



**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL
ASSOCIATIONS**

**2025 BASEBALL RULES CHANGES and POINTS OF EMPHASIS
(includes rationale and comments)**

Rules Reference	NFHS 2025 Baseball Rules Changes, Rationale, Comments
<p>1-3-2c1 BATS, BALLS and GLOVES</p>	<p>Modified that resin, pine tar or any other drying agent is permitted on the bat in a specific area.</p> <p>ART. 2 . . . The bat shall have the following characteristics and components.</p> <p>Sub-articles a-b remains the same.</p> <p>c. Each bat not made of a single piece of wood shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a safety grip made of cork, tape (no smooth, plastic tape) or commercially manufactured composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob. <p>Slippery tape or similar material shall be prohibited. Resin, pine tar or any drying agent are permitted to enhance the hold <u>on the bat, not to exceed beyond 18 inches from the base of the knob</u>. Molded grips are illegal.</p> <p>Rationale: Risk minimization and consistency. This change allows the batter to have better control over their non-wood bat, so it does not slip out of their hands. It also makes the rule the same for wood bats and non-wood bats.</p>
<p>4-4-1c FORFEITED GAME</p>	<p>A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team delays more than a reasonable amount of time in not obeying an umpire’s order to remove a player, coach or team personnel for violation of the rules.</p> <p>ART. 1 . . . A game shall be forfeited to the offended team by the umpire when a team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. is late in appearing or in beginning play after the umpire calls "Play." State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstance before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams; or b. refuses to continue play after the game has started; or c. delays more than a reasonable amount of time in resuming play, or in not obeying the umpire's order to remove a player, <u>coach or team personnel (3-3-2)</u> for violation of the rules; or d. persists in tactics designed to delay or shorten the game; or e. willfully and persistently violates any of the rules after being warned by the umpire; or... <p>Rationale: Clarification. Forfeiture is the result when a coach, player or team personnel does not conform to the instructions of the umpire. An ejection is a serious violation of sportsmanship and game decorum. To aggravate the violation with a game forfeiture is egregious and contrary to the basic premise of education-based athletics.</p>

	2025 NFHS Baseball Points of Emphasis
	<p>The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believes there are areas of the game of interscholastic baseball that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical – some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” For the 2025 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: Use of Authenticated Mark Program Balls, Pitching Position, Bench Decorum, Use of Props, and Improper Use of Communication Equipment. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because additional attention is warranted.</p>
Use of Authenticated Mark Program Balls	<p>The use of baseballs that have the Authenticated Mark printed on validates that the baseball meets NFHS rules specifications.</p> <p>This program helps promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in the equipment being used. Conforming equipment is essential to the integrity of contests played under NFHS rules.</p>
Pitching Position	<p>Pitchers are required to use one of two positions: the wind-up or the set.</p> <p>In the wind-up, the pitcher’s pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher’s plate and not parallel to it.</p> <p>The position of the pivot foot determines which of the pitching positions is being used.</p> <p>In the set position, the pivot foot is in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate.</p> <p>It is important that umpires, coaches and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play.</p>
Bench Decorum	<p>Coaches set the tone at athletic contests with their display of sportsmanship and respect.</p> <p>If coaches act in a positive sportsmanlike manner, they model the appropriate behavior for the players/team personnel in their dugout/bench area. It also establishes a constructive, non-combative tone for players, spectators and others.</p>
Use pf Props	<p>There is no logical purpose to have props at an education-based athletic event.</p> <p>The use of props or any items to demean or embarrass one’s opponent is contrary to the ideas and expectations supported by the NFHS, who writes playing rules for high school-age and skilled students.</p>
Improper Use of Communication Equipment	<p>The 2024 season was the first year of allowing one-way electronic communication devices from the dugout/bench to the catcher.</p> <p>Various technologies, ear-piece style, electronic bands or smart watches could be used, giving schools several options at various costs.</p> <p>No other player except the catcher is legally allowed to wear or use an electronic communication device, and the coach is not allowed to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.</p>