



EXCEPTIONS TO NATIONAL FEDERATION SOFTBALL RULES

When contests involve members of the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA), the rules of play are exactly the same as the National Federation rules with the following exceptions:

1. 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]
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 team's line-up card shall include first and last name. [3-1-3]
4. The number appearing on the front of the softball uniform, although not required, may be smaller than six inches. [3-2]
5. 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.
6. 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]
7. 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]
8. 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]
9. A game can be considered complete when one team has a lead of 15 runs in 3 innings (2½ innings if the team in the lead is at bat in the last half of the inning) or when one team has a lead of 10 runs in 5 innings (4½ innings if the team in the lead is at bat in the last half of the inning). [4-2-3]
10. 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]

EJECTIONS - IESA BY-LAW 5.100

Any player ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IESA or school may assess. Any player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next two (2) interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred, in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess (By-Law 5.101).

Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in addition to other penalties the IESA or school may assess. Any coach ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct a second time in any activity during the school year shall be ineligible for all remaining interscholastic contests the day of the ejection and the next five (5) interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred, in addition to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess (By-Law 5.102). *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.*

A fan ejected from any game of the state finals (quarterfinals, semifinals, third place, or championship game) is not permitted to attend the remainder of the state finals.