WISCONSIN ADAPTATIONS TO NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES

SOFTBALL 2021

a. A double first base must be used for all games at all levels of competition (Rule 1-2-1 Note).
b. A regular-season game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension and a suspended game will be completed unless both schools agree not to do so (Rule 4-2-3). If the score is tied and both schools agree not to complete the game, it should be counted as one-half win and one-half loss for each team (Rule 4-2-5).
c. If a regular season game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, NFHS Rule 4-2-2 will be applied.
d. A regular-season game will end when after five innings a team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat (Rule 4-2-3). Note: The ten run rule must be used in all tournament games except for the five State Tournament championship games.
e. By conference agreement or mutual agreement by both head coaches prior to the start of the game, a game may end after three innings if a team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat (Rule 4-2-3). Note: The 15 run rule must be used in all WIAA tournament games except the State Tournament games.
f. A minimum of 1 1/2 hour time limit may be placed on games. No new inning may be started once the time limit has elapsed, regardless of the number of innings played, unless tied in tournament play (Rule 4-2-3). This is a conference or host school decision not umpire’s prerogative.
g. The number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five (5) innings. Current game ending procedures still apply (Rule 4-2-3 Note 2).
h. The International Tie-breaker may be used, with prior agreement/announcement, for all regular season games (mutual agreement by both teams) and regular season tournaments (host decision). Conferences may determine use of the tie-breaker and should have this stated in their by-laws. The use of the International Tie-breaker is not allowed in the WIAA tournament series. If a game is tied after seven innings, the game will continue using the International Tie-breaker. Each team starts the inning with the player who completed the last official at bat as a base runner on second base. Each team has the opportunity to bat each inning (Rule 4-2-6).
i. If a WIAA regional or sectional tournament game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game if the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead (Rule 4-2-3).
j. If a WIAA State Tournament game is called prior to its completion (7 innings), the game becomes a suspended game and every reasonable effort will be made to complete the game. If the game cannot be completed for any reason (e.g. no facility), NFHS Rule 4-2 and Wisconsin Adaptations will govern.
NFHS Softball Rules Considerations COVID Related

1. **Face Shields (1-7-1, 1-8-4)**: Per guidance from the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to a helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during contests. Their use during practices increases the risk of unintended injury to the person wearing the shield or to teammates. Coaches should stay outside the width of the batter’s box at home plate, maintaining 6 feet of distance between each person.

2. **Pregame Conference (2-14-2)**: Limit attendees to one coach from each team plus the umpires. Coaches should stay outside the width of the batter’s box at home plate, maintaining 6 feet of distance between each person.

3. **Substitutions (3-3-3)**: The verbal exchange should occur 6 feet from the coach to scorer and opposing team when making line-up changes.

4. **Coaching (3-5-1 NOTE)**: Umpires do not handle equipment on the field during play. Contact with the game balls should be as limited as possible.

5. **Coaching (3-5-3, 3-6-14)**: Coaches who wish to discuss a rule or a ruling on the field must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from the umpire.

6. **Coaching (3-5-2)**: Base coaches must stay 6 feet from a runner at all times after suspension of play.

7. **Bench and Field Conduct (3-6-6)**: Players are not permitted to leave the dugout area to congratulate players when scoring or after home runs. The number of individuals in the dugout is dependent on the size of dugout. Players and coaches must maintain 6 feet of social distance. NFHS rules allow for dugouts/designated warm-up areas to be extended to provide for social distancing.

8. **Charged Conferences (3-7-1, 3-7-2, 3-7-3)**: Coaches holding defensive conferences must stay on the home plate side of the pitcher’s circle, and the player or players must be on the opposite side of the pitcher’s circle maintaining 6 feet of distance. No more than two players plus the pitcher are allowed. Only one coach is permitted during the conference. If a coach visits the pitcher, all other players should stay outside the pitching circle.

9. **Exchange of Line-up Cards (4-2-1b)**: Line-ups should be handed to the umpire, and the umpire will verbally approve or ask any questions about the line-up. It is recommended that line-up cards be exchanged team to team and teams to scorer to be shared via photo or text.

10. **Infractions By The Pitcher (6-2-2)**: Prohibit licking of fingers and wiping them off. Pitchers are not allowed to put their hands to their mouths or blow into their hands prior to pitching the ball. This will be a "no pitch." Any umpire is permitted to make this call. The ball should be called dead immediately and it will be a "no pitch." The ball should be put in the dugout for sanitizing, and the pitcher should sanitize hands before play continues.

11. **Plate Umpire (10-2-1)**: The plate umpire should stand deeper than normal to call balls and strikes.
STATE ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

a. Nonvarsity teams shall be allowed to wear old varsity uniforms which are now unapproved provided participant safety is not jeopardized.

b. Both head coaches and the umpires are responsible for being in possession of a current non-approved bat list from the ASA website.

c. Pregame warm-up shall consist of 35 minutes.
35 minutes prior to the start of the game the home team will take the field. The field is defined as the entire enclosed field (live ball area).
20 minutes prior to the start of the game the visiting team will take the field.
5 minutes prior to the start of the game the pre-game meeting will be held and the field will be prepped for play. Required for regular season and WIAA tournament games.

d. All varsity games must be held on fields with an outfield fence at 185’-235’ (as per NFHS Rule 1-1-3a1). In the event the home team does not have a fence at that distance they may move the game to another field with a legal fence. If they are unable to secure a field the visiting team may host if their field is legal or they may secure a legal field. If neither team has a legal field the game will be played at the home team’s field. Schools hosting regular season tournaments on multiple fields, regulation fence distances are recommended but not required.

e. All batting helmets are required to be school colors or neutral (white, black, gray) colors. Only school logos, reward or commemorative stickers are allowed beyond the NFHS requirement. (Rule 1-6-1 and 1-7-1)

f. Coaches must report to their school administration within 48 hours following a contest any player or coach ejection. School administrators must then report the ejection to the WIAA via written communication within three (3) school days following the contest. This written communication must also include a plan of action to prevent future ejections. Officials will continue to provide electronic reports to the WIAA.

OFFICIALS:

a. Official’s Uniform
   - Shirt - Powder blue
   - Slacks - Heather gray
   - Hat - Navy blue
   - Shoes/socks/belt - Black
   - Jacket - Navy blue

b. Official’s Equipment
   - Mandatory Equipment - Face mask and throat protector
   - Recommended - Chest protector, protective cup, shin guards, ball/strike indicator, pencil, line-up card.