

2025 NFHS BASEBALL RULES CHANGES AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS



PLAY. PERFORM, COMPETE. TOGETHER.



VYSBUA – Andy Draper

TODAY'S AGENDA

- President's Report
- Review 2024 Rule Changes
- Discuss the 2025 Rule Changes (2)
- Discuss the 2025 Points of Emphasis (5)
- Review the NYS Adopted Rules and Items
- Q&A Session



- October 2024 Meeting Summary
 - Education Committee Presentations
 - By-Law committee is working to update our current by-laws
 - Continuing to update NYSBUA website
 - Updating chapter maps



- Review of Approved Uniform Colors
 - Black uniform shirt is now the default color
 - Charcoal gray pants are the only pants approved
 - Heather gray pants are not approved





- State Tournament Details
 - Binghamton will host the 2025 -2027 state tournaments
 - 27 umpires will be used for the state tournament with 6 classifications
 2025: Sections 2 and 9 will each send 2 extra umpires
 - Friday June 13 scheduled to have games at 10am, 1pm, 4pm, and 7pm using 3 locations



- State Tournament Changes
 - Tournament meeting will be Thursday June 12
 - Based off umpire feedback, we plan to have **on-field training** as a part of Thursday June 12



- Exam Dates
 - Part 1: January 6, 2025 through March 30, 2025
 - Part 2: March 31, 2025 through at least June 1, 2025
- As discussed at the October 2024 Business Meeting, an official must complete and pass the 2025 NFHS exam as part of the certification process to work the 2025 season.



2024 TONY DEVIVO AWARD WINNER BILL LUFF









NFHS INFORMATION



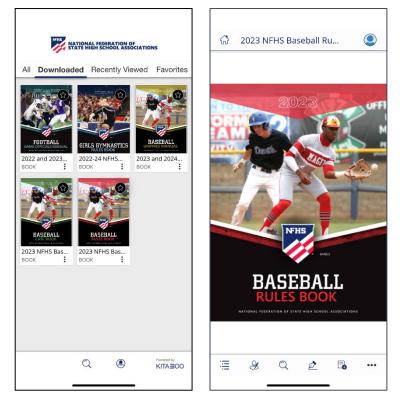
NFHS RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

 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.





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UPDATES FROM NFHS MEETING IN INDY

- Possible future expansion of technology
- Discussion occurred in the room about possibility of modifying balk rule in the future
- Experiment requests were sent from states wanting to pilot the use of replay at their state tournament



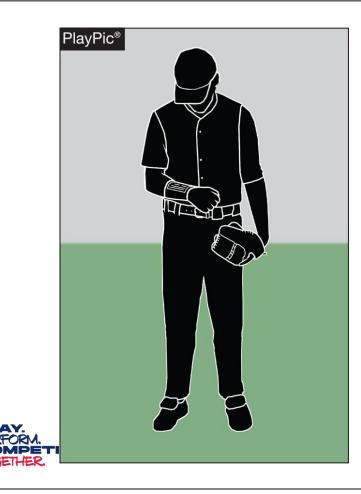
Umpire manual revised and revamped



REVIEW OF 2024 RULE CHANGES

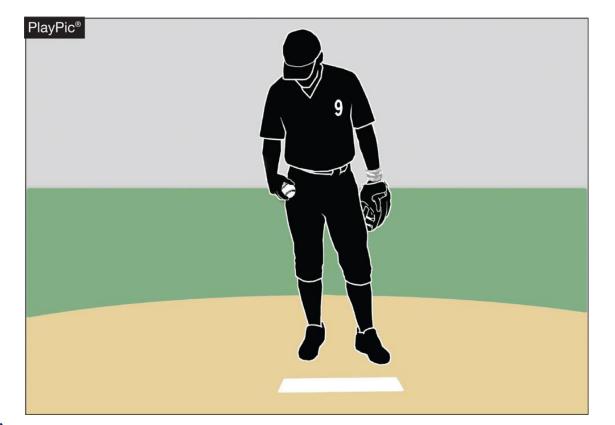


1-6-1 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



• Any wristband with defensive shifts, offensive plays, pitching choices, or game directions attached shall be considered non-electronic equipment and is permitted as long as it a single, solid color.

