“PIAA High School Softball is a great game, let’s be great umpires!”

PIAA SOFTBALL DISTRICT & CHAPTER INTERPRETERS’
2020 SOFTBALL SEASON MEETING GUIDE

COMPiled BY: Mr. Dennis Mader
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.
# Table of Contents

2020 PIAA Softball District and Chapters' Rules Interpreters' Meeting Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. 2020 PIAA Softball District Rules Interpreters</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. 2020 Softball District and Chapter Rules Interpreters' Meeting Agenda</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Procedure for Questions on Playing Rules Interpretation</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. 2020 Softball Rules Changes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. 2020 Softball Major Editorial Changes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. 2020 Editorial Changes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. 2020 “Points of Emphasis”</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. PIAA Sportsmanship Message</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Report of Noncompliance – Non-Approved Bat List</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. 2020 PIAA State Association Adoptions (Approved and Not Approved)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. PIAA Softball Tiebreak Procedure</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. PIAA Modification to NFHS 3-5-1</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. PIAA Policy Regarding the Use of Eye Shade</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. PIAA Use of Drones Policy</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. NFHS Lightning Procedure</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. NFHS/DP FLEX</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. PIAA Softball Umpires’ Uniform</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. PIAA Policy Regarding the Wearing of an American Flag and either a</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorative Patch or a Memorial Insignia on Contest Jersey/Shirt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q. Chapters/Local Association Evaluations</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DENNIS MADER - PIAA STATEWIDE SOFTBALL INTERPRETER

1142 Cross Creek Road
Burgettstown (Cross Creek), PA  15021-2402

E-mail dmader66@gmail.com

*(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
717-697-0374
FAX: 717-697-7721
www.piaa.org
A. 2019-2020 PIAA SOFTBALL DISTRICT RULES INTERPRETERS

DISTRICT NO. 1
Sandra A. Yost
233 Fairhill Road
Hatfield, PA 19940
(C) 215/872-1970
syost77706@aol.com

DISTRICT NO. 2
Christopher Thomas
323 Sussex Street
Old Forge, PA 18518
(C) 570/947-8998
butterpsu95@aol.com

DISTRICT NO. 3
David A. Kolojejchick
6508 Terrace Court
Harrisburg, PA 17111
(C) 717/574-9216
davekolo@verizon.net

DISTRICT NO. 4
Thomas G. Aber
358 Vine Street
Milton, PA 17847
(H) 570/742-7942
(Cell) 570/713-9093
strika1@verizon.net

DISTRICT NO. 5
Al Godissart
282 Ridgewood Drive
New Paris, PA 15554
(H) 814/839-4955
(C) 814/494-1327
agodissart@centurylink.net

DISTRICT NO. 6
Brian C. Sonak
965 Stratford Court
State College, PA 16801
(C) 814/574-4035
briansonak@comcast.net

DISTRICT NO. 7
Richard A. Kotarsky
1461 Mohican Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(H) 412/344-6511
(C) 412/398-6910
treeref1@verizon.net

DISTRICT NO. 8
Steve P. Kienzl
3788 Cynthia Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
(H) 412/884-8383
(C) 412/818-7422
skienzl@comcast.net

DISTRICT NO. 9
Ronald J. Bure
239 East 5th Street
Emporium, PA 15834
(H) 814/486-7722
(C) 814/335-8054
umppy54@yahoo.com

DISTRICT NO. 10
Dale Klingensmith
104 North Main Street Apt. #4
Seneca, PA 16346
(H) 814/671-4409
dgklingensmith@comcast.net

DISTRICT NO. 11
Susan Kessock
126 South Nice Street
Frackville, PA 17931
(H) 570/874-3134
(C) 570/573-4135
susankes@ptd.net

DISTRICT NO. 12
Daniel Keefe
1871 Cleveland Avenue
Abington, PA 19001
(W) 215-737-8012
dankefe1@gmail.com
B. 2020 PIAA SOFTBALL DISTRICT & CHAPTER RULES INTERPRETERS’ MEETING AGENDA

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. Media Content provided by the PIAA office will be used.

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 rule’s interpretation meeting with coaches and your chapter umpires. Umpires can only receive meeting attendance credit for three 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.
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 we MUST not offer our opinion.

```
National Federation

PIAA Office

State Interpreter

District Interpreter
(See listing on previous page)

Local Chapter Interpreter
(Local Umpire Association)

Umpire, Principal, Athletic Director, Athletic Administration
(Coaches, Parents, and Fans refer to School Athletic Administration)

Media
(Refer to PIAA Office)
```
D.  **2020 NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES**

1-5-1e, 2-4, 2-4-3, 7-4-2 **PENALTY NOTE:** Damaged bats are defined.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that a damaged bat is removed from the game without penalty.

6-1-1: Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher’s plate, rather than on the top surface of the pitcher’s plate.

9-1-1 **EXCEPTION c:** A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by the preceding runner who is declared out on an appeal play.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that on any appeal play, a run is not scored if the third out is made by a preceding runner.

E.  **2020 SOFTBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1-1-7: Clarifies that game management or a state administrator may establish a dead-ball media area within the confines of the field, but that area will remain a dead ball area throughout the game.

1-5-1d: Updates to add the new USA Softball All Games certification mark.

8-4-3d **PENALTY:** Clarifies that the batter-runner, not the batter is awarded bases when a fielder intentionally contacts the ball with detached equipment.

F.  **2020 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1-2-3, 2-22-4, 2-57-3, 3-4-1c, 7-1-2 **PENALTY 2**

G.  **2020 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Bat certification marks and USA Softball’s list of Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks
2. Damaged bat vs. illegal bat penalties
3. Contact with the pitcher’s plate
4. Inspection of equipment

NOTE – there is more detailed information regarding the 2020 NFHS Major Rules, Editorial Changes and Points of Emphasis in the back of the 2020 rules book.
H. PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

**The message below shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest 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. **

“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.”

The proper procedure is head coaches and captains MUST attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message.

Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Softball Rules. The reading of this message will have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.

