“Taking your game to the next level!”

PIAA SOFTBALL DISTRICT & CHAPTER INTERPRETERS’
2018 SOFTBALL SEASON MEETING GUIDE

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PIAA Statewide Softball Interpreter

EDITED BY: Mr. Patrick B. Gebhart
Assistant Executive Director
INTRODUCTION

In competitive athletic contests, the game official represents the ultimate in integrity for any competition. By their very nature, officials are neutral and are responsible to keep the contests played on equal terms. Through actions on and off the field, officials must earn the respect and confidence of players, coaches, and spectators. This confidence and respect is not earned by words, but by unquestioned honesty, demonstrated ability, obvious devotion to, and full understanding of the game.

The rules of competitive athletics are, for the most part, complex. Mere book knowledge of the rules does not make an official. To an official, knowledge of the rules is basic. To achieve excellence, an official must combine knowledge, common sense and good judgment with good officiating techniques.

To assist in this goal, we have provided the following meeting guides. Hopefully, this guide will assist in having each play considered with consistent judgment, intelligence, understanding, courage, and without intimidation.

Athletic officiating is a vigorous avocation and it demands that an official be in excellent physical and mental condition, able to give the very best, on every play, in every contest. To that end, the American Medical Association has stated that before one attempts any vigorous physical activity they should first visit their family physician for a check-up. It is part of good personal health maintenance to have an annual physical exam and participate in an exercise program. This type of exercise program should be minimally three days per week and include cardiovascular conditioning, strength training, flexibility, and muscle endurance. These components, along with proper nutrition, will assist in developing one’s optimum composition.

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that each registered sports official have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. Being physically fit and conveying an appropriate, positive image through proper health and nutrition habits will greatly assist all officials in keeping up with the game. After all, the game, the schools, players, coaches, spectators, and fellow officials deserve no less. As importantly, officials owe good health habits to themselves and their families if for nothing more, than the health of it.

Finally, we would like to thank all the district and chapter interpreters who contributed their expertise to writing lesson plans. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and will, hopefully, add to the continuing educational goals of this meeting guide booklet. Thank you for your efforts. Best wishes this season.
# 2018 PIAA Softball District and Chapter Rules Interpreters’ Meeting Agenda

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2018 PIAA SOFTBALL CHAPTER INTERPRETERS MEETING GUIDE

DENNIS MADER - PIAA STATEWIDE SOFTBALL INTERPRETER

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*(Cell) 412-889-5069

*PLEASE NO CALLS AFTER 9:00 P.M. - THANK YOU!

If you request a Rules Interpretation in writing, please send it to me in writing.

PIAA EXECUTIVE STAFF

Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, Executive Director
Ms. Melissa N. Mertz, Associate Executive Director
Mr. Mark E. Byers, Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Patrick B. Gebhart, Assistant Executive Director
Ms. Jennifer S. Grassel, Assistant Executive Director

800-382-1392 PA Only
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A. 2018 PIAA SOFTBALL DISTRICT AND CHAPTER RULES INTERPRETERS’ MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

District Interpreters and Introductions

PIAA Packet Information

Procedure for Playing Rules Interpretations and Player Eligibility Procedure

NFHS Rules Changes/NFHS Rules Major Editorial Revisions/POE

   PIAA State Association Adoptions and Modifications

   Review NFHS Lightning Procedure

   Report of Noncompliance – Non-Approved Bat List

   PIAA Disqualification Process Form

   Umpires’ Uniform

   Agenda for Mandatory Rules Meeting

Regular Meeting Agendas

   Chapter Meetings

   Mechanics

How to Submit a Rules Change Proposal and Rules Change Process

Balance of Handouts

Questions

Adjournment
INTRODUCTION FOR ANNUAL RULES INTERPRETATION MEETING

The preceding agenda will be used for the annual rules interpretation meeting with all softball district and chapter interpreters during the meeting with the PIAA Statewide Softball Rules Interpreter, Dennis Mader.

Additionally, enclosed is a handout for all PIAA softball chapter interpreters to use for their annual softball interpretation meeting with coaches and umpires.

Please completely and thoroughly cover all agenda items throughout the season. We need consistency throughout the state in hosting quality chapter meetings. The following is a recommended guide for your meetings:

NOTES:

1. As noted in the “PIAA Registered Sports Officials’ Manual,” Article IX, meetings should be scheduled for minimally 90 minutes in length. Allow at least 50 minutes in each meeting for Rules Book and Case Book review as indicated in this meeting guide.

2. Allow at least 25 minutes in each meeting for umpires’ mechanics from the Umpires’ Manual review as indicated in this meeting guide.

3. Allow at 15-20 minutes in each meeting for review of game situations for rules and mechanics.

4. As noted in the “PIAA Registered Sports Officials’ Manual,” Article IX, it is required that you schedule a minimum of eight chapter meetings in addition to the required (mandatory) rules meeting for coaches and umpires. It is recommended that you schedule at least one meeting before the mandatory rules interpretation meeting with coaches and your chapter umpires. Umpires can only receive meeting attendance credit for two meetings prior to the first play date of the season.

5. It is requested to hold ALL meetings in a private, quiet, noise-free atmosphere, not restaurants or open public places.

We are strongly advocating that all interpreters use these items when making presentations for your chapter membership. Please make sure your meeting site has the ability to permit this to occur.

The 24th Annual PIAA Officials’ Convention will be held on August 3 and 4, 2018, at the Hilton Harrisburg – One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
There will be a Train-The-Trainers (TTT) session held on August 2 to 3, 2018 at the Hilton Harrisburg – One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101, prior to the convention for any district or chapter interpreters that have interest. PIAA will register on a first come, first-serve basis for those who are interested.
B. 2017-2018 PIAA SOFTBALL DISTRICT RULES INTERPRETERS

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C. PROCEDURE FOR QUESTIONS ON PLAYING RULES INTERPRETATION

(See “Note 3” Below for Non-Playing Rules Referral)

1. Below is the proper procedure for questions pertaining to the contest rules of high school softball? If you should circumvent any of these steps, you will be referred to the proper person.

2. Fans, parents, and media will be referred to the Athletic Administration of the school in which they reside for their questions or the PIAA Office.

3. The only questions chapter, district, and the state interpreter should respond to are those associated with high school softball playing rules. Any questions on eligibility or questions not associated with the contest rules of high school softball should be directed to Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, Mr. Patrick B. Gebhart, Mrs. Melissa N. Mertz, or Mr. Mark E. Byers, Ms. Jennifer S. Grassel, of the PIAA Staff. As umpires MUST not offer our opinion.
D. 2018 NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES

2-65-2, 8-1-1c, 8-4-3a, 9-6-2 The coach or catcher of the defensive team may request an intentional walk either before or during the pitch count.

3-2-7c Language was added to address the use and placement of the wristband playbook/play card and defines this item as a piece of equipment. It also addresses restrictions on color.

3-2-15, 10-2-3a This change removes the responsibility of the umpires to inspect equipment prior to the start of the game. Rule 4-1-2d already requires head coaches to verify that their players are legally and properly equipped.

3-7-1 NOTE, 6-2-5 NOTE 2 Added language provides umpires with the authority to allow a reasonable number of warm-up pitches to an incoming pitcher due to circumstances that require a pitcher to be removed by rule.

6-1-2b The pitcher may now step back with the non-pivot foot at any time prior to the start of the pitch.

E. 2018 NFHS SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

3-6-12 The language provides clarity and consistency for restriction of alcohol and tobacco use.

8-1-2, 10-1-6 This change requires the batter to make an attempt to avoid being hit by a pitched ball in the area between the plate and the batter’s box. This portion of the rule had been inadvertently omitted.

F. 2018 NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Coaches responsibility to verify players are legally equipped including all bats and helmets used in the game.
2. Rules associated with when batter must attempt to avoid being hit by a pitch.
3. Courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher.
G. PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

ALL OFFICIALS MUST READ THIS MESSAGE TO THE CAPTAINS AND HEAD COACHES PRIOR TO GAMES AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY.

PIAA requires all registered sports’ officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants.

Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated.

Let today’s contest reflect mutual respect.

Coaches please certify to the contest official(s) that your contestants are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions.

Good luck in today’s contest!

For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials’ identification cards. District and Chapter interpreters are requested to remind all officials to READ word for word this message at each contest they officiate.

This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest which also includes scrimmages, officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.

Please remember the PIAA Sportsmanship message must be read prior to scrimmages.
H. EQUIPMENT

3-2-15, 10-2-3a This change removes the responsibility of the umpires to inspect equipment prior to the start of the game. Rule 4-1-2d already requires head coaches to verify that their players are legally and properly equipped.

Although the NFHS no longer requires umpires to inspect the equipment, bats, batting helmets and catchers equipment; in the event the a coach contests the legality of a bat, coaches should carry with them a USA Non-Approved Bat list dated on or after March 1st of the current season.

NOTE – Although the requirement is to print the USA Non-Approved Bat list dated on or after March 1st of the current, it is recommended coaches check for updates often.

If there are updates it is recommended that coaches print the updated current list of Non-Approved Bat list as noted above and replace your last printed list. The safety of the student-athletes, coaches, fans, team personnel, and fans should and must be our foremost concern.
REPORT OF NONCOMPLIANCE – NON-APPROVED BAT LIST SOFTBALL

The head coach of each team is responsible for providing a Non-Approved Bat List to the umpires *when there is a question if the bat is approved or not*. If a head coach fails to provide a Non-Approved Bat List, the umpire must complete this form and fax or email it to the PIAA Office within 24 hours following the completion of the contest.