1-6-1 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



• For pitchers, it **may not** contain the colors white, gray or be distracting.

 It does not have to match the color of the uniform, or the sleeves worn underneath the uniform.



1-6-1 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



- It shall only be worn on a player's wrist or forearm
- Pitchers shall wear it on their non-pitching arm.

Rule Change

1-6-1 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



• The penalty for wearing this equipment improperly is a team warning to the coach on a first offense.

• The next offender of that team will be ejected along with the team's head coach.



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PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT RULE 3-2-5



One-way electronic
 communication devices are
 permissible from the dugout to the
 catcher while the team is on defense
 for the purpose of calling pitches.

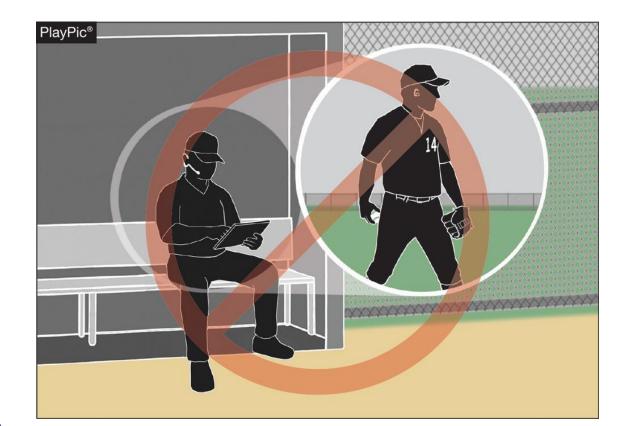
PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT RULE 1-6-2



 When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.

 Various technologies like an earpiece, an electronic band or a smart watch could be used.

COACHING (PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT) RULE 3-2-5

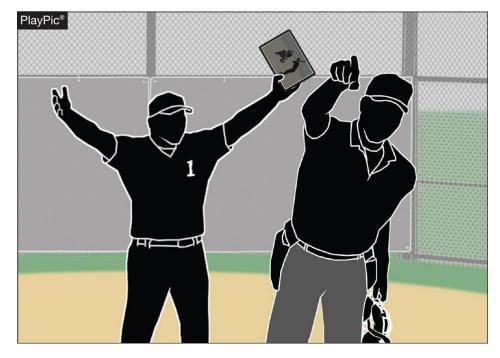


 Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member other than the catcher while on defense (including any team member while on offense).



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COACHING (PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT) RULE 3-2-5



NFHS PERFORM. COMPE • The penalty for improper use is a team warning on the first offense.

• The next offender of that team will be ejected along with the team's head coach.

UMPIRE-IN-CHIEF RULE 10-2-3h

h. Forfeit the game for prescribed infractions by spectators, coaches, players or team/bench personnel.

Rationale:

Umpires have jurisdiction over the confines of the field, players, coaches and team/bench personnel. If there are issues with spectators, it is the responsibility of game management to deal with spectators and to ensure that the facility is safe for all involved.



RULE CHANGES

2025 NFHS BASEBALL





Rule Change

1-3-2c1 BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES



• Resin, pine tar or any drying agent are permitted to enhance the hold on any bat, and it is not to exceed beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob.

The rule change creates consistency between wood bats and non-wood bats.
On non-wood bats, drying agents are no longer permitted on the grip only.



BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES 1-3-2c1

ART. 2... The bat shall have the following characteristics and components.

Sub-articles a-b remains the same.

c. Each bat not made of a single piece of wood shall:

1. Have a safety grip made of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic tape) or commercially manufactured composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob.

BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES 1-3-2c1

Slippery tape or similar material shall be prohibited. Resin, pine tar or any drying agent are permitted to enhance the hold <u>on the bat</u>, <u>not to exceed beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob</u>. Molded grips are illegal.

