



# 2013 NFHS BASEBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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**SITUATION 1:** The coach discovers that a player's bat has had the end cap removed and replaced. **RULING:** Once the bat's end cap has been removed, the bat is considered to be an altered bat and hence is an illegal bat for future play. Certain manufacturers consider such alteration of their bats to be unlawful and subject to possible legal action. (1-3-2 Note, 1-3-5)

**SITUATION 2:** On a cold day, a player uses a warming device for his bat before he comes to bat. **RULING:** The bat is now considered to be an illegal bat for the duration of that game. If the player is discovered using the bat, penalties under 7-4-1a would apply. (1-3-5, 7-4-1a)

**SITUATION 3:** The head coach has a tablet computer with video capability in the dugout. However, he is only using the tablet to keep the score and both teams' lineups. **RULING:** This is permissible. The use of a tablet computer or other mobile electronic devices are allowed provided they are not used to monitor or replay any of the game for coaching purposes. (3-3-1f)

**SITUATION 4:** While in the dugout, the coach is using the video capability of his "smartphone" to record his pitcher's delivery to the plate. He intends to use the video to help the pitcher correct a flaw when the team is in the dugout and not on defense. **RULING:** This is not allowed. The head coach will be ejected upon discovery of using the replay capability for coaching purposes. (3-3-1f)

**SITUATION 5:** The coach in the third-base coach's box has a stopwatch that he is using to time the pitcher's delivery to the plate. **RULING:** This is legal. A coach may have in his possession, while occupying a coach's box, a stopwatch, a hard copy of the rules book and a hard copy of a scorebook. (3-3-1i)

**SITUATION 6:** The coach in the first-base coach's box has a smartphone that has the ability to score the progress of the game. **RULING:** This is not allowed. A coach may not have any electronic equipment, other than a stopwatch, while in the coach's box, even if it is intended to be used only for scoring purposes. The umpire shall either restrict the coach to the dugout for the remainder of the game or eject him. (3-3-1i Penalty)

**SITUATION 7:** In the fifth inning of the game, F1 is ejected for vehemently protesting a pitch that was declared to be a ball and he thought should have been strike three. S1 comes in to replace F1. How many warm-up throws is S1 allowed? **RULING:** S1 is allowed eight warm-up throws. The umpire-in-chief, however, may authorize more throws for S1 because F1 left the game due to an ejection. (6-2-2c Exception)

**SITUATION 8:** With runners on first base and third base, the pitcher legally steps toward third and feints a throw. With his pivot foot now off the pitching plate, the pitcher turns and feints a throw to first base. **RULING:** This is a legal pick-off play by the pitcher. (6-2-4a,b)

**SITUATION 9:** With runners on first base and third base, the pitcher legally steps toward third and feints a throw. With his pivot still engaged with the pitching plate, the pitcher turns and feints a throw to first base. **RULING:** This is a balk. While engaged with the pitcher's plate, the pitcher may not feint toward first base. The runner from first is awarded second base and the runner from third is awarded home. (6-2-4a)

**SITUATION 10:** A team plays its home games at a minor league park that has the ability to display radar gun information on the scoreboard. May the information be shown or must it be turned off? **RULING:** The radar gun information displayed on the scoreboard is permissible provided it is used for both teams throughout the game. (3-3-1f)

**SITUATION 11:** On a base hit to the outfield, the runner from third base comes home but misses touching home plate. The on-deck batter physically stops him and shoves him back to the plate, where he then touches it. **RULING:** Physical assistance by a teammate is not allowed unless both players are viable runners. The assisted runner is out and his run does not count. (2-21-1c, 5-1-2f, 3-2-2)

**SITUATION 12:** In the eighth inning, the coach comes out and replaces his pitcher. Two batters later, he asks for "Time," and goes to the mound to discuss strategy with both the catcher and the pitcher. The opposing coach argues that he must now replace the pitcher. **RULING:** When the game is in extra innings, a team is allowed

only one charged conference per inning, but since the coach removed the pitcher on his first visit in the eighth inning, it did not count as a charged conference. Therefore, the coach still had one charged conference available to him in the inning. His conference is legal and he does not have to remove his pitcher. (3-4-1)

