

National Federation of State
High School Associations



2013 NFHS/GHSA BASEBALL RULES CLINIC




SAFETY IN OUR SCHOOLS:

Education, prevention, management

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™


WRITTEN EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

- Mandated for athletic practices and games
- Include responses to:
 - weather-related emergencies
 - serious illness/injury situations
 - violence/terroristic incidents
- Solicit assistance from
 - local law enforcement agencies
 - first responder/rescue agencies
 - medical personnel



E.A.P. PROCESS

- Formulate the plan carefully
- Practice the plan regularly
- Implement the plan precisely





POSSIBLE CONCUSSION SITUATIONS

- Batter hit by pitch
- Runner/fielder hit by throw
- Baserunning collision
- Fielders colliding
- NOTE: Umpires may be injured in similar situations



SYMPTOMS OF CONCUSSION

- Headache and/or nausea after head trauma
- Loss of consciousness may not occur
- Balance and/or vision problems
 - dizziness; double vision
 - severe sensitivity to light and sound
- Cognitive processing problems
 - Lessened concentration or memory
 - Physical sluggishness with confusion about present situation



ACTION PLAN FOR CONCUSSION

- Remove athlete from practice or game
- Arrange for athlete to get medical attention
- Inform athlete's parent/guardian
- Allow athlete to return only on the permission of a doctor who has examined player



MEDICAL EVALUATION

- Neither umpires, nor coaches, are expected to “diagnose” a concussion, as that is the job of an appropriate health-care professional
- The umpire is not responsible for the evaluation or management of the athlete after he or she is removed from play



IMMEDIATE RETURN-TO-PLAY

Point of
POE
Emphasis

- If an appropriate health-care professional determines that the athlete **HAS NOT** suffered a concussion, the athlete may return to play (according to substitution rules)
- If there is no appropriate health-care professional available to evaluate the athlete, the athlete **SHOULD NOT** be allowed to return to play



MISCELLANEOUS RULES AND PROCEDURES



PRACTICE DURING SCHOOL DAY

- State Board of Education standard and GHSA by-laws involved.
- ***“A player who participates in a GHSA sport may not participate in practices during the sports season that occur during the school day even if that practice is not a part of the school’s practice activity.”***
- Fairness issue for individuals and teams



CROWD CONTROL PRECAUTIONS

- **2.71c1:** Take proper steps & precautions to insure crowd control, including having a Game Manager at all GHSA events.
- **2.71c2:** Take steps to insure comfort & security of all players, coaches, and officials.
- **2.71c4:** Security escorts must be provided to game officials by the host school before & after contest, at halftime, and even to their vehicles.



GHSA GAME MANAGER PROCEDURES

- Host school provides
- Principal or designate with decision-making authority
- Works with officiating crew in regard to:
 - Crowd sportsmanship issues
 - Serious injury issues
 - Weather-related emergencies
 - Escort to and from competitive area
- “Custodian” of the lightning detector



GHSA LIGHTNING POLICY

- Lightning detectors required for all outdoor GHSA events
- When lightning detected within 8-10 mile range, Game Manager notifies game officials
 - Game suspended
 - Players, coaches, & officials moved indoors
 - Spectators given instruction to move indoors
- Game will be restarted if no lightning in danger zone has been detected for 30 minutes
- There is a “Thor Guard” exception for resuming play



POSTPONED GAMES

- Home team has authority until time for umpires to take jurisdiction
- Decision made before game has begun must be for valid playing reasons
- Game may be started later that day or postponed until another day
- Notification to opponents and umpires should occur as early as possible



INTERRUPTED GAME

- Once game has started, umpires may halt game for:
 - Weather conditions
 - Darkness (day games)/light failure (night games)
- The maximum time to stop play is two hours (cumulative)
- Umpires must wait at least 30 minutes to terminate game when unplayable conditions are involved



POSSIBLE RESULTS OF TERMINATED GAMES

- NO CONTEST
- COMPLETE GAME
- SUSPENDED GAME



“NO CONTEST”

- If game is terminated before the team that is behind has completed 5 turns at bat
- Not legal game, so no winner can be determined
- Any replay of the game will begin from the first pitch
- The pitchers' innings count



“COMPLETE GAME”

- If game is terminated and the team that is behind has had at least five full turns at bat
- And if the score is not tied at the end of the last full inning (unless home team gained lead in the last half-inning)
- A winner can be determined and the game is over



“SUSPENDED GAME”

- If the visiting team has had at least five full turns at bat
- And the score is tied after the last full inning of play
- Or if the home team tied up the game in the half-inning in which game is terminated
- Game will be replayed from the point of interruption



GHSA BY-LAW 2.93

- Contains specifics about weather delays
- Including procedure for the payment of officials
- If the first game of a doubleheader is terminated, so is the second game




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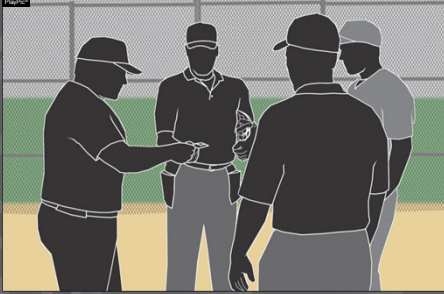
2013 RULES CHANGES



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COMPLIANT BATS



POINT OF EMPHASIS

The head coach of each team is required to verify to the umpire-in-chief that his team is properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules prior to the start of each game.

