



Softball Rules Interpretation

2018 Rule Changes

- **Rule 3 Section 7c:** All Equipment to be inspected by the umpire must be placed outside the dugout/bench area prior to the start of the game.
- **Rule 8 Section 7F-I Effect (Dead Ball Appeal):** Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time is called, any COACH or infielder, with or without possession of the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving too soon on a caught fly ball. No runner may leave a base during this period as the ball remains dead until the next pitch.



NYSSO Updates

- NYSSO State Championships
- NYSSO 3 Man Mechanics
 - GB2
- NYSSO State School
 - Sept 2018
- NYSSO Test (2018)



Points of Emphasis

- Batting Out of Order
 - The improper batter's time at bat is negated.
 - The player who should have batted is out.
 - Any advancement or score of a runner as a result of the improper batter is negated. Runners not called out must return to the last base occupied at the time of the pitch. Any runner, who is called out prior to the discovery of the infraction, remains out.
 - The next batter is the player whose name follows that of the player called out for failing to bat.

Point of Emphasis

➤ Bats:

- The official bat shall be free of **burs, dents, cracks, sharp edges**, and **audible rattles** and show no signs of excessive wear.
- Must in the sole opinion and discretion of the umpire, have been manufactured prior to 2000
- Resin, Pine Tar or Spray substances are permissible on safety grip only.
- No bare metal exposed on handle
- Examples include icing, cooling or heating of any equipment. Warming devices for bats are **NOT** approved.
- Altered Bat
 - Any change to their characteristics from that produced by the manufacturer and shall be considered an altered bat.
 - Note: Engraving ID marking is considered Altered.

Point of Emphasis

➤ Bats



Point of Emphasis

Altered and Non-Approved Bat

1. Rule 7-6B. The batter is out when a batter enters the batter's box with or is discovered using an Altered or Non-Approved bat.

Effect:

- (1) The batter is out.
- (2) The batter is ejected from the game.
- (3) If in a tournament the batter may be subject to future penalties by the Tournament Protest Committee.

2. Rule 7-6C. The batter is out when discovered using an Altered or Non-Approved bat after completing a turn at bat and before the next legal or illegal pitch.

Effect:

- (1) The batter is out.
- (2) The batter is ejected from the game. NYSPHSAA misconduct report needs to be filled out. (check with your section office for more details)
- (3) If in a tournament the batter may be subject to future penalties by the Tournament Protest Committee.
- (4) All outs stand.

NYSSO Standards

- Bat Grip Waiver: 10-15"
- The tie-breaker rule (after 9 innings) **will be employed**. This is **MANDATORY**.
- There is **NO PENALTY** for an unannounced sub!!
- It will be **OPTIONAL** for each SECTION to **ADOPT** a "run rule" with a minimum of 10 runs, to terminate an official softball game. (Ask at Pregame)
- Shared Fly Ball Coverage



NYSSO POE

➤ **Metal Cleats**

- Not allowed in NYSSO
- Players wearing metal cleats after being warned by the umpire not to do so shall be ejected.

➤ **Uniform will not have excessive blood**

- Saturated means a major portion of the garment is covered and soaked through with blood.
- Make sure blood on uniform is cleaned with disinfecting solution.

➤ **Jewelry Policy**

- Religious medals must be taped to the body and under the uniform.
- Medical medals must be taped to the body so they are VISIBLE.
- Soft, pliable barrettes are permissible, body gems are not allowed.
- Livestrong / Plastic wristbands

NYSSO POE

➤ Thunder Policy

- When **thunder** is heard and/or when **lightning** is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to:
 - Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car)
 - Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.
- ***After** thunder and/or lightning have left the area, wait approximately **30 minutes** after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition*

NYSSO POE

- Wearing of HELMETS is mandatory for batter, all base runners, on-deck batter and student coaches.
- Coaches must wear a hard shell protective helmet while at 1st and 3rd.
- All batting helmets and face masks must be NOCSAE approved and MUST have the exterior warning label:

“Do NOT use this helmet if the shell is cracked or deformed or this interior padding is deteriorated. Severe head or neck injury, including paralysis or death may occur to you despite using this helmet. No helmet can prevent all injuries or any neck injuries a player might receive while participating in baseball or softball.”

- Double-ear flap helmets for catchers are MANDATORY.
- Chin Straps (Are optional but must be worn properly if they do)



Points of Emphasis

- If Batter holds bat over the plate without moving it – it is not a strike.
 - Call the pitch where it is...
- Batter must keep one foot in the batter's box.
- Dropped Third Strike – Umpire Mechanic
- Foul Tips
 - Directly from the bat to Catchers Glove/Hand

Points of Emphasis

➤ Conferences

- When a team representative request a suspension of play or delays the game for the purpose of delivering a message to another team member, unless the pitcher is removed from the pitching position.

Offensive	Defensive
1 per Inning.	3 per Game

Points of Emphasis

➤ Courtesy Runners

- Player that has not been in the game.
- Can only run for the Pitcher or Catcher
- But NOT Both
- Can not be substituted in the game in the same half inning.



Pitching

➤ Pitching

- Varsity, JV Pitching Distance will remain at 43' for NYSPHAA
- Pitcher may take signal behind the pitching plate but must simulate taking a signal when she steps on the pitching plate.
- The pitching rule governing “hands coming together” shall be interpreted as follows: **“The ball must be inside the glove.”** (i.e. merely touching the outside of the glove with the ball does not satisfy the rule.)
- Pitcher must take the position on the pitcher’s plate with the hands separated and the ball in the glove or the pitcher’s hand.
- Ball slips from the pitcher hand during delivery – just a ball on the batter

Double 1st Base

- Game can **NOT** be played without a Double First Base
- Half of the base is white (over fair territory) and half of the base (over foul territory) is a **contrasting** color.
- Defense uses the white portion
- Offense uses the colored portion
 - Exceptions:
 - Any play from the foul side of first base
 - Attempted pick-off
 - Errant Throws
 - Tagging Up

DP / Flex Keys

- DP CANNOT play just defense
- FLEX CANNOT play just offense
- DP & Flex CAN play defense at the same time
 - This does not change the batting order
- DP & Flex CANNOT play offense at the same time.



Look Back Rule

- Look Back Rule is in effect when:
 - The ball is live
 - The pitcher has possession and control of the ball within the pitching circle
 - The batter-runner has touched 1st Base or declared out
- Runner may stop once but then must **immediately** return to the base or attempt to advance.
- Once a runner stops at a base for any reason, the runner will be out upon leaving the base.

Obstruction / Interference

- Interference – The act of an offensive player or team member, umpire or spectator, that *impedes, hinders, or confuses* a defensive player attempting to execute a play. Contact is not necessary.
- Obstruction – The act of a defensive team member:
 - Who hinders or impedes a batter from striking at or hitting a pitched ball
 - A fielder, who impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases unless the fielder is:
 - *In possession of the ball* or *In the act of fielding a batted ball*
 - Contact is not necessary to impede the progress of the runner.
 - Verbal Obstruction?
- Wreck



Questions

