

FHSAA Gray Book

2008. Softball Regulations

2008.01 Regular Season.

(1) **Size of Officials Crew:** A minimum of two officials are required for all interscholastic softball games.

(2) **Length of Junior Varsity Games:** When varsity and junior varsity teams are scheduled to play back-to-back on the same date, at the same site, and on the same field, no new inning may be started in a junior varsity game after 1 1/2 hours. In situations where the field is properly lighted and there is ample time between junior varsity and varsity games, the junior varsity teams shall be permitted to play a regulation game of seven innings.

(3) **Suspended Game:** A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure or other conditions in which a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.

(4) **Completed Game:** A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure or other conditions after four-and-one-half innings or five innings have been completed will be declared a completed game.

(5) **Coaches Boxes:** Please see NFHS rule 3-5-2 and 3-5-3 for rules pertaining to the coaches' box.

(6) **Game Ball:** The game ball as specified in National Federation Rule 1-3 shall be used and the COR shall not exceed .47.

(7) **Pitching Warm-up Areas:** Warm-up areas inside of the field are allowed provided the field has 25 feet or more from the foul line to the fence. All players must wear helmets, and an assistant coach or player must be in attendance to protect the catcher while the pitcher is warming up.

2008.02 State Series.

(1) **Pregame Warm-Up:** Each team will be allowed 15 minutes for infield practice before each game. No batting practice will be permitted on the playing field. Batting practice may be conducted on an auxiliary field if one is available.

(2) **Official Ball for State Series:** The Wilson A9011 is the official softball of the FHSAA Softball State Series (district, regional and state finals). No other softball may be used by any participating team during the State Series.

2008.03 FHSAA Rule Modifications.

(1) The following NFHS rules, which are optional by state association adoption, and other modifications have been approved by the FHSAA:

- **1-2-1 Note.** Double first base is permitted.
- **3-5-2, 3.** First base and/or third base coach's boxes may be occupied by a player or coach in team uniform. Any time a coach is in live-ball area to confer with players or an umpire, or to occupy a coach's box, the coach shall be attired in school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with coaching shorts/slacks or warm-up suits (including fleece warm-ups) in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. Cotton t-shirts, cutoffs and/or any type of jeans are prohibited. All coaches must be dressed in the same apparel of the same color. Jackets are not considered part of the coach's uniform.
- **2-20-1.** A fair ball is a batted ball that:
 - b. touches or bounds over a base, which is in fair territory.
 - c. touches first, second, or third base, which is in fair territory.
- **4-2-3.** The 10-run rule will be in effect for 4 1/2 or 5 complete innings.
- **4-2-3.** The 15-run rule will be in effect after 2 1/2 or 3 complete innings.
- **4-2-3.** If a team is losing by 15 or more runs after 2 1/2 or 3 complete innings, the game shall be terminated.
- **4-2-3.** Time limit for sub-varsity level only [see s.2008.01(2)].
- **4-2-3.** A time limit shall not be used for varsity contests.
- **4-2-5.** Tie games are not permitted. If a game is tied and is called at the completion of the fifth

inning or any complete inning thereafter, it will be continued under the provisions of NFHS Rule 4-2-3 as a suspended game.

- **6-1-1** Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

- **6-1-2b** Once the hands are brought together and are in motion, the pitcher shall not take more than one step which must be forward, toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery.

(2) The following National Federation rules, which are optional by state association adoption, **have not** been approved or adopted by the FHSAA:

- **4-2-6.** Tie-breaker procedure.
- **4-4.** The decisions of the game officials are final. No protests will be allowed