

2007 Approved Baseball Rule Changes

Rules Reference	
1-4-4	<p>Revised Rule: By state association adoption to allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patch, that will be uniformly placed, not <i>to exceed 4 square inches</i> to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.</p> <p>Rationale: To make the rule compatible with other NFHS rules.</p>
3-2-1	<p>Revised Rule: One player or coach may occupy each coach's box while his team is at bat. <i>A coach or player occupying the coaches' boxes shall remain in the box upon the batter entering the box until the release of the ball by the pitcher if requested by the opposing coach. Once this request is made it applies to both teams for the remainder of the game.</i> A coach who...mobility devices. PENALTY: <i>At the end of playing action, regardless of who violates the rule, the head coach will be restricted to the bench/dugout.</i></p> <p>Rationale: A player or coach standing outside the box gains an unfair advantage where the opposing pitcher intends to pitch the ball. The box-bound player or coach does not have the same angle or unfair advantage. The player or coach outside the box may also distract the pitcher during his delivery.</p>
3-3-1n	<p>Revised Rule: <i>n. initiates malicious contact on offense or defense. PENALTY: In (n) the ball is immediately dead, if on offense, the player is ejected and declared out, unless he has already scored. If the defense commits the malicious contact, the player is ejected; the umpire shall rule either safe or out on the play and award the runner(s) the appropriate base(s) he felt they would have obtained if the malicious contact had not occurred.</i></p> <p>Rationale: To be more definitive on offensive and defensive malicious contact.</p>
3-3-4	<p>New Rule: ... Whenever team members are loosening up an area which is not protected by a fence or other structure, another member of the team with a glove must be positioned between them and the batter to protect them from a batted or thrown ball within the confines of the playing field. No one is to interfere with a live ball.</p> <p>Rationale: This is a risk minimization initiative to protect individuals who are not watching the activity in the field.</p>
4-4-1f Note 2	<p>Revised Rule: Delete...<i>not</i>. The revised note will read: <i>A team playing with fewer than nine players may return to nine players.</i></p>

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	<p>Rationale: To promote participation and to allow a team that had to drop down to eight players to return to nine later during the game.</p>
5-1-1m	<p>Revised Rule: m. <i>when malicious contact (offensive or defensive) occurs;</i></p> <p>Rationale: To complement the other rule changes.</p>
6-2-1e	<p>Revised Rule: Bringing the pitching hand in contact with the mouth either without distinctly wiping off the pitching hand before it touches the ball or while in contact with the pitcher's plate; PENALTY: For defacing the ball...the pitch. For infraction (e), a ball shall be called each time a pitcher violates this rule.</p> <p>Rationale: The penalty is too punitive for the offense.</p>
8-1-2b	<p>b. his fair ball, other than an infield fly, becomes dead (5-1-1f (1),(2)) and provided a preceding runner or retired runner does not interfere in such a way as to prevent a potential double play (8-4-1h).</p> <p>Rationale: Editorial change to reflect the proper rule references.</p>
8-3-2	<p>Revised Rule: ...Malicious contact supersedes obstruction. <i>Runner(s) will be awarded appropriate base(s) per umpire's judgment.</i></p> <p>Rationale: To complement the other rule changes.</p>
10-2-1	<p>Revised Rule: Umpire-in-chief when behind the plate shall wear <i>proper safety equipment including but not limited to; chest protector, face mask, throat guard, plate shoes, shin guards and protective cup (if male).</i></p> <p>Rationale: To offer direction in regards of safety equipment for the plate umpire to wear in the game for their safety.</p>
Base-running Table	<p>Revised Rule: UMPIRE JUDGMENT #3 Defensive Malicious Contact #3 Infraction</p> <p>Rationale: To complement the other rule changes.</p>

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Dead Ball Table	Revised Rule: <i>Activity # 27 Defensive Malicious Contact Awards or Penalty:</i> <i>Umpire will rule safe or out on the play and award runner(s) appropriate base(s) per his judgment.</i> Rationale: To complement the other rule changes.
Official NFHS Baseball Signal	New Rule: <i>Adopt the point motion for the start of the game.</i> Rationale: Align NFHS officials with the national practice of beginning a contest and putting a ball back in play.