



# 2020 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES POWER POINT

National Federation of State  
High School Associations



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Rules Changes  
Major Editorial Changes  
Points of Emphasis



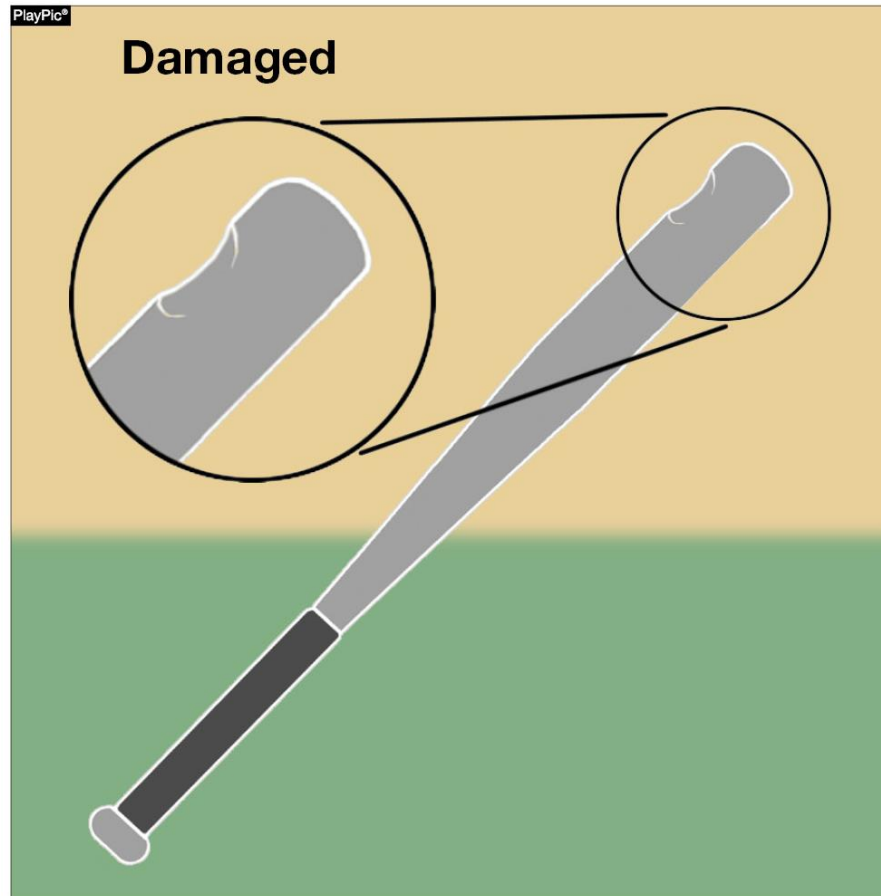


# 2020 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES



# BATS

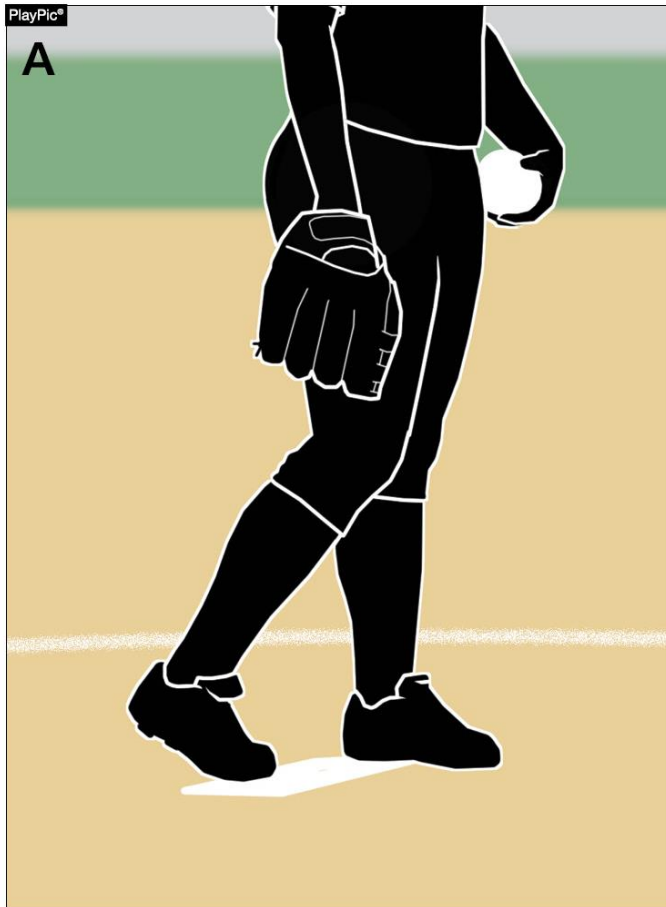
## RULES 1-5-1c,d,e, 2-4-3, 7-4-2 PENALTY NOTE