**UMPIRES**: Please make sure this form is submitted with 24 hours. If not, the umpires may be subject to actions outlined in ARTICLE XV, OFFICIALS, Sections 6 and 7 of the *PIAA By-Laws*.

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<th>(Home Team)</th>
<th>(Visiting Team)</th>
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Comments:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Name of Umpire | Signature of Umpire | Date
J. 2018 PIAA STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS

The following **ARE** adopted by PIAA:

Page 10; Rule 1-2-1 Note  
Double First Base

Page 42; Rule 4-2-3  
Game suspending procedure - Once the first pitch is thrown and until a winner can be determined, the game will be suspended to be completed at a later date with all the rules of the game in force. Once a game has started, first pitch thrown, a game will **NEVER** start over.

Comment: Players that were not at the suspended game **may** participate in the game when it is continued, but are subject to the rules of the game.

Page 42; Rule 4-2-3 Note 1  
As noted above, the PIAA has adopted “Game Ending Procedure”.

Page 42; Rule 4-2-3 Note 2  
15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings. This is in effect for all games during exhibition, regular, and post-season games.

**NOTE:** For the 15 and 10 run rule, each team must have equal number of terms at bats, unless the home team is ahead or goes ahead in their half of the required innings.

Page 42; Rule 4-2-3  
1½ hour time limit or other time limit if a public park is being used. Only the home team makes this decision.

Page 42; Rule 4-2-3 Note 2  
5 innings games for doubleheaders (*This is for sub-varsity level only*).

Page 42; Rule 4-2-6  
Tiebreaker

Page 47; Rule 5-2-1 b Note  
After 30 minutes the game may be ended or suspended.
The following are **NOT** Adopted by PIAA:

- **Page 6; Rule 1-1-2** Note 50’ pitch distance when using the 12” ball. (Slow Pitch Only)
- **Page 11; Rule 1-3-3** Note 2 11” Softball (Slow Pitch Only)
- **Page 33; Rule 3-3-7** Extra Player (E.P. - Slow Pitch)
- **Page 42; Rule 4-3-1 a** A game shall be forfeited time frame
- **Page 43; Rule 4-4** Protested Games (PIAA does not recognize or allow protests)
K. 2018 PIAA SOFTBALL TIEBREAKER PROCEDURE

At the completion of the 9th inning the score remains tie; the following procedure will be used without exception in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular, and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high, and middle school).

Coaches and/or umpires cannot agree or decide to not use the PIAA approved tie-breaking procedure; it must be used. Also, the inning in which this procedure will start is not an option. It must be utilized starting with the 10th inning.

NFHS Softball Rule 4-2-6 - By State Association Adoption the PIAA Tiebreaker procedure will be as follows:

The last player that completed her turn at bat in the 9th inning will go to 2nd base to start the 10th inning. This procedure will be used until a winner can be determined.

Another way of saying it is the batter that will be the 9th batter in that inning will start at 2nd base.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SITUATIONS THAT CAN OCCUR:

SUBSTITUTING FOR THE RUNNER THAT SHOULD BE ON 2ND BASE

SITUATION: Can you substitute for the runner that should be the runner starting at 2nd base?

RULING: Yes, provided you have eligible substitutes.

USING A COURTESY RUNNER FOR THE PITCHER OR CATCHER

SITUATION: If the catcher or pitcher was the last batter that completed her turn at bat the previous inning, can a Courtesy Runner run for her?

RULING: Yes, provided that pitcher or catcher was the pitcher or catcher at the completion of the last half-inning their team was defense. You can not forecast a pitcher or catcher change.

SITUATION: In the bottom of the 9th inning #22 is playing first base and #22 was the last person to complete her turn at bat in the bottom of the 9th inning. In the top of the 10th inning #22 properly reported and went into pitch. In the bottom of the 10th inning #22 will be the runner to start at 2nd base, can a courtesy runner be used for #22.
RULING: Yes, she was the pitcher of record the last half inning prior to the request.

SITUATION: In the top of the 9th inning #44 playing 1st base was the last person to complete her turn at bat to end the inning. In the top of the 10th with the score tied, the visiting team coach reports to the plate umpire that #44 will pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning. Since #44 was the last person to complete her turn at bat in the top of the 9th inning and now reported she will pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning, the coach reports #55 as the courtesy runner of the pitcher, is this permitted?

RULING: A courtesy runner is not permitted for the “projected” pitcher #44 since she has not pitched yet. The pitcher that completed the top of the 9th inning is the pitcher of record for the purposes of courtesy runner. This also applies for the catcher.

SITUATION: During the pregame conference, both coaches inform the umpires that they have agreed not to use the tiebreaker procedure, is this acceptable?

RULING: No, it is not an option. The tiebreaker must be used without exception in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular, and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high, and middle school).

SITUATION: During the pregame conference of a junior varsity, junior high, or middle school game the coaches inform the umpires that they have agreed not to use the tiebreaker procedure, is this acceptable?

RULING: No. It is not an option. It must be used in the 10th inning in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular, and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high).

SITUATION: During the pregame conference with the coaches the umpires are informed that they have agreed to start the tiebreaker rule in the a) 8th inning or b) the 12 inning.

RULING: No, incorrect procedure. The tiebreaker inning to start it is not an option. It must be used starting in the 10th inning in all PIAA member school contests, including exhibition, regular, and post-season contests at all levels of play (varsity, junior varsity, junior high, middle school).
**TIEBREAKER/SHORT HANDED**

**SITUATION:** Team A is playing short handed; B5 in the 6th batting spot; B5 in the 9th inning made out #3 to end the inning.

**NOTE** - B6 position is the short-handed position in the line-up.

**RULING:** B5 goes to 2nd base, B6 position, the short handed batting position is first to bat and is out. B7 comes to bat, one out and B5 is on 2nd base.

**SITUATION:** Team A is playing short handed in the 6th batting spot; in the 9th inning B6 made out #3 to end the inning as a result of the short-handed rule.

**COMMENT:** Who goes to 2nd base to start the 10th inning and are there any outs to start the inning?

**RULING:** B6 batting position is out, B5 goes to 2nd base to the start the 10th inning. B7 will be the first batter and there are no outs.

**TIEBREAKER/SUB-VARSITY LEVELS (Playing {Scheduled} 2-5 inning games)**

**COMMENT:** Please remember you can only schedule 2-5 inning games at the sub-varsity levels; junior varsity, junior high, middle school. The tiebreaker procedure will go into effect at the conclusion of the 7th inning if the score is tied. The tiebreaker starts in the top of the 8th inning. All of the situations above apply except the tiebreaker starts in the 8th inning.

**L. PIAA MODIFICATION to NFHS Rule 3-5-1**

Prior the start of the game at the pregame conference, the **head coach and the team captain(s)** shall be present. The head coach of each team is responsible for verifying to the plate umpire that all his/her players are legally equipped and in compliance with the NFHS and PIAA rules and modifications.

**PENALTY** – The game will not begin until the **head coach and team captain(s)** attends the pregame conference and verifies their players are legally equipment and in compliance with the NFHS and PIAA rules and modifications.

**NOTE 1** – Although umpire(s) have the duty/responsibility to check/inspect the equipment, the responsibility for the use of proper equipment, rest with the school, coaches, student athletes, and their parents/guardians.

**NOTE 2** – The **PIAA Modification is the team captain(s) are required** to be at the pregame meeting with the coaches and umpires.
M. POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF EYE SHADE

If anti-glare precautions are needed on the face, it must be in the form of eye shade.

Eye shade must be worn as a **single, solid stroke under the eye**.

There shall be no numbers, words, logos, symbols or other detail located in the eye shade.

The eye shade shall not extend below the cheekbone and extend no further than the width of the eye socket.

Players having eye shade that does not meet the standard are to remove it or comply before participating in the game.

Rationale: Face-painting has become a problem and its improper use is a form of intimidation that is construed as taunting and/or baiting.

A consistent interpretation will result in continuity from sport to sport within the PIAA.
N. NFHS LIGHTNING PROCEDURE

Please remember thunder is administered the same as lightning!

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect interscholastic athletics. Within the United States, the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL) estimates that 100 fatalities and 400-500 injuries requiring edictal treatment occur from lightning strikes every year. While the probability of being struck by lightning is extremely low the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area and the proper safety precautions are not followed.

Prevention and education are the keys to lightning safety. Education begins with background information on lightning. The references associated with this guideline are an appropriate resource. Prevention should begin long before any interscholastic athletic event or practice. The following steps are recommended by the NSSL to mitigate the lightning hazard:

A. Designate a chain of command as to who mentors threatening weather and who makes the decision to remove a team or individuals from an athletic site or event. An emergency plan should include planned instructions for participants, as well as spectators.

B. Obtain a weather report each day before a practice or event. Be aware of potential thunderstorms that may form during scheduled interscholastic athletic events or practices.

C. Be aware of National Weather Service-issued (NWS) thunderstorm “watches” and “warnings,” as well as the signs of thunderstorms developing nearby. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a “warning” means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.

D. Know where the closest “safe structure or location” is to the field or playing area and know how long it takes to get to that safe structure or location.

Safe structure or location is defined as:

A. Any building normally occupied or frequently used by people; i.e., a building with plumbing and or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use the showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm.