Please remember the PIAA Sportsmanship message must be read prior to scrimmages.
I. REPORT OF NONCOMPLIANCE- NON-APPROVED BAT LIST

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

NOTE: USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks. Please remember this list ONLY shows bats at one time was approved and has an ASA Certification Mark on it.

NOTE 1 – 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.

NOTE 2 – although we are no longer required to inspect equipment as noted above, we still MUST inspect the field prior to each game by walking the field as a crew.

It does not matter if you umpired at the same complex yesterday or earlier in the same day, we still must walk the field again.
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 USA Softball Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Home Team)</th>
<th>(Visiting Team)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Name of Head Coach – Home Team)</td>
<td>(Name of Head Coach – Visiting Team)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Date of Game)</td>
<td>(Location of Contest/Tournament)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comments:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Name of Umpire | Signature of Umpire | Date |
J. **PIAA STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS**

- Adopt the 2020 NFHS Softball Rules Book.
- Adopt Rule 1-2-1 NOTE, authorizing the optional use of the Double First Base.
- Modify Rule 3-5-1, head coach and team captain must attend pregame conference
- Adopt Rule 4-2-3, relative to suspended games
- Adopt Rule 4-2-5, tie-breaker procedure, upon completion of 9 innings the player who last completed her turn at bat is placed on 2nd base
- Adopt Rule 5-2-1b NOTE, when the umpire considers the weather or ground conditions unfit for play, after 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or suspended

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 being used. 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 34; 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)

The 26th Annual PIAA Officials’ Convention will be held on August 7th and 8th, 2020, at the Hilton Harrisburg – One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

There will be a Train-The-Trainers (TTT) session held on August 6th and 7th, 2020 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. Also we are accepting chapter Assistant Rules Interpreters is space is available.
1. **2020 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 cannot 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 people 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 shorthanded batting position is first to
bat and is out. B7 comes to bat, one out and B5 is on 2\textsuperscript{nd} base.

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

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

**RULING:** B6 batting position is out, B5 goes to 2\textsuperscript{nd} base to start the 10\textsuperscript{th} 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 7\textsuperscript{th} inning if the score is tied. The tiebreaker starts in the top of the 8\textsuperscript{th} inning.

All of the situations above apply except the tiebreaker starts in the 8\textsuperscript{th} inning.
2. **PIAA MODIFICATION to NFHS Rule 3-5-1**

Prior to 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 equipped 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.

**K. 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.

**L. 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.

M. NFHS LIGHTNING PROCEDURE

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

PROACTIVE PLANNING

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.

2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:

   A. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.

3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

   A. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.

   B. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.

   C. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
D. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

* – At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.

5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.

Revised and Approved March 2018
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.

Use this area for keeping track of your charged conferences.
NFHS DESIGNATED PLAYER (DP)/FLEX PLAYER (Flex) RULE OVERVIEW

REMINDES:

1) 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**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A <strong>DP</strong> does not have to be used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>If used it must be noted on the starting lineup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>A team using the <strong>DP</strong> starts the game with 10 players on the lineup card, but could end the game with 9 or 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>The <strong>STARTING DP</strong> can play defense for any of the other 9 players in the lineup.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>If the starting <strong>DP</strong> 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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The player listed in the 10th position in the lineup will play defense only and will be called a <strong>FLEX</strong> player. The <strong>DP</strong> and the <strong>FLEX</strong> player can play defense simultaneously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>If the starting <strong>DP</strong> plays defense for the <strong>FLEX</strong> player, the <strong>FLEX</strong> player has left the game and the team continues with 9 players.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>The <strong>FLEX</strong> player can bat or run, but only in the original <strong>DP’s</strong> position. Therefore, the <strong>FLEX</strong> player and the <strong>DP</strong> can never be on offense simultaneously.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>When the <strong>FLEX</strong> player bats for the <strong>DP</strong>, the <strong>FLEX</strong> player bats in position of the original <strong>DP</strong>. The <strong>DP</strong> is considered to have left the game, but the <strong>FLEX</strong> player has not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>If the <strong>DP</strong> re-enters the game, she must do so in her original batting order position and the <strong>FLEX</strong> player could: (A) move back to the No. 10 position in the lineup, or (B) leave the game. If the <strong>FLEX</strong> player moves back to the 10th position in the lineup, the team resumes the game with 10 players and the <strong>FLEX</strong> player has never left the game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>A substitute can enter the game for either the <strong>DP</strong> or the <strong>FLEX</strong> position. The substitute can enter on defense, or as a pinch hitter or pinch runner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
O.  PIAA SOFTBALL UMPIRES’ UNIFORM

**Shirt** - One of the following shirts is to be worn: (1) Navy blue pullover with red and white stripe trim on sleeves and collar; (2) Light blue pullover with navy blue and white stripe trim on the sleeves and collar with the standard buttons (no zipper style shirts permitted); (3) Long sleeve shirt. The light blue shirt is the shirt of choice and will be worn at the championships. 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 or Black with white accents with black laces. White soles around the shoe are not considered an accent mark.

**Belt** - Black, if worn, 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 only powder blue shirt will be worn.

**NOTE 2:** Umpires must dress identical to your partner(s).
P. OFFICIALS' UNIFORM - AMERICAN FLAG DISPLAY

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.

Q. CHAPTERS / LOCAL ASSOCIATION EVALUATIONS

All chapters / local associations are encouraged 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.
PIAA INTER-DISTRICT CONTEST(S) SITE EVALUATION REPORT

This report is a general Contest(s) site evaluation report to be completed by the officials' observer. Please complete this report from your observations in viewing the Inter-District Contest(s). This report must be submitted to PIAA Headquarters in order for the observer to receive compensation for services rendered. Thank you in advance for performing this valuable evaluation. It is appreciated.