REFEREE

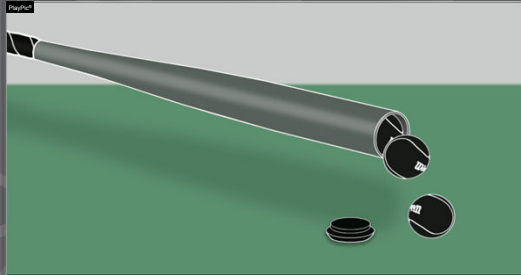
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“DOCTORING” BATS

- Altering bats by such methods as rolling, shaving the bat wall, flattening or otherwise manipulating the bat from its original manufactured condition is a **federal offense**.
- Not only is it illegal but it can cause injury or worse to a young person.
- The NFHS is committed to eliminating altered bats from interscholastic baseball.

REFEREE

ALTERED BATS



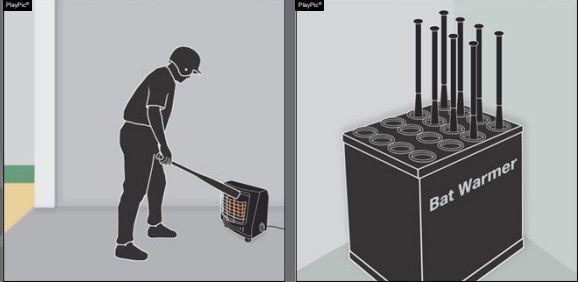
POINT OF EMPHASIS

Removing the end cap off a bat makes it an illegal altered bat, with or without doing anything to the inside of the bat, such as inserting tennis balls or shaving the inside wall of the bat.

REFEREE

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“WARMING” BATS



POINT OF EMPHASIS

There are several ways bats can be altered illegally, including through the use of bat warming devices. Even though a bat meets the rules, once it has been altered, it is an illegal bat.

REFEREE

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TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

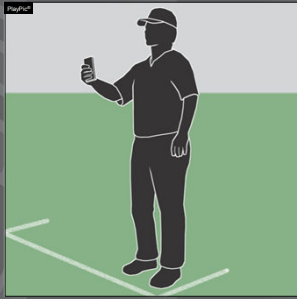
- Smart phones and tablet computers effectively handle tasks like keeping score, managing the line-up, and tracking the progress and performance of both teams.
- Using these devices for video recording and then replaying the images is not permitted.
- PENALTY: Coach shall be ejected.**

REFEREE

NFHS

EQUIPMENT IN COACHING BOX

RULE CHANGE



A coach may not have any electronic equipment in the coaching box, even if intended to be used for scoring purposes only.

REFEREE

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PERMISSIBLE EQUIPMENT


- Permissible Equipment:
 - Stopwatch
 - Hard copy of the NFHS Baseball Rules book
 - Hard copy of a scorebook
 - Cellular phone (in pocket) for emergencies.
- **PENALTY:** Umpire may restrict the offender to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game or eject the offender.

NFHS

NFHS

EXTRA WARM-UP PITCHES

RULE CHANGE



When replacing a pitcher who was ejected, the substitute pitcher should be afforded the same warmup criteria as he would if replacing an injured pitcher. Extra throws may be authorized by the umpire-in-chief.


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NFHS


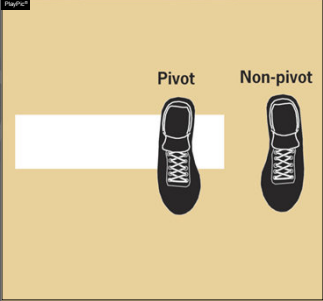
POINTS OF EMPHASIS



POINT OF EMPHASIS




“WIND-UP” POSITION

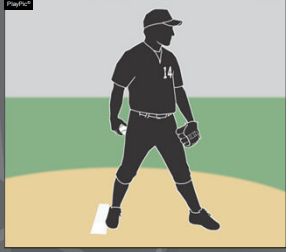
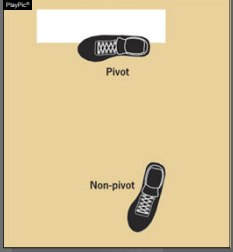
The windup is one of two legal pitching positions. For the windup, the pitcher's non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS




“SET” POSITION


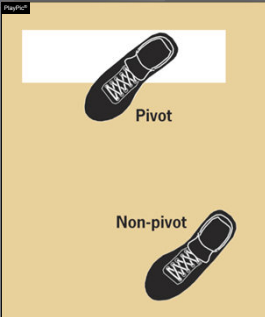
The set is the other legal pitching position. For the set position, a pitcher's entire non-pivot foot must be in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and the entire pivot foot must be in contact with the top or the front of the pitching plate – parallel to the pitching plate.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS




“HYBRID” POSITION


A number of pitchers are starting a pitch from this hybrid position. This position is illegal since it does not meet the criteria of either the windup or set position -- Note the pivot foot.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS




ILLEGAL PITCHING MOTION



Going to the mouth while in contact with the pitcher's plate is an illegal pitch with no one on base or a balk with runners on base, not because the pitcher goes to his mouth, but because the action simulates the start of the pitching motion.


