POST-SEASON SOFTBALL CLINICS

It is not too early to start the process of scheduling a district wide or neighboring chapters for a field clinic, for post-season on field clinic or both. Engage your district or statewide interpreter to assist you.

NFHS RULE BOOK CORRECTIONS

- Rule Book page 29 - 2-65-2 - Delete “No pitches are thrown”
- Rule Book page 29 - 2-65-2 SITUATION A - last sentence, after dead add a “,” and after every pitch add “(SP),” before or after ....
- Page 44 – Dead Ball Table left side # 24 – delete the (S.P.) and change the ruling from 2-63-2 to 2-65-2.
- Page 84 – COMMENTS ON THE 2018 RULES Changes – 2-65-2 – add pitcher after coach, should read coach, pitcher or catcher of the defensive team.....

NFHS CASE BOOK CORRECTIONS

- Page 18 – 2-65-2 SITUATION A - last sentence, after dead add a “,” and after every pitch add “(SP),” before or after ....
  - COMMENT: The last sentence should read as follows: RULING: The batter-runner must return to first base as the ball always becomes dead, after every pitch (SP), or after an intentional base on balls is awarded.
- Page 51 – 8.8.1 SITUATION G – change “G” to “J”
- Page 71 – 9.1.1. SITUATION D - RULING: Although the batter is awarded first base, all other runners are entitled to advance one base without liability to be put out. Once R2 passed third base she is now liable to be put out. If this happens for the third out of the inning prior to R1 touching home, R1’s run would not count. (2-63, 2-65-1, 2, 8-1-1c, 8-4-3a)
  - NOTE this is the same ruling as listed on 50-51 of the 2018 Case Book 8.1.1 SITUATION F.
NFHS CASE BOOK CORRECTIONS CONTINUED

- **Umpires Manual** – Figures 22, 23, and 32 diagram are incorrect as the (P) Plate umpire should be baseline extended depending on which team is batting. The verbiage that accompanies the diagram is correct.

- Coaches are now directly responsible for inspecting equipment prior to each game. Nothing else has changed; the rule enforcement is the same as it has been in the past.

- Notes worth reviewing:
  - Coaches cannot request umpires check their equipment prior to the game.
  - Umpires must still walk the field before every game; the change only refers to equipment.

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**BUNT / HOLDING BAT IN STRIKE ZONE**

**SITUATION** - F1 pitches the ball; B1 squares to bunt and
(a) leaves the bat in the strike zone without making any movement towards the ball;
(b) makes a forward movement with the bat towards the ball; or
(c) withdraws the bat prior to the ball entering the plate area.

**RULING** - In (a) and (b), a strike is called on the batter.

**NOTE** - Holding the bat in the strike zone or making any movement of the bat toward the ball is considered a bunt attempt. In (c), a ball is awarded to the batter; the bat was withdrawn from the plate area. (NFHS 2-2-1, 2-56-1)

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**BENCH & FIELD CONDUCT - THROWING THE BAT AND PENALTY**

**SITUATION** - B1 throws her bat (a) in disgust after striking out, or (b) to the on-deck batter.

**RULING:** In (a), B1 is ejected from the game. In (b), there is no penalty.

**SITUATION** - After hitting a line drive toward F5, B1 throws her bat and it strikes the catcher or umpire. The act was judged to be (a) intentional, or (b) unintentional.

**RULING:** In (a), the offender will be ejected from the game. If B1’s fair hit ball is a base hit, B1 will be replaced with a substitute runner. In (b), the umpire will warn the team for a carelessly thrown bat, and if the act is repeated, any subsequent offenders on that team will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the duration of the game. NFHS 3-5-16, 3-6-3

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August 3rd & 4th, 2018

Hilton Harrisburg

http://www.piaa.org/officials/convention/default.aspx
JEWELRY / MEDICAL ALERT / RELIGIOUS

SITUATION - B3 is at bat when the umpire is notified by F2 that B3 has tape around her neck and is suspected of wearing jewelry.

**RULING:** Jewelry is prohibited. However, if B3 is wearing a medical-alert necklace, it is legal. Religious medals are also permitted, but must be taped and worn under the uniform. NFHS 3-2-12 3-5-1, 3-6-1, CB Situation A, B, C, D

SITUATION - During the game, B1 is discovered wearing a class ring with tape over it so that it is no longer visible.

**RULING:** Illegal. Jewelry, even though taped, may not be worn. The umpire will instruct B1 that she must remove the ring or she will not be permitted to play. The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. NFHS 3-2-12 3-5-1, 3-6-1, CB Situation A, B, C, D

SITUATION - During the game, B1 is discovered wearing a necklace while warming up in the on-deck circle.

**RULING:** The necklace shall be removed. The umpire shall issue a warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. NFHS 3-2-12 3-5-1, 3-6-1, CB Situation A, B, C, D

SITUATION - In the second inning, a player on Team A is discovered wearing jewelry, which results in her team receiving a team warning. Later in the game, the coach of Team B notices that the player, now sitting on the bench, is wearing a necklace and informs the umpire.

**RULING:** The jewelry rule applies only to the players in the game, not on the bench. Therefore, the player wearing a necklace on the bench is not subject to penalty. NFHS 3-2-12 3-5-1, 3-6-1, CB Situation A, B, C, D

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BATTED SOFTBALL HITTING THE BAT VS BAT HITTING THE SOFTBALL

SITUATION - B1 swings and (a) hits the ball which strikes home plate and bounces up hitting the bat while the batter is in the batter's box; (b) after laying down the bat and running to first, the ball hits the bat in fair territory; or (c) while advancing to first, drops the bat in fair territory and the bat, while still moving, hits the ball.