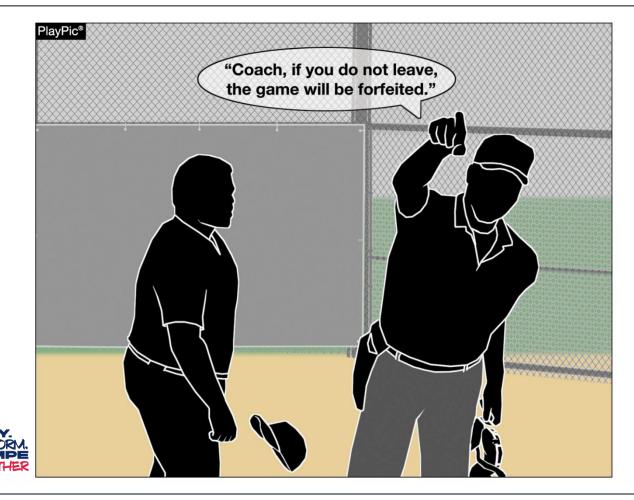
Rationale:

Risk minimization and consistency. This change allows the batter to have better control over their non-wood bat, so it does not slip out of their hands. It also makes the rule the same for wood bats and non-wood bats.



Rule Change





• A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team delays more than a **reasonable amount of time** in not obeying an umpire's order to remove a player, coach or team personnel for violation of the rules.



FORFEITED GAME 4-4-1c

ART. 1... A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team:

a. is late in appearing or in beginning play after the umpire calls "Play." State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstance before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams; or

b. refuses to continue play after the game has started; or

c. delays more than a reasonable amount of time in resuming play, or in not obeying the umpire's order to remove a player, <u>coach or team personnel (3-3-2)</u> for violation of the rules; or
d. persists in tactics designed to delay or shorten the game; or

e. willfully and persistently violates any of the rules after being warned by the umpire; or...



FORFEITED GAME 4-4-1c

Rationale:

Clarification. Forfeiture is the result when a coach, player or team personnel does not conform to the instructions of the umpire. An ejection is a serious violation of sportsmanship and game decorum. To aggravate the violation with a game forfeiture is egregious and contrary to the basic premise of education-based athletics.





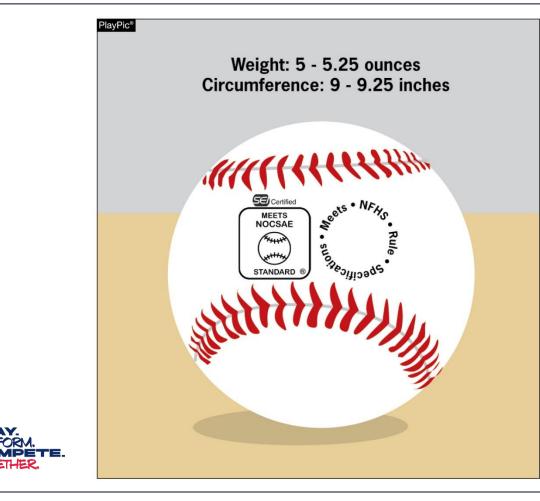
2025 NFHS BASEBALL

POINTS OF EMPHASIS





USE OF AUTHENTICATED MARK PROGRAM BALLS

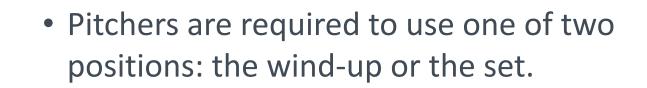


- The use of baseballs that have the Authenticated Mark printed on validates that the baseball meets NFHS rules specifications.
- This program helps promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in the equipment being used. Conforming equipment is essential to the integrity of contests played under NFHS rules.