OBSERVER’S NAME: ____________________________________________________________

CONTEST(S) DATE: ____________________________________________________________

CONTEST(S) SITE: ____________________________________________________________

TEAMS: ___________________________ VS __________________________________________

TEAMS: ___________________________ VS __________________________________________

TEAMS: ___________________________ VS __________________________________________

TEAMS: ___________________________ VS __________________________________________

CONTEST(S) MANAGER: _______________________________________________________

COMMENTS:
1. Size of Crowd: ____________________________________________________________

2. Major Injuries or Incidents: ________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

Please check:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. Sportsmanship of Schools</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Very Good</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Crowd Control at Contest(s) Site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Officiating-General</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Contest(s) Site Management Efficiency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Comments/Observations: ________________________________________________

__________________________________________________

SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________________________________
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/her 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
2020 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>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Base:</th>
<th>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Base:</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Base:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APPEARANCE/PROPER UNIFORM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Neat/Clean/Match Partner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIELD INSPECTION/PREGAME CONFERENCE/LINE-UP CARDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MECHANICS/SIGNALS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Clear and Understandable)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POSITIONING (Hustle for best angle)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNOWLEDGE/APPLICATION OF RULES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONSISTENCY OF CALLS/STRIKE ZONE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(20)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATION WITH PARTNER/COACHES/PLAYERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CALLS NOT AFFECTED BY CROWD/COACHES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(100)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMENTS:

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

DATE: ___________________________ EVALUATOR/OBSERVER ___________________________

28
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 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>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of Umpire Who Disqualified Player, Coach, or Team Personnel

Level of Competition

REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION

SAMPLE

DATE OF REPORT OFFICIAL’S NAME (person issuing DQ) PIAA DISTRICT
SUGGESTED NOTES FOR CONDUCTING CHAPTER MEETINGS

The purpose of regular meetings is primary reason for being there. We would like to suggest the following process of the meeting:

Call the meeting to order

Roll Call – could be written or verbal

Rules Meeting using the process as mentioned earlier in this meeting guide.

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.

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

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

Allow time to review situations that may have occurred either during games or while reviewing the rules, case, umpire’s manual, simplified and illustrated and rules by topic.

Business Meeting

Assigning – if needed

Adjournment
1. **SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE - MEETING # 1**

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.
a. **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 themselves 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 initial and last names are listed for all players, starters and subs. (Unless there are at least two players with the same last name, then full first name is required for the players with the same last name.)

**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!
b. 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.
3. SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE – MEETING #3

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

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

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

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

D. 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.

A. 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.
4. 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.
5. SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE – MEETING #5

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.

NOTES:
6. SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE – MEETING #6

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.

NOTES:
7. SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE – MEETING #7

2. Briefly review the highlights of Rule 9, “Scoring and Record Keeping.” Refer to the NFHS Softball Rule and Case Books.

3. 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.

NOTES:
8. SOFTBALL CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE – MEETING #8  End of Year Meeting

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 2021 CHAPTER MEETING DATES

NOTE 1: Do not set your Mandatory Rules meeting with coaches and umpires prior to Feb 6th, 2020.

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 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 2021 Mandatory Rules meeting and your 2020 regular meeting dates as noted above will be considered not to be in compliance with PIAA By-Laws.

NOTES:
S. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING SOFTBALL

Umpires wishing to submit any rules change proposal should contact their chapter interpreter who will be provided 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 18, 2020**.

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 PIAA Office or the local chapter interpreter to get the link to submit a rule 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.
T. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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.

2021 TENTATIVE DATE FOR DISTRICT & CHAPTERS RULES INTERPRETER’S MEETING
(Allow two (2) hours for this meeting)

2021 District & Chapter Interpreters Meeting will be January 31st, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Site and time TBA if not an online meeting

Towards the end of the season chapter interpreters/secretary will be requested to submit their 2021 mandatory rules meeting date request.

PIAA OFFICIALS’ CONVENTION

The 26th Annual PIAA Officials’ Convention will be held on August 7th and 8th, 2020, at the Hilton Harrisburg, One North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101. Train-the-Trainer class will be August 6th and 7th, 2020 at the same location as the convention.

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 26th 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 sportsmanship slogan, “Sportsmanship, the only missing piece is YOU!” The convention is the same, “the only missing piece is YOU!”

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

*********************************************************

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.
2019 NFHS Softball Exam Part I

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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 that B1 batted in place of is called out.

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. The correct pitching distance in NFHS female fast pitch softball is:
    A. 38 feet.
    B. 40 feet.
    C. 43 feet.
    D. 45 feet.

12. 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.
13. 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.

14. It is an illegal pitch if:

   A. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate and immediately 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. R1 is caught in a rundown between third base and home. As R1 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 R1 the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.
   C. R1 is awarded home.
   D. The umpire will issue a warning to F5 and notify her coach.
19. 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.

20. 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.

21. With the ball in the circle in F1’s possession, and there is 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.

22. 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. If not, B4 is awarded first base. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference.

23. 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 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.
24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.
30. An intentional walk can be granted:
   A. After the first pitch has been thrown to the batter.
   B. Before any pitches are thrown.
   C. When the defensive coach, pitcher or catcher makes the request.
   D. By any defensive player.
   E. A, B and C.

31. Wristbands with a playbook/playcard attached:
   A. Are considered equipment.
   B. Can be worn if a single solid color, other than optic yellow.
   C. Are permissible when worn on the non-pitching arm.
   D. All of the above.

32. Which of the following is not a responsibility of the umpire during pregame?
   A. Verifying the field is properly marked.
   B. Reviewing the lineup cards.
   C. Reviewing the ground rules.
   D. Checking all equipment.

33. When a pitcher is removed from the pitching position by rule or injury, her replacement who has not yet pitched in the game may have how many warm-up pitches?
   A. No warm-up is permitted.
   B. She is entitled to eight warm-up pitches.
   C. The pitcher determines when she is properly warmed up.
   D. The umpire is authorized to determine how many warm-up pitches are permitted.

34. Which of the following would be an illegal pitch?
   A. A step backwards is taken after the hands have come together but prior to the start of the pitch.
   B. Once the pitch has started, the pitcher takes no more than one step forward.
   C. The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate.
   D. When the hands are apart and come together off the pitching plate as long as the hands are separated prior to stepping onto the pitcher's plate.

