

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

NFHS 2012

BASEBALL RULE CHANGES &
POINTS OF EMPHASIS



AGENDA

- 2012 Rule Changes
- Points of Emphasis



BBCOR BAT STANDARD

RULE 1-3-2d

- Beginning January 1, 2012, the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard for non-wood bats is the only standard allowed.
- The BBCOR certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.
- No post-production, BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat.

BBCOR BAT STANDARD





BBCOR BAT STANDARD

- Bats that have only the BESR certification mark are not allowed for play.
- Some bats will have both the BBCOR and the BESR certification marks on the barrel of the bat. That bat is legal for play.



NON-WOOD BAT

- To be considered a wood bat, the bat must be a single piece of wood.
- A bat that is not a single piece of wood is considered to be a non-wood bat and must meet the BBCOR performance standards.



BAT WARMERS

RULE 1-3-5

- No artificial or intentional means shall be used to control the temperature of the bat.
- Any product or process that controls or manipulates the temperature of a bat – either heating it or cooling it – is illegal.
- Penalty – The bat is considered to be an illegal bat for the duration of the game.

ILLEGAL BAT WARMERS



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

RULE 1-5-8

- Each state association, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances.
- The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.
- The state association now has latitude when presented with a situation.
- Coaches – please work any such needs with the UIL prior to the season/game.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS



BAT AND HELMET CHECKS

RULES 4-1-3b, 1-5-10, 10-2-3a

- Umpires are no longer required to conduct pre-game bat and helmet inspection.
- Coaches now have full responsibility for the legality of their team's equipment.
- The coach must verify to the Umpire-in-Chief at the pre-game meeting that all participants are legally equipped and equipment is in accordance with NFHS rules.
 - The game cannot start until the coach provides the verification .
- Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the Umpire-in-chief.

BAT AND HELMET CHECKS

- A coach may request the umpires to check his team's equipment.
 - Umpires are encouraged to do so if asked.
 - Responsibility remains with the Head Coach for any subsequent illegal equipment use during the game.



COACHES VERIFICATION

- Verification by the coach means that his players are using:
 - Only bats that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design and production and that meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2.
 - Helmets meet the provisions of rule 1-5-1 and are free of cracks and damage.



ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT DETECTED

- If a damaged helmet is found to be in use, the helmet shall be immediately removed from the play and replaced with a compliant helmet.



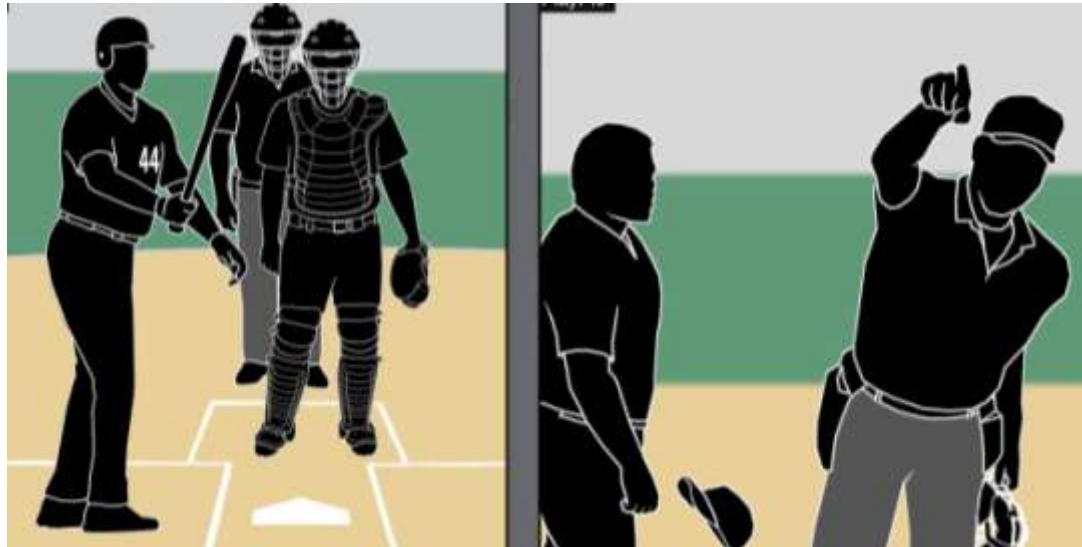
ILLEGAL BAT DETECTED

- First Violation:
 - Rule 7-4-1 is enforced.
 - Batter is out and all runners are returned.
 - Defense may take the penalty or the result of the play.
 - The Head Coach is restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game.



