

**2017 NATIONAL FEDERATION  
SOFTBALL RULES BOOK  
(For Reference Purposes)  
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INSIDE COVER OF YOUR RULES BOOK**

WISCONSIN ADAPTATIONS TO NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES

**SOFTBALL 2017**

- a. A double first base must be used for all games at all levels of competition (Rule 1-2-1 Note)
  - b. A regular-season game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension and a suspended game will be completed unless both schools agree not to do so (Rule 4-2-3). If the score is tied and both schools agree not to complete the game, it should be counted as one-half win and one-half loss for each team (Rule 4-2-5).
  - c. If a regular season game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, NFHS Rule 4-2-2 will be applied.
  - d. If a WIAA regional or sectional tournament game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead (Rule 4-2-3).
  - e. If a WIAA State Tournament game is called prior to its completion (7 innings), the game becomes a suspended game and every reasonable effort will be made to complete the game. If the game cannot be completed for any reason (e.g. no facility), NFHS Rule 4-2 and Wisconsin Adaptations will govern.
  - f. A regular-season game will end when after five innings a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat (Rule 4-2-3).
- Note: The ten run rule must be used in all tournament games except for the five State Tournament championship games.
- g. By conference agreement or mutual agreement by both head coaches prior to the start of the game, a game may end after three innings if a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat (Rule 4-2-3). Note: The 15 run rule must be used in all WIAA tournament games except the State Tournament games.
  - h. A minimum of 1 1/2 hour time limit may be placed on games. No new inning may be started once the time limit has elapsed, regardless of the number of innings played, unless tied in tournament play (Rule 4-2-3). This is a conference or host school decision not umpire's prerogative.
  - i. The number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five (5) innings. Current game ending procedures still apply. (Rule 4-2-3 Note 2)
  - j. The International Tie-breaker may be used, with prior agreement/announcement, for all regular season games (mutual agreement by both teams) and regular season tournaments (host decision). Conferences may determine use of the tie-breaker and should have this stated in their by-laws. The use of the International Tie-breaker is not allowed in the WIAA tournament series. If a game is tied after seven innings, the game will continue using the International Tie-breaker. Each team starts the inning with the player who completed the last official at bat as a base runner on second base. Each team has the opportunity to bat each inning. (Rule 4-2-6)

**STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS**

- a. Official's Uniform
  - Shirt - Powder blue. Slacks - Heather gray.
  - Hat - Navy blue. Shoes/socks/belt - Black. Jacket - Navy blue
- b. Official's Equipment
  - Mandatory Equipment - Face mask and throat protector.
  - Recommended - Chest protector, protective cup, shin guards, ball/strike indicator, pencil, line-up card.
- c. NFHS approved, optic yellow balls shall be used for all regular season games.
- d. In the absence of a conference approved ball, teams are allowed to provide and use their own game ball in regular season play provided it meets NFHS specifications and is optic yellow.

- e. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms which are now unapproved provided participant safety is not jeopardized.
- f. Both head coaches and the umpires are responsible for being in possession of a current non-approved bat list from the ASA website.
- g. Pregame warm-up: 35 minutes  
35 minutes prior to start of game home field takes field. The field is defined as the entire enclosed field (live ball area). 20 minutes prior to start of game visiting team takes field. Five minutes prior to start of game the pregame meeting will be held and the infield prepped for play. Recommended for regular season. Required for WIAA tournament games.
- h. All varsity games must be held on fields with an outfield fence at 185'-235' (as per NFHS Rule 1-1-3a1). In the event the home team does not have a fence at that distance they may move the game to another field with a legal fence. If they are unable to secure a field the visiting team may host if their field is legal or they may secure a legal field. If neither team has a legal field the game will be played at the home team's field. Schools hosting regular season tournaments on multiple fields, regulation fence distances are recommended but not required.
- i. All batting helmets are required to be school colors or neutral (white, black, gray) colors. Only school logos, reward or commemorative stickers are allowed beyond the NFHS requirement. (Rule 1-6-1 and 1-7-1)
- j. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.

#### **TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES**

- a. The highest seeded team in all regional and sectional semifinal games (all divisions) and sectional final games (Division 1) will also be designated as the HOME team and will have choice of dugout.
- b. A coin flip determines the home team for sectional tournament games (Divisions 2, 3, 4 and 5). The coin flip should be conducted by the site coordinator or umpires at least 45 minutes prior to the start of the game. The first team alpha will have the third base dugout.
- c. Required Pregame Warm-up (all divisions) - 35 minutes prior to the start of the game the home team will take the field. The field is defined as the entire enclosed field (live ball area). 20 minutes prior to the start of the game the visiting team will take the field.
- d. Except for the five State Championship games, a game will end when after five innings a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.
- e. Except for the State Tournament games (quarterfinal, semifinal and championship games), a game will end when after three innings a team is fifteen or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.
- f. The maximum number of participants for each tournament game is 18. Each participating school will be allowed a maximum of 18 players in uniform for each tournament game. Rosters may change from one game to the next.

Noncompliance with this regulation, once competition has begun, shall be regarded as flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the head coach resulting in his/her immediate ejection (leave premises) when brought to the attention of the game umpires.

Note: If no other coach or faculty member of that school is present to supervise the team, the game shall be forfeited and the team disqualified from further participation in the tournament.