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NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES
Pitchers are no longer required to have their entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. This change recognizes that many mounds are in the type of condition that it is problematic for the pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate.
The pitcher shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate and with his pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate.
ART. 3 . . . For the set position, the pitcher shall have the ball in either his gloved hand or his pitching hand. His pitching hand shall be down at his side or behind his back. Before starting his delivery, he shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate. He shall go to...of any other infielder.
Rationale:
This rule change eliminates the requirement for the entire pivot foot to be in contact with or in front of the pitcher’s plate. However, the pivot foot still has to meet the requirements of the rule to be in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate. Many pitching mounds are constructed in such a way that it is problematic for a pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. No advantage is gained by having some of his/her pivot foot not in contact with the pitcher’s plate.
NFHS BASEBALL EDITORIAL
CHANGES
The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs effective January 1, 2020, which is an extension of the original implementation date of January 1, 2019. Balls that only have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 season.
BASEBALLS
RULE 1-3-1

- Effective January 1, 2020 the SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all baseballs that meet the NOCSAE standard that will be used in high school competition.
- Baseballs shall have the SEI/NOCSAE mark along with the NFHS Authenticating Mark.
- Baseballs that have both marks (SEI/NOCSAE and NFHS Authenticating Mark) or just the single NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 high school baseball season.
**BASEBALLS RULE 1-3-1**

- **Rationale:**
  To maintain a consistent and uniform standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability.

  The deadline extension was granted to accommodate those schools that had a robust surplus of baseballs and allow them to be used and not be wasted or destroyed.
RULE 8-2-6l

1. Last Time By. If a runner correctly touches a base that was missed (either in advancing or returning), the last time he was by the base, that last touch corrects any previous baserunning infraction (Exception 8-4-2q).

Rationale:
Per 8-4-2q, a runner cannot correct the baserunning infraction once he touches a succeeding base while the ball is dead even if he correctly touches all bases the last time by.
ART. 1 . . . Each runner other than the batter-runner (who is governed by 8-1-2) is awarded one base when:

a. there is a balk (6-1-4, 6-2-4) or a pitch strikes a runner (5-1-1a);

Sub-articles b-c remain unaltered.

Rationale:
Clarification.
POINTS OF EMPHASIS
National anthem standoffs do not reflect education-based athletics. Staring down opponents after the national anthem to try to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is juvenile and disrespectful.
Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purposes.
Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench area on buckets or stools.
Players are not allowed to stand outside their dugout/bench area and make “cat-calls” or other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice.
Chants, intentional distractions and loud noises directed at the opponent’s pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play do not represent good sportsmanship.
Per a rule change approved in 2017, the catcher’s body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective January 1, 2020.
Helmets must meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-2, including that all face mask/guards attached after manufacture are approved by the manufacturer and meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
A face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, provided that procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
Bats shall be unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design and production and must meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2.
Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, it must be legal. A legal slide can either be feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground.
Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.
Runners may not have a leg raised higher than the fielder’s knee.
Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.
Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.
The runner is out when he illegally slides and affects the play. On a force play, the runner is also guilty of interference. The batter-runner is also declared out and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.
Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground.
When illegally executed, as shown in the PlayPic, hurdling, jumping or leaping over a fielder supersedes obstruction.
Diving over a fielder is always illegal. Diving supersedes obstruction.
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