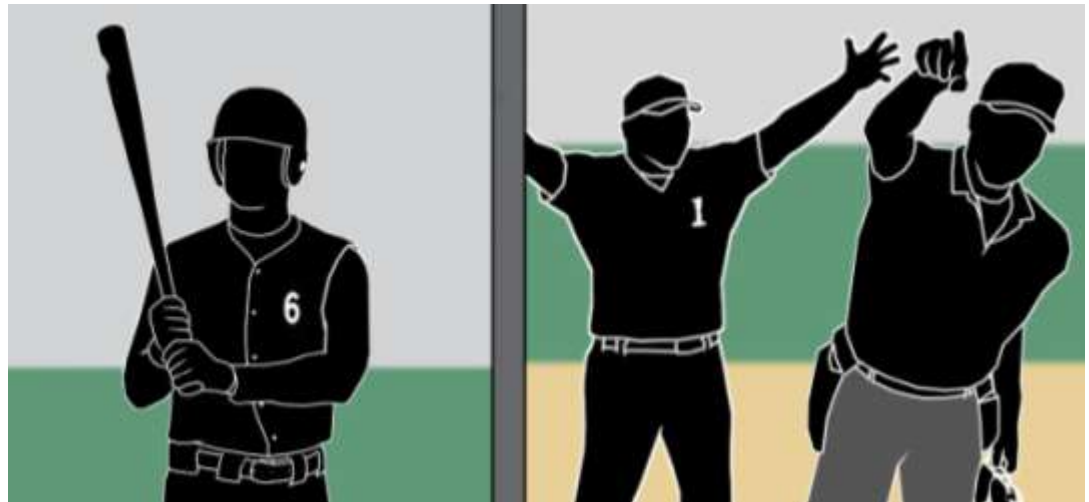
ILLEGAL BAT USED – SECOND VIOLATION

- Rule 7-4-1 is enforced.
 - Batter is out and all runners are returned.
 - Defense may take the penalty or the result of the play.
- The Head Coach shall be ejected.



ILLEGAL BAT USED: THIRD VIOLATION

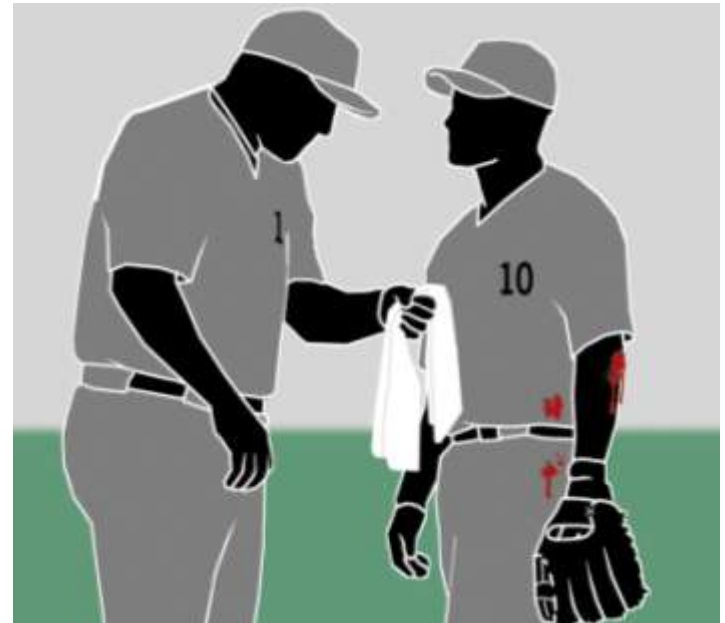
- Use of an Illegal bat is enforced:
 - Batter is out and runners return.
 - Defense has the option of taking the penalty or the result of the play.
 - NOTE: Batter has used an illegal bat when he enters the batter's box, even if the ball is dead.
- Designated Head Coach is ejected. No warning is given since the team has had two prior events.



