

Softball Rules Changes

By on February 09, 2021 [softball](#)

NOTE: Due to the cancellation of spring sports last year because of the Coronavirus, the 2020 NFHS Softball Rules will be used for the 2021 season. The Rules Changes written last year will apply for the 2021 season. These changes, which all reference the 2020 NFHS Softball Rules Book, will be in effect for the 2021 season.

1-5-1e, 2-4, 2-4-3, 7-4-2 PENALTY NOTE: Damaged bats are defined.

Rationale: Clarifies that a damaged bat is removed from the game without penalty.

6-1-1: Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

Rationale: Clarifies that the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate, rather than on the top surface of the pitcher's plate.

9-1-1 EXCEPTION c: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by the preceding runner who is declared out on an appeal play.

Rationale: Clarifies that on any appeal play, a run is not scored if the third out is made by a preceding runner.

2020 SOFTBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-1-7: Clarifies that game management or a state administrator may establish a dead-ball media area within the confines of the field, but that area will remain a dead-ball area throughout the game.

1-5-1d: Updates to add the new USA Softball All Games certification mark.

8-4-3d PENALTY: Clarifies that the batter-runner, not the batter is awarded bases when a fielder intentionally contacts the ball with detached equipment.

2020 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-2-3, 2-22-4, 2-57-3, 3-4-1c, 7-1-2 PENALTY 2

2020 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Bat certification marks and USA Softball's list of Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks
2. Damaged bat vs. illegal bat penalties
3. Contact with the pitcher's plate.
4. Inspection of equipment