NFHS Softball

2015 Rules Changes
Major Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis
Softball is the fifth-most popular sport for girls at the high school level.

362,488 Participants in 15,067 schools during the 2012-13 season.
# High School Participation Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>15,067</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>14,142</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>15,214</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>15,298</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>15,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>14,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Softball Participation Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>362,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>367,023</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>371,153</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>378,211</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>368,921</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>371,293</td>
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2015 NFHS Softball Information
Electronic Versions of the NFHS Softball Rules and Case Book are now available for purchase as e-books.

Apple users can visit iTunes for available books.

Apple, Android and Kindle users can buy e-books from Amazon.com and view them through the Kindle app.

Price: $5.99 each

Visit www.nfhs.org/ebooks for more information.
Introduction to skills and concepts used as an official

Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating

30-45 minutes to complete

Topics include: basics of becoming and staying an official, science of officiating, art of officiating, how to combine these skills for successful officiating

Course is FREE to any NFHS Officials Association member

Non-members course is $20

Contact NFHS Officials Department for details (317.972.6900)
Coaching Softball

Course Details

Coaching Softball
Free Courses on NFHSLearn.com

Heat Illness Prevention
**Concussion in Sports**
Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
Coaching Pole Vault
NCAA Eligibility
Engaging Effectively with Parents
**Positive Sport Parenting**
Sports Nutrition
Coaching Unified Sports
Sportsmanship
NFHS Officials Association Central Hub
www.nfhs.arbitersports.com

Contains

- Sport information
- Rules information
- Rules library
- Searchable rules book and case book
- Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations
Accommodating a Competitor with a Disability
Rule 3-2-13 NOTE

Request for Accommodation by School →
State Association Review →
Approval from State Association →
Competition with Approval of Accommodation
NFHS Softball

2015 Rules Changes
The batting helmet shall have a non-glare (not mirror-like) surface.
Batting Helmet
Rule 1-6-1

A glare or mirror-like surface on the batting helmet is illegal due to its distracting nature which may be dangerous to other players.
The catcher’s helmet shall have a non-glare (not mirror-like) surface.
Like the batting helmets, a glare or mirror-like surface is illegal and can be dangerous to other players.
NFHS Softball
2015
Major Editorial Changes
The exterior warning label may be affixed...or embossed (at the time of manufacture).
The phrase, “Meets NOCSAE Standard at the time of manufacture”…
The catcher shall wear a catcher’s helmet...that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
Equipment
Rule 1-6-1, 1-6-6, 1-7-1

Phrase revised “Meets NOCSAE standard at time of manufacture.”
After a dead-ball situation, the ball becomes live when the umpire calls and/or signals "Play Ball."
“Gives a beckoning hand signal” removed from rule to reflect current practice of pointing to pitcher and calling, “Play Ball.” Also clarifies Rule 8-6-18 as to whether ball is live or dead should runner(s) leave their bases when pitcher is inside the pitching circle with possession of the ball.
When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), or prior to an intentional base on balls (S.P.), or before all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher vacates her normal fielding position if a half-inning is ending.
BATTING ORDER
(7-1-1&2 Pen 2)

The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out (not the improper batter). The improper batter's time at bat is negated and she is returned to the dugout/bench area. All outs stand and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, passed ball (F.P.) or an illegal pitch (F.P.) while the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal.
Wording has been revised for an appeal after the last play of the game. Umpires should not leave the field until all infielders have vacated fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position. No appeal can be made once the umpires have left the field.
NOTE: If any situation arises which could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play of the game, umpires should not leave the field until all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position.
If teams line up to shake hands there is little chance for an appeal even if the defensive infielders have not crossed the foul line and umpires can leave the game at this point. No appeal can be made once the umpires have left the field.
NFHS Softball

2015

Points of Emphasis
An electronic device is defined as any device that accomplishes its purpose electronically.

Technology has presented coaches and players with a wide variety of devices that can be used for their improvement. Rule 1-8-6 allows for team personnel to utilize technology to transmit or record information pertaining ONLY to their players or team's performance within their team dugout or bench area.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES
1-8-6

The information obtained from an electronic device may be used for coaching purposes during the game, but only in the team's dugout or bench area. During the game no electronic devices are allowed on the field to video record. Rule 3-6-10 allows for stopwatches and electronic score keeping devices in the coaching box.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Rule 3-6-11 prohibits the use of any information obtained from an electronic device to review a decision made by an umpire. Any video recording solely targeting the actions of the opponent is prohibited.
Rule 1-8-6 allows for team personnel to utilize technology to transmit or record information pertaining only to their players or team's performance within their team dugout or bench area. Information obtained from an electronic device may be used for coaching purposes during the game, but only in the team's dugout or bench area and not on the field.
Interference is defined by Rule 2-32 as an act (physical or verbal) by a member of the team at bat who illegally impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder; or when a runner creates malicious contact with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline.
The NFHS Softball Rules Committee strongly emphasizes that coaches instruct their players on this definition, and what actions they should take. As stated, these acts may be physical or verbal and intentional or unintentional.
Batters and runners must be taught to be aware of where the ball is and where the opposing team fielders are in relationship to the ball.

Other types of interference involves equipment, umpire and spectator.
Interference

Acts of interference may be physical or verbal and intentional or unintentional. Batters and runners must be taught to be aware of where the ball is and where the opposing team fielders are in relationship to the ball.
Obstruction is defined by Rule 2-36 as the act of a defensive team member that hinders or impedes the progress of a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitched ball or that impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases,
unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball. The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal.
The NFHS Softball Rules Committee strongly emphasizes that coaches must instruct their players on this definition. Players need to be instructed that they cannot hinder or impede any runner when they are not making a play on a ball or have the ball in their possession.
Players need to be made aware of where they are on the field in relationship to opposing team members who are running the bases.
Obstruction

Coaches must instruct their players about obstruction so they know they cannot hinder nor impede any runner when they are not making a play on a ball or have the ball in their possession. Players need to be aware of where they are on the field in relationship to opposing team members who are running the bases.
OTHER SOFTBALL TOPICS
Starting position for the feet prior to pitcher starting the delivery of the ball:

- **Pivot foot** on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher’s plate; and
- **Non-pivot foot** in contact with or behind the pitcher’s plate.
Prior to starting the pitching delivery, the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher’s plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher’s plate (6-1-1).
Head and Face Protection for Defensive Players 1-8-4

- Defensive players are allowed to wear face/head protection that meets the NOCSAE standard and bears a permanent NOCSAE seal.

- This rule is flexible so that the determination to wear such equipment may be made by the state, the school, the coach or the player.
Defensive Player Safety

- A NOCSAE standard exists for a helmet with a face guard for defensive players.
- There is not a NOCSAE standard for a face guard only.
Face/Head Protection for Defensive Players

Defensive players are permitted to wear face/head protection in the field (1-8-4).
Face/head protection worn by defenders shall have a non-glare outer surface (1-8-4).
By State Association adoption, a double first base is permitted.

The base shall be a one- or two-piece unit, 15 inches by 30 inches and manufactured to be of equal height.

The base in foul territory shall be a color other than white.
Double First Base

- Other areas of concern when using a double first base
  - The defense must use the white portion and the batter-runner the colored portion when a play is being made on the batter-runner.
  - The offense or defense may use either the white or colored portion on specific situations.
By state association adoption, a double first base is permitted. The base in foul territory shall be a color other than white (1-2-1 Note).
THANK YOU