2019 NFHS BASEBALL RULES POWERPOINT

B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA
Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services
WELCOME TO THE 2019 NFHS BASEBALL RULES INTERPRETERS WEBINAR

- Connect to Meeting using Phone:
  - Dial “Audio Pin” (Click Phone Icon, Find Audio Pin, Dial Pin in Phone)
  - Last Code in Grey Box (Example: *999#)
- All attendees will be unmuted before and during the webinar
- Please take conscientious measures to ensure you are in a quiet location to minimize distracting background noise.
- Thanks again for participating in the 2019 NFHS Baseball Rules Interpreters Webinar!
NFHS CORPORATE PARTNER

Team IP

EVENTS • DIGITAL • CORPORATE
Serving Clients For Over 25 Years!

TEAM IP IS PROUD TO BE THE
EXCLUSIVE CORPORATE PARTNER FOR NFHS BASEBALL


www.nfhs.org
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- NFHS (located in Indianapolis, IN – Est. 1920):
  - National leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities;
  - National authority on interscholastic activity programs.
  - Conducts national meetings;
  - Sanctions interstate events;
  - Produces national publication for high school administrators;
  - National source for interscholastic coach training and national information center.

www.nfhs.org
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- Membership = 50 member state associations and D.C.
- NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports.

www.nfhs.org
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.
The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. 
- Publishes 4 million pieces of materials annually.
NFHS RULES BOOK AS E-BOOKS

- E-books features:
  - Searchable
  - Highlight areas of interest
  - Make notes
  - Desktop laptop availability
  - Easy navigation
  - Adjustable viewing size
  - Immediate availability

www.nfhs.org
GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS AND STATE ASSOCIATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ACCOMMODATIONS

1. Request from Student to School for Accommodation(s)
2. School Conducts Individual Student Assessment
3. Request from School for Accommodation(s) to State Association
4. Notice and Opportunity to be Heard
5. State Association Review of Request
6. State Association Provides Written Determination for Accommodation(s) to School
7. If appropriate, School Provides Letter of Authorization to Head Official for Local Contest Allowing Competition with Accommodation(s)
NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES
Rule Change

PIVOT FOOT AND PITCHING PLATE
RULE 6-1-3

Pitchers are no longer required to have their entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. This change recognizes that many mounds are in the type of condition that it is problematic for the pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate.
The 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.
ART. 3 . . . For the set position, the pitcher shall have the ball in either his gloved hand or his pitching hand. His pitching hand shall be down at his side or behind his back. Before starting his delivery, he 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 entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate. He shall go to...of any other infielder.
Rule Change

PIVOT FOOT AND PITCHING PLATE RULE 6-1-3

- **Rationale:**
  This rule change eliminates the requirement for the entire pivot foot to be in contact with or in front of the pitcher’s plate. However, the pivot foot still has to meet the requirements of the rule to be in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate. Many pitching mounds are constructed in such a way that it is problematic for a pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. No advantage is gained by having some of his/her pivot foot not in contact with the pitcher’s plate.
NFHS BASEBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES
The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs effective January 1, 2020, which is an extension of the original implementation date of January 1, 2019. Balls that only have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 season.
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.
- Baseballs that have both marks (SEI/NOCSAE and NFHS Authenticating Mark) or just the single NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 high school baseball season.
BASEBALLS RULE 1-3-1

- **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.

The deadline extension was granted to accommodate those schools that had a robust surplus of baseballs and allow them to be used and not be wasted or destroyed.
RULE 8-2-6I

I. Last Time By. If a runner correctly touches a base that was missed (either in advancing or returning), the last time he was by the base, that last touch corrects any previous baserunning infraction (Exception 8-4-2q).

Rationale:
Per 8-4-2q, a runner cannot correct the baserunning infraction once he touches a succeeding base while the ball is dead even if he correctly touches all bases the last time by.
**RULE 8-3-1a**

- **ART. 1 . . .** Each runner other than the batter-runner (who is governed by 8-1-2) is awarded one base when:
  - a. there is a balk (6-1-4, 6-2-4) or a pitch strikes a runner (5-1-1a);
  - Sub-articles b-c remain unaltered.

