



Rules Reference	NFHS 2015 Baseball Rules Changes, Rationale, Comments
1-5-1	<p>ART. 1 . . . It is mandatory for on-deck batters, batters, runners, retired runners, players/students in the coaches boxes as well as non-adult bat/ball shaggers to wear a <u>non-glare, non-reflective</u> batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard <u>at the time of manufacture</u>.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarified the compliant type of surface for batting helmets and reaffirmed that batting helmets shall meet the NOCSAE standard.</p> <p>Comments: Batting helmets are a key component for minimizing risk in high school baseball. It is critical that the surface of the helmet does not pose any risk for those who are wearing the helmet and for their opponents. It is equally important that the batting helmet not only meet the prescribed NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture, but that they are monitored regularly for excessive use and kept in good functioning order.</p>
2-16-1f, g	<p>ART. 1 . . . A foul ball is a batted ball:</p> <p>a.-e. Remains the same.</p> <p><u>f. that hits the batter in the batter's box; or</u></p> <p><u>g. that hits the ground or home plate and then hits the batter or the bat which is held by the batter, while he is in the batter's box.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarified additional examples of a foul ball.</p> <p>Comments: Foul balls are often topics that yield a tremendous amount of discussions. Given the opportunity to identify additional foul ball scenarios, it provides more education that is helpful to coaches and umpires.</p>



<p>2-21-4, 5</p>	<p>ART. 4 . . . <u>Follow-through interference is when the bat hits the catcher after the batter has swung at a pitch and hinders action at home plate or the catcher’s attempt to play on a runner.</u></p> <p>ART. 5 . . . <u>Backswing interference is when a batter contacts the catcher or his equipment prior to the time of the pitch.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarified the distinction between follow-through interference and backswing interference.</p> <p>Comments: Identifying the various types of offensive interference is pivotal when discussing the role of the batter in that manner. Follow-through and backswing interference are two separate and distinct acts and the penalties reflect their differences.</p>
<p>3-3-1f 3-3-1 PENALTY</p>	<p>ART. 1 . . . Sub-articles a-e are unchanged. f. Use of television monitoring or replay equipment for coaching purposes during the course of the game;</p> <p>The rest of the sub-articles will be renumbered.</p> <p>Rationale: Deleted the restriction of using video monitoring and replay equipment. Deleted the accompanying penalty.</p> <p>Comments: The game of baseball has developed and technology is more affordable and available. Videotaping a game or players’ performances adds to the evolution of the game and enhances the educational ability for a coach to provide real-time instruction.</p>
<p>5-1-1n</p>	<p>ART. 1 . . . <u>n. Backswing interference occurs.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarified that backswing interference is an immediate dead ball.</p>



7-3-5c	<p>ART. 5 . . . c. making any other movement, including <u>follow-through</u> interference which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher’s attempt to play on a runner, or</p> <p>Rationale: Clarified the rules for follow-through interference by the batter.</p> <p>Comments: After reviewing this rule change from last year, it became evident that the term “backswing” did not accurately capture the infraction. It was determined at the rules committee level that the term “follow-through” was more descriptive whenever the batter’s movement interferes with action at home plate or hinders the catcher’s attempt to make a play on a runner.</p>
7-3-7 7-3-7 PENALTY	<p>ART. 7 . . . <u>Commit backswing interference.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarified the rules for backswing interference by the batter. Added the appropriate penalty for backswing interference.</p>
SPEED-UP RULES COURTESY RUNNERS	<p>1. At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. <u>In the event that the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarified how a courtesy runner is used in a specific scenario.</p> <p>Comments: Clarification when a particular scenario occurs and how that affects the role of courtesy runner for the pitcher and catcher.</p>