

Description	Softball (Fast Pitch)	Baseball
<b>NEW FOR 08</b>	Metal Cleats, Toe Plates Permitted	Same
<b>NEW FOR 08</b>	Batter has 10 seconds to take position in batter's box.	Batter has 20 seconds.
<b>NEW FOR 08</b>	Unreported Substitute - Team Warning. Second offense, both player and Head coach restricted to dugout.	N/A
<b>NEW FOR 08</b>	In order for eye shields to be legal, a helmet shield must be rigid material and clear.	N/A
Calling the ball live	When pitcher has ball in circle and Umpire calls play.	When pitcher touches rubber with ball and Umpire calls play.
Pitcher	16' Circle must be drawn.	N/A
Look-Back Rule	Restrictions on batter-runner.	N/A
Pitching restrictions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shoulders in line with 1st and 3rd base.</li> <li>2. Ball in glove or pitching hand - hands separated.</li> <li>3. Take signal from catcher.</li> <li>4. Bring hands together NLT 1 sec, NMT 10 sec.</li> <li>5. Once hands separate, pitch must be delivered.</li> <li>6. Any step backward shall begin before the hands come together.</li> </ol>	Toe rubber in Windup or Set position. Various Balk or Illegal Pitch rules apply.
Hit Batsman	Legal or illegal pitch, batter awarded 1st base.	Batter struck by illegal pitch or balk, not awarded 1st base.
Batting Helmet Face Protector	Mandatory	Not Mandatory
Disengaging the rubber	Either foot first is OK.	Pivot foot first or it's a balk.
Pitcher Exposed Shirt	conditions.	NO White or Gray exposed undershirts.
Pitching Hand items	No item on Pitching hand, wrist, arm & thighs deemed distracting may be worn	No item on either hands, wrists, or arms may be worn if distracting to batter.
Taking Signal from Catcher	Take or simulate taking signals with the pivot foot on or partially on pitcher's plate and non-pivot foot in contact with or behind pitcher's plate	N/A

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Balk / Illegal Pitch	Illegal Pitch - Delayed Dead Ball. If enforced, batter awarded a ball and runner awarded one base.	Balk & Illegal Pitch - Immediate Dead Ball in NFHS. Balk awards one base to each runner. Illegal Pitch awards a ball to the batter.
Pick off Runner	Cannot throw from pitching position.	May pick off from the set position.
Rectifying an unfair situation	On a 3-2 count, ball four is called, appealed to strike 3 - runner from 1st is thrown at 2nd. Send the runner back to 1st.	Batter is out and runner is out if tagged.
Dropping Ball During Pitch	Ball is live - batter is awarded a ball.	No runners on crosses foul line Ball to the batter. Does not cross the line, no pitch. Runner on Balk.
Leaving Base Before Release of Pitch	No Pitch - Immediate Dead Ball - runner is out.	N/A
Leap	Illegal Pitch - both feet airborne simultaneously	N/A
Crow Hop	Illegal Pitch - the replant of the pivot foot prior to delivering the pitch	N/A
Pitcher Mound	10" high - synthetic is allowed	flush with ground - no synthetic
Catcher's Box	10' x 8' 5" from back line of batter's box	8' x 43' from point of the plate
Batter's Box	3' x 7'	4' x 6'
Bases / Lane	60 feet / 30 feet	90 feet / 45 feet
Coaches Box	15' - 8' from foul line	20' x 5' - 15' from foul line
Ball Dimensions	Optic color C.O.R. .47 or lower	White Leather C.O.R. .555 or lower
Re-Entry Rule	Starters and Subs may re-enter.	Only starters may re-enter.
Courtesy Runner	If injured, may not be replaced by another C/R - a substitute or Pitcher/catcher must run for injured C/R.	If injured, OK to be replaced with another C/R.
Strike Zone	Forward Arm Pit to TOP of knees	Half way between shoulders and waistline to knees.
Intentional Walk	Must pitch to batter. OK to overrun first base without liability to be put out.	May put batter on no pitches. May not overrun first base - liable to be tagged out.
Force Play Slide Rule	Must not interfere with play - does not have to slide directly into the base.	Must slide directly into base or away from defender.

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Removing Boundary Lines	The first violation results in a ball (defense) or strike (offense) awarded and a team warning. Any further violations by the same team in addition will restrict the violating player & head coach to dugout.	N/A
Catch with one foot in dead ball area	Not a catch	Good catch.
Designated Player and Flex	DP bats for FLEX who only plays defense	Designater Hitter for any player.
Sub for DP	Eligible substitute may enter for DP and becomes DP	N/A
Sub for FLEX	Eligible substitute may enter for FLEX and becomes FLEX	N/A
Batter Interference with Catcher	The violation must happen after the pitch reaches the catcher & then it's an Immediate Dead Ball	Delayed Dead Ball
Diving	Legal	Illegal
DEF Malicious Contact	Delayed Dead Ball	Immediate Dead Ball
Interference with Batted Ball	Runner standing on base hit with batted ball, NOT OUT. Otherwise if <b>any fielder</b> has play on the ball when runner is struck by ball, runner is OUT.	Runner standing on base hit with batted ball, OUT if infielder has play behind him except Infield Fly.
Obstruction	Obstructed runner awarded at least 1 base beyond base acquired. DDB.	Obstructed runner awarded base she would have reached. IDB if runner is tagged out before reaching base.
Lose Right to Appeal	Only after a pitch (legal or illegal) defense loses right to appeal.	Pitch (legal or illegal), play or attempted play by defense.
BATS	Broken, cracked, dented bats are illegal.	Broken, dented, cracked bat removed with NO penalty.
Double 1st Base	If defender steps one white, runners step on orange and vise versa to avoid injury -	N/A
a	With Powder Blue White Undershirt	Navy undershirt.
10-Run Rule	State Association Adoption only.	By Rule, must enforce.
15-Run Rule	State Association Adoption only.	N/A