35. A batter may be awarded first base when:
   A. A fair batted ball strikes the person, attached equipment or clothing of an umpire or a runner.
   B. A pitched ball entirely within the batter's box strikes her clothing.
   C. A pitched ball not entirely in the batter's box, not swung at nor called a strike, hits the batter when she attempts to get out of the way.
   D. All of the above.
36. What factors should umpires consider in determining when to leave the field at the end of the game?
   A. Leave the field before all fielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position.
   B. Return to the field after they have left to make every attempt to get the call right.
   C. When teams line up to shake hands following the completion of the game.
   D. Umpires should remain on the field to watch for unsportsmanlike behavior by either team in the handshake line.

37. If an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defense appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), or before the fielders have left the infield and the catcher has left her normal fielding position in that half inning, the correct ruling should be:
   A. The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out.
   B. All outs and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
   C. If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, passed ball or an illegal pitch, while the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal.
   D. All of the above.

38. There are how many types of appeals?
   A. Two.
   B. Three.
   C. Four.
   D. Five.

39. Which situation is not an appeal play?
   A. The batter-runner legally overruns first base, attempts to run to second and is legally touched while off base.
   B. An offensive team member, other than another runner, physically assists the runner.
   C. The runner fails to touch home plate.
   D. The runner leaves a base to advance to another base before a caught fly ball, provided the ball is returned to the infield and is properly appealed.

40. A base runner establishes her own base path when she is not being played upon.
   A. True
   B. False

41. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a ground ball. R1 crashes into F4, in the base path, as she attempts to gain control of a batted ball which is within a step and a reach of the spot of initial contact. The correct call is:
   A. R1 has committed interference.
   B. When F4 fails to gain control of the batted ball, the umpire will give the delayed dead-ball signal and wait to see what happens.
   C. Because F4 was in the runner's base path, F4 is always charged with obstruction.
   D. There is no call since R1 and F4 could not reasonably avoid contact. If judged unintentional the play is allowed to continue.
42. Starting at first base, R1 overruns second base on a hit by B2. In the ensuing rundown, both runners end up on second base. F6 tags both runners. The correct ruling is:
   A. R1 and B2 are both out.
   B. B2 is out.
   C. R1 is out.
   D. Neither runner is out.

43. The offense or defense are allowed to use either the white or colored portion of first base for all situations EXCEPT:
   A. Any force out attempt from the foul side of first base.
   B. A base on balls awarded to the batter.
   C. An attempted pickoff play.
   D. A double play attempt resulting from a ground ball to the shortstop.

44. There are two outs and R1 is on second base. B4 strikes out but F2 drops the ball. B4 is able to reach first base while F2 chases down the ball. F2 then overthrows third base as R1 is advancing and the ball bounces over the fence in foul territory. What is the correct procedure for advancement of the runners?
   A. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded second base.
   B. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base.
   C. R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded first base.
   D. R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded second base.

45. Which statement about baserunning is NOT correct?
   A. R1 was stealing second when B2 hit a deep fly ball to left field. R1 rounds second before she realizes she needs to go back and tag up. She re-tags second and gets back to first, after F7 touches the ball, R1 may legally attempt to advance.
   B. B4 hits a clean extra-base hit to the left field fence. B4 misses third base while rounding and advances toward home and scores. While B4 is heading to her dugout, F5 tags third for a live-ball appeal. The base umpire calls B4 out on the appeal.
   C. All runners must remember to re-touch bases in reverse order, even when returning after a foul ball.
   D. Bases loaded, no outs, B4 hits a double and all runners score. After the play, the defense makes a verbal dead-ball appeal that R3 missed second. The base umpire calls R3 out. Result of the play is two runs, one out and a runner at second.

46. Which statement is NOT an example of interference?
   A. Batter-runner running outside the 3-foot lane interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base.
   B. The batter-runner makes contact with a fair batted ball before reaching first base.
   C. The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out.
   D. The batter-runner remains in the batter's box on a play at home plate in order to prevent an obvious out.

47. B1 bunts a ball that bounces off the plate and rolls in front of the plate. As B1 runs toward first base she has one foot partially touching the foul line and the other foot completely in the running lane. F2 fields the ball and her throw to first base contacts B1. The correct call is:
   A. F2 is ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior.
   B. B1 is out for interference.
   C. B1 can choose to use either the white or orange base.
   D. This is a legal play. B1 is safe at first base if she reaches the base before being put out.

Copyright © 1990-2018 National Federation of State High School Associations. All rights reserved.
48. B1 bunts the ball. The first baseman fields the ball and prepares to tag out B1 as she runs toward first base. B1 stops and steps back toward home plate to avoid the tag. The correct ruling is:
   A. Live ball. This is a legal play.
   B. Dead ball. The batter is out and runners return to the last bases touched at the time of the infraction.
   C. Live ball. The batter is out but runners can advance.
   D. Dead ball. The batter is out and runners are awarded the closest base at the time dead ball is called.

49. B1 hits a dribbler in front of the plate and 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. The plate umpire calls dead ball and B1 is out for interference.
   B. The plate umpire lets the play stand as there is no interference on B1.
   C. The plate umpire lets the play stand and signals obstruction on F2.
   D. The plate umpire calls dead ball and obstruction on F2.

50. B3 erroneously bats out of order in place of B2. The error is discovered by the opposing team while B3 is at bat with a 3 ball-2 strike count. The correct ruling is:
   A. B3 is declared out.
   B. B2 replaces B3 and assumes the 3 ball-2 strike count.
   C. B3 is allowed to finish the at-bat.
   D. B2 replaces B3 and starts with a new count since she hasn't received any pitches.

51. In which of the following situations is the batter out?
   A. The batter attempts to confuse the pitcher by stepping out of the box on one side of home plate to the box on the other side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch.
   B. A bunt on the third strike is foul.
   C. The batter throws her bat and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play.
   D. All of the above.

52. R1 is on first base. B2 hits a pitch to F6 with one foot touching the ground completely outside the batter's box. F4 obstructs R1 advancing to second base. The correct ruling is:
   A. Delayed dead ball. B2 is out but R1 is awarded second base for F4 obstructing.
   B. Dead ball. B2 is out and R1 must return to first base.
   C. Delayed dead ball. B2 is out and R1 advances at her own risk.
   D. Dead ball. B2 is out. R1 is awarded second base if F4's obstruction occurred before B2 contacted the ball.

