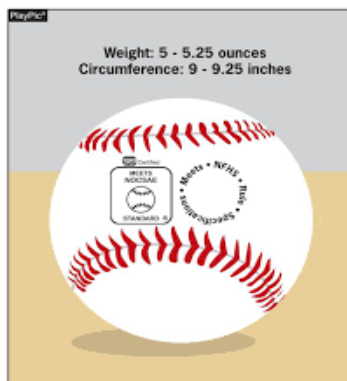


Updated 2021 NFHS Baseball Regulations

Mandatory for all levels of competition (Varsity, Sub-varsity)

Baseballs – Baseballs must meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseball. The NFHS and NOCSAE mark shall both be visible on the ball. All varsity baseball teams will be expected to be in compliance by the first playing date of February 22, 2021. Varsity scrimmages played with non-approved baseball will be allowed to be played, but the umpire will be requested to submit an incident report to the UIL. The penalty for non-approved balls will be treated the same as the penalty for an illegal bat in regular season games and district games is as follows:

- **Prior to start of game** – In the event NFHS/NOCSAE approved baseballs are not available for a varsity contest, the visiting coach will have the option to play the game. If both coaches agree to play the game, the home team coach will be restricted to the dugout for use of illegal equipment. With games not being played, District Executive Committee will decide on the following game options: declare the game a forfeit for the home team or have the game rescheduled to a later date.
- **Once game has started** – Rule 4-1-3b - On the first violation, the penalty for an illegal ball is applied and the head coach shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. On the second violation, the penalty for an illegal ball is applied and the head coach shall be ejected. Penalties assessed to schools utilizing non-approved baseballs during contest will come from the local District Executive Committee

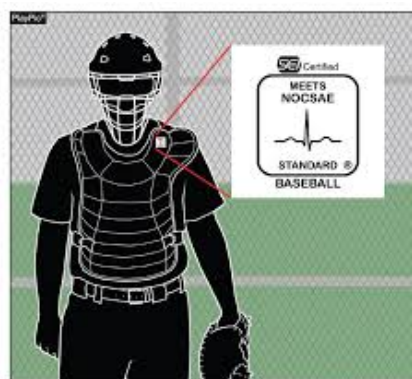


NFHS Catcher's Chest/Body Protector Changes: **Mandatory** for all levels of competition (Varsity, Sub-Varsity)

Chest Protector/Body Protector Changes - Coaches are responsible for knowing if the catcher's chest/body protector equipment meets the rule and should affirm that fact with the umpire-in-chief prior to the start of the ball game.

- **Rule 1-5-3** - Failure by a player to wear proper equipment after being so ordered by the umpire, shall result in ejection. Penalties assessed to schools utilizing non-approved chest protectors during contest will come from the local District Executive Committee.

Coaches have 3 options for NOCSAE certified chest protectors.



Option 1. a new traditional chest protector that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard.



Option 2: a body protector (compression shirt with heart guard built into the shirt) that that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard under the traditional chest protector



Option 3: a chest pad that that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard that fits on top of the traditional chest protector.



2020 NOCSAE Certified Baseball equipment: <https://www.seinet.org/search.htm#§ion=hidden-nocsae,hidden-baseball>