A damaged bat has been defined as a bat that was once legal but is now broken, cracked or dented. A damaged bat shall be removed without penalty. A bat that continually discolors the ball may be removed from the game with no penalty at the discretion of the umpire. Players who attempt to use damaged bats after they have been removed are then subject to the penalties for unsporting behavior.

# PITCHING REGULATIONS

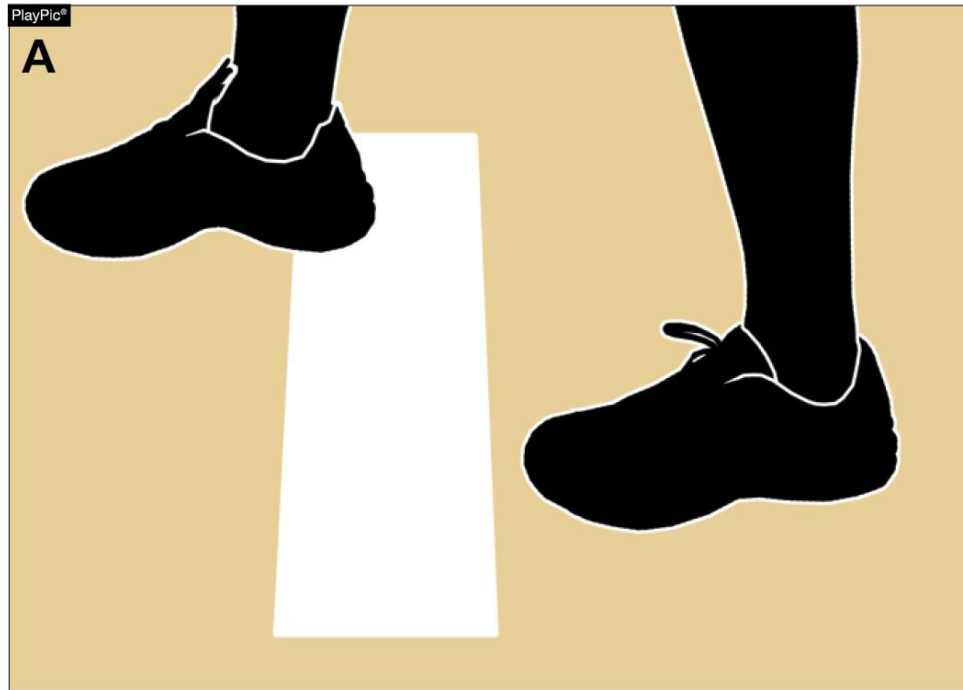
## RULES 6-1-1, 6-1-2a



Whether both feet are in contact with the pitching plate (PlayPic A) or only the pivot foot is in contact with the pitching plate (PlayPic B), the pitcher shall take (or simulate taking) a signal from the catcher.

# PITCHING REGULATIONS

## RULES 6-1-1, 6-1-2a



Because the pivot foot in PlayPic (A) and (B) is in contact with the pitcher's plate, this is legal. Previously, it was required that the pivot foot be on top of the pitcher's plate. The rule change allows it to be on top or in contact with the plate.