B. In the absence of a building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof and rolled-up windows can provide a measure of safety. A vehicle is certainly better than
remaining outdoors. It is not the rubber tires that make a vehicle a safe shelter, but the hard metal roof which dissipates the lightning strike around the vehicle. DO NOT TOUCH THE SIDES OF THE VEHICLE!

C. Be aware of how close lightning is occurring. The flash-to-bang method is the easiest and most convenient way to estimate how far away lightning is occurring. Thunder always accompanies lightning, even though its audible range can be diminished due to background noise in the immediate environment, and its distance from the observer. To use the flash-to-bang method, count the seconds from the time the lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by five to obtain how far away (in miles) the lightning is occurring. For example if an individual counts 15 seconds between seeing the flash and hearing the bang, 15 divided by five equals three; therefore, the lightning flash is approximately three miles away.

Lightning awareness should be increased with the first flash of lightning or the first clap of thunder. No matter how far away. This activity must be treated as a wake-up call to interscholastic athletic personnel. The most important aspect to monitor is how far away the lightning is occurring, and how fast the storm is approaching, relative to the distance of a safe shelter.

Specific lightning-safety guidelines have been developed for the NCAA with the assistance of the National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL).

As a minimum, NSSL staff strongly recommends that by the time the monitor obtains a flash-to-bang count of 30 seconds, all individuals should have left the athletic site and reached a safe structure or location. Athletic events may need to be terminated.

B. The existence of blue sky and the absence of rain are not protection from lightning. Lightning can, and does, strike as far as 10 miles away from the rain shaft. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike.

C. If no safe structure or location is within a reasonable distance, find a thick grove of small trees surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch. Assume a crouched position on the ground with only the balls of the feet touching the ground, wrap your arms around your knees and lower our head. Minimize contact with the ground, because lightning current often enters a victim through the ground rather than by a direct overhead strike. MINIMIZE YOUR BODY’S SURFACE AREA, AND MINIMIZE CONTACT WITH THE GROUND! DO NOT LIE FLAT! If unable to reach safe shelter, stay away from the tallest trees or objects (light poles or flag poles), metal objects (fences or bleachers), individual trees, standing pool of water, and open fields. Avoid being the highest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single, tall tree.

D. A person who feels his or her hair stand on end, or skin tingle should immediately
crouch, as described in item C.

E. Avoid using the telephone, except in emergency situations. People have been struck by lightning while using a land-line telephone. A cellular phone or a portable remote phone is a safe alternative to land-line phones, if the person and the antenna are located within a safe structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.

F. WHEN CONSIDERING RESUMPTION OF AN ATHLETIC ACTIVITY, NSSL STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD IDEALLY WAIT AT LEAST 30 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST FLASH OF LIGHTNING OR SOUND OF THUNDER BEFORE RETURNING TO THE FIELD OR ACTIVITY, this also means no warm-ups prior to the 30 minutes as well.

G. People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need emergency help quickly. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strikes.

Note: Commercial weather-warning services with sophisticated cloud-to-ground lightning detection devices are available. They may offer a cost effective, efficient method of making accurate, timely decisions on location and movement of lightning storms. Such services are helpful in making decisions regarding stoppage of play, practice, evacuation, and return to activity.

In situations of lighting or severe weather, please work closely with game management to provide the best possible solution to all concerned. Remember the philosophy of NFHS/PIAA is to always err on the side of safety for players, coaches, spectators, and ancillary game personnel. Please use common sense in dealing with severe weather conditions and potential severe weather conditions.

Please remember thunder is administered the same as lightning!
# NFHS DP / FLEX

## NFHS DP / Flex Rule Exercise Line-Up Card (MASTER)

This line-up card matches the NFHS DP / Flex Rule power point exercise.

This should be photo copied for each person participating in the exercise; coaches, umpires, scorekeepers, and players so each one can mark their line-up card as you move through the exercise.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Use the back of the line-up card to keep track of warnings, restrictions to the bench / dugout area, disqualifications, any situations that occur during the game such as but not limited to; injury, field conditions, fans, equipment issues, plays that are unusual, etc.

Line-up card management is very important so be consistent with how you mark it.

The attached “NFHS DP / Flex Player Rule Explanation” form should also be photo copied for use during this exercise for reference.

---

### Official Line-up

**Baseball-Softball**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>PLAYER</th>
<th>POS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>ABLE, S.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>THOMAS, C.</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>JONES, T.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>ALEXANDER, W.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>MOORE, D.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>COOPER, P.</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MORRIS, D.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>RODGERS, N.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>GREEN, K. <em>FLEX</em></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Substitutes

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>SUBSTITUTE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>HOWELL, B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BAKER, S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SMITH, J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>BROWN, L.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Conferences

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NFHS DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP)/FLEX PLAYER (Flex) RULE OVERVIEW

REMINDERS:

The DP can never be on DEFENSE ONLY.

2) The FLEX player can never be on OFFENSE ONLY.

3) The DP and FLEX player can never be on offense at the same time.

4) The STARTER and the SUBSTITUTE cannot be in the game at the same time.

5) The starting DP and FLEX player has one re-entry just as any other player.

6) Once the game is started with the DP/FLEX positions in the lineup, those positions are available for the entire game.

7) If the starting DP and/or starting FLEX has left the game a second time, the position is still available and an eligible substitute can enter the game as a FLEX or DP. So even though the starting player(s) left the game twice and cannot re-enter, their positions are still active as long as the team has eligible substitutes.

8) The penalty for illegal re-entry of the DP or FLEX player is always restriction to the bench/dugout.

9) If the player is on offense, she is called out. If the player is on defense, the team on offense may have the choice of taking the result of the play or accepting the penalty.
### NFHS DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP)/FLEX PLAYER (Flex) RULE SITUATIONS

1. **A **DP** does not have to be used.**

2. **If used it must be noted on the starting lineup.**

3. **A team using the DP starts the game with 10 players on the lineup card, but could end the game with 9 or 10.**

4. **The STARTING DP can play defense for any of the other 9 players in the lineup.**

5. **If the starting DP plays defense for a player listed within the first 9 batting positions in the lineup, that player will continue to bat in her original position in the lineup and has not left the game.**

6. **The player listed in the 10th position in the lineup will play defense only and will be called a FLEX player. The DP and the FLEX player can play defense simultaneously.**

7. **If the starting DP plays defense for the FLEX player, the FLEX player has left the game and the team continues with 9 players.**

8. **The FLEX player can bat or run, but only in the original DP’s position. Therefore, the FLEX player and the DP can never be on offense simultaneously.**

9. **When the FLEX player bats for the DP, the FLEX player bats in position of the original DP. The DP is considered to have left the game, but the FLEX player has not.**

10. **If the DP re-enters the game, she must do so in her original batting order position and the FLEX player could: (A) move back to the No. 10 position in the lineup, or (B) leave the game. If the FLEX player moves back to the 10th position in the lineup, the team resumes the game with 10 players and the FLEX player has never left the game.**

11. **A substitute can enter the game for either the DP or the FLEX position. The substitute can enter on defense, or as a pinch hitter or pinch runner.**
P. USE OF DRONES POLICY

For the purposes of this policy, a drone is any unmanned aerial device ("UAV").

Drones are not permitted above the competition surface or spectator areas during interscholastic Contests, Inter-school Practices and Scrimmages. Drones may not be used to scout opposing team Practices. Member schools may utilize drones for their own school team practice sessions based upon their local school policies.

Persons and/or schools violating this Policy shall be subject to sanctions which may be imposed under Sections 5, 6, 7 and/or 9 of ARTICLE XIII, PENALTIES, of the PIAA By-Laws.

Upon timely requests submitted to PIAA, the Executive Director is authorized to grant exceptions to this policy on a case-by-case basis with any host school/facility local policies.

COMMENT: Schools must submit a letter of requesting permission to PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert A. Lombardi to use a Drone (UAV).
Q.  **PIAA SOFTBALL UMPIRES’ UNIFORM**

Shirt - The following shirt is to be worn in accordance with Rule 10-3-4: Powder blue shirt (pullover or button style—no zipper style shirts permitted.) Optional Navy Blue with red and white strips can be worn.

Note: If an umpire wears a long sleeve undershirt or turtleneck, the long sleeve undergarment sleeve is not to be exposed under the pullover shirt. You must wear a jacket or sweater over the long sleeve undergarment so as the undergarment sleeves are not exposed.

Patch - The ONLY patch that is permitted to be worn is the PIAA Keystone patch which MUST be worn on the left sleeve of the shirt 3” down from the shoulder seam. If you are wearing a jacket or sweater while umpiring, you are NOT required to have a PIAA Keystone patch on your jacket or sweater.

Jacket - The pullover style jacket must be solid navy blue only. Jackets or sweaters with identification other than PIAA are NOT permitted to be worn while umpiring PIAA contest at any levels.

Undershirt - Navy Blue – this also applies to a Turtleneck.

Slacks - Gray – Shorts are NOT permitted.

Socks - Black.

Shoes - Solid Black.

Belt - Black with small metal buckle.

Cap - Navy Blue – Caps are to be fitted type only, not adjustable style. Both male and female umpires must wear caps properly in all positions. Cap with Gold 1 ½” high “PIAA” letters are REQUIRED for all regular season, district and inter-district advanced play.

Ball Bag— Navy Blue—2 Ball Bags may be worn.

Jewelry— Umpires are NOT permitted to wear jewelry, with the exception of your wedding band and a Medical Alert Bracelet or Necklace while umpiring. The restrictions that pertain to a player for a Medical Alert Bracelet or Necklace also pertain to umpires.