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Non-pivot

Pivot

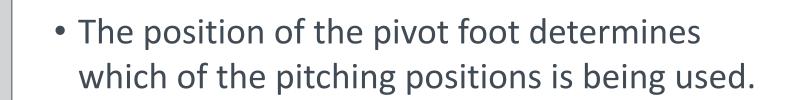
 In the wind-up, the pitcher's pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate and not parallel to it.

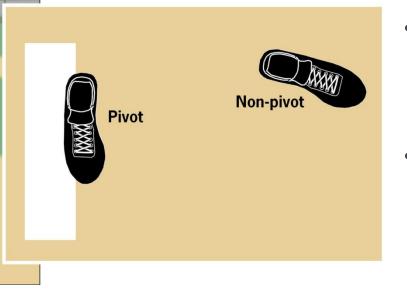




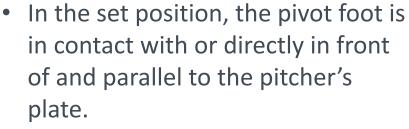
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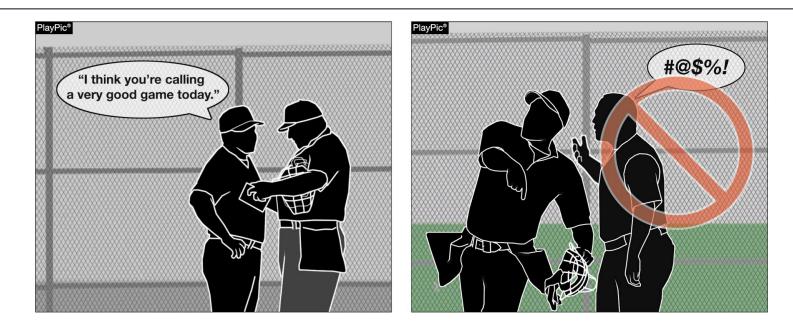






 It is important that umpires, coaches and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play.



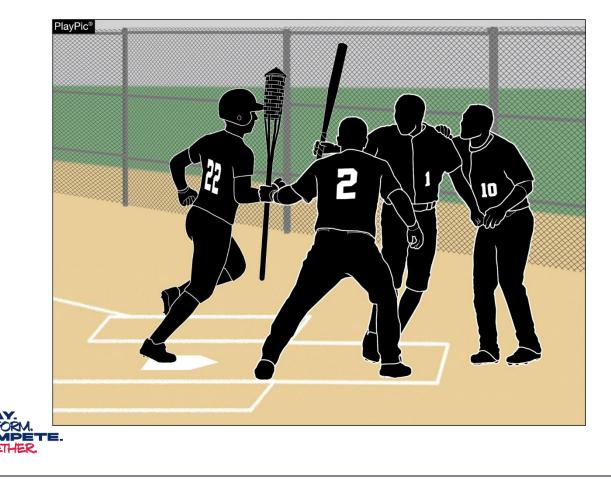


• Coaches set the tone at athletic contests with their display of sportsmanship and respect.



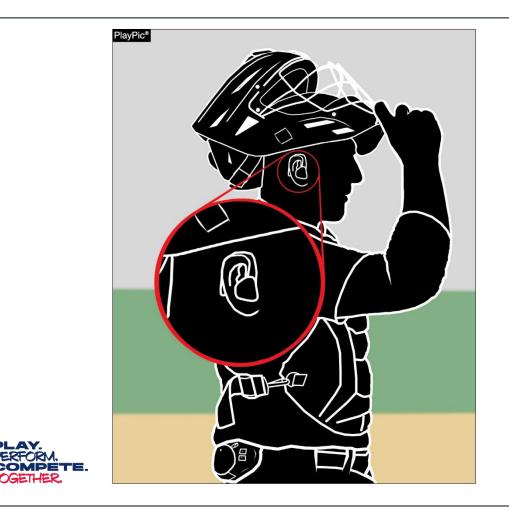
• If coaches act in a positive sportsmanlike manner, they model the appropriate behavior for the players/team personnel in their dugout/bench area. It also establishes a constructive, non-combative tone for players, spectators and others.