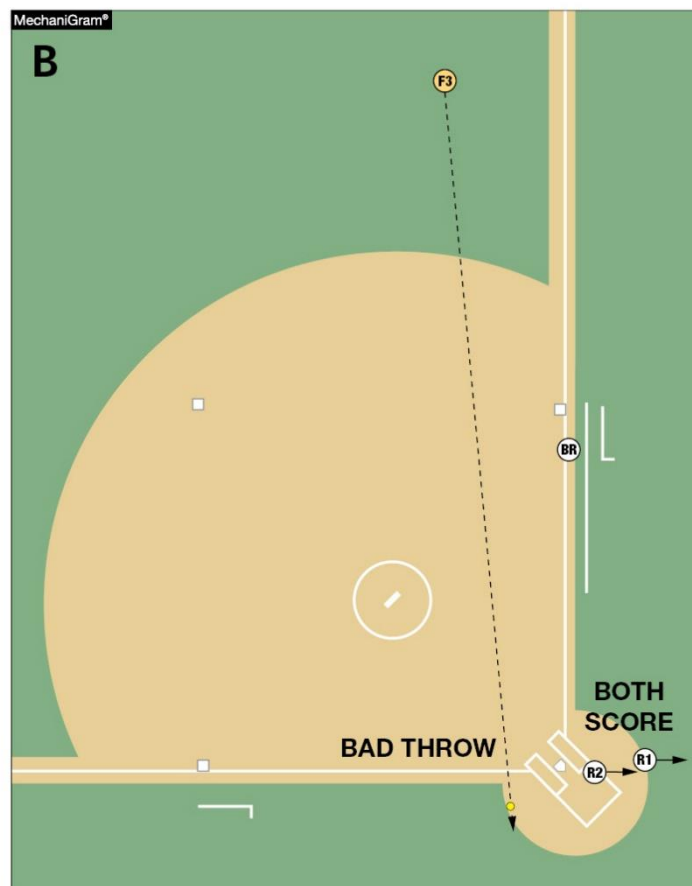


## HOW A TEAM SCORES RULE 9-1-1 EXCEPTION C

- A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by a preceding runner who is declared out on an appeal play.
- Previous wording only described a runner failing to touch a base. This new wording makes it clear that if the preceding runner is called out for any appeal play, the following runs would not score.

# HOW A TEAM SCORES

## RULE 9-1-1 EXCEPTION C



In MechaniGram A, the fly ball is caught for the second out. Both runners tag. R1 on third base leaves early and scores, R2 on second base leaves legally to advance to third base. In MechaniGram B, the throw is over the defensive player's head and R2 scores. The defense then appeals that R1 left early. No runs score since R1 is declared out and no runner can score if the preceding runner is called out on appeal for the third out of the inning.



