



## 2018 NFHS Softball Major Rules Changes

- 2-65-2, 8-1-1c,  
8-4-3a, 9-6-2** The coach or catcher of the defensive team may request an intentional walk either before or during the pitch count.
- 3-2-7c** Language was added to address the use and placement of the wristband playbook/play card and defines this item as a piece of equipment. It also addresses restrictions on color.
- 3-2-15,  
10-2-3a** This change removes the responsibility of the umpires to inspect equipment prior to the start of the game. Rule 4-1-2d already requires head coaches to verify that their players are legally and properly equipped.
- 3-7-1 NOTE,  
6-2-5 NOTE 2** Added language provides umpires with the authority to allow a reasonable number of warm-up pitches to an incoming pitcher due to circumstances that require a pitcher to be removed by rule.
- 6-1-2b** The pitcher may now step back with the non-pivot foot at any time prior to the start of the pitch.

## Major Editorial Changes

- 3-6-12** The language provides clarity and consistency for restriction of alcohol and tobacco use.
- 8-1-2, 10-1-6** This change requires the batter to make an attempt to avoid being hit by a pitched ball in the area between the plate and the batter's box. This portion of the rule had been inadvertently omitted.

## Points of Emphasis

1. Coaches responsibility to verify players are legally equipped including all bats and helmets used in the game.
2. Rules associated with when batter must attempt to avoid being hit by a pitch.
3. Courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher.