

# Welcome to 2024 Softball Training



## Night 2 Agenda – Jan 29, 2024

- Welcome – Dave, Robert, and Mike
- New rules – Robert
- Comments of new rules – Robert
- Point of Emphasis – Robert
- Sportsmanship – Mike
- Time Between Innings – Mike
- Jewelry & Electronic Communication – Mike

# Welcome

- Opening comments from Dave

# Softball Rules Changes 2024

- **Listed on NFHS website.**

# Softball Comments on the Rules Changes of 2024

- **1-8-6: The rule edit continues to require that electronic devices for coaching purposes can only be used in the dugout but does not require that the information originate from the dugout. The electronic information may be transmitted to the dugout from anywhere outside of live ball area.**
- **3-2-3: Beginning January 1, 2027, uniforms may only bear a single manufacturer's logo, school name, school logo, mascot and/or the participant's name. Advertisements, messages, team slogans, etc., will no longer be allowed.**

# Softball Comments on the Rules Changes of 2024

- **3-2-5: Headbands and ribbons are no longer restricted under the uniform rules. Headbands and ribbons may be any color or design.**
- **3-2-7: If worn, a player's wristband with a playbook/playcard must be worn on the player's wrist or arm. If worn by the pitcher, the wristband with a playbook/playcard must be worn on the non-pitching wrist or arm. It remains legal for players to keep the wristband with a playbook/playcard in their back pocket.**

# Softball Comments on the Rules Changes of 2024

- **4-2-7, 10-2-3e, h:** The umpire may call (end) a game if conditions in or around the facility become unacceptable to safely continue the game.
- **6-1-2c, 2-47:** The pitcher may now have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain within the 24-inch width of the pitcher's plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot. A definition for the replant was added.

# Softball Comments on the Rules Changes of 2024

- **6-2-2: Pitchers shall only use dirt, powdered rosin or comparable drying agents that are listed on the USA Softball's certified equipment webpage to dry the hand.**



# Softball Points of Emphasis of 2024

- **Game Management**
- **Coach and umpire communication should be conversational, not confrontational.**
- **As an umpire, it is important to balance an understanding of the passion coaches hold for their teams and the sporting expectations of education-based athletics.**
- **There has to be a mutual respect for each other and a professionalism that is followed by both coaches and umpires to maintain the working relationship that is imperative to have a successful game.**
- **Listening to understand a coach's issue so you can properly respond to their concerns is a huge part of defusing the situation.**

# Softball Points of Emphasis of 2024

- **Game Management {cont}**
- **Another helpful tool for the umpire is utilizing rule book terminology to help keep discussions on topic and achieve resolution more quickly.**
- **Another key aspect of game management is managing the flow of the game.**
- **Although umpires are not there to “rush” players, one of the responsibilities of an umpire is to help maintain a good flow of the game.**
- **This can be done without being overly aggressive, often just a simple “here we go” or “let’s get ready to play red” is all the encouragement that a team needs to know.**

# Softball Points of Emphasis of 2024

- **Unacceptable Conditions**
- **Umpire jurisdiction is limited to the confines of the field of play.**
- **Items outside of the field of play, like spectator behavior, is monitored and controlled by event management.**
- **Absent of a designated event manager, the home team's head coach assumes this responsibility.**
- **If conditions become unacceptable for play due to spectator conduct, umpires have the authority to call (end) the contest.**
- **In addition to spectator behavior, other external conditions could result in the umpire having to call (end) the contest.**

# Softball Points of Emphasis of 2024

- **Unreported vs. Illegal Substitutions**
- **An illegal substitute is a player who is ineligible to occupy a position in the lineup. This can occur when a player:**
  - 1. Enters or re-enters the game without eligibility to do so (illegal re-entry).**
  - 2. Re-enters the game in the wrong position in the batting order.**
  - 3. Is the (F.P.) FLEX and enters the game as a batter or runner in a different position in the batting order than the DP.**
  - 4. Violates the courtesy runner rule.**
- **All of these violations result in an illegal substitution.**
- **Offensive violations are defined in Rule 3-4-2, Defensive is Rule 3-4-3.**
- **All violations of illegal substitution results in restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game on the first offense.**

# Softball Points of Emphasis of 2024

- **Unreported vs. Illegal Substitutions {cont}**
- **An unreported substitute is a player that could legally occupy the position they are in the lineup but has simply failed to report that they are entering the game.**
- **When a player enters the game unreported, a warning is issued to the head coach.**
- **Any subsequent violation results in both the head coach and player being restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.**

# Softball Points of Emphasis of 2024

- **Pitching Mechanics: Replant**
- **The allowance for both feet to disengage from the playing surface while delivering a pitch has increased the concern about pitching mechanics involving a replant of the pivot foot.**
- **A replant during the delivery would result in an illegal pitch.**
- **To help assist in enforcement of this rule, a new definition of replant was created.**
- **Rule 2-47 now defines that a replant of the pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate prior to the act of delivering the pitch.**

# Time Between Innings

- **Rule 6-2-5:**
- **At the beginning of each half-inning no more than one minute may be used to deliver five pitches to the catcher or other teammate.**

# Jewelry & Electronic Communication

## **Rule 3-2-12:**

- **a. Removes language prohibiting the wearing of jewelry**
- **b. Unless in Umpires judgement the jewelry is considered distraction or increases risk to any player.**



# Important Training dates

- **February 05: Location -- Green Run HS**
- **February 10: (Saturday) or 11 (Sunday) TBD – Travel teams – Location TBD**
- **February 12: Location Landstown HS**
- **February 26: Location TBD**
- **March 03: EOA Business meeting – Location LETA Virginia Beach**
- **March 04: Location TBD**
- **March 11: Location TBD**
- **April 21: 3 Man Clinic at 3 and 5pm - Location TBD**
- **April 22: Mid season meeting – Location TBD**
- **June 12: State games**
- **July 14: End of Season Softball Committee Meeting**

## Important VHSL dates

- **Register for Softball test and clinic**
  - [www.whistle.vhsl.org](http://www.whistle.vhsl.org)
- **March 11<sup>th</sup>, Test and clinic closes.**

Questions?