



2021 SOFTBALL ACTIVITY UPDATE

IESA Softball Terms and Conditions

- I. **School Classification** - Schools will be divided into three classes.
- II. **Season Calendar** - Practice can begin July 26. Games may begin August 4. Regionals will be held starting Sept. 8.
- III. **Officials** - Regional officials are to be paid \$60 each per game.
- IV. **On-Deck Batter**— May use either on-deck circle.

Points of Emphasis

Officials are no longer expected to do equipment checks prior to the start of a contest. Coaches are expected to adhere to proper equipment rules and officials are expected to enforce penalties as outlined in the NFHS Softball rules book for illegal equipment.

Coaches need to be cognizant of the opposing team taking the infield and should not conference with teams outside of the dugout/near the infield for an extended period during transitions and between innings.

Coaches need to instruct fielders and base runners to recognize and avoid instances of interference and obstruction.

It is recommended that state series hosts have an AED on-site. If one is not available, the IESA recommends that the host school works with area schools to see if a portable AED is available to borrow.

NFHS Softball Rules Changes

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

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.

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.

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.

IESA Handbook Changes

2.053 - Residence

This by-law refers to full-time staff members.

2.062 - Transfer Students

The student would be eligible to participate in a sport at their new school during the current school year if during the IESA designated season for a sport, the student had NOT participated in a tryout, organized practice, or contest in that sport at their previous school. See by-law 2.072 regarding student status as a member of a team. A student who transfers from one school to another and is eligible shall become eligible to participate in contests for the new school on his/her eleventh day of attendance at the new school in any sport or activity and provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

3.021 and 4.021 - Classification

IESA Softball will be split into three classes - 1A, 2A and 3A.

5.042 - Payments to Activity and Athletic Officials

Regional officials are each paid \$60 per game, the cost of which are split by the schools participating in the given contest(s).

Transgender Policy

The outlined procedure is in place for the regular season and the IESA state series.

5.100 - Sportsmanship

A player ejected from a contest must serve a two-game suspension and complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course. A player ejected a second time during the school year must serve a 5-game suspension and the school is responsible for paying a \$100 penalty fee. A coach ejected from a contest must serve a two-game suspension, complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course and the school must pay a \$100 penalty fee. A coach ejected a second time during the school year must serve a 5-game suspension and the school is responsible for paying a \$250 penalty fee. *All player/coach ejection consequences must be met, documented and confirmed by the IESA before eligibility is reinstated for a player or a coach.* Fans ejected from a contest must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course and provide proof of completion to the member school the fan represents.

Request for Accommodation Policy

Students who need accommodations are encouraged to work with their member schools to complete and submit the Request for Accommodation Form. This form is available to member schools in their member center and the process is in the Policies section of the IESA handbook.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: Can a softball player on my team play on their travel team at the same time?

A: This is a local school decision. Coaches, students and families need to check with the school administration regarding the school's policy on participation on a school team and a non-school team at the same time.

Q: Can my uniform include the color optic yellow?

A: The school uniform should consist of the school colors. NFHS Softball rule 3-2-9 states, "A pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which may, in the umpire's judgement, be distracting to the batter." The IESA strongly recommends that a school's uniform not include the color optic yellow so that there is no opportunity for part of the pitcher's uniform to be mistaken for the softball.

Upcoming Dates and Deadlines

Practices/Tryouts May Begin - July 26

Coop Agreements Due - July 30

Season Schedule Due Online - August 4

Games May Begin - August 4

Online Roster and Record Due - August 31

Online Ranking - September 1

Rosters Closed - September 7

Regionals - September 8 or 9, 11, 14

Sectionals - Sept. 18

State Finals - September 24, 25

Season Must End - October 23