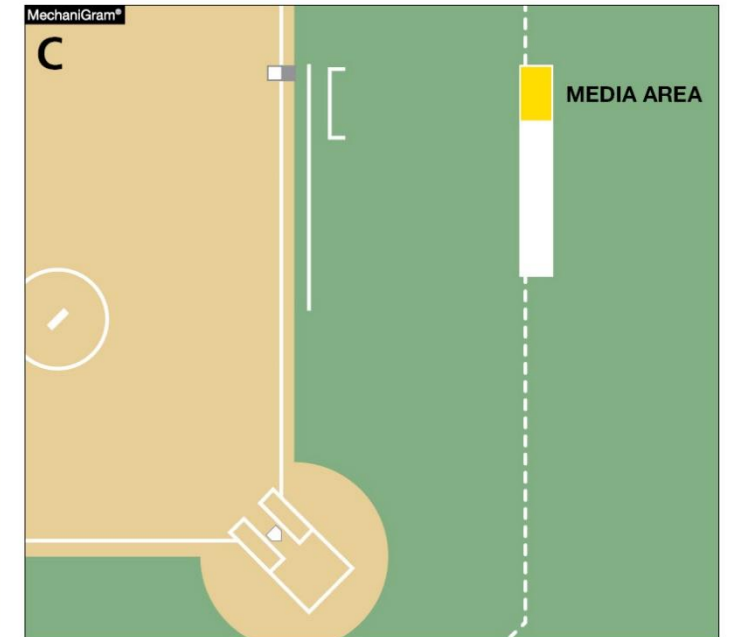
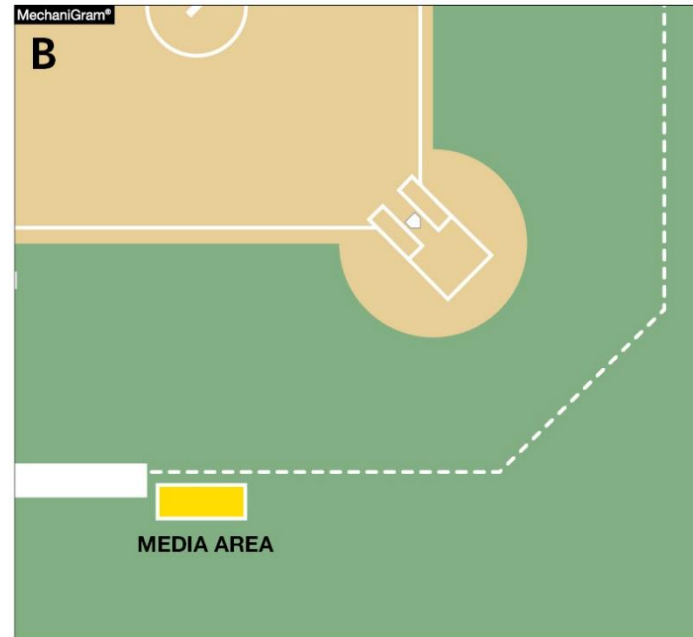
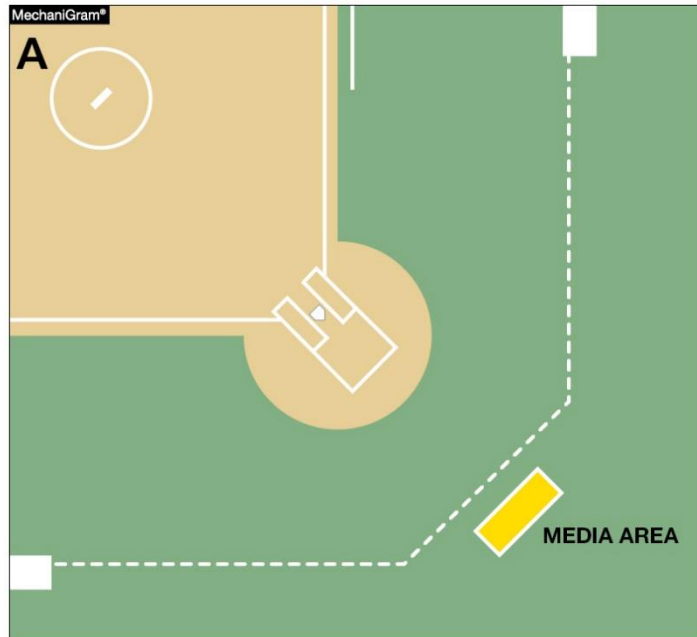
# 2020 NFHS SOFTBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES







# THE FIELD RULE 1-1-7



Game management or a state administrator may establish a media area as needed.

