

National Federation of State
High School Associations



2012 NFHS Baseball Rules Changes

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BBCOR Bat Standard

Rule 1-3-2d



Starting with the 2012 season, all non-wood bats must meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard. Bats meeting that standard must be marked as shown above.

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Bat Standards

Rule 1-3-2d




Starting with the 2012 season, bats marked with the BESR certification are not legal. A bat can be marked with both BBCOR and BESR certification and will be compliant.

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**BBCOR Bat Standard
Rule 1-3-2d**

- Beginning January 1, 2012, the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard for non-wood bats is the only standard allowed.
- The BBCOR certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.
- No post-production, BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat.



**BBCOR Bat Standards
Rule 1-3-2d (continued)**

- Bats that are marked with just the Ball Exit Speed Ratio (BESR) certification mark are not allowed.
- There are a few rare incidences that non-wood bats have been tested and have both BESR and BBCOR certification marks on the bat's barrel. The bat would be compliant and permitted to be used.
- Rationale: Risk minimization and good sporting behavior.



**Non-Wood Bats
Rule 1-3-2**




To be considered a wood bat, a bat must be a single piece of wood. All other bats must meet BBCOR standards. Examples of such non-wood bats that must meet BBCOR standards are those made of bamboo or those with metal handles and wood barrels.





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Non-Wood Bats


- A bat that is not a single piece of wood is considered a non-wood bat and must meet BBCOR standards.
- We have adopted the NCAA's research, approved list and unapproved list of BBCOR bats. You can find that list on the following website:
<http://www.mme.wsu.edu/~ssl/certified/bbcor/certified.html>.






Tamper-Evident Protocol

Rule 1-3-2 Note




There is no requirement that bats be marked as tamper-evident. The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and manufacturers are working on a tamper-evident protocol and hope to have that in place for the 2015 season.



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Tamper-Evident Protocol Rule 1-3-2 Note

- The requirement that bats be marked as “tamper-evident” has been removed.
- The NFHS will be working with interested parties to develop a “tamper-evident” protocol that will be reported to the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee at the June 3-5, 2012 annual rules meeting for implementation for non-wood bat production after 2015.



Tampering with Bats
Rules 1-3-4; 7-4-1a



Using artificial means to improve the performance of bats is not only illegal by the rules of baseball, but is also against federal law. Coaches must be diligent in ensuring their players are using only legal equipment.


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Tampering with Bats
Rules 1-3-4 and 7-4-1a

- Altering and tampering with bats is not only against the rules at every level of baseball but it is a Federal Crime.
- The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) and the NFHS are working collaboratively to raise the awareness of this practice via different electronic media messages.
- Coaches must be diligent in ensuring their players are using only compliant and unaltered equipment.

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Bat Warmers Illegal
Rule 1-3-5



Any device used to control the temperature of a bat — whether to heat or cool it — is illegal.

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Warming the Bats
Rule 1-3-5



Along with the use of commercial warming devices, it is also illegal to control the temperature of a bat by intentionally holding next to a heater.

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Bat Warmers are prohibited
Rule 1-3-5

- Any product or practice that controls or manipulates the temperature of a bat – regardless of heating it up or cooling it is not allowed.
- The affected bat becomes illegal for play.
- Rationale: Risk minimization and good sporting behavior.

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Reasonable Accommodations
Rule 1-5-8



Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances.

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Reasonable Accommodations Rule 1-5-8

- This change provides the member state associations latitude when presented with a situation that requires reasonable accommodations with a student.
- Rationale: Flexibility for local state associations to best judge specific situations.



Umpire Responsibility for Resolving any Compliant Equipment Issues Rule 1-5-10

- While some of the text in the rules book was deleted, the remaining text reads: "Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire-in-chief."
- Rationale: Clarification of the authority of the umpire-in-chief as it relates to equipment.





Blood on Uniform

Rule 3-1-6



A player who is bleeding, has an open wound or has any amount of blood on his uniform shall not play until the bleeding has stopped, wound has been covered or uniform is cleaned or changed. The re-entry rule applies for starters who wish to return to the game.




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Blood on Uniform
Rule 3-1-6

- A more general approach to blood on a player's uniform.
- Any amount of blood will render the player unable to play until it is cleaned up or changed.

- Rationale: Clarification.



Confronting Umpires After Games
Rule 3-3-1g (7)



Umpires are protected from altercations following a game. Umpires should report a coach's actions to the state association office. That office will determine appropriate punishment.






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Confronting Umpires after Games
Rule 3-3-1g(7)


- Coaches should not confront game officials after the contest has concluded.
- Umpires should report any incidents to the local state association and they will take appropriate action against the school.

- Rationale: Risk minimization and good sporting behavior






Participating in a Fight
Rule 3-3-1q




Any player who leaves the bench/dugout area or his position during a fight for any reason shall be ejected. Only coaches are permitted to leave their positions, and only for the purpose of breaking up the fight.



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Participating in a Fight
Rule 3-3-1q

- Any player leaving his position or bench/dugout area during a fight will be ejected.
- Only coaches are permitted to leave the bench/dugout for the sole purpose to assist in breaking up the fight.
- Rationale: Risk minimization and good sporting behavior.



Umpire's Expectations
Rule 4 -1-3a


- Before the game, preferably at the pregame meeting with both coaches and team captains (if available), the umpire-in-chief expresses his expectation that all the participants exhibit good sporting behavior.
- Rationale: Clarification of coaches' roles.



PFHS

Pregame Bat and Helmet Check

Rule 4-1-3b



Starting with the 2012 season, umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets. Instead, coaches will certify at the pregame meeting that all equipment is compliant.


