

2017-18 Baseball

Mark Dreibelbis
Associate Commissioner

Brad Alford
Director of Sports and Championship



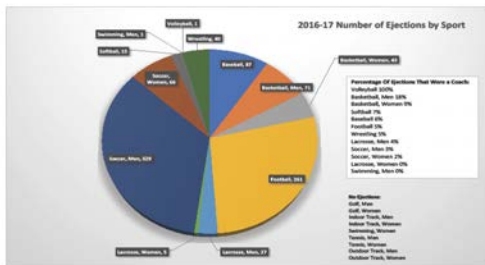
Inspiring individuals, encouraging excellence through education-based athletics.

Sportsmanship...Together We Make the Right Call

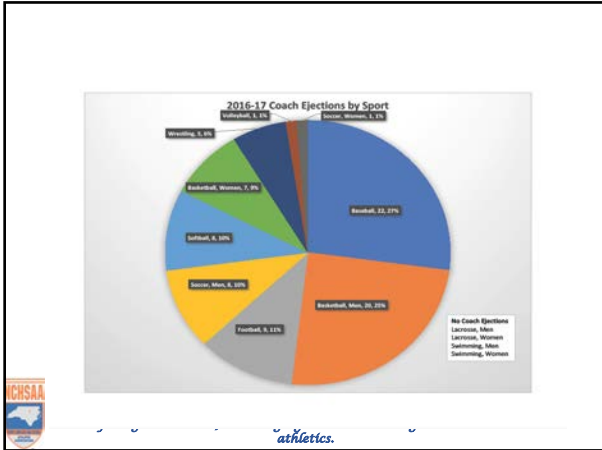
- Zero tolerance regarding profanity/inappropriate language.
- **“One Voice”** – Only the Head Coach has communication with the officials.
 - Assistant Coaches will be properly penalized and the penalty also is assessed to the Head Coach
- Positive and effective/professional communication is expected by all parties associated with the game contest.



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**TOGETHER WE MAKE THE RIGHT CALL
SPORTSMANSHIP**

- **Baseball & Softball Player/Coach Protocol**
- Inappropriate language/profanity – Automatic ejection
- Assistant coaches contesting calls – Automatic ejection
- If assistant coach is on the field (coaching bases) and contests a call – automatic ejection
 - If assistant coach is in dugout contesting call – restrict-to-dugout-by-NFHS-rule-code
 - ~~2nd offense~~ – automatic ejection

**TOGETHER WE MAKE THE RIGHT CALL
SPORTSMANSHIP**

- No coach may come onto the field or to the home plate area to contest a call
 - If they come onto the field of play (between the foul lines) or immediately towards home plate – automatic ejection
 - Head coach may come to the respective foul line in front of their dugout, midway between home plate and first/third base, to confer with crew chief **and base umpire** (if necessary to explain the call) to make an appeal/protest

**TOGETHER WE MAKE THE RIGHT CALL
SPORTSMANSHIP**

- Head Coach Appeal:
 - This appeal/request must be done in a professional manner.
 - When a ruling is given, the appealing coach must return to the dugout.
 - If the call is overturned, opposing coach may come out to the foul line in front of their respective dugout for an explanation without penalty

**TOGETHER WE MAKE THE RIGHT CALL
SPORTSMANSHIP**

- Head Coach Appeal Consequences:
 - If the appealing **head** coach questions the call or is unsporting in his/her conference, ~~a team defensive conference will be charged~~ **a warning will be given. This is to be recorded by the crew chief.**
 - If the conversation/action of the appealing coach warrants, restriction to the dugout or ejection will be given. **This is to be recorded by the crew chief.**
 - If the conversation/action of the appealing coach warrants, an immediate ejection can occur. **The 3-tier system of warn/restrict/eject is not mandatory.**

**TOGETHER WE MAKE THE RIGHT CALL
SPORTSMANSHIP**

- Any player displaying verbal or physical dissent to an umpire
 - Restricted to the dugout (**disqualified**)
 - 2nd offense – ejection from contest
- If profanity or disrespectful – automatic ejection in accordance with NCHSAA Ejection Policy




2018 NFHS BASEBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State High School Associations Take Part. Get Set For Life.™



B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA
Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services

NFHS RULES BOOK AS E-BOOKS




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NFHS BASEBALL RULES CHANGES

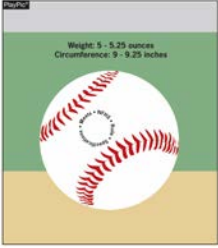



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Rule Change

BASEBALLS RULE 1-3-1

The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs (effective Jan. 1, 2019). A performance standard that measures the ball's circumference, mass, coefficient of restitution and compression deflection.




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Rule Change

BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES RULE 1-3-1


- Art. 1 . . . The ball shall be a sphere formed by yarn...shall not exceed .555. The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs at the time of manufacture and is required on all balls that will be used in high school competition (Effective January 1, 2019). A minimum of three umpire-approved baseballs shall...used in high school competition.

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Rule Change

BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES RULE 1-3-1


- Rationale:**
To maintain a consistent and uniform standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability.

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Rule Change

BATS
RULE 1-3-2a2

Bats shall not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener or attachments that would present a potential hazard.



ILLEGAL


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Rule Change

BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES
RULE 1-3-2A2

ART. 2 . . . The bat shall have the following characteristics and components,


- a. Each legal wood, aluminum or composite bat shall
 - 1. Same language.
 - 2. Not have exposed attachments, rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a potential hazard.
 - 3. Same language.

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Rule Change

BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES
RULE 1-3-2A2



Rationale:
Further clarification concerning attachments that would present a potential hazard are not permitted.

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Rule Change

CATCHER'S CHEST PROTECTOR RULE 1-5-3

The catcher's chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard (effective Jan. 1, 2020). A performance standard based on the pertinent requirements of projectile testing.





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Rule Change

PLAYER EQUIPMENT RULE 1-5-3

- ART. 3 . . . The catcher shall wear, in addition to a head protector, a mask with a throat protector, body/chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard (Effective January 1, 2020), protective cup (male only), and baseball protective shin guards.
- Rationale:**
A NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis. The effective date is January 1, 2020.





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Rule Change

BATTER OVERRUNS FIRST BASE RULE 8-2-7

A batter-runner who reached first base safely and then overruns or over slides may immediately return without liability of being put out provided he does not attempt or feint an advance to second. This now applies to a player who is awarded first base on a base on balls as well as who has a base hit.





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Rule Change

TOUCHING, OCCUPYING AND RETURNING TO A BASE RULE 8-2-7

- **ART. 7 . . .** A runner who reaches first base safely and then overruns or overslides may immediately return without liability of being put out provided he does not attempt or feint an advance to second. ~~A player who is awarded first base on balls does not have this right.~~
- **Rationale:**
This change is easy to coach, officiate and execute as a player. All batter-runners are treated equally and consistently.



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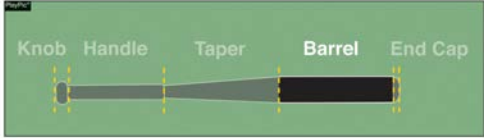
EDITORIAL CHANGES




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Editorial Change

BARREL RULE 1-3-2b3



The barrel is the area intended for contact with a pitched ball. The rulebook language was updated for editorial clarity.



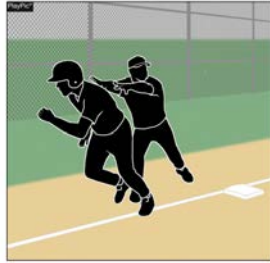
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Editorial Change

COACH PHYSICALLY ASSISTING RUNNER

RULES 2-21-1c, 5-1-2f, DEAD BALL AND DELAYED DEAD BALL TABLE

Rule language was updated to better reflect the 2017 rule change regarding a coach physically assisting a runner during playing action. If a runner is physically assisted by a coach, the runner is called out immediately and the ball remains live.



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POINTS OF EMPHASIS



Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP — NATIONAL ANTHEM STANDOFF

National anthem standoffs do not reflect the mission of education-based athletics. Staring down opponents after the national anthem to try to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is poor sporting behavior.

