

NFHS Baseball Rules Changes - 2015

- **1-5-1:** Clarified the compliant type of surface for batting helmets and reaffirmed that batting helmets shall meet the NOCSAE standard.
 - Surface must be non-glare and cannot have a “mirrored” finish
- **2-16-1f, g:** Clarified additional examples of a foul ball.
 - Batted ball that hits the bat or the batter while he is still in the batter’s box is a foul ball
- **2-21-4, 5:** Clarified the distinction between follow-through interference and backswing interference.
 - Backswing is when the batter is warming up while in the batter’s box and makes contact with the catcher or his equipment
 - Follow-through is the bat coming around after a swing at a pitch
- **3-3-1f:** Deleted the restriction of using video monitoring and replay equipment.
 - Coaches may not have and use video equipment in the dugout for coaching purposes during the game. It is also legal for a coach to be in the stands with a radar gun/camera during the game, but not a player.
 - **3-3-1 PEN:** Deleted the accompanying penalty.
- **5-1-1n:** Clarified that backswing interference is an immediate dead ball.
 - A backswing before the time of the pitch is an immediate dead ball. Let everyone reset and regain their composure and put the ball back in play
 - A backswing after the time of the pitch may, or may not, be batter interference
- **7-3-5c:** Clarified the rules for follow-through interference by the batter.
 - If follow-through interference hinders actions at home plate or interferes with the catcher’s attempt to make a play on a runner, it is batter interference
- **7-3-7:** Clarified the rules for backswing interference by the batter
 - Batter cannot commit backswing interference
- **7-3-7 PEN:** Added the appropriate penalty for backswing interference.
 - If before the time of the pitch, it is an immediate dead ball
- **Courtesy Runner:** Clarified how a courtesy runner is used in a specific scenario.
 - A courtesy runner is not a substitution. If a catcher or pitcher has a courtesy runner in an inning and the team bats around and the catcher or pitcher comes back up to bat in that same inning, the catcher or pitcher can still bat without penalty or re-entry.

Points of Emphasis

- Helmet maintenance and usage
- Pitching substitution/change
- Sportsmanship – Celebrations around or near home plate
- Sportsmanship – Post-game ejections