- **Rationale:**
  Clarification.
POINTS OF EMPHASIS
National anthem standoffs do not reflect education-based athletics. Staring down opponents after the national anthem to try to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is juvenile and disrespectful.
Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS

Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purposes.
Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench area on buckets or stools.
Players are not allowed to stand outside their dugout/bench area and make “cat-calls” or other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice.
Chants, intentional distractions and loud noises directed at the opponent’s pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play do not represent good sportsmanship.
Per a rule change approved in 2017, the catcher’s body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective January 1, 2020.
Helmets must meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-2, including that all face mask/guards attached after manufacture are approved by the manufacturer and meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
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 NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
COMPLIANT OF PLAYER’S EQUIPMENT - BATS

Bats shall be unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design and production and must meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2.
Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, 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.
Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.
Runners may not have a leg raised higher than the fielder’s knee.
Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.
Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.
The runner is out when he illegally slides and affects the play. On a force play, the runner is also guilty of interference. The batter-runner is also declared out and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground.
When illegally executed, as shown in the PlayPic, hurdling, jumping or leaping over a fielder supersedes obstruction.

Points of Emphasis

BASERUNNER’S RESPONSIBILITIES

www.nfhs.org
Diving over a fielder is always illegal. Diving supersedes obstruction.
UMPIRE MECHANICS CHANGES
UMPIRE SIGNALS: INFORMATION AVAILABLE

To assist in providing pertinent information between partners, a new umpire signal — "information available" — was approved. The umpire indicates he or she has relevant information for their partner by tapping two times over the left chest (heart).
In three- and four-umpire mechanics, umpires can signal to partners which direction they will be rotating to a specific base for coverage of an anticipated play. The new “correct rotation” signal involves umpires pointing with both hands in the direction of the base that they are moving toward.
NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL HUB

HTTPS://NFHS-BASEBALL.ARBITERSPORTS.COM/FORNT/105406/SITE

- Contains:
  - Sport information
  - Rules information
  - Rules library
  - Searchable rules book
  - Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations

www.nfhs.org
NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION COURSE AND VIDEOS

- Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating
- 30-45 minutes to complete
- Topics include: Basics of Becoming and Staying an Official, Science of Officiating, Art of Officiating
- Course is FREE to NFHS Officials Association members, non-members fee is $20
- NFHSLearn.com

- Sports such as soccer, basketball and baseball offer direct illustrations of the rules book, including rules references and officials signals
- Animated mechanics videos for softball and baseball umpires
- Video interpretation of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book created through a partnership with the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials

www.nfhs.org
THE NFHS LEARNING CENTER

- **Mission:** Provide ongoing professional development for Coaches, Administrators, Students, Parents and Officials on the role they play within interscholastic athletics and activities.

www.nfhslearn.com
Register on NFHSLearn.com and receive the following great benefits:

- Immediate access to all 18 NFHS free courses
- Opportunity to receive email updates on your sport, upcoming courses and much more
- Access coursework 24/7/365
- Access completion certificates 24/7/365
COACHING BASEBALL

Sport Specific Course

Coach

Please Select Your State

Order Course

Course Details

Related Courses

Coaching Unified Sports

Middle School Sports
NFHS FREE COURSES

- Concussion in Sports
- Coaching Pole Vault
- NCAA Eligibility
- Positive Sport Parenting
- Sportsmanship
- Sports Nutrition
- Heat Illness Prevention
- Introduction to Music Adjudication
- Introduction to Pitch Smart

- Learning Pro – Suite of 4 courses
- Coaching Unified Sports
- Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Captains Course
- Interscholastic Officiating
By 2020, every high school sporting event in America will be streamed live.
The NFHS Network will be THE DESTINATION for fans to view these broadcasts.
27 DIFFERENT SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

3 MILLION UNIQUE VIEWERS
NFHS NETWORK

- View from mobile...
THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT BASEBALL SEASON!

www.nfhs.org