



Rules Reference	NFHS 2012 Baseball Rules Changes
1-3-2d	<p>d. Beginning January 1, 2012, all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. <u>No post-production BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat.</u></p> <p>The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of <u>one</u>-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. To read: "BBCOR .50"</p> <p>Rationale: Clarification of the new performance standard. Altering the certification mark's dimensions that are consistent with the other rules codes.</p>
1-3- 5	<p>Bats that are altered from the manufacturer's original design and production, or that do not meet the rule specifications, are illegal (See 7-4-1a). <u>No artificial or intentional means shall be used to control the temperature of the bat.</u> No foreign substance may be inserted into the bat. Bats that are broken, cracked or dented, or that deface the ball, i.e., tear the ball, 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.</p> <p>Rationale: New scientific research identifies that altering the temperature of the bat damages the bat and poses an unnecessary risk of injury.</p>
1-5-8	<p>Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, splints, etc.) must be padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than 1/2" thick. Knee and ankle braces which are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design/production do not require any additional padding. <u>Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarifies that an individual state association may authorize exceptions to the playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs or other unique and extenuating circumstances. Such exceptions are not considered rules modifications since they are not general in nature; rather, they are limited to the circumstances of specific individual participants.</p>
1-5-10	<p>Prior to the start of the game, the head coach shall be responsible for verifying to the umpire in chief that all his players are equipped in compliance with the above rules. Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire-in-chief.</p> <p>Rationale: Proposed change would make the coach responsible for ALL equipment to be used during the game. Adding this procedure to the rulebook would standardize the method by which bats and helmets are inspected prior to</p>



	each game.
3-1-6	<p>A player or coach...applies to starters. <u>If there is any amount of blood on the uniform or equipment, it shall be changed or cleaned before the individual participates or the equipment is allowed back into the game.</u></p> <p>Rationale: By changing the word from excessive to any, removes the subjectivity of how much blood is an excessive amount.</p>
3-3-1g7	<p><u>7. Confront or direct unsportsmanlike conduct to the umpires after the game has concluded and until the umpires have departed the game site.</u></p> <p>PENALTY: ...becomes ill or injured. <u>In (g7) the State Association shall determine appropriate action.</u></p> <p>Rationale: There have been an abundance of coaches taking advantage of the fact that the official is not protected by any rule after they leave the confines of the field to continue to argue calls or judgment decisions. They follow the umpires to their vehicles in the parking areas and continue the verbal onslaught.</p>
3-3-1q	<p>q. leave their positions or bench area <u>during a fight for the purpose of fighting</u> or physical confrontation.</p> <p>Rationale: When a fight or altercation breaks out, umpires should not have to judge intent, and this provision states it is only illegal when they leave for that purpose. If the kids stay out of the situation totally, and are taught to do so by their coaches, and leave the coaches to handle the situation, then umpires and coaches can be in control. There is absolutely no reason for a player to leave the dugout during an altercation or anticipated altercation, and the same is true for leaving their position.</p>
4-1-3a-b	<p>...are then in effect.</p> <p>a. The umpire-in-chief shall receive verification from both head coaches that all participants are properly equipped and emphasize to the coaches and captains that all participants are expected to exhibit good sporting behavior throughout the game(s).</p> <p>b. <u>Prior to the start of the game, each head coach shall verify to the umpire-in-chief that his participants are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules. In addition, each coach shall verify that his participants are using only legal equipment including bats that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design and production and that meet the provisions of 1-3-2, and helmets that meet the provisions of 1-5-1 and are free of cracks and damage.</u></p> <p><u>PENALTY: For the first violation of 4-1-3b for the use of an illegal bat, the penalty for an illegal bat is applied and the head coach shall be restricted</u></p>



	<p><u>to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. For the second violation for the use of an illegal bat, the penalty for an illegal bat applies and the head coach shall be ejected. For subsequent violations for the use of an illegal bat, the penalty for an illegal bat applies and the designated head coach shall be ejected. For violations detected of 4-1-3b for the use of a damaged helmet, the helmet shall be immediately removed from play.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Places the legality of equipment with the coaches. If equipment becomes damaged during play, the officials with knowledge will remove item(s) from the game.</p>
6-2-2c Note	<p>NOTE: Umpires shall require that the ball be returned promptly to the pitcher. EXCEPTION: The starting pitchers may warm up by using not more than eight throws, completed in one minute (timed from the first throw). When a pitcher is replaced during an inning or prior to an inning, the relief pitcher may not use more than eight throws completed in one minute (timed from the first throw). At the beginning of each subsequent inning, the pitcher may warm up by using not more than five throws, completed in one minute (timed from the third out of the previous half inning) (3-1-2). In either case, the umpire-in-chief may authorize more throws because of an injury or inclement weather.</p> <p>Rationale: While this proposal is minimal (it simply leaves out an obvious omission from the past), perhaps committee discussion could lead to a clear POE for 2011. We already have a lot of time restrictions, perhaps we need to emphasize speeding things up this year, and then put the clock requirement in when we re-do the officials manual next year. Games are lagging longer and longer, and we need to get them to pick up the pace to maintain interest in this great game.</p>
10-1-2	<p>Modify: "...leave the playing field at the conclusion of the game." <u>The game officials retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualification, that are responsive to actions occurring while the umpires had jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents after the umpires' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a game is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Recommendation by the NFHS Rules Review Committee to be consistent with every other NFHS rules publication.</p>
10-2-3a	<p>Modify: a. Inspect equipment and <u>Inspect the</u> condition of the field,...in the field.</p> <p>Rationale: Eliminate pregame dugout bat and helmet checks. Coaches can still request umpires to confirm all equipment is legal at the pre-game plate conference.</p>



<p>Suggested Double First Base Rules</p>	<p>Modify: 1. Runner should use the colored base on initial play at first base (dropped third strike only), unless the fielder is drawn to the side of the colored base <u>(dropped third strike only)</u>, in which case the runner would <u>go the white base and the fielder to the colored base.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Clarification. The way the current rule reads (without the dropped third strike only added), one might believe that the orange or white base may be used to retired a batter/runner on any defensive play at first base. The opportunity for the defensive player to use the orange or white base should apply strictly to a dropped third strike situation.</p>
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