**NOTE 1:** During all post season inter-district contests the powder blue shirt will be worn.

**NOTE 2:** Umpires must dress identical to your partner(s). See American flag exception below.
Registered PIAA sports’ officials may display the American flag (maximum size 2 by 3 inches) on the right sleeve of their uniform shirt approximately three inches down from the shoulder seam. This will be the same position the PIAA official patch is displayed on the left sleeve.

Thank you for your patriotism, support of interscholastic education, and the recognition and remembrance of our fellow Americans.

The American flag may also be placed upon umpires’ jacket.

Umpires do not all have to wear a flag if one does have a flag on their shirt.
R. PIAA POLICY REGARDING THE WEARING OF AN AMERICAN FLAG AND EITHER A COMMEMORATIVE PATCH OR A MEMORIAL INSIGNIA ON CONTEST JERSEY/SHIRT

The wearing of a an American flag, not to exceed 2 by 3 inches, and either a commemorative patch or a memorial insignia, not to exceed 4-square inches, may be worn on a contest jersey/shirt provided neither the flag nor the patch or the insignia interferes with the visibility of the number.
S. CHAPTERS / LOCAL ASSOCIATION EVALUATIONS

All chapters / local associations are required to evaluate their membership. Many groups have already established such a program and have been very successful in critiquing and providing feedback to all chapter / local association members.

Enclosed in this meeting guide is a sport specific evaluation instrument for chapters/local associations to use when they are evaluating their members. This instrument is provided as a template and may be modified or changed to meet the goals and desires of the chapter/local association. This evaluation instrument is provided as a service to chapters/local associations and is a sample of the instrument that will be used to evaluate playoff officials in inter-district games. The evaluation instrument is not a popularity document or a number exchange. Points awarded by section should be justified by comment or general comments as part of their performance.

If chapters/local associations would desire assistance in developing an evaluation program, assistance may be provided by contacting your local district officials’ representative(s) and/or Mr. Patrick B. Gebhart, Assistant Executive Director, at the PIAA Office at (800) 382-1392. Critiquing and evaluating officials may assist all chapters/local associations with identifying their most competent officials. If this is completed, each official’s name should be furnished to each local district officials’ representative and league or conference representative to assist them in identifying their most qualified and proficient sports officials.
INSTRUCTIONS
Evaluate each OFFICIAL by using the PIAA OBSERVERS' EVALUATION FORM. Please start all observations at zero (0) and issue the appropriate number of points earned per section and place the total for each section in the block provided.

The number of points each section is worth is listed. Included in each section are some areas to be observed. Please CHECK, or use a (+) STRENGTH, or (-) WEAKNESS, to refine the evaluation of each official's abilities. LIST EACH OFFICIAL'S NAME in his appropriate position.

This form is to evaluate the performance of the officials. It is not the intent of this form, nor should it be the position of the evaluator/observer, to correct the actions of game officials. The intent is to report what was observed and document the actions/performances of the respective game officials. Each evaluator / observer shall thoroughly complete this form and add any appropriate comments that will assist PIAA in completely and fairly assessing the actions/performances of the game officials as individuals and as a crew.
Evaluators are encouraged to meet with the crew of officials after the contest.

ITEMIZE COMMENTS

Please utilize the blocks provided to list any comments regarding specific areas of weakness or strength of each official, or that of the crew. Of great importance are actions which need to be corrected or commended, as well as occurrences that happen during the game. This information will assist us in documenting the better officials and allow PIAA to share these evaluations with those officials who have been observed.

"INK IT, DON'T THINK IT!!"

Please evaluate honestly and critically. In the past, PIAA received inflated ratings and this was a deterrent in providing officials with constructive criticism to improve their skills. There are no perfect officials and there are very few above 91 in ratings.

Please include comments on professionalism, mechanics, and your perception of each individual's officiating ability and whether the official merits consideration for another playoff assignment. Observers may desire to use some of these items when completing their evaluations.

RANGE:

EXCELLENT 91 - above
GOOD 84 - 90
AVERAGE 77 - 83
SATISFACTORY 70 - 76 UNSATISFACTORY 69 - below
2018 PIAA SOFTBALL UMPIRES' EVALUATION FORM

TEAMS/SCORES: __________________________________________

SITE: __________________________________________ DATE: ________________________

Each section below is worth the number of points listed (  ). Please observe each umpire and award points appropriately. Write each umpire’s name in the appropriate position/block. Be critical, but fair in your evaluations. Do not give points: make sure they are earned. List comments at bottom or in each block, based on your observations. Add total points earned and enter in space provided. Submit your evaluation to the game manager at the conclusion of the game.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBSERVATION AREAS:</th>
<th>NAME:</th>
<th>Plate:</th>
<th>1st Base:</th>
<th>2nd Base:</th>
<th>3rd Base:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appearance/Proper Uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Neat/Clean/Match Partner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment/Field Inspection/Pregame Conference/Line-Up Cards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanics/Signals</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Clear and Understandable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positioning (Hustle for best angle)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge/Application of Rules</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Consistency of Calls/Strike Zone</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication with Partner/Coaches/Players</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calls Not Affected by Crowd/Coaches</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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</table>

COMMENTS:

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

DATE: __________________________ EVALUATOR/OBSERVER ________________________________

35
During the softball regular season and postseason, a disqualified softball player, coach, and/or team personnel shall not be permitted to participate for the remainder of the day and in all contests on the next contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the player, coach, and/or team personnel was previously disqualified. For a coach, participation in the next contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the team, including other coaches, between the time that the team arrives at the contest site and the conclusion of the last contest of the day. The principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the contest(s), in accordance with ARTICLE XIII, Section 8, of the PIAA By-Laws; and NFHS Softball Rules 2-19, 3-6-13, 3-6-19, 10-2-3 f and 10-3-1. The umpire must complete this form on-line, as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the completion of the contest in which the disqualification took place. This form can be found at [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org) under the Officials Section – Officials’ Forms category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Ejected Player, Coach, or Team Personnel</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Contest</td>
<td>Location of Contest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Umpire Who Disqualified Player, Coach, or Team Personnel</td>
<td>Level of Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

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**SAMPLE**

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**DATE OF REPORT**

**OFFICIAL’S NAME** (person issuing DQ)

**PIAA DISTRICT**
A. Review the previous year NFHS Rules, Editorial Changes and Points of Emphasis as well as the PIAA Areas of Concern.

B. Review the current NFHS Major Rules Revisions and the current NFHS Major Editorial Rules Revisions as well as the appreciate Case Book plays.


D. Discuss all “PIAA Areas of Concern” emphasized at the state rules meeting.

E. Briefly review the PIAA State Softball Adoptions listed in the Chapter meeting guide and the PIAA Rules Modifications as listed in this meeting guide.

F. Review the PIAA Approved Umpires Uniform as listed in the Chapter meeting guide.

G. Discuss Umpire Pre-Game responsibilities as described in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Review how your individual chapter handles these duties.

H. Role-play the SB pre-game conference held at home plate between Umpires, coaches and captains. Info can be found in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Please discuss info found in Rule 4 of the rule book concerning ground rules. Review how your individual chapter handles this duty.

I. Discuss “Softball Umpire Game Control” as written in the Chapter meeting guide as well as the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual and this meeting guide.

J. Plan future Mechanics Sessions as a group: Some ideas:
1. Call coaches and arrange a session for umpires to call pitches with their pitchers.
2. Schedule umpires to work in small groups accompanied by a veteran umpire in each group.
3. Once the session is completed, discuss with the coach and pitchers, the strike zone called and analysis your efforts. Respect this discussion and attempt to improve your skills.
4. Schedule field mechanics. Attempt to have players participate in this exercise. If weather is an issue, consider a gym. Invite other chapters in your area to participate jointly. This allows umpires to work together using approved standard mechanics. (Please remember the session with pitchers cannot occur until the 1st legal practice date.)

NOTE – video each umpire at each position and review it with that umpire allowing them to comment.
SOFTBALL PREGAME CONFERENCE WITH COACHES/TEAM CAPTAINS

The Plate Umpire (PU) should be positioned behind home plate facing the outfield with each team’s HEAD coach and captains on each side of home plate. The base umpire(s) (BU) will be opposite the plate umpire facing the backstop.

The plate umpire should introduce their self and their partner(s) to the coaches and captains in attendance. Have all others introduce themselves to each other.

Review the GROUND RULES by the plate umpire. Begin by outlining dead-ball areas then precede to the home plate, 3rd base dugout/bench area, outfield fence and foul poles, 1st base dugout/bench area. Cover all openings and obstacles.

NOTE 1: No ground rule can supercede any book rule, PIAA Adoption or modification.

NOTE 2: If coaches cannot agree on a ground rule, then the umpires have the final say.

Review the overthrow rule and penalty enforcements, team huddling in live ball territory, between innings, one (1) minute between innings, etc.

Review the line-up cards. Explain, if necessary, the importance of notifying the plate umpire of substitutes.

NOTE 1: Make sure if there is a DP you have 10 players and if no DP there are only 9 players.

NOTE 2: Make sure all players first and last names are listed for all players, starters and subs.

NOTE 3: Hand the lineup cards back to each coach and ask them to “check it one last time” prior to it becoming the official lineup.

Ask if there are any questions on the rules, especially the reentry and DP /FLEX rule.

Review the ball rotation rule.

If a doubleheader, ask how much time there will be between games.

Remind the teams that the official book is the home team and the scorekeepers should verify with each other several times throughout the game. Also, if we as the umpires know that there is an obvious error, we can correct the books.