REFERENCE

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PFHS

Legal Equipment Verification

Rule 4-1-3b



The umpire-in-chief shall receive verification from both head coaches that all participants are properly uniformed and equipped with bats that are unaltered from the original manufacturer's design and production and helmets that meet NFHS and NOCSAE standards and free of cracks or damage.


REFERENCE

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PFHS

Illegal Helmet Used

Rule 4-1-3b



The penalties for using an illegal bat do not apply to using an illegal helmet. A batter must replace an illegal helmet when it is spotted, but he is not called out, nor is his coach penalized.

REFERENCE

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Coaches May Ask for Inspection
Rule 4-1-3b



During the pregame conference, a coach may ask the umpires to verify the legality of an opponent's equipment. Umpires would then be required to check the equipment of that team.

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Pregame Bat and Helmet Check
Rule 4 -1-3b

- Umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets prior to the game.
- Coaches will verify that their players are properly uniformed and equipped in accordance with the NFHS rules.
- However, during the pregame conference, a coach may request the umpires to check the equipment of their opponent and the umpires would comply.

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Illegal Bat Used: First Violation
Rule 4-1-3b



For the first violation of the illegal bat rule by a team, the batter is called out and the head coach is restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.

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NE HS

Illegal Bat Used: Second Violation

Rule 4-1-3b



For a team's second illegal bat violation during a game, the batter is called out and the head coach is ejected. Note that a batter is considered to have used a bat when he steps into the batters box.

REFEREE

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NE HS

Illegal Bat Used: Third Violation

Rule 4-1-3b



For the third violation (and beyond) of the illegal bat rule in the same game, the designated head coach is ejected. He is not given a warning since the team has had two prior violations penalized.

REFEREE

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NE HS

Rule 6-2-2c Exception




Relief pitcher must complete warm-up pitches in one minute.

REFEREE

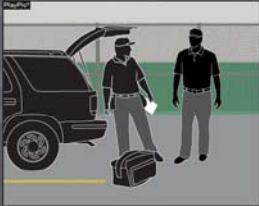
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Rule 6-2-2c Exception



- **EXCEPTION:** ...When a pitcher is replaced during an inning or prior to an inning, the relief pitcher may not use more than eight throws completed in one minute (timed from the first throw)...
- Rationale: Maintaining the pace of the game.



Postgame Clerical Responsibilities
Rule 10-1-2




The game officials retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualification, that are responsive to actions occurring while the umpires had jurisdiction.

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Post Game Clerical Responsibilities
Rule 10-1-2

- "...leave the playing field at the conclusion of the game." The game officials retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualification, that are responsive to actions occurring while the umpires had jurisdiction.




Post Game Clerical Responsibilities
Rule 10-1-2 (continued)

- “State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents after the umpires’ jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.”
- Rationale: Extension of jurisdiction for the purposes of reporting.

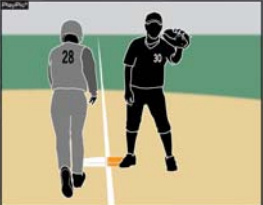


Rule 10-2-3



- a. Inspect the condition of the field receive the batting order of both teams, announce special ground rules and formulate such if the two teams cannot agree, designate the official scorer (9-2-2) and see that each player takes his glove and other loose equipment to the bench at the end of his term in the field.
- Rationale: Clarifies the umpire-in-chief’s allowance from his pregame bat and helmet check.



Fielder Using Colored Base
Suggested Double First Base Rules




On a dropped third strike that rolls into foul territory, the fielder is permitted to use the colored base to record the out, while the runner is permitted to use the white base.





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Editorial Changes



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Dead Ball and Delayed Dead Ball Table

- Awards or Penalties #2. "Batter is awarded first base except when he permits ball to touch him or when pitch is a strike.
- Rationale: Editorial.




Rule 8-4-1e


- e. A third strike is caught by the catcher; or the third strike is not caught with first base occupied and there are less than two out (2-16-2);
- Rationale: Editorial.



National Federation of State High School Associations



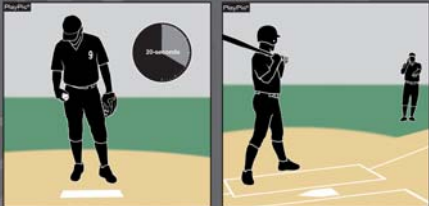
Points of Emphasis



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Pace of Play




POINT OF EMPHASIS

Umpires are reminded to help the pace of the game through using the rules that require a pitcher to deliver a pitch within 20 seconds and require the batter to leave at least one foot in the batter's box.

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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:
- The batter's box rule (the batter must generally keep one foot in the box during an at-bat).
- 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.





Altered Bats




As quickly as new bats and new bat rules are developed, players, parents and companies are finding ways to illegally alter bats. Illegal bats pose a safety risk to competitors and an unfair advantage.



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Altered 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.





Coach's Responsibility




A coach must know what equipment is being used by his players and know that it is compliant.



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Coach's Responsibility

- The head coach is responsible for appropriate behavior modeling before, during and after a contest.
- As highlighted in this year's rule changes, the head coach is responsible for being a teacher, role model and mentor.
- The head coach is required to know and verify that each team member is properly uniformed and has equipment that meets the standards set by NFHS rules.





Good Sporting Behavior





Only the head coach should communicate with umpires and that should be done in an appropriate manner. Each game is an opportunity to teach not only baseball, but also model good sporting behavior as well.




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Good Sporting Behavior

- Coaches and Umpires must work together.
 - Each contest is another opportunity for coaches and umpires to teach not only baseball skills, but also model respectful behavior as well as professional relationships.
- The positive values that are learned will serve the players long after their baseball experience has concluded.
- Game situations typically provide a coach the opportunity to identify a teachable moment to reinforce good sporting behavior.



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Thank you for your time and
commitment to high school baseball.
Have a great season!



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