

4.014 Exceptions to National Federation Rules

**Regulation baseball uniforms are not necessary. A minimum uniform shall be a baseball cap, shoes, long pants, and a T-shirt with numbers. [1-4-1]

**It is strongly recommended that coaches be attired in school colors although adult coaches are not required to be in the uniform of the team. [3-2-1].

**A regulation game shall be played to a full 7 innings (6 ½ if the home team is ahead). For regular season games, no inning shall start 2 hours after the first pitch of the game. The Homeplate umpire will be responsible for keeping time. Any inning in progress shall be completed. If teams are tied after the time limit has been reached it shall be considered a tie game. The current 10 run, 12 run, and 15 run rules remain in place. However, by mutual agreement before a game begins, teams may play a 5 inning or 6 inning contest at which time the game will be considered a regulation contest. All state series games shall be played to 7 innings except in the case of a mercy rule game; a game shortened by weather or darkness; or the third-place game of the state finals. The third-place game shall be played to whichever happens first: 7 innings or 2 hours in time limit. The time limit is consistent with regular season rules, no inning may begin after 2 hours from the first pitch. If both teams are tied after this point, the game will continue using the international tie breaker rule until a winner is determined. [4-2-1; 4-2-3]

**The ten-run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 runs or more after 4½ innings, or after the 5th inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. A 12 run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 12 runs or more after 3½ innings, or after the 4th inning, if either team is 12 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. A 15 run rule is also in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 runs or more after 2½ innings, or after the 3rd inning, if either team is 15 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. [2-17-1, 4-2-2]

**All regular season games that require extra innings to determine the winner shall start with a runner on second base and no outs. The runner placed on 2nd base shall be the player in the batting order position previous to the leadoff batter of the extra inning. Each team has the opportunity to bat each inning. The game is over when one team has the lead at the end of an inning.[4-2-2]

**The Suggested Speed-Up Rules pertaining to courtesy runners have been adopted. [2-33-1]

**Any state series game that is suspended for reasons of weather, darkness, or mechanical failure (i.e. lighting problems, power outage, water system problems), and does not meet game ending regulations as described in rule 4-2-3, will be treated as a suspended game and continued from the point of suspension when the game is able to resume. The line-up and batting order shall be the same as the lineup and batting order at the point of suspension. Pitching limitations will still apply whenever the game is resumed. 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. [4-2-3, 4-2-4]

**When a regular season game is stopped for any reason, the school administration of the participating schools may choose to do one of the following:

- Suspend the game and mutually agree to resume the game at the point of suspension at a later date and time; or
- the team losing at the time of the suspension can forfeit and the team winning at this time would claim this as a win on their record; or
- the team winning at the time of the suspension can forfeit and thus the team losing at this time would claim this as a win on their record; or
the schools mutually agree to record the game as a "no game." [4-2-3, 4-2-4]

**Diamonds for all regular season and state series games shall be 80 feet square with the pitching distance at 54 feet. The distance from home plate to the middle of second base is 113 feet, 1 5/8 inches. All other sections of NFHS rule 1-2 should be followed. If a school desires to host the semi-final and championship games of the regional and/or a sectional contest, their field must have the specifications listed above and a fence 225 feet or more from home plate. The recommended minimum distance from home plate to the backstop is 20 feet. Schools should not apply to host a regional or a sectional if their field does not meet these requirements. In cases where no field meets these specifications, then the schools assigned to the regional will meet to determine the regional host. First-round regional games which are played at the site of the higher seeded teams do not have to meet the home run distance. [1-2-1]

**The use of Safe-Base, or a manufactured reproduction thereof, shall be mandatory in all regular season and tournament play. No game shall be played unless the Safe-Base is in use. The rules pertaining to Safe-Base shall be as follows: The batter-runner should use the orange portion only on the first attempt at first base. A runner is never out for touching the white base rather than the orange portion. Once the runner reaches first base, the runner shall then use only the white base. The defensive player may use only the white portion of the bag in making any play at first. One exception--On a missed third strike the first baseman may use the orange portion for the putout throw from the catcher. A batted ball must hit totally in the orange to be foul. [1-2-9]

**Portable pitching mounds be allowed for postseason play under the following conditions [1-2-7]:

1. The size of the portable mound will be as such where a pitcher may step back off the pitching rubber, stride towards home plate during a pitch, or execute a pick off move to any base without stepping off the mound.
2. The size of the portable mound will be as such where a pitcher may step back off the pitching rubber, stride towards home plate during a pitch, or execute a pick off move to any base whereas the slope in each direction would be equivalent to that of a normal regulation dirt mound.
3. The portable mound will be free of any defections, including holes, tears, and loose material on any parts of the mound.

**The on-deck batter may use either on-deck circle. The on-deck batter may only move to the on-deck circle during a dead ball. The on-deck batter must remain in the on-deck circle unless the batter switches hitting positions at which time the umpire would have the discretion to allow the on-deck batter to change circles. [1-2-3]

**In any instance in which a team does not have an eligible substitute for a player who becomes ill, injured, or is ejected from the lineup by an umpire, the player last removed from the lineup by the team coach, who is otherwise eligible to play, shall be used as a substitute, taking the batting-lineup position of the replaced player. When a team's last available substitute enters the game as part of a multiple substitution, the team coach shall advise the umpire and official scorekeeper which player is to be considered the last player removed from the lineup. [3-1-3]

BATS (NFHS Rule 1-3-2)

**The following bats are legal for use in IESA contests:

- Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in section 1-3-2 of the NFHS baseball rules book or;
- Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop and a barrel diameter of 2 5/8 inches provided that bat contains the USA Baseball logo or;
- Any wood bat that meets the NFHS standards as detailed in section 1-3-2 and 1-3-3 of the NFHS baseball rules book.

NOTE 1: All bats 31 inches and over must meet the NFHS bat guidelines and contain the BBCOR label

NOTE 2: All bats with a 2 1/4" barrel diameter are illegal

NOTE 3: Any bat with a USSSA logo is illegal

NOTE 4: Any bat with a BESR label is illegal

The following are examples of legal and illegal non-wood bats. This list is not intended to be all inclusive or all exclusive:

Examples of Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats That Do Not Contain a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
31	28	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	22	2-3/4"	Illegal—Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally, this bat will not contain the BBCOR label
30	20	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	20	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
28	19	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	28	2-3/4"	Illegal—Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally, this bat will not contain the BBCOR label.
29	26	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	27	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
32	22	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	25	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
30	27	2-1/2"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal

Examples of Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats That Are Marked With a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
30	20	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
31	20	2-5/8"	Illegal—All bats 31" and over for use in IESA contests must meet NFHS guidelines including BBCOR label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball logo. A 31" bat must be BBCOR labeled.
28	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	21	2-5/8"	Illegal—All bats 31" and over for use in IESA contests must meet NFHS guidelines including BBCOR label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball logo. A 31" bat has to be BBCOR labeled.

27	15	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	19	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	20	2-1/2"	Illegal—Any bat with a USA Baseball logo must have a 2-5/8" barrel diameter.
30	22	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	25	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat

**In addition to the penalty as listed in NFHS rule 7-4-1 for the use of an illegal bat, a player who uses an illegal bat shall be immediately ejected from the contest and cannot return to that contest under any circumstance. [7-4-1]