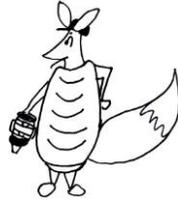


NJSIAA Softball Interpretation Blast
Tuesday, April 15, 2019



Hi everyone!

There is still apparently some misunderstanding concerning sunglasses. Some comments that I am receiving are that all sunglasses have some degree of reflection, therefore the determination of legal/illegal sunglasses is confusing. The bottom line is that they cannot be mirror-like. I have attached an example with this blast. Also, officials should not be wearing this type of sunglasses either, as we should be setting an example.

1. **Mirror-like/Hologram sunglasses.** There are a several rule citations that may apply. Rule 1-7-1 states that the batting helmet must have a non-glare surface (mirror-like). Rule 3-2-8 states that the uniform must not have reflective buttons or ornaments. Most importantly, Rule 3-2-14 states that any equipment judged by the umpire to be potentially dangerous is illegal. Keeping in line with the other rules concerning reflective items, sunglasses that are **mirror-like** could potentially be dangerous, and therefore **illegal**. Regular sunglasses are legal as long as they are worn properly (not on top of a hat, for example).
2. **“Quick pitching.”** Please be reminded that a pitcher must come to the pitching plate with hands apart, and then pause to take a signal or simulate taking a signal from the catcher before putting her hands together to begin her pitch. This is done to allow the batter time to get set.
3. **Arm pads.** If a player gets hit in the arm pad that is in the strike zone, a dead ball strike is called.
4. **Arm Sleeves.** They must be the same color as the exposed undergarment.
5. **Pick-off Play Mechanics.** When the base umpire is in the “C” position, the plate umpire will take the pick-off play at first.
6. **Proper mechanics when a coach asks for an opinion of a call by your partner.** When this occurs, direct the coach to the person who initially made the call. At that time, if the official who made the call feels help could be warranted, then that official may confer with the partner for help. The bottom line is that the person making the call will either go to the partner or stay with the call. The other official does not initiate the conversation.
7. **Time limits.** There are no timed games!

8. **Bats.** NFHS has approved the immediate use of the new USA Softball Certification Mark for all games, shown below.

Current ASA Certification Marks



New USA Softball Certification Mark



To be clear, in order for a bat to be approved for use in NFHS competition it must bear one of the three certification marks shown above and not be on the USA Softball Non-Approved Bats list with certification marks.

9. **Pitching styles.** Although it is common practice is for a pitcher to use a windmill pitch, a pitcher can also use a slingshot or figure eight style as well. They must, however, conform to all of the rules concerning pitching.
10. **Modifications for lower level play.** Once again, As of this date, only the Colonial Conference has requested and been granted permission to use the following modification in lower level play:
3 outs or 5 runs per inning

The following schools are in the Colonial Conference: Audubon, West Deptford, Collingswood, Haddonfield, Haddon Heights, Haddon Township, Gateway, Overbrook, Woodbury, Paulsboro, Sterling and Lindenwold

The NFHS has asked for input on a survey concerning the Rules. I have attached the instructions to take the survey. Please try to find time to take the survey.

Allison

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