**SITUATION 13:** The visiting first baseman comes to the batter's box with eye black painted on his face from under his eyes extending to his jaw, looking like inverted "bat wings." Is this legal? **RULING:** Unless the extensive eye black is deemed to be profane, intimidating or taunting intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean, the face paint is legal. (3-3-1g-2)

**SITUATION 14:** With one out, a runner on second base who is not moving on the pitch, and a count of 1-0, the batter attempts to hit the pitch to right field. The catcher reaches out for the ball and obstructs the batter, causing him to foul off the pitch. The coach, wanting the batter to stay at bat, tells the plate umpire he does not want the award for obstruction on his batter, and he elects to take the result of the play. **RULING:** The coach may decline the obstruction penalty and accept the result of the play. The game continues with a runner on second base, one out and a count of 1-1. (8-1-1e)

**SITUATION 15:** With a runner on first base and no outs, the batter hits a high fly ball near the dirt/grass intersection between first base and second base. The runner was stealing on the pitch and, with his coach yelling for him to return, turns around and heads back to first base. The runner, as he returns, brushes the second baseman, who does not catch the pop fly. The second baseman quickly picks up the ball and throws to second base for an apparent force-out. No one says a word as the next batter comes to the plate with a runner on first base and one out. **RULING:** As soon as the runner from first contacts the second baseman attempting to catch the pop fly, interference should be declared and the ball made immediately dead. The runner is out for his interference; and because his interference prevented the catch of the pop fly, the batter-runner is also declared out. The next

batter comes to bat with the bases empty and two outs. (8-4-2g)

**SITUATION 16:** With runners at second base and third base and one out, the infield is playing in to prevent the runner on third from scoring. The sharply hit batted ball goes up the middle, passing the pitcher, and the second baseman and shortstop. There is no other infielder in position to make a play on the ball. The batted ball hits the runner while he is standing on second base. **RULING:** The ball remains live and in play. The runner at second is not out as the ball had passed an infielder and no infielder was in position to make a play. (8-4-2k)

**SITUATION 17:** With a runner on second base, Smith, who is a pure pull hitter, comes to bat. The defense puts on a shift that has the shortstop playing near third base and the second baseman playing almost directly behind second base. The batter hits a sharp ground ball that contacts the runner who is standing on second base at the time. **RULING:** The ball is dead and the runner on second base is declared out. The second baseman is in position to make a play, and the base does not protect the runner when it is not an infield-fly situation. (8-4-2k)

**SITUATION 18:** With runners on third base and first base, there is one out and a count of 2-2 on the batter. The batter swings and misses the pitch for the third strike, as both runners are stealing on the pitch. The batter steps out across home plate and interferes with the catcher's throw to second base. The throw is still made and is in time to retire the runner stealing from first base. The runner from third scores before the out on the runner at second is made. **RULING:** Since the throw from the catcher resulted in the out at second base, the interference by the batter is ignored. The run by the runner from third base will count since it occurred before the third out was declared at second base (time play). (7-3-5 Penalty, 9-1-1)

**SITUATION 19:** The runner at first base takes off in an attempt to steal second base. The pitcher legally makes a spin move and throws to unoccupied second base to easily retire the stealing runner. The third-

base coach argues, saying the pitcher cannot throw to an unoccupied base. **RULING:** A pitcher may throw or feint a throw to an unoccupied base in an attempt to put out or drive back a runner. The out stands. (6-2-4b)

**SITUATION 20:** With runners at first base and second base, the runner at second bluffs a steal of third by running hard to third before he stops and retreats back to second base. The pitcher, seeing the runner take off hard to third base, legally throws to the unoccupied third base. The third-base coach wants a balk called on the pitcher since the runner from second stopped. **RULING:** A pitcher may throw or feint a throw to an unoccupied base in an attempt to put out or drive back a runner. As long as the umpire judges that it is reasonable for the pitcher to believe he had a play at third, even though the runner stopped, it is a legal move. (6-2-4b)



# 2013 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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## CORRECTIONS, RULES BOOK:

