



IESA EXCEPTIONS TO NATIONAL FEDERATION SOFTBALL RULES

An official registered with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) in the sport of softball may officiate games at the junior high level. When those contests involve members of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA), rules of play are exactly the same as the National Federation rules with the following exceptions:

1. Metal cleats are prohibited. [3-2-11] IESA Penalty: If a player is found wearing metal cleats, the player must be immediately removed from the game without the opportunity to return to the game.
2. Pitching distance shall be 40 feet from the rear tip of home plate to the front edge of the pitcher's plate. [1-1-2b]
3. The 15-runs in 3 innings and 10-runs in 5 innings rules are in effect. [4-2-3]
4. The use of Safe-Base, or a reasonable facsimile thereof, shall be mandatory in all regular season and tournament play. Please refer to the guidelines in the NFHS rules book for double first base application. [1-2-1note]
5. Adult coaches are not required to be in the uniform of the team but it is recommended that coaches be attired in school colors. [3-5-3]
6. Number appearing on the front of the softball uniform, although not required, may be smaller than six inches. [3-2]
7. Any state series game that is suspended for reasons of weather, darkness, or mechanical failure (i.e. lighting problems, power outage, water system problems) will be treated as a suspended game and continued from the point of suspension when the game is able to resume provided it is not a completed game. A completed game is one that has five full innings played or if the home team has scored a greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat. The line-up and batting order shall be the same as the line-up and batting order at the point of suspension. The coach of the team trailing at the time of the suspension may forfeit the contest at which time the game will be considered a complete game. [4-2-2]
8. Any regular season game that is called before completion of the required number of innings shall be declared a "no game" by the umpire. Conferences and regular season tournaments may adopt a suspended game policy. [4-2-4]
9. Upon agreement of both coaches prior to the start of a regular season game, the international tiebreaker rule may be used any time after the 7th inning. At the beginning of each team's at-bat, the offensive team shall begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on second base. It is not sudden death. Each team has an opportunity to bat each inning. The game ends when one team is ahead at the end of the inning. The international tiebreaker rule will not be used for state series games. [4-2]
10. The team's line-up card shall include first and last name. [3-1-3]

Regional hosts on fields without lights cannot start any later than 5:00 pm. Regional and sectional host schools will now assign dugouts prior to play and communicate this with team(s) coming to their site.

EJECTIONS - IESA BY-LAW 5.100

The IESA has policies in place for ejections. In the event an official has to eject a coach, player or spectator, this must be reported to the IESA within 48 hours of the contest's completion. To report an ejection, follow these steps:

1. Log in to the IESA Officials' Center.
2. Find the section titled "Secure IESA Officials Forms."
3. Click the link for "Special Report Form."
4. Select the type of report (A fan ejection should be listed as "other.").
5. Complete all information - be as specific as possible with details, language used, warnings given, etc.
6. Click "Submit."

If a coach is ejected from the contest and there is not an individual approved by the school to meet the IESA coaching education requirements, the contest would have to be forfeited as no one would be available to coach or supervise.