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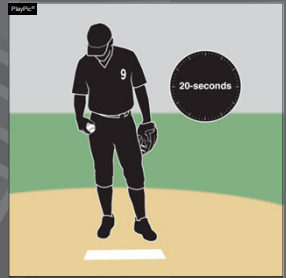
PACE OF GAME PLAY

- The committee identified these areas in need of improvements that detract from what otherwise is an exciting and enjoyable game:
- Handling offensive and defensive charged conferences in a timely manner.
- Speeding up the time between innings and during pitching changes.
- Umpires diligently counting the number of warm-up pitches.
- The batter's box rule (the batter must generally keep one foot in the box during an at-bat). Unless it meets one of the eight exceptions:

REFEREE



PITCHING PACE

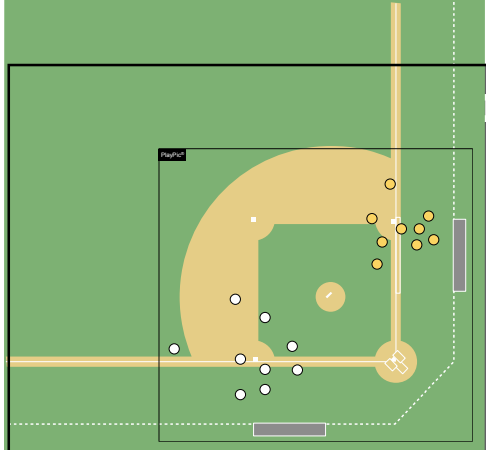


POINT OF EMPHASIS

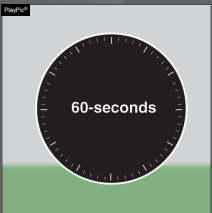
A pitcher has 20 seconds to pitch or make or attempt a play (including a legal feint) after receiving the ball. By enforcing this and other pace of play rules, the game will be played at the proper speed without either team gaining an unfair advantage.

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60 SECONDS




POINT OF EMPHASIS

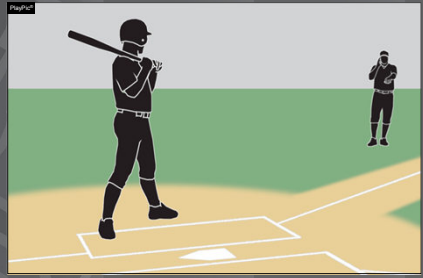
A returning pitcher has 60 seconds to complete his five warmup throws (timed from the third out of the previous inning). Teams should hustle on and off the field once the third out is made.

REFEREE

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BATTING PACE



POINT OF EMPHASIS


The batter must remain in the box during his time at bat unless one of the eight exceptions in Rule 7-3-1 is met. Keeping the batter in the box dramatically increases the game's pace of play.

REFEREE


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BATTER'S BOX RULE EXCEPTIONS

- The batter swings at the pitch.
- The batter is forced out of the box by the pitch.
- The batter attempts a "drag bunt."
- The pitcher or catcher feints or attempts a play at any base.
- The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball.
- A member of either team requests and is granted "Time."
- The catcher leaves the catcher's box to adjust his equipment or give defensive signals.
- The catcher does not catch the pitched ball.



LOOSE EQUIPMENT



Loose equipment on the field is a safety issue. Umpires and coaches must be diligent to ensure that there is no loose equipment in live-ball territory during a game.

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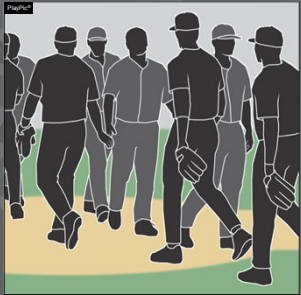
BULLPEN PROTECTION



When the bullpen is on the playing field, teams will use a player to "protect" the players warming up from batted balls. The protector is required to have a glove. A NOCSAE-approved helmet is recommended, but not required.

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SPORTSMANSHIP



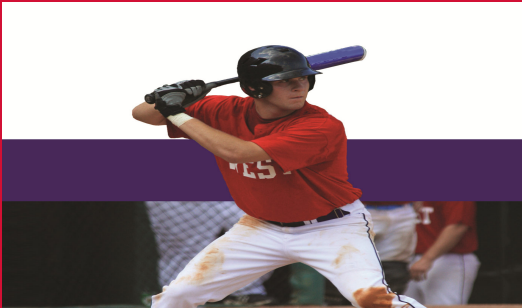
Each game is an opportunity for coaches, umpires and players to model respectful behavior. The positive values that are learned will serve players long after their baseball experience has concluded.

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HAVE A GREAT SEASON!



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