- Page 36: Rule 3-6-1 Penalty - delete the word Penalty after "See also 7-4-2"
- Page 56: Rule 7-3-2 should read as follows: A batter shall not permit a pitched ball, that is only partially in the batter's box, to touch her. An attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required. PENALTY: (Art. 2) The batter remains at bat (pitch is a ball or strike), unless the pitch was strike three or ball four. (8-1-2f)
- Page 68: Rule 8-6-18 Penalty - correct (Art. 20, 21) to read (Arts. 17, 18)
- Page 81: Softball Rules by State Association Adoption; third reference down should be 1-3-3. Note instead of 1-3-6 Note.
- Page 82: Hit Batter Awards (8-1-2 Penalty 1) - Third sentence down, eliminate the wording "no attempt is made to avoid being hit or"
- Page 82: Points of Emphasis - second sentence, replace baseball with softball

## CORRECTIONS, CASE BOOK:

- Page 7: 1.5.2 Situation A - Ruling should read "Provided the device is against or over the knob (not used as a "choke-up" device) and securely attached, this would be legal."
- Page 8: top of page, at the end of the sentence, replace "bas" with bat.
- Page 8: 1-5-2 Situation C - fifth line down in the Ruling, replace "bas" with bat.
- Page 41: 6-2-2 Situation C, New Ruling - In (a), the coach of the team at bat has the option of the play or the

penalty for an illegal pitch. In (b) and (c), since the batter and all runners advanced at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified and no option is given to the offended team.

**SITUATION 1:** The pitcher, while standing on the pitcher's plate taking her signal from the catcher, tosses the ball back and forth between her glove and pitching hand several times. Once she receives the signal, she then brings her hands together and pitches the ball. **RULING:** The ball must remain in one hand or the other while the pitcher takes or simulates taking the signal. If she is tossing the ball back and forth from one hand to the other while taking the signal, it would be considered an illegal pitch (for not taking the signal with the ball being held in one or the other). The illegal pitch would be called the first time the pitcher's hands come together and then separate while tossing the ball back and forth. **COMMENT:** If the pitcher flipped the ball back and forth between the hand and glove without actually bringing the hands together, then held the ball in the hand or glove while taking the signal and started the pitch, her actions would be legal. (6-1-1a,b)

**SITUATION 2:** With R1 on third base and R2 on first base, B3 hits the ball to F3, who throws home. The throw carries F2 into the plate umpire. F2's arm strikes the umpire while attempting to throw to third, causing a wild throw into left field. **RULING:** This is not considered interference. Play would continue. (5-1-1f1; 8-5-6) **COMMENT:** Since this has happened during playing action, the umpire is considered part of the playing field. Umpires should do everything possible to avoid contact with the offense

or defense, but there are times when contact simply cannot be avoided.

**SITUATION 3:** A pitcher uses a drying agent but fails to wipe it off before touching the ball. **RULING:** The pitcher does not need to wipe the drying agent off her hands. The only restriction is not to apply it directly to the ball. (6-2-2)

**SITUATION 4:** With R1 on third base, F2 attempts to return the ball to F1 but her arm strikes the umpire in the mask and the throw goes into the dugout or into center field allowing R1 to score. **RULING:** The umpire should call "time" and return R1 to third base. In this situation there was no apparent play; F2 was simply returning the ball back to F1. The umpire should have both the offense and the defense reset and continue play. (10-2-3m)

**SITUATION 5:** A pitcher places her hands in the dirt; however, she does not wipe the dirt from her hands before touching the ball. **RULING:** The pitcher does not need to wipe the dirt from her hands before going to the ball. Dirt is NOT a foreign substance; it is part of the field. The pitcher cannot, however, rub the ball into the dirt and deface it. (6-2-2)

**SITUATION 6:** If the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is ignored. **RULING:** All action stands and the illegal pitch is cancelled. (6-1-1 Exception)

**SITUATION 7:** Is the stinger attachment legal for the knob? **RULING:** Yes, provided it is covering the knob and the umpire has inspected the bat to ensure it is safely attached. (1-5-2a)

**SITUATION 8:** The coach gives the runner, who has been walked, a "high five" on her way to first base. **RULING:** Legal, as long as the coach has not assisted the batter-runner by pulling or pushing her. (2-32-1; 8-6-5)