Remind them that if there are any questions, please only 1 person, the head coach, approach the umpire responsible for the call in a sportsmanlike manner. Professionalism and Sportsmanship are to be practiced.
Read to all attendance the PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP Message and wish them all the BEST OF LUCK!

NOTE: The entire time have great presence, firm voice, and SMILE!
SOFTBALL UMPIRE GAME CONTROL

To be a successful umpire, you will have to be proficient in appearance, rule knowledge, mechanics and GAME CONTROL. Your ability to control the game and to handle the situations as they arise is one subject that is difficult to teach. There are guidelines an umpire should or should not follow, but what works for one umpire may not work for another umpire.

There are no rules etched in stone that will make your umpiring problem-free or, or for that matter, will work in every game situation, but listed below are guidelines that have proven to help many umpires control their games while developing character and stature as a respected umpire.

RESPECT MUST be earned and this can only come from hard work and dedication.

Do not allow team personnel to swarm around you and your partner to dispute a call. Clear everyone away from the umpire involved except the coach.

Do not have “RABBIT EARS”. You must learn there are some things you need to hear and some things you do not want or need to hear.

**NOTE:** In most cases people are talking to the position or the uniform and not you personally.

Do not get into a shouting match with anyone on the field. Be CALM. Collect your thoughts on the play and your interpretation while the person is speaking. Be PROFESSIONAL in your replies.

Use a 3rd party to handle an irate person if needed. For instance, if the player is the pitcher, have the catcher talk to them and calm them down before you have to do what you have to do.

Do not ask a player what they said or called you. This is baiting and intimidating the person. If you did not hear them the first time, ignore it until you do hear something that merits enforcement.

Do not stay on top of a close play after making your call. Watch the play until it is completed and then CLEAR OUT.

NEVER put your hands or arms around a coach, player or other team personnel. NEVER let them do this to you as well. NO TOUCHING!

Game control starts when the players and spectators watch you take the field. First opinions are so important, sometime even in the parking lot when you are talking with your partner(s).

*“You will never get a second chance to make a first impression!”*

Your appearance should be impeccable and your pregame duties performed in a friendly yet business-like manner. Remember SMILE!!!!!
No one wants a DICTATOR for an umpire, but everyone wants an umpire who manages the game!
Begin the meeting by briefly discussing the “Prerequisites for Good Umpiring” as listed in the NFHS Umpire Manual.

Simulate an Umpire-to-Umpire pregame and what needs to be discussed between them. Handouts and PowerPoint presentations are available.

Review accepted and approved Umpire to Umpire signals. Refer to the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Do not use made up signals or signals from other codes.

Demonstrate the accepted and approved “Official NFHS Softball Signals” as shown in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual.

Briefly discuss the proper procedure that should be followed at the end of every game as described in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Refer to Rule 4 as well concerning when a game can end or be suspended. Refer to the PIAA Approved State Association Adoptions as well No-Approved Adoptions.

Take some time and talk about the “Do’s and Don’ts” listed in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Use your knowledge and experience to describe how important these “Helpful Hints” really are.

Point out that there is a “Code of Ethics” established and written in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. A discussion of ethical standards of conduct by officials should follow.

Review the highlights of Rule 1, “Field and Equipment” and Rule 2, “Definitions.” Using your knowledge and experience, point out and highlight fundamental information every umpire must fully understand from these two rules. Do not spend too much time on “Knotty Problems” that rarely occur.
SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE - MEETING #3

Review and discuss Rule 3, “Players, Substitutes and Coaches.”

1. Stress the usage of the DP/Flex. Use handouts available on the PIAA website. Use the Green laminated card provided by the PIAA office.

2. Differentiate between Substitute, Unreported Substitute and Illegal Substitute as well the penalties involved.

3. Review Bench and Field Conduct especially referring to the Summary Chart in the back of the SB Rule book.

4. Discuss and role play how offensive and defensive conferences should be handled between the umpire and team coach. Invite a PIAA head softball coach to the meeting use the concept of How it is Coached and How is ruled. Develop a situation and ask the coach how he would handle it as a coach and then ask an umpire how they would rule on it.

Review “Courtesy Runner” situations as found in Rule 8 of the Rule book. Refer to this meeting for situations.

C. Demonstrate the proper and accepted Fast Pitch Plate mechanics as described in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Also refer to Rule 10 in the Rule book.

1. Power point presentations can be found on the NFHS and PIAA websites.
2. List and/or hand out fundamental concepts concerning plate mechanics.
3. Emphasis should be placed on “Difficult Situations” as described in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual.
   a. Many umpire mechanics should be covered here.
      - Catchers obstruction -
      - Illegal pitch calls -
      - Hit by pitch -
      - Check swing -
      - Ball hit twice -
      - Calling the 3’ running lane -
      - Rundowns -

4. Discuss the proper procedure concerning “Ball Rotation” as found in Rule 6 of the Rule book.
SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE - MEETING #4

A. Review Rule 5, “Dead Ball and Suspension of Play.”
   1. Refer to Table 5-1 found in the Rule book.
   2. List and describe common Dead Ball and Delayed Dead Ball situations giving examples of each.
   3. List and discuss the award and penalty that occur with these basic and common situations.

B. Demonstrate the proper and accepted Fast Pitch Base mechanics as described in the NFHS Softball Umpire Manual. Also refer to Rule 10 in the Rule book.
   1. Power point presentations can be found on the NFHS and PIAA websites.
   2. List and describe the fundamentals of positioning, timing, judgment, signals and voice.
   3. Fundamental topics should include:
      a. Pre-Pitch Preparation. P-P-P
      b. The four elements of play.
      c. Watching the ball.
      d. The angles and mechanics of the Force play and Tag play.
      e. Swipe Tag / Pulled Foot mechanics.
      f. The Inside Outside Theory.
      g. Fly ball coverage.

C. Cover the “Look-Back Rule” found under Rule 8, “Batter-Runner and Runner.”

D. Possibly try to preview the next meeting discussion concerning Interference and Obstruction to get them thinking and to come prepared.
A. Review Rule 6, “Pitching.”
   1. Power point presentations can be found on the NFHS and PIAA websites.
   2. Demonstrate what the pitcher can and cannot do as described in the Rule and Case book.

B. Using the Rule and Case book define Interference (Offense), and Obstruction (Defense).
   1. Power point presentations can be found on the NFHS and PIAA websites as well as the PIAA DVD provided.
   2. Describe and illustrate as many examples as you can reference common situations that can occur in every game. Use previous bulletins.
Review the highlights of Rule 7, “Batting” and Rule 8, “Batter-Runner and Runner.” Using your knowledge and experience, point out and highlight fundamental information every umpire must fully understand from these two rules. Do not spend too much time on “Knotty Problems” that rarely occur.

More time should be spent this meeting covering game situations and problems that have occurred so far into the season.
A. Briefly review the highlights of Rule 9, “Scoring and Record Keeping.” Refer to the NFHS Softball Rule and Case Books.

B. Spend more time should be spent this meeting covering game situations and problems that have occurred so far into the season.

C. Review 3 and 4 person mechanics in preparing for post season play.
   1. Refer to the NFHS Umpires Manual.
   2. Refer to the PowerPoint presentations and handouts on the PIAA website.
A. More time should be spent this meeting covering game situations and problems that have occurred so far into the season.

B. Review 3 and 4 person mechanics in preparing for post season play. PowerPoint presentations are on the PIAA web page.

C. SET 2018 CHAPTER MEETING DATES

NOTE 1: Do not set your Mandatory Rules meeting with coaches and umpires prior to Feb 6th, 2018.

NOTE 2: The Mandatory Rules meeting is the responsibility of the Chapter Rules Interpreter or their designee to set the date, time and location. They must make sure the chapter secretary is aware of this information so he/she can enter it on the PIAA website.

NOTE 3: The chapter secretary must be enter the mandatory rules meeting date along with the chapter meeting dates, times and locations on the PIAA website by signing in and entering the information under Manage Meetings.

NOTE 4: PIAA Athletic Officials’ Manual states the term of officers are for one (1) year. At the end of each season an election of officers shall be held and the results reported to the PIAA Office along with the end-of-season report.

NOTE 5: Please submit, to the PIAA office, your "END OF THE SEASON REPORT" IMMEDIATELY following your last chapter meeting along with the newly elected officers for the next season!!!! This report can be found under Manage Meetings.

NOTE 6: Not submitting your 2018 Mandatory Rules meeting and your 2018 regular meeting dates as noted above will be considered not to be in compliance with PIAA By-Laws.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SOFTBALL

SUBMITTING RULES CHANGE PROPOSALS
Umpires wishing to submit any rules change proposal should contact their chapter interpreter who will provide a link to submit the proposal. Thorough review of the proposal should occur between the submitting umpire and chapter/district interpreter prior to submission.

All proposals must be submitted by **April 20, 2018**.

NFHS Softball Questionnaire – NFHS uses the end of season softball questionnaire when considering rule changes for the following year. PIAA provides every umpire an opportunity to be part of the rules writing process by submitting a rules questionnaire. Questionnaires are sent to each chapter secretary and/or each individual umpire who is then to forward the questionnaire to each chapter member or the chapter member can submit the survey at their leisure.

Coaches wishing to submit rules change proposals must contact the local chapter interpreter to get the link to submit a rules change proposal online to NFHS. Coaches are also provided the opportunity to submit the rules questionnaire. The questionnaire is provided to coaches through their coaches’ associations.