**RULING:** A foul ball in (a). The ball remains live in (b). In (c), the batter is out and the ball is dead. NFHS 7-4-13 & EXCEPTION

**EXCEPTION:** If the batter is in the batter's box and the bat is in the batter's hands when the second contact occurs, it is a foul ball regardless of whether the ball was on or over fair or foul territory unless, in the umpire's judgment, the batter intentionally hit the ball a second time.
Examples with the verbiage related to the pictures.

DISCLAIMER – the rules references in the picture are not accurate but in the description area it is the updated rules reference. The pictures are from 2016.

**BAT HITS BALL A SECOND TIME (7-4-13)**

- Batter called out when discarded bat hits ball a second time.
- Key issue – Bat hits ball – not vice-versa.
- Bat hits ball on or over **foul** territory – Foul ball
- Ball hits bat on or over **fair** territory – Live ball
- Bat hits ball a second time – Batter is out if:
  - On or over **fair** territory.
  - On or over **foul** territory and has a chance to become fair.
  - While in batter’s box with bat in hand(s) – second contact is **intentional**.
- Batters have a choice of where to discard their bat.
- If batter chooses to discard bat in fair territory, she runs risk of possible interference and being called out.
HEADWEAR

SITUATION - F5 is discovered by the umpire wearing a red-and-white bandana around her neck while (a) on the field; or (b) in the batting cage. F5's coach claims that the player may wear the bandana, because it is in school colors.

RULING: Bandanas are prohibited from being worn by team personnel while in the confines of the field, which includes the field of play and designated warm-up areas. In (a) and (b), the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach. The next player not properly equipped will result in the player and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the duration of the game. NFHS 3-2-5, 3-5-1, 3-6-1

SITUATION - Several players on a team are wearing caps, while others are wearing visors and headbands.

RULING: Provided the caps, visors and headbands are white, black, beige or any school color, there is no violation. NFHS 3-2-5, 3-5-1, 3-6-1

SITUATION - The headbands being worn by a team are red and blue to match the team's uniform and school colors. The manufacturer's logo is yellow.

RULING: Legal; headbands may be black, white, beige or school colors. A manufacturer's logo is legal and may be any color. NFHS 3-2-5, 3-5-1, 3-6-1

SITUATION - At the pre-game meeting, the umpires notice that the captain of Team A has (a) a two-inch bobby pin in her hair, or (b) a four-inch barrette.

RULING: Flat items, no longer than two inches, used to control the hair are permitted. In (a), the item is legal. In (b), the item is illegal and must be removed before the player may participate.

BATTER STEPPING OUT OF BATTERS BOX OR HOLDS UP HER HAND

SITUATION: B5 is in the batter’s box and F1 is standing on the rubber, taking or simulate taking a signal and starts her pitching motion, B5 holds her hand up and steps out of the batters as the pitcher is delivering the pitch.

RULING: A strike is called on B5. NFHS 7-3-1 Penalty and Effect

SITUATION: B5 is in the batter’s box and F1 is standing on the rubber, taking or simulate taking a signal and starts her pitching motion, B5 holds her hand up and but does not leave the batter’s box as the pitcher is delivering the pitch.

RULING: Unless the umpire grants time the pitch is live and whatever the pitch is, ball, strike, hit, hit batter, etc. NFHS 7-2-1, 2, 3

COMMENT: If the batter is holding her hand up, does not constitute “TIME” the request must be granted by the umpire.

SITUATION: B6 is in the batter’s box and the pitcher is ready to pitch. As the pitcher is delivering B6 raises her hand and steps out of the batter’s box and the pitcher stops continuation of the pitch.

RULING: If the pitcher stops or hesitates in her delivery as a result of the batter stepping out of the box or holding up her hand to request time, it shall not be an illegal pitch. If a pitch is not delivered, a rule has been violated by both the batter and the pitcher. The umpire shall call time, declare "no pitch" and begin play anew. If the umpire judges the batter's action to be a deliberate attempt to create an illegal pitch, the umpire will penalize according. However, if the batter steps out of the box or holds up her hand to request time and the pitcher legally delivers the ball, it shall be called a strike and the ball remains live. NFHS 3-6-9, 7-1-1 EFFECT
PREPARING FOR POST SEASON DISTRICT & INTER-DISTRICT PLAY

- As we move to district and PIAA Inter-District play start preparing by reviewing 3 and 4 person umpiring system

- THREE UMPIRE SYSTEM - Some districts use the three-umpire system for post-season district advance play games. You are encouraged to review the three-umpire system as covered in the National Federation Softball Umpires’ Manual. Also, there is a 3 person presentation on the PIAA web site, click on SOFTBALL and scroll down to the link.

- FOUR UMPIRE SYSTEM - Some districts use the four-umpire system for district advance play games. PIAA uses the four umpire system for all inter-district advance play games. You are encouraged to review the four umpire system. Also there is a 4 person presentation on the PIAA web site, click on SOFTBALL and scroll down to the link.

- As the regular season, meetings draws to an end take one or two meetings to review the 3 and 4 person umpiring mechanics.

- Districts are encouraged to hold a joint session of all chapters in the district to review NFHS approved 3 and 4 person mechanics for upcoming post season district play.

- All inter-district play will be 4 person umpired contest.