**SITUATION 9:** The umpire discovers a bat that has a knob flush with the handle. **RULING:** Legal. (1-5-1; 1-5-2a)

**SITUATION 10:** The coach, standing in the coach's box, is in possession of an iPad that she uses as a scorebook. **RULING:** Legal. (2-13; 3-6-10)

**SITUATION 11:** The runner positions herself behind and not in contact with a base to get a running start on any fly ball. **RULING:** The base umpire should signal the out when the violation occurs and the ball remains live. (8-6-20)



# 2013 NFHS TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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**Corrections to Rules Book:** Page 4, Editorial Changes, ~~3-19-2~~, 4-4-3 to 4-3-3, add 7-2-8, ~~7-4-10~~ to 7-2-8, Example, ~~7-4-16~~ to 7-4-14, ~~7-6-9~~; Page 25, 4-3-1,2 PENALTY, ...of the competitor's violation and warning or disqualification; Page 37, 5-7-5, ...~~contestants competitors~~ by firing...; Page 56, 7-4-14d, (See 7-2-510)

**Corrections to Case Book and Manual:** Page 4, 4.3.1, COMMENT ...~~elects~~ elicits a warning; Page 6, 7.5.19 SITUATION C. delete; Page 69, 7.2.8 SITUATION, **RULING:** ...followed by Nos. ~~5 and 6~~ to 6 and 7; Page 82, 7.5.21 SITUATION A, **COMMENT:** Gloves are prohibited in ~~all field events~~ the shot put, (throwing hand) ~~discus, javelin and relays~~,...

**SITUATION 1:** The head coach of Team B desires to file a protest regarding the 300 intermediate hurdles. The coach discovers there is no meet referee, so he wants the protest to go to the jury of appeals. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. A meet referee must always be designated prior to the start of the meet. **COMMENT:** In this situation, the starter will serve as the meet referee. No protest should go to the jury of appeals first. (3-4)

**SITUATION 2:** A competitor from Team A is observed wearing an illegal uniform during a running event. This same competitor violated the uniform rule earlier in the meet in the long jump and received a warning by the head event judge just prior to competing in the running event. The head event judge reported the violation and warning to the referee and the coach was to be notified. The head coach protested that the competitor could not be disqualified as the coach

had not yet been notified of the warning by the referee. **RULING:** Correct procedure by referee and the protest is denied. **COMMENT:** The rule and resulting penalty require the competitor be warned on the first offense, and for a second offense, he/she shall be disqualified. The head coach should be informed of the violation; but if the coach is not informed prior to a second violation, this would not nullify the penalty and the disqualification. Prior to the start of the meet, the meet referee and host management should confirm the communication process that will be followed between the referee and the other officials from the various field event venues, and how the meet referee will inform the coaches and competitor(s) who are involved in a violation. (4-3-1,2 Penalty)

**SITUATION 3:** A contestant in the shot put wants to use a shot put that exceeds the minimum weight requirement in Rule 6-5-2. The throwing implement meets all other rules requirements. This implement will only be used in warm-ups. **RULING:** Legal, providing all other requirements of the shot put are met, unless prohibited by the games committee. **COMMENT:** The shot put weight requires a minimum weight to be legal, but has no maximum weight. (6-2-17, 6-5-2)

**SITUATION 4:** If a competitor in any event is observed by the appropriate official to be in an illegal uniform, can he/she just take the warning and go ahead and compete? **RULING:** No. **COMMENT:** The penalty states if the illegal uniform is observed and noted prior to competition, he/she shall make it legal with no delay of the

meet. If this cannot be accomplished, the competitor shall not compete. If the event is in progress when the violation is observed and noted, then the warning is issued following that heat, trial, etc. (4-3-1,2, Penalties)

**SITUATION 5:** In a two-day meet, Competitor A receives a warning for an illegal uniform on the first day of competition. On the second day of competition, Competitor A reports for his/her first event in an illegal uniform and cannot make it legal before the competition begins. The referee disqualifies Competitor A from that event. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Unless state association policy modifies the penalty, the penalty applies to the meet regardless of the number of days scheduled for that single meet. (4-3-1,2, Penalties)