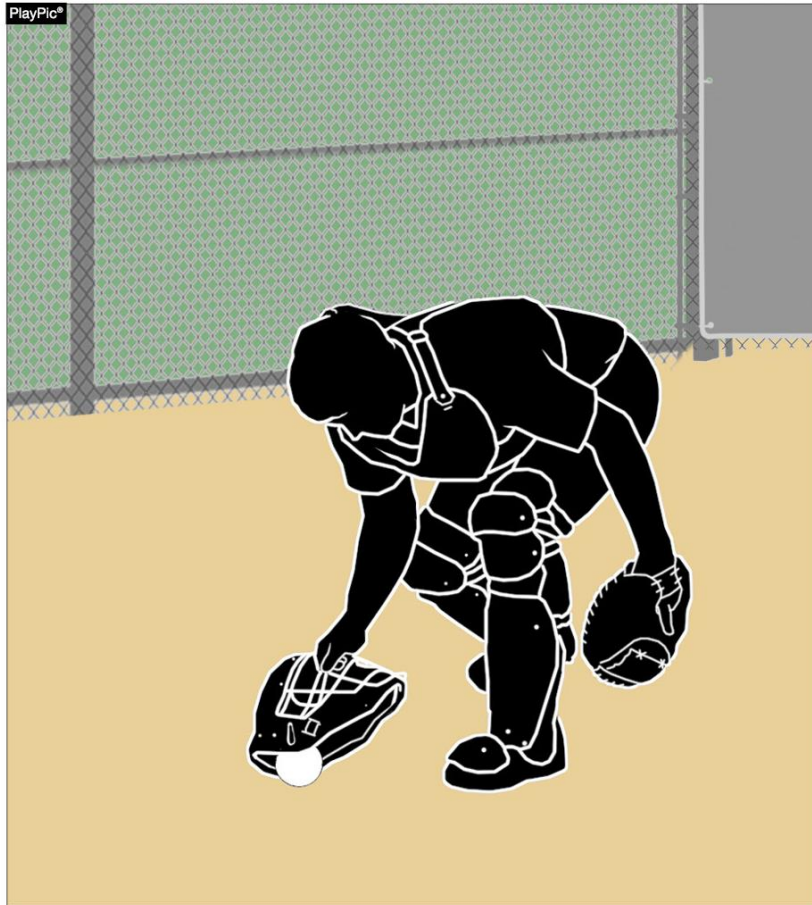
## FIELD AND EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-1d

- Updates to add the new USA Softball All Games certification mark.
- This new mark is very similar to the 2004 ASA Softball Logo just with USA Softball wording.
- This new mark will begin to be seen in 2020 and beyond.



# RUNNERS ENTITLED TO ADVANCE

## RULE 8-4-3d PENALTY



Language was clarified to indicate that when F2 stops a wild pitch or passed ball with detached equipment, the batter is not awarded bases. But if that pitch completed the batter's turn at bat, the batter-runner is awarded first base.





