

2008 NFHS Baseball Rules Changes

1-1-2	<p>The captain and <i>head</i> coach represent the team in communications with the umpires. The captain's and head coach's duties can include: 1) providing the umpire-in-chief with his team's lineup card...</p> <p>Rationale: The head coach is now required to be at the pregame meeting. It is the responsibility of the head coach to be at the pregame meeting to assure that his team is in compliance and will adhere to good sporting behavior.</p>
1-1-2	<p>The captain's and head coach's duties can include: 1) providing the umpire-in-chief with his team's lineup card which <i>shall</i> include the name, shirt number, position, and batting order of each starting player. The name and shirt number of each eligible substitute <i>should</i> also be listed; and 2) informing all players as to ...</p> <p>Rationale: It is reasonable and necessary to mandate how the lineup card is properly filled out. Since there is no violation or penalty if the eligible substitute's name is not listed on the lineup card. It does not seem reasonable to have a rule using the verbiage "shall" and not have rule support.</p>
1-3-6	<p>The glove/mitt worn by the pitcher that includes the colors white and/or gray shall be removed from the game upon discovery by either team and/or umpire.</p> <p>Rationale: Instead of penalizing with a multi-base award. Just remove the glove and replace or rectify the situation.</p>
2-22-3 (new)	<p>Art. 3 ...The fielder without possession of the ball denies access to the base the runner is attempting to achieve.</p> <p>Rationale: Certain fielders are susceptible to blocking the base path of the runner. The defense gains an advantage because the runner does not want to interfere or be ejected from the game due to malicious contact. This rule provides positive benefits to both offensive and defensive teams by minimizing risk.</p>
3-2-1	<p>Rescind...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. 2008 rule to read: One player or coach may occupy each coach's box while his team is at bat. A coach who is not in the uniform...</p> <p>Rationale: This rule is difficult to enforce due to the fact that the umpire does not normally focus on the coach in the box.</p>
3-2-4 (new)	<p>Art.4...The head coach must attend the pregame conference, if available. PENALTY: The head coach will be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game, except to attend to a sick or injured player, if he refuses to attend the pregame conference.</p> <p>Rationale: This will provide umpires rules book support for occurrences that have previously happened in the field.</p>
6-2-4 Penalty	<p>For infraction (e), a ball shall be awarded each time a pitcher violates this rule and subsequently engages the pitching plate.</p> <p>Rationale: Editorial</p>
8-3-2	<p>When a runner is obstructed (2-22) while advancing or returning to a base by a fielder who neither has the ball nor is attempting to make a play, or a fielder without the ball fakes a tag, the umpire shall award...</p> <p>Rationale: Editorial</p>
10-1-9	<p>...Umpires shall wear heather gray slacks, and navy pullover shirt or state association-adopted shirt.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarification</p>