At one of your meetings toward the end of the season, please review ways your chapter believes we can improve fast pitch softball in the PIAA. Submit your thoughts in writing to Dennis Mader, PIAA Statewide Softball Interpreter.
A. **EVALUATION FORM** - This evaluation form is included for each chapter to utilize in evaluating their membership. Please use this form when evaluating umpires should your chapter so desire.

B. **2018 TENTATIVE DATE FOR DISTRICT & CHAPTERS RULES INTERPRETER'S MEETING**

*(Allow two (2) hours for this meeting)*

2018 District & Chapter Interpreters Meeting (Tentatively January 28th, 2018. Site and time TBA if not an on-line meeting

Soon chapter interpreters/secretary will be requested to submit their 2018 mandatory rules meeting date request.

With this request the district & chapter interpreters meeting dates, time and locations will be noted. Those will be **OFFICIAL**.

Also refer to the schedule of all rules meeting “PIAA MANDATORY RULES INTERPRETATION SCHEDULE” that you will receive in late spring that will indicate the confirmed dates, times and locations for the mandatory rules meeting for District and Chapter Interpreters with the Statewide Rules Interpreter.

D. **PIAA OFFICIALS’ CONVENTION**

The 24th Annual PIAA Officials’ Convention will be held on August 3 and 4, 2018, at the Hilton Harrisburg, One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Each year the sessions have improved and participation has grown.

If you have not attended any of the past conventions, or it has been a while since you attended one, you should make an effort to attend the next one and invite a fellow PIAA official.
The PIAA is looking for the following for the 24th Annual Convention:

Seminar topics.

Speakers for seminar sessions and banquet.

Corporate sponsors

Please have your chapter consider sponsoring one or two people to attend the conference and convention or consider having your chapter as a sponsor of the convention.

Like the sportmanship slogan, “Sportsmanship, the only missing piece is YOU!” The convention is the same, “the only missing piece is YOU!”

If you have any recommendations or ideas on ways to improve the convention, please contact or send an email to Mr. Patrick B. Gebhart, Assistant Executive Director, PIAA.

Please remember YOU are a very important part of the PIAA officiating team. Be a participant!

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Should you not be re-elected to your position for the next season please? Pass along all the records, materials, DVD/CDs, etc. to your successor.
2017 NFHS Softball Exam Part I

Instructions: Please use care in clearly marking correct spaces on the answer sheet according to the directions. For the ‘true’ or ‘false’ questions, mark “A” for true and “B” for false.

NOTE: In the exam situations, F refers to a fielder, B refers to a batter and R refers to a runner. All situations and acts are legal, and no errors or mistakes are involved unless otherwise noted.

1. Any defensive fielder may make a live-ball appeal with the ball in her possession by tagging the runner or touching the base that was missed or left too early.
   A. True
   B. False

2. A fair ball is a batted ball that first falls or is first touched on or over fair territory beyond first, second or third base.
   A. True
   B. False

3. A foul tip is a batted ball that goes sharply and directly from the bat to the catcher's mitt or hand and is legally caught by any defensive player.
   A. True
   B. False

4. A leap is when both feet of the pitcher are airborne prior to delivering the pitch.
   A. True
   B. False

5. A slide is illegal if:
   A. The runner uses a rolling or cross-body slide into the fielder.
   B. The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee when the fielder is in a standing position.
   C. The runner slashes or kicks the fielder with either leg.
   D. The runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder.
   E. All of the above.

6. A timing play occurs when the last out of an inning is not the result of a force out and the exact time of the out may or may not allow a run to score.
   A. True
   B. False
7. All of the following are true regarding the catcher's box, EXCEPT:

A. The catcher must be in the catcher's box from the time the pitcher steps on the pitcher's plate until she releases the pitch.
B. The catcher's box is a rectangle.
C. The catcher's box is 8 feet, 5 inches wide.
D. The catcher's box is 10 feet deep.
E. The catcher's box includes the area directly behind home plate, between the batter's boxes.

8. Faking a tag is always considered obstruction.

A. True
B. False

9. The umpire rules a catch and the batter is out if the:

A. Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to throw to second base it drops out of the player's hand.
B. Left fielder catches a fly ball and while attempting to run the ball in to the infield it pops out of the glove.
C. Left fielder catches a fly ball in the tip of the glove and it immediately pops out.
D. A and B

10. The 3-foot running lane is a space defined by a line drawn 3 feet from and parallel to the first-base foul line starting halfway between home and first base and extending to first base in foul territory.

A. True
B. False

11. An appeal must be made on the last play of the game before all infielders leave the field.

A. True
B. False

12. The defense may appeal either during a live or dead ball, but it must occur before the next pitch (legal or illegal).

A. True
B. False

13. When the ball goes out of play, runners must be given the opportunity to complete their baserunning responsibilities before a dead-ball appeal is made.

A. True
B. False
14. A runner may leap or hurdle a defensive player who is lying on the ground.
   A. True
   B. False

15. Awarded bases must be run legally.
   A. True
   B. False

16. Obstruction is called on F2 when she is about to receive the ball while blocking home plate, and comes in contact with the runner sliding into home.
   A. True
   B. False

17. Following batter’s interference with the catcher, the batter is out and each runner must return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
   A. True
   B. False

18. If B1 steps out of the batter’s box after F1 has brought her hands together, B1 runs the risk of having a strike called on her for being out of position.
   A. True
   B. False

19. The batter must keep one foot in the batter’s box between pitches.
   A. True
   B. False

20. All of the following team personnel are permitted outside the designated dugout/bench, EXCEPT:
   A. The batter.
   B. Runners on base.
   C. The on-deck batter.
   D. Defensive players.
   E. The coach giving defensive signals.

21. Initiating malicious contact is a serious offense and results in the offender being ejected.
   A. True
   B. False
22. A base coach may use a stopwatch while coaching at first or third base.

A. True
B. False

23. Any adult coach may attend the pregame conference with the umpire(s) and verify that the team is in compliance with all NFHS rules.

A. True
B. False

24. Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying which of the following?

A. That the lineup card is correct.
B. That all players are legally equipped.
C. That players and equipment are in compliance with all NFHS rules.
D. None of the above.
E. All of the above.

25. While in the coach's box, coaches may not wear any type of jeans or "cut-offs."

A. True
B. False

26. A legal substitute may replace a courtesy runner on a base, but the substitute is actually replacing the pitcher/catcher in the lineup for which the courtesy runner is running and the pitcher/catcher has left the game.

A. True
B. False

27. B1, the pitcher, hits a single and advances to second on the next play. Her coach may replace her with a courtesy runner at this time.

A. True
B. False

28. When a courtesy runner is injured, the replacement must either be a legal substitute or the pitcher/catcher for which she is running.

A. True
B. False

29. A delayed dead-ball situation occurs when the batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.

A. True
B. False
30. It is a delayed dead-ball situation when an illegal pitch occurs, but no pitch has been delivered to the batter.
A. True
B. False

31. The ball becomes dead immediately when a fielder leaves the field of play with one foot after catching a fair or foul batted ball.
A. True
B. False

32. The ball becomes dead in all of the following situations, EXCEPT:
A. There is interference by a runner or retired runner.
B. The batter enters the batter's box with an illegal bat.
C. An infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with first base occupied and less than two outs.
D. An illegal pitch is delivered.
E. The batter-runner steps backward toward home plate to avoid being tagged out.

33. The softball field includes an elevated cement step in front of each dugout. B1 hits a foul fly caught by F3 such that her right foot is on the ground completely in live-ball territory and her left foot is on the elevated cement step with half the foot on the step and the other half over live-ball territory but completely off the ground. What is the result of the play?
A. B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is live and in play.
B. Foul ball; the ball is dead and B1 remains at bat.
C. B1 is out on a good catch by F3; the ball is dead.
D. Foul ball; the ball is live and in play and B1 remains at bat.
E. None of the above.

34. A team may use the DP/FLEX option provided it is made known at the pre-game conference.
A. True
B. False

35. All of the following are true regarding the FLEX player, EXCEPT:
A. The FLEX is listed in the 10th position in the lineup.
B. The FLEX may be substituted for by the DP playing defense.
C. The FLEX may bat anywhere in one of the nine positions of the batting order.
D. The FLEX may be replaced by a legal substitute at any time.
E. When the FLEX is substituted for by the DP, the team is down to nine players.
36. If the DP plays defense for the FLEX, the FLEX has left the game.
   A. True
   B. False

37. The DP may be substituted for at any time by:
   A. A legal substitute.
   B. The FLEX playing offense.
   C. Anyone else in the batting order.
   D. A and B only.
   E. A, B and C.

38. When the DP/FLEX option is used, the lineup may be reduced to nine and then returned to 10 any number of times.
   A. True
   B. False

39. A circle of what size shall be drawn around the pitcher's plate?
   A. 8 feet in diameter.
   B. 12 feet in diameter.
   C. 14 feet in diameter.
   D. 16 feet in diameter.
   E. None of the above.

40. A one-piece rubber bat grip and knob combination on a bat is legal.
   A. True
   B. False

41. All fast pitch batting helmets must be equipped with a NOCSAE-approved face protector.
   A. True
   B. False
42. All of the following are true regarding gloves/ mitts, EXCEPT:
A. Gloves shall be a maximum of two colors, excluding lacing and manufacturer's logo.
B. Glove lacing shall not be the color of the ball.
C. Gloves shall not be entirely optic in color.
D. Gloves may have one American flag not exceeding 2 by 3 inches.
E. Gloves may have markings that give the appearance of the ball on the outside, but not the inside.