53. R1 is at third base. B2 hits a ground ball to F6 who throws to first base. B2 touches the white portion and collides with F3 who is standing on the white portion about to receive the ball. The correct ruling is:
   A. B2 is out but R1 will advance on the play.
   B. B2 may run to the white base and is safe if she beats the ball.
   C. Since B2 was running to the white base, F3 must use the colored base.
   D. The ball is dead, B2 is out, and R1 must return to the last base touched at the time of infraction.
54. R1 is on third base and the infielders are playing in for a potential play at the plate. B2 hits a ball sharply down the third-base line that passes F6 before striking R1, while she is standing on third base. The correct call is:
   A. An immediate dead ball for hitting R1. Award B2 first base and leave R1 on third base.
   B. An immediate dead ball for hitting R1. Award B2 first base and call R1 out.
   C. An immediate dead ball for hitting R1. Call both R1 and B2 out.
   D. Make no immediate call because the ball is live.

55. The batter is out when:
   A. She hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the plate.
   B. She bunts on the second strike.
   C. Any strike is caught by the catcher.
   D. With a 1-1 count, she fails to enter the batter's box within 10 seconds after the ball is returned to the pitcher and the pitcher is on the pitcher's plate.

56. The on-deck batter shall not commit interference with the defensive team. Which statement is correct?
   A. When the interference is with a thrown or pitched ball, the runner closest to home is out.
   B. If no play is obvious then no player is out, but the runners must return to the last base touched at the time of interference.
   C. When interference is with a fair batted or foul fly ball, the batter is out.
   D. All of the above.

57. The plate umpire notices that B1 steps into the batter's box with an altered bat.
   A. The umpire shall wait for an appeal from the defensive team.
   B. The umpire shall penalize a strike on the batter.
   C. The umpire shall declare B1 out and remove the bat, B1 and the head coach are both ejected.
   D. There is no penalty until B1 hits the ball.

58. There are four criteria that an umpire uses to judge whether a batter attempted to hit or bunt the pitched ball. Which statement is NOT correct?
   A. Rolling the wrist and swinging through the pitched ball is considered an attempt.
   B. If the bat is drawn back before the pitch gets to the bat, it is not an attempt.
   C. Holding a bat in the strike zone is not a strike nor an attempt to swing.
   D. The batter makes an attempt to hit the pitch.

59. Which of the following would result in a coach being in violation of bench and field conduct rules?
   A. Entering behind the catcher while the opposing pitcher and catcher are in their positions.
   B. Being outside the dugout while his/her team is on defense.
   C. Having objects other than scorekeeping and stopwatch devices in the coach's box.
   D. All of the above.
60. A fair batted ball is wedged into the fence. The umpire should:
   A. Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases.
   B. Call a dead ball and award the batter a home run.
   C. Call a dead ball and award the base the umpire judges she would have reached had the ball not become wedged in the fence.
   D. Award the batter the base she was closest to when the ball became wedged in the fence.

61. The NFHS Authenticating Mark shall be on each softball.
   A. True
   B. False

62. During the pregame conference with coaches and umpires, a team may take its turn at infield practice.
   A. True
   B. False

63. Batter A approaches the batter's box and the defensive team's head coach requests that she be “intentionally walked.” At that time, the home plate umpire indicates that she advances to first base. The defensive coach now appeals that Batter A has batted out of order.
   A. This appeal may not be made until Batter A reaches first base.
   B. The appeal may not be made after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk.
   C. The appeal may be made at any time after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk and before a pitch to the next batter.
   D. All of the above.

64. When a double-first base is used, the batter-runner or runner may touch the white or colored base:
   A. When advancing on a fair ball hit to the outfield with no play being attempted.
   B. When returning to first base.
   C. When returning on an attempted pick-off play.
   D. When advancing on a base on balls.
   E. All of the above.

65. A strike is charged to the batter when:
   A. A pitch is swung at and missed.
   B. A pitch contacts the batter while swinging at the ball or the batter is hit by the pitch that is in the strike zone. (dead-ball strike)
   C. A member of the offensive team intentionally removes a line.
   D. All of the above.

66. B1, identified on the lineup card as the pitcher, reaches base in the top of the first inning and a courtesy runner is used. As B1 goes to take the pitcher's plate in the bottom of the first inning, she is injured and unable to pitch to the first batter. The result is:
   A. The team must play with only eight players.
   B. The courtesy runner becomes B1's substitute retroactively and B1 has left the game.
   C. B1 may move to a different defensive position.
   D. B1 is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
67. With R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a count of two balls and one strike. The next pitch is completely in the batter's box and barely grazes the jersey of B2 while R1 breaks to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling?
   A. The ball is live, R1 is out and B2 has a 3 ball-1 strike count.
   B. The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. The play at third base stands, R1 is out.
   C. The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. R1 returns to second base.
   D. The ball is dead, B2 remains at bat since the umpire judged B2 did not make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.

68. All of the following are true statements regarding the designated player (DP), EXCEPT:
   A. The DP is one of the nine hitters in the batting order.
   B. The DP may be substituted for at any time by a legal substitute.
   C. The DP may play defense only for the FLEX.
   D. The DP has left the game if the FLEX bats.
   E. The DP must remain in the same position in the batting order for the entire game.

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

70. Which statement is correct in regard to the FLEX player?
   A. The FLEX player is listed in the 10th position in the batting order.
   B. A head coach who lists the DP/FLEX on her starting lineup can go from 9 to 10 players as long as she doesn't violate re-entrance and substitution rules.
   C. The FLEX can bat or run bases for the DP. Either the head coach or the FLEX player can report the change to the plate umpire. The DP has left the game.
   D. All of the above.

71. A defensive player takes the field with an eye shield connected to her face/head protection. What material is legal for an eye shield?
   A. Mirror-like material.
   B. Material that is shaded.
   C. Material that is tinted.
   D. Material that is clear and permits 100% allowable light transmission.

72. All lines on the field shall be marked with what color material?
   A. Green.
   B. White.
   C. Yellow.
   D. Pink.
   E. All of the above colors are permitted.
73. Defensive players may wear face shields provided that:
   A. The shield is attached to face/head protection.
   B. The shield is made of rigid material.
   C. The shield allows for 100% light transmission with no tint.
   D. All of the above.