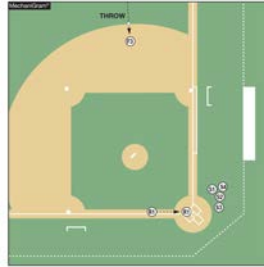


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Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS

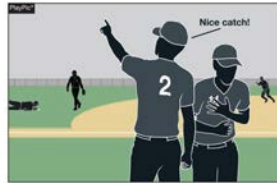
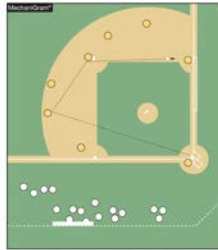
Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purposes.



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Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS



Players are not allowed to stand outside their dugout/bench area and make "cat-calls" or other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice.

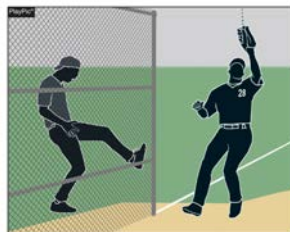


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Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP — NEGATIVE COMMENTS BETWEEN OPPONENTS

Chants, intentional distractions and loud noises directed at the opponent's pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play do not represent good sportsmanship.



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Points of Emphasis

ENFORCEMENT OF NFHS JEWELRY RULE

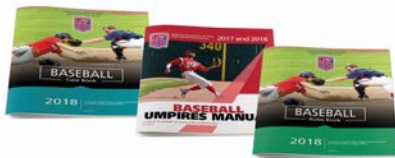
Jewelry — including necklaces, bracelets and earrings — shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.



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Points of Emphasis

ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF NFHS RULES



The rules of high school baseball are designed for the age and skill level of high school players and best serve education-based athletics. Use of non-approved interpretations or rulings that are contradictory to NFHS rules as written can confuse students, coaches, umpires and fans.

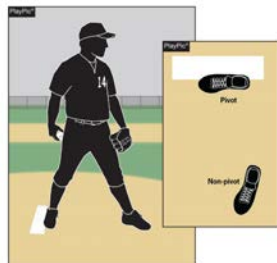


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Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS

The set is one of two legal pitching positions. For the set position, a pitcher shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

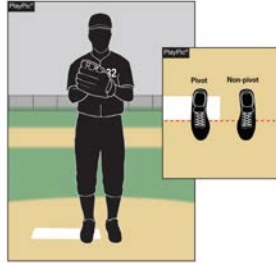


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Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS

The windup is the second of two legal pitching positions. For the windup, the pitcher's non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

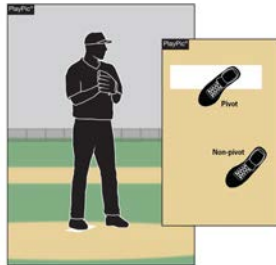


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Points of Emphasis

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS

The so-called hybrid stance is illegal as it does not meet the requirements of either the windup or set positions.



ILLEGAL



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Points of Emphasis

REPLANTING THE PIVOT FOOT

Pitching regulations do not permit a leap/hop and replanting of the pivot foot before delivery of a pitch from either the wind-up or set position (NFHS 6-1-2, 6-1-3).



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Rules Reminder

SKUNK IN THE GRASS PLAY

The so-called "skunk in the grass" play involves R1 taking a lead-off into right field, attempting to cause confusion or draw the throw to give R3 an opportunity to advance home.

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Rules Reminder

SKUNK IN THE GRASS PLAY

R1 may legally lead-off that way. But once a defensive player with the ball attempts to tag R1, his base path is locked in place — a straight line to each of the bases he is between.

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Rules Reminder

EXTRANEIOUS LEAD-OFF POSITION

- “Skunk In The Grass” play has been around baseball for a long time. It has emerged again this past season.
- NFHS Rule 8-4-2a2 provides guidance that, “When a play is being made on a runner or batter-runner, he establishes his baseline as directly between his position and the base toward which he is moving.”
- This is a ruse to create a possible distraction for the defense in order to score the run from third base.