43. All of the following are true regarding the knob of the bat, EXCEPT:
A. It may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened.
B. Devices, attachments or wrappings are permitted that cause the knob to become flush with the handle.
C. It must protrude at a 90-degree angle from the handle.
D. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.

44. With R1 on first, B2 bunts a ball to F5 and both R1 and B2 advance safely. The defense protests the batter before the next pitch because B2 batted with a Reebok Vector that has holes in the taper part of the bat. B2 is declared out and R1 is put back on first base.
   A. True
   B. False

45. While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who overruns first base toward right field, turns left and immediately stops, must then return to first or attempt to advance to second base.
   A. True
   B. False

46. While the pitcher has the ball within the 16-foot circle, a batter-runner who rounds first base toward second base may stop, but then must immediately return to first or attempt to advance non-stop to second base.
   A. True
   B. False

47. "No pitch" shall be declared if a runner is called out for leaving the base too soon.
   A. True
   B. False
48. All of the following are true regarding the ball rotation, EXCEPT:

A. A pitcher has a choice of balls at the start of each half-inning if both balls have been in play.
B. The unused ball must be put into play in the bottom of the first inning if it is not used in the top of the first inning.
C. The ball in play should be returned to the 16-foot circle after every half-inning.
D. The pitcher may possess both balls and choose the one she wants to start that half-inning.
E. All of the above.

49. Once the ball has been returned to the pitcher, she has 10 seconds to release the next pitch.

A. True  
B. False

50. Provided it is under the supervision and control of the umpire, which of the following is legal for a pitcher to use on the pitching hand:

A. Tape on the contact points.
B. Saliva.
C. Powdered resin or any comparable drying agent.
D. Any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm, or thigh which the umpire judges to be distracting to the batter.
E. All of the above.

51. When a pitcher fails to deliver the pitch within the required timeframe, a ball is called on the batter and runners are advanced one base.

A. True  
B. False

52. Any equipment judged to be potentially dangerous by the umpire is illegal.

A. True  
B. False

53. Exposed undergarments are considered part of the official uniform and shall be black, white, gray or a solid school color.

A. True  
B. False

54. Religious and medical-alert medals are considered jewelry and are prohibited.

A. True  
B. False
55. A team’s lineup card shall include each starting player’s first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order.
   A. True
   B. False

56. At the pregame meeting, the head coach must list all team members on the team’s roster.
   A. True
   B. False

57. The use of the DP/FLEX is required.
   A. True
   B. False

58. A run does not score if a preceding runner is declared the fourth out for missing a base, and the defensive team selects that out to its advantage.
   A. True
   B. False

59. A team may finish the game with fewer than eight players.
   A. True
   B. False

60. The pitcher has her choice of balls at the start of each half-inning unless both balls do not get put into play in the first half of the first inning.
   A. True
   B. False

61. The score of a forfeited game is 7-0 unless the offending team is behind; then the score remains as recorded.
   A. True
   B. False

62. After the game starts, the umpires are sole judges as to whether conditions, including grounds, are fit for play.
   A. True
   B. False

63. A coach is not permitted to project a substitution.
   A. True
   B. False
64. It is legal for S1 to substitute for the starting pitcher F1 in the third inning, and then re-enter the original pitcher in the fifth inning in the same position in the batting order.
A. True
B. False

65. An umpire's decision involving fair/foul call or a safe/out call may be appealed by requesting assistance from another umpire.
A. True
B. False

66. The plate umpire is responsible for ensuring that a team's bats and helmets are inspected.
A. True
B. False

67. The plate umpire's pregame duties include which of the following:
A. Inspect batting and catching helmets.
B. Inspect bats.
C. Inspect the condition of the field.
D. Define the dugout/bench areas.
E. All of the above.

68. A substitute who is withdrawn may re-enter once per game provided she does so in the same batting position.
A. True
B. False

69. Which of the following are appealable plays?
A. Missing a base.
B. Batting out of order.
C. Leaving a base early on a caught fly ball.
D. All of the above.

70. All of the following statements about sliding are true except:
A. If a runner slides, it may be feet first or head first.
B. In order to complete a legal slide, a runner must be able to touch the base with either her hand or foot.
C. In order for a runner to avoid unnecessary contact, she is required to slide if a fielder has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag.
D. On an overslide, a runner may be tagged out if she does not remain in contact with the base.
71. B1 bats out of order and reaches first base. F1 then steps onto the pitcher's plate and commits an illegal pitch. The defense then appeals that B1 has batted out of order. What is the correct ruling?
A. B1 is declared out and the next batter comes to the plate.
B. B1 is replaced by the legal batter at first base.
C. The defense can no longer appeal batting out of order since the infraction was not discovered prior to the next pitch.
D. The defense is allowed to appeal since the pitch was illegal and the player B1 is declared out.

72. B1 fails to promptly take her position in the batter’s box within the 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher to prepare for the next pitch. What is the correct ruling?
A. The umpire awards an additional five seconds and play continues.
B. The umpire grants the batter time until she is ready for play to resume.
C. The umpire declares the batter out for delaying the game.
D. The umpire calls a strike on the batter.

73. The batter is standing in the batter’s box when an inside pitch hits her in the knee completely in the batter’s box. The proper call is:
A. Dead ball and the batter is awarded first base.
B. Strike on the batter because she needs to make an effort to get out of the way of the pitch.
C. Strike on the batter because the pitcher is entitled to throw over the inner part of the batter’s box.
D. None of the above.

74. A coach cannot have which of the following items in the coaches box on the field?
A. A stopwatch.
B. A cell phone recording video.
C. A tablet device being used as a scorebook.
D. A scorebook.

75. Each team, when on defense, is allowed how many charged conferences without penalty during a seven-inning game?
A. One.
B. Two.
C. Three.
D. Four.
76. Which action is not legal for a courtesy runner?
A. She has not participated in the game.
B. She runs for the pitcher only.
C. She runs for the catcher only.
D. She becomes a substitute in the same half inning she was a courtesy runner.

77. After reaching base legally, a team has the option to use a courtesy runner for:
A. The pitcher only.
B. The catcher only.
C. The pitcher and/or catcher.
D. The team’s slowest player as designated by the coach during the pre-game meeting.

78. With no outs and R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a two-ball, one-strike count. On the pitch, the ball contacts the jersey of B2 completely in the batter's box while R1 attempts to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling?
A. Ball is live, R1 is out and batter has a three-ball, one-strike count.
B. Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 is out at third base.
C. Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 goes back to second base.
D. Live ball, only B2's jersey was contacted, not B2.

79. A head coach who intends to utilize the DP/Flex option must alert the umpires and opposing team:
A. Before that coach’s team bats for the first time.
B. Before that coach’s team throws its first pitch on defense.
C. During the exchange of lineup cards at home plate during the pregame conference.
D. Before the DP’s first at-bat.

80. The correct pitching distance in NFHS fastpitch softball is:
A. 38 feet.
B. 40 feet.
C. 43 feet.
D. 45 feet.
81. Which statement about bats is correct?

A. Bats should be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges.
B. Materials inside the bat or treatment/devices used to alter bat specifications and/or enhance performances are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
C. A nick or paint chip in the bat from metal cleats that does not extend into the laminations of the bat should not render a bat illegal.
D. All of the above.

82. A small hole has naturally occurred in front of the pitching plate during the course of the game. On the pitch, the pitcher pushes off the plate with her pivot foot and loses contact with the ground as she drags across the hole. Her pivot foot, however, is no higher than the level plane of the ground around the hole as she delivers the pitch. What is the correct call?

A. No call. The pitch is legal because in the umpire's judgment, the foot would have been in contact with the ground had the hole not been present.
B. No pitch, and the game is delayed until the hole can be repaired.
C. Illegal pitch because the pivot foot is not touching the ground in the bottom of the hole.
D. No pitch and the pitcher receives a warning. If the pivot foot fails to touch the ground in the bottom of the hole on future pitches, an illegal pitch will be called.

83. It is an illegal pitch if:

A. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate immediately and brings her hands together.
B. F1 is on the pitcher's plate, looks to the coach for a signal and then looks to F2 and simulates taking a signal before bringing her hands together.
C. F1 stands behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the coach, steps on the pitcher's plate and simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing her hands together.
D. F1's shoulders are in line with first and third base, the ball is in her glove or hand and the hands are separated.

84. The game begins when the:

A. Pre-game conference ends.
B. Home team takes the field for warm-ups.
C. Umpire calls "Play Ball."
D. First pitch is thrown.

85. When a coach makes a substitution during a game, the home plate umpire should report the substitution to:

A. The opposing team's scorekeeper.
B. The opposing team's head coach.
C. The opposing team's captain.
D. The opposing team's base coaches.
86. B1 hits a high fly ball down the line to right field. F9, with both feet clearly in fair territory, reaches across the foul line in an attempt to catch the ball. While the ball is still in the air, completely over foul ground, the ball deflects off of F9's glove and lands in fair territory. The correct call is:
A. Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.
B. Fair ball since both feet were clearly in fair territory when she touched the ball.
C. Fair ball because after she touched the ball it landed in fair territory.
D. Fair ball. Any ball touched by a fielder is automatically fair.

