


National Federation of State
High School Associations




2009 NFHS Baseball Rules Changes



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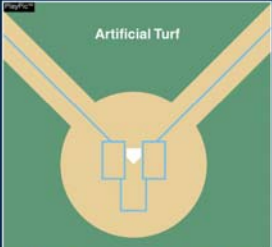
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Proper Field Markings Rule 1-2-2



Natural/Dirt Turf



Artificial Turf

Non-permanent lines on the playing field shall be white in color.


If lines are permanent, such as on artificial turf, non-white lines are legal.

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Proper Field Markings (Rule 1-2-2)

- All lines on the playing field shall be marked with a material which is not injurious to the eyes or skin.
- All non-permanent lines should be white.
- Permanent lines such as sewn lines in artificial turf, may be a color other than white.

Rationale: Clarification



Helmet Requirements
Rule 1-5-1



Coaches may but are not required to wear helmets while coaching the bases.


All non-adult personnel must wear a double ear flap helmet that meets NOCSAE standards when coaching the bases.

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Helmet Requirements
(Rule 1-5-1)

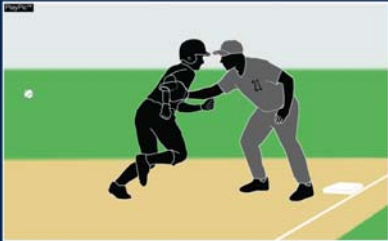
- Coaches are not required to wear helmets while coaching in the coaching box.
- They may wear helmets.
- Non-adult personnel must wear a dual flap helmet that is NOCSAE approved while in the coaching box.

Rationale: Clarification and Reminder



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Obstruction
Rule 2-22-3




A player that does not have possession of the ball may not deny a runner access to a base.



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Rule 2-22-3 (Obstruction Definition)

- Revisiting the 2008 rule change
- Art. 3 ...The fielder without possession of the ball denies access to the base the runner is attempting to achieve.
- **Rationale:** This rule provides positive benefits to both offensive and defensive teams by minimizing risk.






Announced Substitutions Rule 3-1-2



When the coach has informed the umpire-in-chief of a change he wishes to make in the lineup, the substitution is official when the umpire-in-chief has made the change on his lineup card and informed the opposing team and official scorekeeper.

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Unannounced Substitutions Rule 3-1-1




An unannounced substitute becomes legal when he has entered the game, the ball has been made live and:

- A runner takes the place of a runner he has replaced.
- A pitcher takes his place on the pitcher's plate.
- A fielder reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder he has replaced.
- A batter takes his place in the batter's box.

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Substitutions (Rule 3-1-1 & 3-1-2)

- Substitution issues continue to crop up annually with misinterpretations by umpires and misunderstandings by coaches.
- Except for the pitcher (who falls under certain conditions), a substitute may replace a player of his team when the ball is dead and time has been called.
- There are two types of substitutions, announced and unannounced.





Rationale: Clarification

Coach is touched by thrown live ball (Rule 3-2-3)



- Rule was changed to read, "If a thrown live ball unintentionally touches a base coach in foul territory, or a pitched or thrown ball touches an umpire, the ball is live and in play."

Rationale: Clarification





Pitch Intentionally Close to Batter Rule 6-2-3



The penalty for pitching intentionally close to a batter has not changed.

The pitcher shall be ejected if the pitch is judged to be intentional. In case of doubt, the umpire may warn the pitcher.

The change altered the wording from intentionally "throw" to "pitch" close to a batter.

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Pitching Intentionally Close to a Batter (Rule 6-2-3)

- The rule has not changed.
- The only change was modifying the word from “throw” to “pitch”.
- The pitcher shall be ejected if the pitch is judged to be intentional. In case of doubt, the umpire may warn the pitcher.

Rationale: Clarification





Batter Must Try to Get Out of Way Rule 7-3-4



If the batter permits a pitch to touch him, the batter remains at bat and the pitch is ruled a ball or strike. If the pitch is ball four, the batter walks. If the pitch is strike three, the batter is out.

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Frame 3

Batter must not allow the pitched ball to touch him (Rule 7-3-4)

- If the batter allows the pitched ball to touch him or his uniform, he is not automatically awarded first base.
- The batter is not rewarded for “taking one for the team.”
- If he allows the pitch to touch him or his uniform, he remains at bat and a ball or strike is called. Unless the pitch was ball four or strike three.



Umpire's Uniform
Rule 10-1-9



Umpires are no longer required to wear "heather" gray slacks.

Because umpire pants fade over time and not all "heather" grays look the same, the word "heather" was deleted from the requirement. The only requirement is that umpires wear gray slacks.