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NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB



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NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION COURSE AND VIDEOS

- Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating
- 30-45 minutes to complete
- Topics include: Basics of Becoming and Staying an Official, Science of Officiating, Art of Officiating
- Course is FREE to NFHS Officials Association members, non-members fee is \$20
- NFHSLearn.com
- Sports such as soccer, basketball and baseball offer direct illustrations of the rules book, including rules references and officials signals
- Animated mechanics videos for softball and baseball umpires
- Video interpretation of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book created through a partnership with the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials



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NFHS FREE COURSES

- Concussion in Sports
- Coaching Pole Vault
- NCAA Eligibility
- Positive Sport Parenting
- Sportsmanship
- Sports Nutrition
- Heat Illness Prevention
- Introduction to Music Adjudication
- Introduction to Pitch Smart
- Learning Pro – Suite of 4 courses
- Coaching Unified Sports
- Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Captains Course
- Interscholastic Officiating



National Coach Certification Program  


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**NCHSAA Board Changes
2017-18**



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Amateur Rule

- Increased allowable merchandise to be received from \$20.00 to \$250.00 per sports season
- Acceptance of money or a forbidden award will cause an athlete to lose athletic eligibility for the semester in which the violation occurred, and the following semester.



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Senior Exceptions

- Students may be allowed to wear school uniforms, including protective equipment, in outside organization competition, so long as the student has exhausted athletic eligibility in that sport and received permission from the member school.
 - Approval from the LEA is strongly recommended.
- Exception to the numbers restrictions for students who have exhausted their eligibility in that sport.
 - Dead period rules will remain.



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Transfer Rule

- Students transferring to a member school where the student's coach has relocated to within a year will be deemed ineligible for a period of 365 days LEA to LEA
- A student's first transfer after initial entry into the 9th grade is not subject to the NCHSAA transfer rule (LEA to LEA). For any transfer thereafter, the student must sit out for 2 consecutive semesters (at least 50% of the current semester + following semester) or 365-days, whichever is less.



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Transfer Rule

- NCHSAA Transfer Committee will be composed of the NCHSAA Executive Committee and at least one (1) non-district affiliated member.
- Modify initial entry interpretation for non-district affiliated schools (Charter and Non-Boarding Parochial) –Rule 1.2.1(a)(2): boundary criteria shall only apply after initial entry into ninth grade.
- Students who want to participate in cheerleading are not subject to the transfer policy, however all current eligibility requirements would remain applicable.



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Residence Rule

- No Custody
 - Residency shall be deemed to be with the parent with whom the student begins the school year (i.e. 1st semester).
- Bona Fide Change: The change must not be solely made for athletics purposes.



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Endowment Games

- The home team will remit twenty-five (25) percent of the gross revenue to the NCHSAA's endowment fund. If a member school plays an endowment game against a non-member school, the member school is responsible for remitting payment to the NCHSAA regardless of where the game is played.



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Wet Bulb Globe Temperature

- Added language to the WBGT Index and Athletic Activity Chart in the 90 or Above category for Athletic Activity Guidelines: SUSPEND PRACTICE/MUST INCLUDE MANDATORY BREAKS AS DIRECTED BY GAMEDAY ADMINISTRATOR DURING CONTEST.



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Facilities

- The NCHSAA has the right to require host teams to find an adequate facility based on expected game/contest attendance and/or quality of venue.



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Coaches Education

- Annual requirements must be completed after June 1, 2017 and before the first date of practice.
- NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest
 - To require all non-paid coaches to complete the NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course annually and prior to the first contest.



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Eligibility Summary Submission Dates

- Fall – September 15th
- Winter – December 15th
- Spring – April 1st



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Skill Development/Dead Periods

- Changed in-season dead periods from 6 weeks to 3 weeks
- Added new dead period:
 - Last 10 student days of the school year
 - Effective 2017-2018



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Playoff Bracket Size

- Changed bracket sizes for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball to:
 - 1A – 48 teams
 - 2A – 64 teams
 - 3A – 64 teams
 - 4A – 48 teams



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Playoff Qualification Process

- Conference automatic qualifiers are determined by the number of teams from a given classification in each conference as follows:
 - 1 – 4 teams = 1 automatic qualifier
 - 5 – 8 teams = 2 automatic qualifiers
 - 9 or more teams = 3 automatic qualifiers



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Playoff Qualification Process

- Conference tournament champions automatically qualify
 - If the regular season champion also wins the tournament, no additional berth will be awarded.
 - If a team other than the regular season champion wins the tournament, it will automatically qualify for the playoffs. The team will be seeded as an at-large berth in the playoffs unless already automatically qualified based upon their regular season conference finish.



