentication mark and the NOCSAE mark shall both be visible on the ball.

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The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseball effective January 1, 2020. The NFHS authentication mark and the NOCSAE mark shall both be visible on the ball.

Slide 30

Points of Emphasis

BASEBALLS RULE 1-3-1

- Effective January 1, 2020 the SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all baseballs that meet the NOCSAE standard that will be used in high school competition.
- Baseballs shall have the SEI/NOCSAE mark along with the NFHS Authenticating Mark.

Rationale:
To maintain a consistent and uniform standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability.

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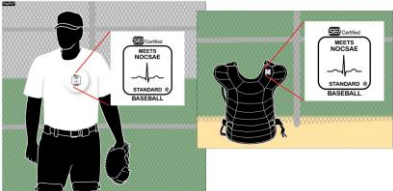
Rationale:

To maintain a consistent and uniform standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability.

Slide 31

Points of Emphasis

COMPLIANT BODY AND CHEST PROTECTOR



The catcher's body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective Jan. 1, 2020.

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The compliant NOCSAE Body protector will have to be worn underneath the traditional chest protector.

The catcher's body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective Jan. 1, 2020.


2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 32

Points of Emphasis

**CHEST AND BODY PROTECTOR
RULE 1-5-3**

- The catcher shall wear, in addition to a head protector, a mask with a throat protector, body/chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture (Effective January 1, 2020), protective cup (male only), and baseball protective shin guards. The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all body/chest protectors that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture that will be used in high school competition.



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The catcher shall wear, in addition to a head protector, a mask with a throat protector, body/chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture (Effective January 1, 2020), protective cup (male only), and baseball protective shin guards. The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all body/chest protectors that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture that will be used in high school competition.

Slide 33

Points of Emphasis

**CHEST AND BODY PROTECTOR
RULE 1-5-3**

- **Rationale:**
A SEI/NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis. The NOCSAE standard could be included in a product that is either a separate device/apparel or a device constructed into a traditional chest protector. This proposal is recommended and endorsed by the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to minimize risk. The catcher has to wear either a chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard or a body protector that meets the NOCSAE standard underneath a traditional chest protector. It is the responsibility of the coach to verify that his/her players are properly equipped and in uniform.



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Rationale:

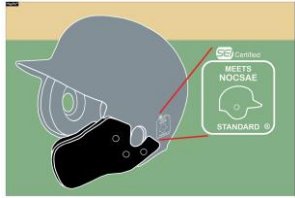
A SEI/NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis. The NOCSAE standard could be included in a product that is either a separate device/apparel or a device constructed into a traditional chest protector. This proposal is recommended and endorsed by the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to minimize risk. The catcher has to wear either a chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard or a body protector that meets the NOCSAE standard underneath a traditional chest protector. It is the responsibility of the coach to verify that his/her players are properly equipped and in uniform.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 34

Points of Emphasis

COMPLIANCE OF PLAYER EQUIPMENT



A face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, provided that procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the SEI/NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

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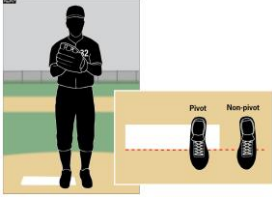
Cheek and jaw protectors are allowed to be used on batting helmets.

A face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, provided that procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the SEI/NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

Slide 35

Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



The windup is one of two legal pitching positions. For the windup, the pitcher's non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

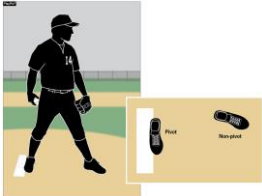
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The windup is one of two legal pitching positions. For the windup, the pitcher's non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

Slide 36

Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



The set is one of two legal pitching positions. For the set position, a pitcher shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

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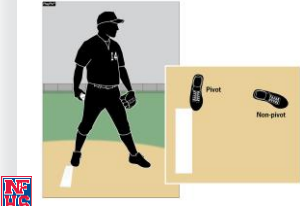
The set is one of two legal pitching positions. For the set position, a pitcher shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

Slide 37

Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



Pitchers are no longer required to have their entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. This recognizes that many mounds are such that it is problematic for the pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

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Slide 38

Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



The so-called hybrid stance is illegal as it does not meet the requirements of either the windup or set positions.

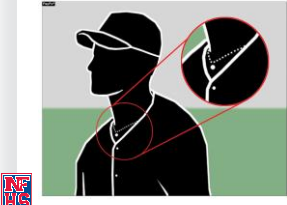
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The so-called hybrid stance is illegal as it does not meet the requirements of either the windup or set positions.

Slide 39

Points of Emphasis

ENFORCEMENT OF NFHS JEWELRY RULE

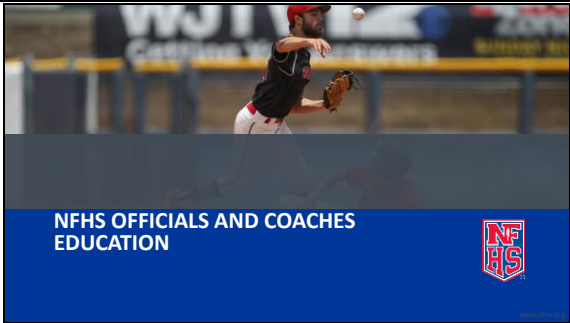




Jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings, shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

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Jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings, shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

2020 BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

<p>Slide 40</p>		
<p>Slide 41</p>		<p>SPORTS-SPECIFIC OFFICIATING COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to mechanics and techniques used in each sport ▪ Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating ▪ 30-45 minutes to complete ▪ Topics vary based on the needs of the officials in the sport ▪ NFHS Officials Association members cost is \$10 ▪ Non-members - course is \$20 ▪ API available to state associations to collect results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to mechanics and techniques used in each sport ▪ Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating ▪ 30-45 minutes to complete ▪ Topics vary based on the needs of the officials in the sport ▪ Course is FREE to any NFHS Officials Association member ▪ Non-members course is \$20 ▪ Contact NFHS Officials Department for details (317.972.6900)
<p>Slide 42</p>		<p>NFHS OFFICIAL EDUCATION</p> <p><u>Courses Available</u></p> <p>Officiating Football Soccer – Fouls and Misconduct Swimming and Diving Officiating Wrestling Officiating Basketball Umpiring Softball Officiating Volleyball – Ball Handling</p> <p><u>Future Courses</u></p> <p>Officiating Baseball Basketball – Three-Person Mechanics Field Hockey Track and Field Volleyball – Overlapping Softball – Mechanics Communication Among Officials and Coaches Soccer - Offside</p>

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THANK YOU for what you DO!!!!

Hope you have a fantastic season!