74. In a contest within a state that requires the use of a double first base, a coach indicates he does not want to play the game with a double first base. Which statement is correct?
   A. If both coaches agree, the double first base may be removed.
   B. The double first base rule must be used in all contests.
   C. Any type of base is permissible in states that adopt the double first base.
   D. The contrasting color portion of first base can be removed when the aforementioned coach’s team is on defense.

75. In fast pitch softball, all bats shall meet the ASA Bat Performance Standard and have what certification marks?
   D. None of the above.

76. Team A is wearing blue and red uniforms with red exposed undergarments. Which of the following is true about a playcard being worn by Team A’s players:
   A. F1 can wear a solid green playcard on her non-pitching arm.
   B. F3 can wear a solid black playcard.
   C. The team’s playlist is multicolored and is visible through a window in its solid orange playcard sleeve. This is legal, as the only limitation is that the playcard sleeve is a solid color and not optic yellow.
   D. All the above.

77. The knob of the bat may be:
   A. Molded, lathed and welded.
   B. Adjustable, if permanently fastened.
   C. Covered with grip tape.
   D. All of the above.

78. All the following are legal apparel except:
   A. All players are wearing a white arm sleeve.
   B. All players are wearing a black knee sleeve.
   C. Some players are wearing camouflage arm sleeves in the school colors.
   D. Some players are wearing gray tights.
79. If worn, headwear (caps, visors, headband, ribbons, etc.) must be which of the following:
   A. All the same color.
   B. White, black, beige or school colors.
   C. The same color for all team members.
   D. The same style for all team members.

80. An umpire should declare a "no-pitch" on which of the following occurrences?
   A. The pitcher pitches during a suspension of play.
   B. The base runner is called out for leaving the base too soon.
   C. The pitcher pitches before the base runner has returned to the base after a foul ball.
   D. All of the above.

81. When an illegal pitch is called with a runner on base:
   A. All runners advance one base.
   B. The batter is awarded a ball.
   C. A warning will be issued to the pitcher.
   D. Both a and b.

82. Who can a pitcher take a signal from while on the pitcher's plate?
   A. The coach.
   B. A play card.
   C. The catcher.
   D. All the above as long as the pitcher pauses and simulates taking a signal from the catcher prior to bringing her hands together.

83. With a runner on first base and one out, R1 leaves the base prior to the pitcher releasing the ball. B3 proceeds to hit the pitch over the center field fence. The umpire should:
   A. Wait for the defense to appeal the runner leaving early. If no appeal, both runs score.
   B. Give the delayed dead-ball signal. After all runners touch home plate, call time and rule R1 out for leaving early. Since there were less than two outs, the batter's run counts.
   C. Signal time and declare "no pitch." The R1 is out for leaving early and the batter's count is the same as before that pitch.
   D. Do nothing, the play is legal.

84. A team's lineup card must include all of the following, EXCEPT:
   A. First initial and last names.
   B. Jersey numbers.
   C. Position being played.
   D. Batting order of starting players.
   E. All of the above are required.
85. After an initial warning to the head coach, any subsequent change to the lineup card for an inaccuracy will result in:
   A. The head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.
   B. The head coach being ejected.
   C. The player/substitute who is being changed/added being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.
   D. A and C only.
   E. B and C only.

86. Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall not return to play until cleared by:
   A. The head coach.
   B. A parent or guardian.
   C. The athletic director.
   D. An appropriate health-care professional.
   E. None of the above.

87. The umpire shall immediately remove a player from the game who exhibits the following signs or symptoms of a concussion:
   A. Dizziness.
   B. Confusion.
   C. Headache.
   D. Loss of consciousness.
   E. All of the above.

88. Umpire jurisdiction begins:
   A. Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.
   B. Upon the arrival of two umpires within the confines of the field.
   C. When the pregame conference begins.
   D. Upon the conclusion of the pregame conference.
   E. Upon the arrival of one umpire to the facility/park/school.

89. Which statement about the concussion rule is correct?
   A. A player exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion is immediately removed from the game.
   B. If an appropriate health-care professional determines that the athlete has not suffered a concussion, the athlete may return to play.
   C. This is a health and safety issue, since an athlete should not return to play or practice on the same day of a concussion.
   D. All of the above are correct.
90. R1 is on first base when B2 hits a ground ball to F4. F4 is in the baseline between first and second when she misplays the ball. R1 crashes into F4 as she attempts to recover the ball. The correct call is:
A. If the misplayed ball is within a step and a reach of where F4 initially contacted the ball, R1 has committed interference.
B. When F4 misplays the ball, the umpire will give the delayed dead-ball signal and wait to see what happens.
C. Because F4 was in the baseline, F4 is always charged with obstruction.
D. None of the above.

91. R1 is on first base with one out. B3 hits a long fly ball to left field. The ball is over foul territory as it is first touched and then dropped by F7. On the fly ball, R1 advanced and touched second base and was moving to third as the ball was dropped. R1 shall:
A. Retrace the path retouching second base before returning to first base.
B. Be awarded second base, as it was legally achieved while the ball was over fair territory.
C. Return to first base with or without retouching bases since it is ruled a foul ball.
D. Move back to first base before the ball gets to the pitching circle.

92. Which statement about a catch is correct?
A. The fielder must have control and the release of the ball must be voluntary.
B. If a ball strikes anything or anyone other than a defensive player while it is in flight, it shall be ruled a ground ball and not a catch.
C. If a fielder catches a ball but drops it while transferring it to the throwing hand or in making a throw, the umpire shall still rule it a catch.
D. All of the above.

93. Which statement is an incorrect ruling of interference?
A. If a retired runner impedes a fielder making a play on another runner, the runner closest to home is always declared out.
B. If a runner has not yet been put out and interference occurs to break up a double play, the immediate succeeding runner is out.
C. Interference is only awarded in situations where the runner physically contacts a fielder.
D. B4 hits a fair ground ball but R2 hinders F6 making an initial play. The batter-runner is never called out as a result of the interference. If there is less than two outs she is always awarded first base.