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Playoff Qualification Process

- Split conference application
 - The highest finishing team from a given classification will automatically qualify, regardless of overall conference finish.
 - Two teams that finish 1st and 2nd overall in the conference from the same classification will automatically qualify regardless of rule 4.1.18(a) (1-3).
 - **Ties for 1. place in the overall conference or for highest finisher in a classification must be broken using the established tie-breaking procedure [rule 4.1.13].



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Playoff Qualification Process

- If too many teams qualify using the above criteria, adjustments to the established bracket size will be made to accommodate the automatic qualifiers.
- If not enough teams qualify using the above criteria, the bracket will be filled by non-automatic qualifiers in that classification
 - Team in their classification will be selected to fill the remaining slots in the bracket based upon conference finish, then Adjusted MaxPreps Rankings.



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Playoff Seeding

- Once the qualifying teams in each classification are determined, they will be divided into two regions of equal size (East and West) based on the longitude of each school.
- The teams in each region will be seeded as follows:
 - Seed all 1st place automatic berths by Adjusted MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system); then
 - Seed all 2nd place automatic berths by Adjusted MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system); then
 - Seed all 3rd place automatic berths by Adjusted MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system); then
 - Seed all conference tournament champions and at-large berths by Adjusted MaxPreps ranking (or other NCHSAA selected ranking system).
- **NOTE:** The highest finishing team in its half of a split conference must finish in 1st, 2nd, 3rd place overall and/or have an overall winning percentage of .500 or higher in order to be seeded as a #1. Otherwise, the team will be seeded with all other at-large teams.
- Once seeding is complete:
 - Existing byes will be awarded to the highest seeds possible.
 - The higher seed is the home team unless otherwise determined by the NCHSAA.



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Important Dates

Start: Monday, February 14

1st Contest: Monday, February 28

MaxPreps Entry Deadline: Saturday, May 5
11:59 p.m.

Seeding: Monday, May 7

Playoff Dates:

- 1st Round: Wednesday, May 9
- 2nd Round: Saturday, May 12
- 3rd Round: Tuesday, May 15
- 4th Round: Saturday, May 18

Regionals: Tuesday, May 22-26

State Championships: Friday and Saturday, June 1-2



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Number of Contest

- No more than four per week.
 - 4th single game of the week must be on a non-school day.
 - 4 games in 3 days is permissible without using a non-school day.
- Teams and individuals are limited to two contest a day.



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MaxPreps

Official Statistics Provider

- Records and standings for post-season qualifications
 - Official record
 - Incorrect record subject to DQ from playoffs
- All games MUST be entered by:
 - Saturday, May 5th by 11:59 pm
 - Triple check your record!
- Instructions can be found on the NCHSAA website



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Sportsmanship

The quality of responsible behavior characterized by a spirit of generosity and a genuine concern for opponents, officials and teammates.

- Wholesome athletic environment
- Good Sportsmanship > Victory
- Modest in victory, gracious in defeat
- Respecting judgment and integrity of game officials
- Role modeling good behavior



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Ejection Policy

- + Fighting
- + Leaving the bench area
- + Flagrant contact
- + Biting
- + Taunting, baiting or spitting toward an opponent or official
- + Profanity
- + Obscene gestures
- + Disrespectfully addressing an official



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Ejection Follow-Up

- + Teaching & Modeling Behavior Course
 - Required for any coach ejected during a contest
 - Required for any coach who has player (s) ejected for fighting
- + NFHS Sportsmanship Course
 - For any ejected/disqualified player
 - Free, on-line course (nfhslearn.com)
- + All certificates must be sent to NCHSAA



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Inclement/Hot Weather Guidelines

The following should be considered when scheduling practice:

- + Time of day
- + Intensity level of practice
- + Equipment worn
- + Environmental conditions
- + High Temperature and high humidity create a dangerous situation for athletes. High humidity and low
- + Water/fluid replacement breaks recommended each 20 or 30 minutes. (depending on practice conditions)
- + Check with your AD on your LEA's and school's policy pertaining to practice on days of extreme heat.

temperature can also cause serious heat-related problems.