BLOOD ON UNIFORM

RULE 3-1-6

- Any amount of blood will render the player unable to continue to play until the uniform is cleaned up or changed.
 - Use the spirit of the Uniform rule for replacing a piece of the uniform.
 - Re-entry rule applies if:
 - Player could not be cleaned or changed in a reasonable time.



POST-GAME CONFRONTATIONS

RULE 3-3-1g (7)

- Coaches, team personnel, attendants shall not confront or direct unsportsmanlike conduct to the umpires after the game has concluded.
- If the conduct occurs within the confines of the field, a post-game ejection is possible.
- If the conduct occurs outside the field, the situation is to be reported to the UIL.



PARTICIPATING IN A FIGHT

RULE 3-3-1q

- Any player who leaves the bench/dugout area or his position during a fight, *for any reason*, shall be ejected.
- Only coaches are permitted to leave the dugout/bench or their positions and only if they are assisting in breaking up the situation.



WARM-UP THROWS

RULE 6-2-2c Note

- A relief pitcher may not use more than eight warm-up throws *completed in one minute timed from the first throw.*
 - Starter gets eight warm-up throws to be completed in one minute, timed from the first throw.
 - Pitchers in the game get five warm-up throws to be completed in one minute, timed from the third out of the previous inning.
- If a relief pitcher needs more than eight warm-up throws, the replaced pitcher cannot return to pitch in the game.

Catch of a Third Strike

8-4-1e

- **A third strike can only be caught by the catcher.**
- **This corresponds with the change last year of 2-16-2 that says only the catcher can catch a foul tip.**

UMPIRE POST-GAME CLERICAL RESPONSIBILITY RULE 10-1-2

- After leaving the playing field at the conclusion of the game, the umpires retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports that are responsive to actions occurring while the umpires had jurisdiction.
 - Example: Umpires have left the field but while at their cars observe the two teams fight. The umpires have clerical responsibility to report the incident to the UIL.
- The UIL may then intercede as deemed appropriate.



2012 POINTS OF EMPHASIS



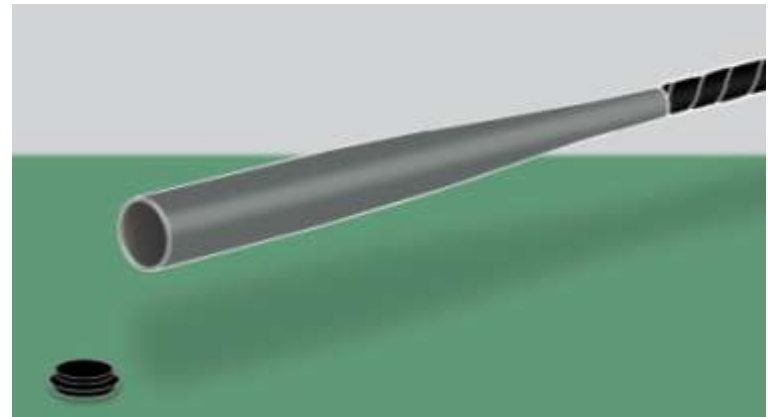
COACH'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Head coach is a teacher, role model and a mentor.
- Required to know and verify that each team member is properly attired and has equipment that meets the standards set by the NFHS rules.
- The head coach is responsible to model appropriate behavior before, during, and after a contest.



ALTERING OF BATS

- Altering and tampering with bats is against the rules and is a Federal Crime.
- The Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association and the NFHS are working together to raise the awareness of the dangers of tampering and altering bats.
- Everyone must be diligent in ensuring only compliant and unaltered bats are used.



PACE OF GAME PLAY

- Baseball, when played on an appropriate pace, is an exciting and enjoyable game.
- To continue to have a great game, everyone needs to be diligent with:
 - Batter's box rule (keeping one foot in the box during the at-bat);
 - Offensive and defensive charged conferences being held in timely manners;
 - Time between half-innings and pitching changes;
 - Umpires diligently counting warm-up pitches

SPORTING BEHAVIOR

- Coaches and Umpires must work together.
- Each contest is another opportunity for coaches and umpires to teach not only baseball skills, but also model respectful behavior as well as professional relationships.
- The positive values that are learned will serve the players long after their baseball experience has concluded.
- Game situations typically provide a coach the opportunity to identify a teachable moment to reinforce good sporting behavior.



HAVE A GREAT 2012 SEASON