94. With the bases loaded and less than two outs, F4 is using ordinary effort to catch a pop-up. The correct call is:
A. Infield fly is called by the umpire and the batter is out.
B. Runners may not advance at any time.
C. Only an infielder can catch an infield fly.
D. If the ball is ruled foul, it still is an infield fly.

95. 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
96. B1 enters the batter’s box on the right side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B1 disconcerts the pitcher by moving to the left-hand batter’s box. The correct ruling is:
   A. Allow the pitcher to reset and continue to play.
   B. Allow the pitcher to reset and warn the head coach the next infraction would result in an out on the batter.
   C. The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out.
   D. An illegal pitch is called on pitcher.

97. A coach may never make a baserunning appeal; only players on the field may appeal.
   A. True
   B. False

98. Any fielder, with or without the ball, may make a dead-ball appeal by verbally stating that the runner missed the base or left too soon.
   A. True
   B. False

99. A batting helmet is considered legal if it has:
   A. A surface with no dents or cracks.
   B. A non-glare surface.
   C. A mirror-like surface.
   D. Both a and b.

100. A coach is not permitted to project a substitution.
    A. True
    B. False
## NFHS Exam - Answer Key

### 2019 NFHS Softball Exam Part I

<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>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>2-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</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>3.</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>4.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The umpire calls a strike on the batter.</td>
<td>7-3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Dead ball and the batter is awarded first base.</td>
<td>8-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A cell phone recording video.</td>
<td>3-6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Three.</td>
<td>3-7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</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>9.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The pitcher and/or catcher.</td>
<td>8-9-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</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>11.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>43 feet.</td>
<td>1-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</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>14.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>F1 is behind the pitcher’s plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher’s plate and immediately brings her hands together.</td>
<td>6-1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Umpire calls “Play Ball.”</td>
<td>4-1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>The opposing team’s head coach.</td>
<td>3-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Foul ball since the ball was over foul territory when first touched.</td>
<td>2-20-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</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 R1 the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction.</td>
<td>2-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>2-30, 7-4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>A and B.</td>
<td>3-2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</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>8-7-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</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. If not, B4 is awarded first base. R1 and R2 return to the last base touched at the time of interference.</td>
<td>8-6-10 PENALTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</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>8-8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The umpire signals delayed dead ball and verbalizes “Obstruction.” F6 is guilty of obstructing R2.</td>
<td>8-8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The runner is struck by a fair untouched ball while standing on second base.</td>
<td>8-6-11, 8-6-16, 8-8-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Make the correction immediately.</td>
<td>1-1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>The taper of a bat is defined as having a solid surface.</td>
<td>1-5-2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>28. C</strong></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>3-2-7c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>29. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>1-6, 3-6-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30. E</strong></td>
<td>A, B and C.</td>
<td>2-65-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>31. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>3-2-7c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>32. D</strong></td>
<td>Checking all equipment.</td>
<td>10-2-3a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>33. D</strong></td>
<td>The umpire is authorized to determine how many warm-up pitches are permitted.</td>
<td>3-7-1 NOTE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>34. C</strong></td>
<td>The hands come together and apart, then together again while standing on the pitching plate.</td>
<td>6-1-2b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>35. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>8-1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>36. C</strong></td>
<td>When teams line up to shake hands following the completion of the game.</td>
<td>2-1-4 NOTE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>37. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>7-1-2 PENALTY 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>38. C</strong></td>
<td>Four.</td>
<td>2-1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>39. B</strong></td>
<td>An offensive team member, other than another runner, physically assists the runner.</td>
<td>8-6-5, 8-6-6, 8-6-7, 8-6-8, 8-6-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>40. A</strong></td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-3-2 NOTE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>41. A</strong></td>
<td>R1 has committed interference.</td>
<td>2-47-3c, 8-6-10a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>42. B</strong></td>
<td>B2 is out.</td>
<td>8-3-7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>43. D</strong></td>
<td>A double play attempt resulting from a ground ball to the shortstop.</td>
<td>8-10-2, 8-10-3, 10-1-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>44. B</strong></td>
<td>R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base.</td>
<td>8-4-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>45. C</strong></td>
<td>All runners must remember to re-touch bases in reverse order, even when returning after a foul ball.</td>
<td>8-3-2 EXCEPTION, 8-4-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>46. C</strong></td>
<td>The batter-runner stops between home plate and first base to delay being tagged out.</td>
<td>8-2-6, 8-2-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>47. D</strong></td>
<td>This is a legal play. B1 is safe at first base if she reaches the base before being put out.</td>
<td>8-2-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>48. B</strong></td>
<td>Dead ball. The batter is out and runners return to the last bases touched at the time of the infraction.</td>
<td>8-2-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>49. B</strong></td>
<td>The plate umpire lets the play stand as there is no interference on B1.</td>
<td>8-2-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>50. B</strong></td>
<td>B2 replaces B3 and assumes the 3 ball-2 strike count.</td>
<td>7-1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>51. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>7-4-3, 7-4-9, 7-4-14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>52. B</strong></td>
<td>Dead ball. B2 is out and R1 must return to first base.</td>
<td>7-4-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>53. D</strong></td>
<td>The ball is dead, B2 is out, and R1 must return to the last base touched at the time of infraction.</td>
<td>8-10-1 PENALTY 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>54. D</strong></td>
<td>Make no immediate call because the ball is live.</td>
<td>8-1-2a EFFECT 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>55. A</strong></td>
<td>She hits the ball fair or foul while either foot is touching the plate.</td>
<td>7-4-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>56. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>7-5-4 PENALTIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>57. C</strong></td>
<td>The umpire shall declare B1 out and remove the bat. B1 and the head coach are both ejected.</td>
<td>7-4-2 PENALTY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>58. C</strong></td>
<td>Holding a bat in the strike zone is not a strike nor an attempt to swing.</td>
<td>7-2-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>59. D</strong></td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>3-6-5, 3-6-6, 3-6-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>60. A</strong></td>
<td>Call a dead ball and award the batter two bases.</td>
<td>5-1-1f(4), 8-4-3h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Response</td>
<td>Paragraphs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>1-3-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>4-1-2a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>The appeal may be made at any time after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk and before a pitch to the next batter.</td>
<td>2-65-2, 7-1-2 PENTALTIES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>8-10-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>7-2-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>The courtesy runner becomes B1's substitute retroactively and B1 has left the game.</td>
<td>8-9-2 EXCEPTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. R1 returns to second base.</td>
