



2015 NFHS Softball Rule Changes

- 1-6-1 The batting helmet shall not have a non-glare or mirror-like surface.
Rationale: The chrome or mirror like surface of the batting helmet is illegal due to its distracting nature which may be dangerous to other players.
- 1-7-1 The catcher's helmet shall not have a non-glare or mirror-like surface.
Rationale: The chrome or mirror like surface of the catcher's helmet is illegal due to its distracting nature which may be dangerous to other players.

2015 NFHS Editorial Changes

- 1-6-1 The exterior warning label may be affixed...or embossed (at the time point of manufacture).
Rationale: To update the language
- 1-6-6 The phrase, "Meets NOCSAE Standard at the time of manufacture"...
Rationale: To update the language
- 1-7-1 The catcher shall wear a catcher's helmet...that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
Rationale: To update the language
- 5-1-4 After a dead-ball situation, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher on the pitcher's plate and the umpire calls and/or signals "Play Ball." ~~and gives a beckoning hand signal.~~
Rationale: Current wording does not reflect current practice. Would clarify Rule 8-6-18 as to whether ball is live or dead should runner(s) leave their bases when pitcher is outside the circle. Encourage umpires to use Signal "B" page 87 "Official NFHS Softball Signals" chart.
- 7-1-1&2 Pen 2 When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), or prior to an intentional base on balls (S.P.), or before all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher vacates her normal fielding position ~~the infielders leave the diamond~~ if a half-inning is ending. The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out (not the improper batter). The improper batter's time at bat is negated and she is returned to the dugout/bench area. All outs stand and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, passed ball (F.P.) or an illegal pitch (F.P.) while the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal.
- Rationale:** The time when appeals must be made is covered under Rule 2, Section 1, Article 4. Rule 7, Articles 1 & 2 penalty should reflect same wording as Rule 2-1-4. "Fair territory" is different area than "diamond."
Rule 2-1-4 wording:
ART. 4 . . . When. Appeals must be made:

- a. before the next legal or illegal pitch;
- b. at the end of a half-inning, before all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher vacates her normal fielding position; or
- c. on the last play of the game, before the umpires leave the field of play.

NOTE: If any situation arises which could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, umpires should not leave the field until all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position. If teams line up to shake hands there is little chance for an appeal even if the defensive infielders have not crossed the foul line and umpires can leave the game at this point. No appeal can be made once the umpires have left the field.

2015 NFHS Point of Emphasis

1. Electronic Devices
2. Interference
3. Obstruction