

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2025-26 NFHS Softball Rules Book

(PLEASE KEEP WITH YOUR RULES BOOK)

NATIONAL FEDERATION ALLOWED ADAPTATIONS

- 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
 - (1) Regular Season – 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.
 - (2) Tournament Series – The use of the International Tie-breaker is not allowed in the WIAA tournament series.
- 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.
- k. Electronic devices may be used within the dugout for coaching purposes during the course of the game. (rule 3-6-11)
A coach may use an electronic device for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area. (1-8-6)

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. Pre-game 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 softball games must be held on fields with outfield fences 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, grey) 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, navy blue or black. Slacks - Heather gray, charcoal gray or navy blue.
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.