<td>5-1-1a, 8-1-2b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>The DP may play defense only for the FLEX.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>A and B only.</td>
<td>3-3-6f</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>Material that is clear and permits 100% allowable light transmission.</td>
<td>1-8-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>White.</td>
<td>1-1-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>1-8-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>The double first base rule must be used in all contests.</td>
<td>1-2-1 NOTE, 6-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>2000 or 2004.</td>
<td>1-5-1d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>All the above.</td>
<td>3-2-7c</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>1-5-2a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78.</td>
<td>Some players are wearing camouflage arm sleeves in the school colors.</td>
<td>3-2-7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.</td>
<td>White, black, beige or school colors.</td>
<td>3-2-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>6-4-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.</td>
<td>The batter is awarded a ball.</td>
<td>6-1-1, 6-2-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.</td>
<td>All the above as long as the pitcher pauses and simulates taking a signal from the catcher prior to bringing her hands together.</td>
<td>6-1-1b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.</td>
<td>Signal time and declare “no pitch.” The R1 is out for leaving early and the batter’s count is the same as before that pitch.</td>
<td>6-2-4c, 8-6-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.</td>
<td>All of the above are required.</td>
<td>3-1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.</td>
<td>The head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.</td>
<td>3-1-3 PENALTY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.</td>
<td>An appropriate health-care professional.</td>
<td>3-3-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>3-3-9, 10-2-3k</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88.</td>
<td>Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.</td>
<td>10-1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.</td>
<td>All of the above are correct.</td>
<td>3-3-9, 10-2-3K, Appendix B</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.</td>
<td>If the misplayed ball is within a step and a reach of where F4 initially contacted the ball, R1 has committed interference.</td>
<td>2-47-3c, 8-6-10a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91.</td>
<td>Return to first base with or without retouching bases since it is ruled a foul ball.</td>
<td>2-25-1d, 8-3-2 EXCEPTION, 8-5-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.</td>
<td>All of the above.</td>
<td>2-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.</td>
<td>Interference is only awarded in situations where the runner physically contacts a fielder.</td>
<td>2-32, 8-6-10, 8-6-16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.</td>
<td>Infield fly is called by the umpire and the batter is out.</td>
<td>2-30, 8-2-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-20-1f</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out.</td>
<td>7-4-3 PENALTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>2-1-1,2-1-3b(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>2-1-3b(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Both a and b.</td>
<td>1-6-1; 1-6-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>3-3-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2019 NFHS Softball Exam Part I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Rule Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2-2, 8-6-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>7-1-2 PENALTY 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>7-3-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>8-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>3-6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>3-7-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>8-9-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>8-9-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>1-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>6-1-2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>8-1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>4-1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>3-3-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>2-20-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>2-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>2-30, 7-4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>3-2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>8-7-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>8-6-10 PENALTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>8-8-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>8-6-11, 8-6-16, 8-8-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>1-1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>1-5-2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>3-2-7c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>1-6, 3-6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>2-65-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>3-2-7c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>10-2-3a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>3-7-1 NOTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>6-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>5-1-1a, 8-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>8-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>2-1-4 NOTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>7-1-2 PENALTY 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>2-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>8-6-5, 8-6-6, 8-6-7, 8-6-8, 8-6-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>2-3-2 NOTE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>2-47-3c, 8-6-10a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>8-3-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>8-10-2, 8-10-3, 10-1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>8-4-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>8-3-2 EXCEPTION, 8-4-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.</td>
<td>8-2-5, 8-2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>8-2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>8-2-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.</td>
<td>8-2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>7-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>7-4-3, 7-4-9, 7-4-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52.</td>
<td>7-4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.</td>
<td>8-10-1 PENALTY 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.</td>
<td>8-1-2a EFFECT 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55.</td>
<td>7-4-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56.</td>
<td>7-5-4 PENALTIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57.</td>
<td>7-4-2 PENALTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58.</td>
<td>7-2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.</td>
<td>3-6-5, 3-6-6, 3-6-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60.</td>
<td>5-1-1(4), 8-4-3h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.</td>
<td>1-3-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.</td>
<td>4-1-2a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63.</td>
<td>2-65-2 PENALTIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64.</td>
<td>8-10-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65.</td>
<td>7-2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.</td>
<td>8-9-2 EXCEPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.</td>
<td>5-1-1a, 8-1-2b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.</td>
<td>3-3-8f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70.</td>
<td>3-3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71.</td>
<td>1-8-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.</td>
<td>1-3-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73.</td>
<td>1-8-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74.</td>
<td>1-2-1 NOTE, 8-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75.</td>
<td>1-5-1d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76.</td>
<td>3-2-7c EXCEPTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77.</td>
<td>1-5-2a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78.</td>
<td>3-2-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79.</td>
<td>3-2-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80.</td>
<td>6-4-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81.</td>
<td>6-1-1, 6-2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.</td>
<td>6-1-1b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83.</td>
<td>6-2-4c, 6-6-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.</td>
<td>3-1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85.</td>
<td>3-1-3 PENALTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86.</td>
<td>3-3-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.</td>
<td>3-3-9, 10-2-3k</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88.</td>
<td>10-1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.</td>
<td>3-3-9, 10-2-3K, Appendix B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.</td>
<td>2-47-3c, 8-6-10a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91.</td>
<td>2-25-1d, 8-3-2 EXCEPTION, 8-6-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.</td>
<td>2-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93.</td>
<td>2-32, 8-6-10, 8-6-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94.</td>
<td>2-30, 8-2-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95.</td>
<td>2-20-1f</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96.</td>
<td>7-4-3 PENALTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97.</td>
<td>2-1-1,2-1-3b(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98.</td>
<td>2-1-3b(1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99.</td>
<td>1-6-1, 1-6-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100.</td>
<td>3-3-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>