March 4, 2019

NFHS Softball Weekly Rule Interpretations

SITUATION 1: B2 bats in place of B1 and obtains a double. B3 then comes to bat and as she is walking to the plate the defensive coach request time and informs the plate umpire that he wants to intentionally walk B3. After B3 is awarded first base but before a pitch is thrown to B4, the defensive coach again approaches the plate umpire and appeals that B2 batted out of order. RULING: Once B3 is intentionally walked, there can be no appeal of an infraction that occurred prior to the intentional walk being granted by the umpire. In this case the intentional walk to B3 would legalize B2’s at bat and the next proper batter would be B4.

SITUATION 2: B3 bats and advances to second base, however, she misses first base on her way to second. B4 then comes to bat and as she is walking to the plate the defensive coach request time and informs the plate umpire that he wants to intentionally walk B4. After B4 is awarded first base but before a pitch is thrown to B5, the defensive coach again approaches the plate umpire and appeals that B3 missed first base. RULING: Once B4 is intentionally walked, there can be no appeal of an infraction that occurred prior to the intentional walk being granted by the umpire. In this case the intentional walk to B4 would remove the defenses chance to appeal B3 missing first base.

SITUATION 3: B5 bats and advances to second base, however, she misses first base on her way to second. B6 should be the next proper batter, however, B7 comes to bat. As she is walking to the plate the defensive coach request time and informs the plate umpire that he wants to intentionally walk B7. After B7 is awarded first base but before a pitch is thrown to B8, the defensive coach again approaches the plate umpire and appeals that B7 has batted out of order. RULING: B6, the player who should have batted, would be ruled out and B7 would be removed from first base and would be the next proper batter. Once B7 was intentionally walked, there can be no appeal of an infraction that occurred prior to the intentional walk. The defense could no longer appeal B5 missing first base, but they can still appeal B7 batting out of order until a pitch (legal or illegal) or an intentional walk has been awarded to the next batter.

SITUATION 4: An offensive coach approaches an umpire and is concerned that the defensive coach might intentionally walk a player to remove their ability to appeal a previous play. RULING: All appeal plays, listed below under Rule 2-1-2, are designed to catch an infraction by the offense and obtain an out for the defense. There are no plays that an intentional walk could remove an opportunity from the offense.

Rule 2-1-2

ART. 2 . . . Types of appeals:

a. Missing a base, either advancing or returning (live or dead-ball appeal);
b. Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched (live or dead-ball appeal);
c. Batting out of order (dead-ball appeal only);
d. Attempting to advance to second base after making the turn at first base overrun (live-ball appeal only).