



### **2022 MHSAA Softball Items & Reminders**

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1. Online rules meetings will launch on January 24 and will close on April 14. The head varsity coach MUST complete a rules meeting or the coach is prohibited from coaching at any level in the MHSAA tournament. Assistant varsity coaches and subvarsity coaches must also complete the rules meeting requirement, or have their Athletic Director attest to them doing so.
2. Bats: For the 2022 softball season, National Federation playing rules again require that all non-wood bats must (1) display the **ASA** certification mark from 2000 or 2004 or the USA Softball All-Games Certification Mark to be a legal bat and not appear on the USA/ASA “banned bat” list and (2) must not appear on the list of the [USA Softball Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks](#).
3. MHSAA tournament sites and groupings are posted on MHSAA.com.
4. Umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets prior to the game. Head coaches shall attest at the pregame conference that all players are legally equipped.
5. Health & Safety: Information regarding concussion protocols and heat & hydration policies can be found by [Clicking Here](#).
6. Umpires are required to collect, and coaches submit a lineup card to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference. Umpires must maintain a line card throughout the game and all substitutions, including CR must be reported to the plate umpire. If a DP/FLEX is used it must be on the lineup card properly at the time of the pre-game conference when lineups become official.
7. Again in 2022, the season maximum is 38 games for a team and individual during the regular season. A school may not schedule more than 38 regular season games. MHSAA Tournament games do not count toward the 38-game maximum.
8. **2022 MHSAA Tournament Dates**
  - Districts: May 31, June 3-4.
  - Regionals: Saturday, June 11
  - Quarterfinals: Tuesday, June 14
  - Semifinals: Thursday & Friday, June 16-17 - Secchia Stadium, East Lansing
  - Finals: Saturday, June 18 - Secchia Stadium, East Lansing

## **2022 NFHS Softball Rules Changes**

**Rule 1-2-1:** Clarifies bases may be designed to disengage from their anchor system.

**Rationale:** This change places rule language with other regulations covering the field and its equipment.

**Rule 1-3-3:** Aligns ball tolerance specifications with other rule codes.

**Rationale:** Balls manufactured with the former specifications will be permitted through 2024, to allow for manufacturers and schools to reduce current inventory. The new ball specifications are permitted for use during the 2021-22 season and will be required by January 1, 2025.

**Rule 3-2-5b:** Removes the language prohibiting hard items to control the hair in the sport of softball.

**Rationale:** Clarifies adornments such as beads can be worn in the hair and aligns language with other NFHS rules codes.

**Rule 3-2-5c:** Permits players to wear soft and secure headwear for religious purposes without prior state association approval.

**Rationale:** Eliminates the need for authorization from the state associations for religious headwear.

**Rule 3-5-3:** When in live ball areas, a coach shall be attired in a school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with slacks, shorts, or other leg coverings in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray.

**Rationale:** Updated language clarifies items which can be worn by coaches in a live-ball area.

**Rule 3-6-21 & PENALTY:** Establishes the penalty when a damaged bat that was previously removed is re-introduced into the game.

**Rationale:** The penalty outlines protocol for dealing with situations in which a damaged bat is removed, then re-introduced to the game.

**Rule 6-2-2 & NOTE:** Removes language from Rule 6-2-2 and places it as a NOTE under the PENALTY.

**Rationale:** The language and rule reference is a reminder to players, coaches and officials about distracting items worn by the pitcher, but is not a part of Rule 6-2-2.

**Rule 8-2-6:** Clarifies a runner is considered outside the running lane when either foot last contacting the ground completely outside the lane.

**Rationale:** New language more adequately describes the intent of the rule and will provide more consistent enforcement.

## **2022 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**

2-4-3, 2-37, 2-38-2, 2-38-3, 2-38-4, 3-2-12, 3-7-1 NOTE, 4-2-3 NOTE 2, 5-1 Dead Ball Table, 7-3-1, 7-4-2 NOTE, 7-4-6, 7-4-7, 7-4-15 NEW, 7-5-4 PENALTY 1, 9-5 EXCEPTION 1 and 3

## **SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Huddles Between Innings
2. Guidance for Pitcher Utilization
3. Assisting A Runner
4. Simulating Taking a Sign

NFHS STAFF: [Video presentation describing 2022 Softball Rule Changes](#)