# 2020 NFHS SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



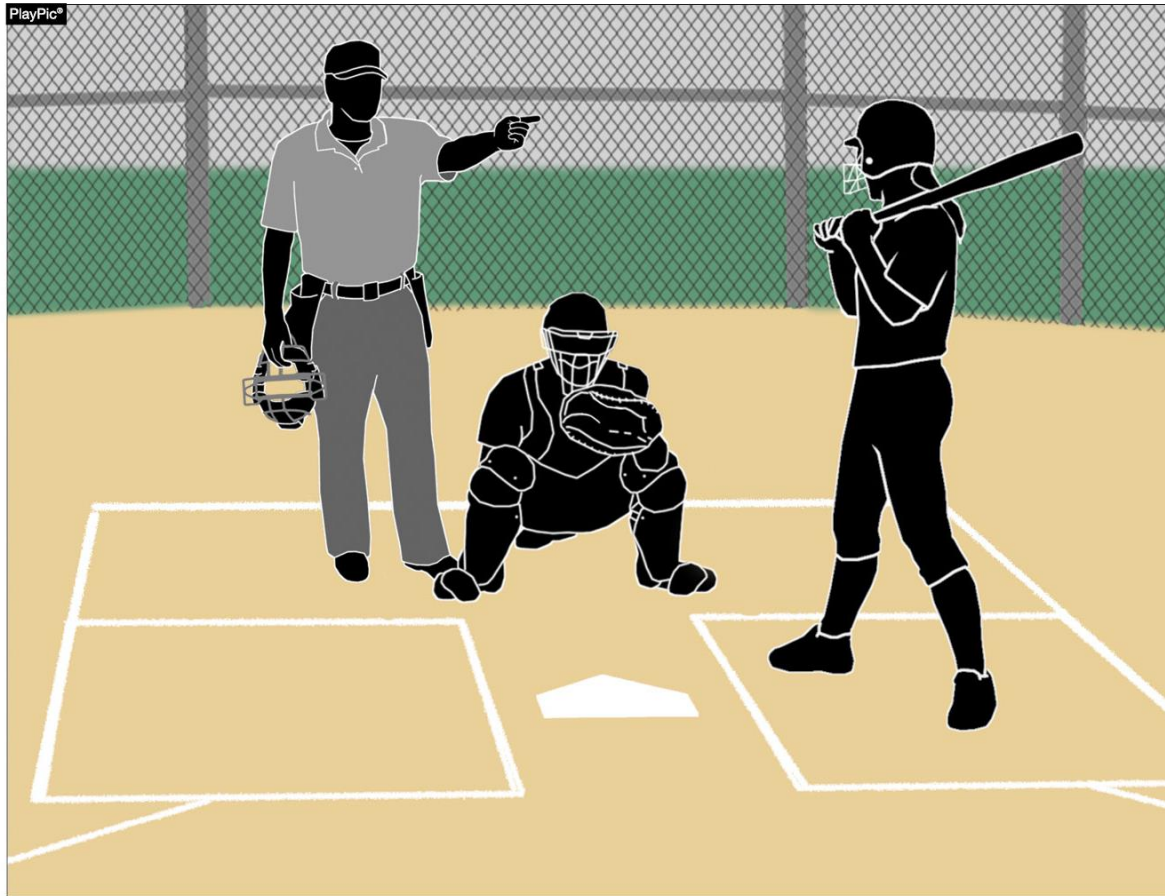
## DAMAGED BAT VS. ILLEGAL BAT



Bats must bear either the 2000, 2004, or the USA Softball All Games certification mark. Additionally, the bat must not appear on USA Softball's Non-Approved Bats With Certification Marks list ([www.usasoftball.com](http://www.usasoftball.com)). Bat barrels made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear a certification mark but shall not exceed 2-1/4 inches in diameter.



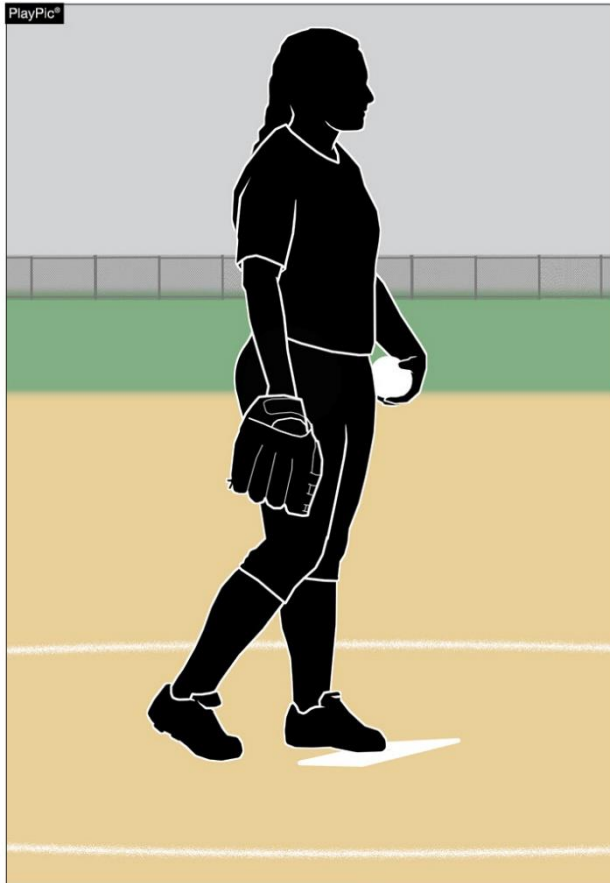
## DAMAGED BAT VS. ILLEGAL BAT



Clarification was needed to delineate the difference between a player using a bat that is damaged versus a bat that is illegal for high school play. By definition, a bat that is damaged (Rule 2-4-3c) is removed from the game without penalty (7-4-2 NOTE). An illegal bat that is non-approved or altered will continue to result in the head coach and the batter being ejected.