- There is no logical purpose to have props at an education-based athletic event.
- The use of props or any items to demean or embarrass one's opponent is contrary to the ideas and expectations supported by the NFHS, who writes playing rules for high school-age and skilled students.

IMPROPER USE OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



- The 2024 season was the first year of allowing one-way electronic communication devices from the dugout/bench to the catcher.
- Various technologies, ear-piece style, electronic bands or smart watches could be used, giving schools several options at various costs.

IMPROPER USE OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT



 No other player except the catcher is legally allowed to wear or use an electronic communication device, and the coach is not allowed to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.



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NY STATE ADOPTED RULES



NY STATE ADOPTED RULES – PAGE 69

- **1-2-9**: We do <u>not</u> allow a double-first base.
- 1-4-4: To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.
 - If a school/coach contacts you or your chapter about this, refer them to NYSPHSAA.



NY STATE ADOPTED RULES – PAGE 69

- 4-2-2: 10 run rule. Each section has the option to approve the rule and then each league has the option to approve the rule.
- **4-2-4**: Game-ending procedures may be determined.
- **4-3-1**: Cross out! We do not have this rule.
- 4-4-1a: State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.
- **4-5-1**: Protests are allowed in NY.
- **10-1-9**: Each chapter received an updated uniform code.



COURTESY RUNNERS REVIEW

- At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher.
- If the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or catcher who had a courtesy runner on their behalf may bat in their lineup position.
- The same individual player may not be used as a courtesy runner for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
- Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.



COURTESY RUNNERS APPROVED FOR 2024

- A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a sub for another player in that half inning.
- The home plate umpire shall record courtesy runners on their lineup cards and announce it to the official scorer.
- A player who violates the courtesy-runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.
- Should an injury, illness, or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may be used.



SITUATIONS AND PLAYS TO DISCUSS





With the bases loaded and one out, Salada hits a bases clearing triple. The catcher thinks Salada's bat has pine tar beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob as allowed and tells his coach. The defensive coach comes out to argue the bat is illegal for this pine tar violation and wants an out.





- The home plate umpire will declare Salada out for the illegal bat.
- All base runners return to their previously occupied bases.
- The bat is removed from the game.
- The head coach is restricted to the dugout.
- Casebook 1.3.2 Situation F (Page 8)







The offensive coach is yelling that the pitcher is committing a balk.





- The pitcher is in the set position based upon the position of his pivot foot.
- The pitcher comes to a complete and discernible stop.
- The pitcher meets all necessary requirements.
- This is NOT a balk.
- Rule 6-1-3 and Rule 6-2-4





A team has used all of its defensive charged conferences, and the head coach does not want to change pitchers. The coach tells the catcher to call all the infielders to the mound for the purpose of relaying instructions to them through the one-way communication device the catcher is wearing.

The opposing team discovers what is happening and wants the plate umpire to remove the pitcher.





- This is an illegal use of the one-way communication device.
- A warning shall be given to the coach.
- A defensive conference cannot be charged, as a charged conference is a meeting which involves the coach or a non-playing representative of the team and a player or players of the team.







It is the bottom of the 7th inning of a tie game with one out and the bases are loaded.

Connors hits a 3-2 fastball for a grand slam. Rothrock, R1, stares at the ball as it goes over the fence in left center field and Connors ends up passing by him during his home run trot. Rothrock, excited about the grand slam ending the game, misses 2B but does touch 3B and home plate. The defensive team properly appeals that Rothrock missed 2B.





- Connors should be declared out immediately by the base umpire for passing (2nd out of the inning).
- Upon the proper appeal by the defense, Rothrock should be declared out for missing 2B (3rd out of the inning).
- Rothrock's out was not a force out for the third out since Connors was previously declared out for passing (force was removed).
- R3 and R2 score...GAME OVER.
- Casebook Page 88 9.1.1 Situation K





ANY QUESTIONS?





THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT SEASON!



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