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Dead Periods

Summer 2017	July 3-July 19 and July 17-23
Fall 2017	July 31 through August 20
Winter 2017	Oct 30 through November 19
Spring 2018	N/A
Summer 2018	July 2-July 8 and July 16-July 22



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Eligibility & Compliance



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Eligibility

Video

- Required viewing for all coaches
- Should be done with the athletic director
- Includes opportunities to discuss concussions/sudden cardiac arrests/sickle cell, etc.



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Eligibility

Preseason Meeting

- Required attendance by all parents
- Time to share rules, regulations, expectations, philosophy etc.
- Time to get all required signatures--pledges, Gfeller-Waller information, etc.
- Eligibility and Authorization



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Eligibility

• Eligibility Checklist

- Use to ensure school has done its due diligence



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Clinic Attendance

Head coaches in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track & field, volleyball and wrestling must attend an NCHSAA approved State Rules Clinic.

- Must be completed prior to coaching in the first contest; subject to \$400 fine, in addition to a \$500 fine if he/she actually coaches in the contest
- Can be satisfied at the NC Coaches' Association Clinic being held here in Greensboro—July 17-20



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Clinic Attendance

- If the head coach cannot attend the NCCA clinic or is not hired until afterwards, the requirement can also be met at one of the statewide officials' clinics, which are posted on the NCHSAA Website under clinics. Please note that several volleyball and soccer clinics for officials occur prior to the NCCA Clinic.
- **Athletic directors cannot satisfy this requirement by attending a rules' session in place of the head coach**



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Coaches' Education

NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course

- **All** coaches must satisfy the requirement prior to first contest.
- Complete prior to first contest; subject to a \$500 fine; continuing to coach without completion = another \$500.



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Coaches' Education

Concussion Management Certification

- The **NFHS Concussion in Sports Course** (free on-line course) or an equivalent course must be completed annually (*after June 1, 2017 and before the first date of practice*) by all coaches.
- **Prior to the first date of practice for that sport**; subsequently, the certificate of completion must be on file at the individual school; subject to \$500 fine.



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Coaches' Education

CPR/AED Certification

- All head and paid coaches must be CPR/AED certified
 - Effective August 1, 2017

NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course

- All non-paid coaches are required to complete the NFHS Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course annually (*after June 1, 2017 and before the first date of practice*).
 - Effective August 1, 2017



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Gfeller-Waller Concussion Law

Requirements of the Law:

- Concussion signs and symptoms
 - Given prior to participation
 - Parents/athletes sign indicating "receipt of" Return to Play (RTP) form signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine
 - An up-to-date Emergency Action Plan (EAP)
 - Must be on-file
 - Must be posted
 - Must be updated annually
- "When in doubt, sit them out"



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Cardiac Safety Program

All NCHSAA member schools must have a Cardiac Safety Program to include three (3) components:

- Appropriate number of AEDs on Campus
- AED maintenance program (battery checks, maintain, replacement at appropriate intervals)
- Required viewing of short AED/CPR video for all supervising adults (teachers, coaches, administrators)



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Coaches' Education

"Education is a journey, not a destination"



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Coaches' Education

Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC)

- Requires completion of 4 courses:
 - Fundamentals of Coaching
 - 1st Aid, Health & Safety for Coaches
 - Sport Specific Course or Teaching Sports Skills
 - Concussion in Sports (Free)



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Coaches' Education

Certified Interscholastic Coach (CIC)

- Completion of AIC requirements
- Plus:
 - Teaching & Modeling Behavior
 - Engaging Effectively with Parents
 - Sportsmanship
 - Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
 - Strength & Conditioning
 - 2 additional courses (User Choice)



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Transfer Policy

- If a bona fide change of residence—no transfer waiver necessary
- Transfer packet with forms are on-line; password protected
- Work with athletic director to ensure students meet residence rule requirements



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THANK YOU

- Get involved with student services
- Visit the NCHSAA website often
- Pick-up your card as you leave today
 - Enter your code immediately to get credit for attendance
 - Mobile device or computer
 - All fields required except comments box
 - Use same email address that was used for NFHS Courses
 - Deadline for entry is August 14, 2017
 - Avoid \$400 fine for your school



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