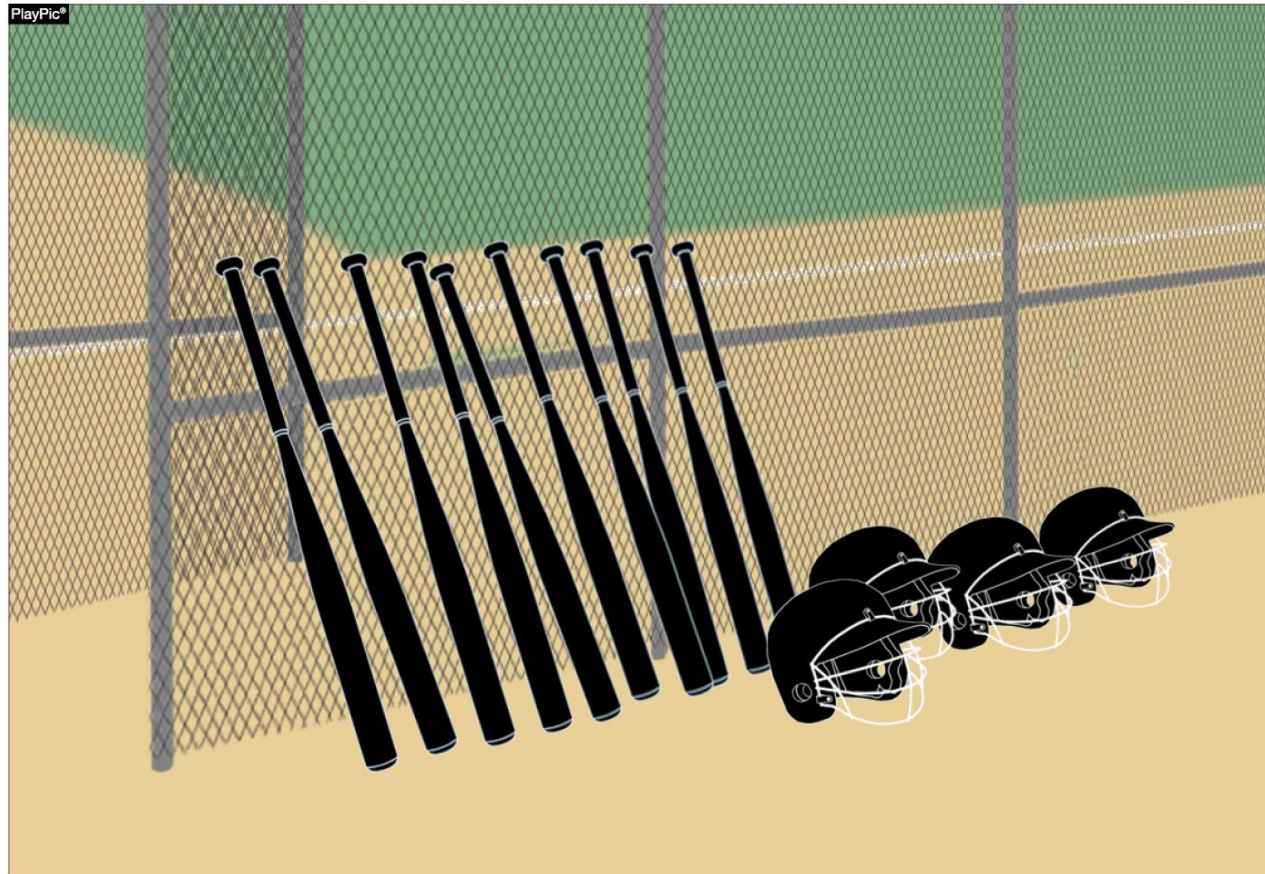


## CONTACT WITH THE PITCHER'S PLATE



Due to the varying levels of play and accompanying variation in pitching skills while pitchers develop, prior to the start of the pitch, NFHS rules allows the pitcher to choose her foot placement. The pitcher may choose to take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the plate and the non-pivot foot behind the pitcher's plate or both feet in contact with the pitcher's plate. Prior to the start of the delivery, both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate. This allows for personal preference and developing pitchers to work through levels of progression.

## INSPECTION OF EQUIPMENT



It is the head coach's responsibility to make certain all players are legally and properly equipped, which includes checking bats, helmets and catcher's gear prior to every contest. Umpires may inspect equipment but are not required to do so. It is critical that coaches remain vigilant in inspecting equipment before every contest to ensure no damage has occurred or new noncompliant equipment has been purchased since their last inspection.

# THANK YOU

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