87. Bases are loaded with two outs. B6 hits a deep fly ball that lands in the gap in right center field. R3 tries to score from first base. Which of the following timing play statements are applied correctly?
A. B6 is tagged out at second base before R3 touches home plate. R3's run would not count.
B. B6 slides past second base and R3 touches home before the tag on the overslide. R1, R2 and R3's runs would each score since they occurred prior to the third out being made.
C. R1, R2, R3 all touch home plate with B6 on first. During the dead ball, F1 correctly appeals R3 missing second base. This is not a timing play so R3 becomes the third out. No runs would count on this play.
D. All of the above.

88. R3 is caught in a rundown between third base and home. As R3 is attempting to return to third base, she is obstructed by F5 and subsequently tagged while off the base by F6. The correct call is:
A. The call is always an immediate dead ball when a runner is obstructed.
B. When a fielder obstructs a runner the initial call is always a delayed dead ball. Once the obstructed runner is put out, it becomes a dead ball and the umpires shall award R3 the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.
C. R3 is awarded home.
D. The umpire will issue a warning to F5 and notify her coach.

89. Which of the following situations involving a bunt occurring on a third strike is correct?
A. A batter whose third strike bunt attempt ends up a foul ball will be called out.
B. An attempted bunt can never be ruled an infield fly.
C. A batter whose foot is touching home plate when the bat makes contact with a pitched ball will always be called out (whether the ball is hit fair or foul).
D. All of the above.

90. State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for the following reasons:
A. Inclement weather.
B. Religious reasons.
C. Different styles and colors due to budget restrictions.
D. A and B.
91. With the ball in the circle and no attempt by F1 to make a play on a base runner, when is the runner declared out based on the look-back rule?

A. The batter-runner is safe at first base on a dropped third strike. She overruns first base and turns to the right. Seeing no fielder near second base, she runs toward second where she is safe.

B. The batter-runner gets a base hit and rounds first base and comes to a complete stop. She then returns to first base.

C. The batter-runner who gets an infield hit and overruns first base toward right field turns left, stops and then advances to second base.

D. The batter-runner gets a base hit and overruns first base toward right field, turns left and moves toward the infield in any direction except toward second base, then returns to first base.

92. B1 hits a dribbler a few feet down the first-base line. F2 fields the ball and doesn't throw because B1 is outside the running lane and in the way of a potential throw.

A. Plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.

B. Plate umpire indicates the ball is fair. There is no interference by B1.

C. Plate umpire signals delayed dead ball. At the end of the play, if the umpire judges that F2 could have made an out, call B1 out for interference.

D. Plate umpire calls dead ball and issues a warning to the offense for being outside the running lane.

93. Bases are loaded with no outs, with a one-ball, one-strike count. B4 hits a ground ball. As F4 is fielding the ball, R3 collides with her. What is the correct ruling?

A. The ball is dead and R3 is out. All other runners return to their bases and B4 returns to bat with the same count.

B. R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play, the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 advance at their own risk.

C. Since R3 was in the baseline there is no interference, and all runners advance at their own risk.

D. The ball is dead and R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference.

94. With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a ground ball on the first-base side of the infield. F4 moves into the baseline to make an initial play on a batted ball. R1, using normal movement, alters her base path going either behind or in front of F4 to avoid contact with F4 fielding the ball. The correct call is:

A. The umpire signals obstruction on F4 for causing R1 to alter her path. Awarding the base to R1 would have achieved had it not been for the obstruction on F4.

B. If R1 runs in front of F4, the umpire should signal dead ball and call interference because R1 is never allowed to run in front of F4 when she is making an initial play on a batted ball.

C. R1’s movement is to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a batted ball, so as long as in the umpire’s judgment there is no interference, this is a legal play.

D. R1 is called out because she is not allowed to alter her base path. She must stop to avoid contacting F4 making the initial play on a batted ball.
95. With one out, R1 on third base and R2 on second base, B4 hits a fly ball on the first-base side of second base almost directly at F4. As R2 takes a couple of steps toward third base, she makes contact with F6, who is moving toward the batted ball.
A. The umpire signals and verbalizes "Dead Ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make an initial play on a batted ball.
B. The umpire signals and verbalizes "Dead Ball"; R2 is out for interfering with F6's opportunity to make a live-ball appeal of R2 leaving early if the fly is caught.
C. The umpire makes no call; this is nothing more than a "train wreck" with both players doing what they were supposed to do.
D. The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes "Obstruction." F6 is guilty of obstructing R2.

96. In which instance is the runner NOT declared out for interference?
A. The coach near third base runs toward home plate near the baseline while a fielder is making a play on a batted ball and draws a throw to home.
B. The runner interferes with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a fair batted ball.
C. The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while standing on second base.
D. The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while not in contact with a base and before it passes an infielder, excluding the pitcher.

97. At the end of the top of the first inning, it is discovered that the pitcher’s plate is set at the wrong distance.
A. After the plate is set at the correct distance, the half-inning is replayed.
B. Allow the bottom of the inning to be played before the correction is made.
C. Make the correction immediately.

98. Regarding the taper of a softball bat, which statement is not in compliance with the current rules?
A. The taper connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.
B. The taper of a bat is defined as having a solid surface.
C. The taper shall have a conical shape since it connects the narrower handle to the wider portion of the bat.
D. All are correct statements.

99. Team A’s pitcher has a pink digital camouflage arm sleeve on her pitching arm extending from her uniform top all the way down to her wrist. The ruling should be:
A. Legal, sleeves are not covered in NFHS softball rules.
B. Legal, as long as it does not contain any of the opposing team colors.
C. Illegal, the sleeve must be removed or covered. Sleeves must follow the same color restrictions as exposed undergarments. They must be a single solid color: black, white, gray or school color.
D. Illegal, sleeves are not allowed to be worn.
100. A batting helmet shall be worn by offensive personnel while:

A. The ball is live and the player is in live-ball territory.

B. The on-deck batter is in the on-deck circle and the ball is live.

C. Base runners are on base, the ball is live and they are in live-ball territory.

D. All of the above.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer Choice</th>
<th>Answer Text</th>
<th>Rule Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-1-3a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-20-1f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>2-25-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>2-52-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>The catcher's box includes the area directly behind home plate, between the batter's boxes.</td>
<td>2-10-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>2-1-4c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-1-4a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-1-3b(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-6-10 Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-3-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-36; 8-4-3b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>7-4-4 Pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>7-3-1 Pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>7-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>The coach giving defensive signals.</td>
<td>3-6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-6-18 Pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>3-5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>3-5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-5-3</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-9-6; 3-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-9-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-9-6 Exc(2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>5-1-1c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>5-1-1p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>5-1-1i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>An illegal pitch is delivered.</td>
<td>5-1-1, 5-1-2a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Foul ball; the ball is dead and B1 remains at bat.</td>
<td>5-1-1i, Note b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The FLEX may bat anywhere in one of the nine positions of the batting order.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-6e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A and B only.</td>
<td>3-3-6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-6d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>16 feet in diameter.</td>
<td>1-1-2d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>1-5-2a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>1-6-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Gloves may have markings that give the appearance of the ball on the outside, but not the inside.</td>
<td>1-4-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>It must protrude at a 90-degree angle from the handle.</td>
<td>1-5-2a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>1-5-2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-7-4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>8-7-4a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>6-2-4c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The pitcher may possess both balls and choose the one she wants to start that half-inning.</td>
<td>6-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>6-2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Powdered resin or any comparable drying agent.</td>
<td>6-2-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>6-2-3 Pen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-2-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-2-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>3-2-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>9-1-1 Exc (e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>4-3-1g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>6-5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>4-3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>4-1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-2 Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>10-1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>10-2-3a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>10-2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>2-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>In order for a runner to avoid unnecessary contact, she is required to slide if a fielder has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag.</td>
<td>2-52, 8-6-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The defense can no longer appeal batting out of order since the infraction was not discovered prior to the next pitch.</td>
<td>7-1-2 Penalty 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The umpire calls a strike on the batter.</td>
<td>7-3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Dead ball and the batter is awarded first base.</td>
<td>8-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A cell phone recording video.</td>
<td>3-6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Three.</td>
<td>3-7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>She becomes a substitute in the same half inning she was a courtesy runner.</td>
<td>8-9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The pitcher and/or catcher.</td>
<td>8-9-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base, R1 goes back to second base.</td>
<td>5-1-1a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>During the exchange of lineup cards at home plate during the pregame conference.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>43 feet.</td>
<td>1-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>No call. The pitch is legal because in the umpire’s judgment, the foot would have been in contact with the ground had the hole not been present.</td>
<td>6-1-2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate immediately and brings her hands together.</td>
<td>6-1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Umpire calls “Play Ball.”</td>
<td>4-1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>The opposing team’s head coach.</td>
<td>3-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.</td>
<td>2-20-2</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>When a fielder obstructs a runner the initial call is always a delayed dead ball. Once the obstructed runner is put out, it becomes a dead ball and the umpires shall award R3 the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A and B.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>The batter-runner is safe at first base on a dropped third strike. She overruns first base and turns to the right. Seeing no fielder near second base, she runs toward second where she is safe.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Plate umpire indicates the ball is fair. There is no interference by B1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The ball is dead and R3 is out. If the interference prevented an obvious double play the succeeding runner (B4) is also out. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>R1’s movement is to avoid interfering with a fielder attempting to make the initial play on a batted ball, so as long as in the umpire's judgment there is not interference, this is a legal play.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes &quot;Obstruction.&quot; F6 is guilty of obstructing R2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while standing on second base.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Make the correction immediately.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>The taper of a bat is defined as having a solid surface.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Illegal, the sleeve must be removed or covered. Sleeves must follow the same color restrictions as exposed undergarments. They must be a single solid color: black, white, gray or school color.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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