Umpires must still strive to look professional and not wear pants that are faded, wrinkled or torn.

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Umpire's Uniform
(Rule 10-1-9)

- Heather gray slacks are no longer required.
- Rule change provides more flexibility in the type of gray slacks worn.
- Umpires must still dress professionally when on the playing field.

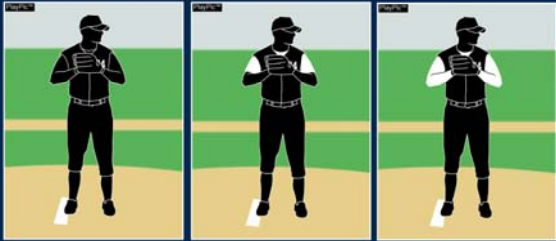
Rationale: Clarification



Pitcher's Uniform Requirements
Rules 1-4-2; 6-2-1i



VEST JERSEY



Legal **Legal** **Illegal**

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Pitcher's Uniform Requirements
Rules 1-4-2; 6-2-1i

MEDICAL SLEEVES / UNDERGARMENTS

Legal Illegal

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Pitcher's Uniforms Interpretation
(Rule 1-4-2 & 6-2-1i)

- The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee have been asked to rule on the very popular vest type uniform jersey tops with a t-shirt underneath that is part of the team's colors. The t-shirt worn underneath the vest is considered to be part of the uniform.
- For this type of uniform, white or gray t-shirts are permissible as long as it is the color of the team and the sleeves do not extend below the elbow.

Medical Sleeves
(worn by pitcher)


- Medical sleeves are legal:
 - They may be worn on either arm if they are white or gray.
 - They cannot extend below the elbow on the pitcher's arm and cannot be a color that is distracting.
 - If worn on the non-throwing arm, they may be of any length, may be white or gray as long as they are not distracting.

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POINTS OF EMPHASIS

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Location of Team Personnel Rule 3-3-1a



Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purpose.

Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout on buckets or stools.

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Team Personnel Location Rule 3-3-1a




After an over-the-fence home run, teammates are permitted to leave the dugout to congratulate the hitter because the ball is dead.

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Team Personnel location

- Coaches should not be on buckets outside the dugout/bench area.
- It is not recommended to extend the dugouts toward home plate.
- Players are not permitted to leave the dugout/bench area during live ball.



Rationale: Risk Minimization



Maintaining Pace of Play




Pitchers that have already been in the game are allowed five pitches between innings.





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Maintaining the Pace of Play



When the catcher is not immediately ready to take the field after his team has made three outs, his team should have someone ready to warm up the pitcher.


A "warm-up" catcher must wear a NOCSAE-approved helmet and mask combination with throat protection and a protective cup (male only).



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Maintaining Pace of Play

- Long delays in game action detract from what otherwise is an exciting and enjoyable contest.
- There are specific rules to improve the pace of the game that should be enforced more consistently.
- Charged conferences should be conducted and administered in a timely manner.



Pitcher Goes to Mouth Rule 6-2-1



As long as the pitcher is not on the pitching plate, he may go to his mouth as long as he wipes it off before engaging the pitching plate.

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Illegal Pitch Penalty Rule 6-2-1



A pitcher is not permitted to go to his mouth while in contact with the pitcher's plate.


If there are no runners on base, the penalty is a ball added to the count.

If there are runner(s) on base, the penalty is a balk. The ball is dead and all runner(s) advance one base.

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Pitching Requirements (Rule 6-2-1)

- The pitcher is required to meet certain requirements while he has engaged the pitcher's plate.
- He is allowed certain flexibility while he is disengaged with the pitcher's plate.
- However, if he violates the "going to the mouth rule" while on the pitcher's plate, then an illegal pitch/balk is called and subsequent penalties are administered.




Coaching Professionalism



Coaches shall address umpires with respect.

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Coaching Professionalism



All members of the coaching staff have a responsibility to be respectful toward umpires. The head coach is recognized as the leader of the team and is the role model for appropriate behavior for assistants, players and supporters. It is also his responsibility to represent the team in communications with the umpires.

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Coaching Staff Professionalism

- Coaches are viewed upon as teachers on the field of play. It is imperative that they model appropriate behavior so the students who play for them emulate positive interaction with opponents and umpires.
- There is no allowance for disrespect in any athletic contest, especially in education-based athletics.



  **Good Sporting Behavior** 



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Good Sporting Behavior

- Umpires and coaches need to work together for the benefit of the students they officiate and teach.
- Game situations provide coaches and officials excellent “teachable moments” to reinforce proper behavior and perspective.
- The positive values that are learned will serve the students long after their high school careers have ended.

