



**2018 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES POWERPOINT**

National Federation of State High School Associations

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

Rules Changes  
Major Editorial Changes  
Points of Emphasis

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**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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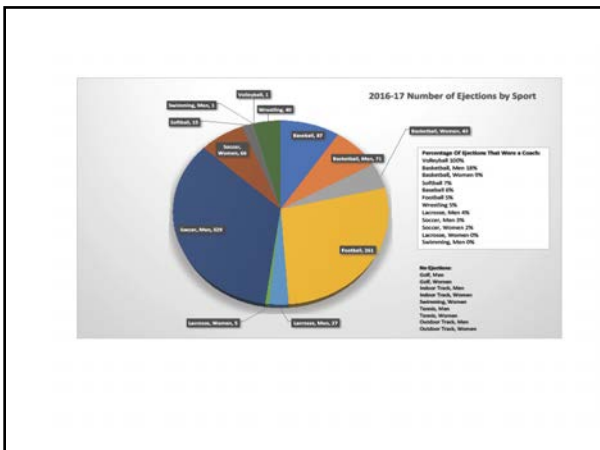
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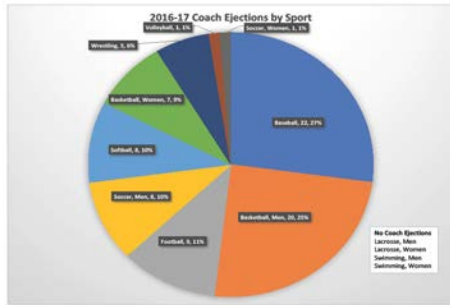
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## TOGETHER WE MAKE THE RIGHT CALL SPORTSMANSHIP

- **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




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## 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




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## 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




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## 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.




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## 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




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**GET NFHS RULES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE**

Now you have nothing your players can't look up and access to find an answer on quickly, easily and on the go!

**E-books features:**

- Searchable
- Highlight areas of interest
- Make notes
- Easy navigation
- Adjustable viewing size
- Immediate availability

[www.nfhs.org/ebooks](http://www.nfhs.org/ebooks)

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**NEW NFHS RULES APP**

**Rules App features:**

- Searchable
- Highlight notes
- Bookmarks
- Quizzes for all sports
- Easy navigation
- Immediate availability
- Free to paid members of the NFHS Coaches and Officials Associations
- [www.nfhs.org/erules](http://www.nfhs.org/erules) for more information

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**2018 NFHS SOFTBALL RULES CHANGES**

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## Rule Change

## CORRECTIONS

## Rules Book 2-65-2

**ART. 2 . . . Intentional Walk (Base on balls)** – A request made to the umpire by the defensive coach, pitcher or catcher, for the purpose of awarding the batter first base. ~~No pitches are thrown.~~ The request may be made prior to or during the at bat.

## Case Book

**8.1.1 SITUATION G J:** R1 is on third. R1 starts home as in a squeeze play. F3, who is playing close for a bunt, cuts off the pitch and tags R1. **RULING:** This is treated the same as catcher obstruction. The ball becomes dead at the end of playing action. The coach or captain of the team at bat has the option of the play or penalty. If the penalty is accepted, R1 is awarded home and B2 is awarded first. (2-36, 8-1-1d)



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## Rule Change

INTENTIONAL WALK  
RULES 2-65-2, 8-1-1c, 8-4-3a

**ART. 2 . . . Intentional Walk (Base on balls) (S-P).** A request made to the umpire by the defensive coach, pitcher or catcher, for the purpose of awarding the batter first base. ~~No pitches are thrown.~~ The request may be made prior to or during the at bat.



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## Rule Change

EQUIPMENT  
RULE 3-2-7c EXCEPTION (NEW)

Any wristband with a playbook/playcard attached shall be considered equipment and is permitted as long as it is a single, solid color and not optic yellow. It does not have to match the color of the upper undergarment. It shall only be worn on the non-pitching arm.



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Rule Change

## EQUIPMENT RULE 3-2-15



**ART. 15** ... All equipment shall be inspected by the umpire, and is to be placed outside the dugout/bench prior to the start of the game.

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Rule Change

## CHARGED CONFERENCES RULE 3-7-1 NOTE (NEW)

- NOTE:** If the incoming pitcher has already pitched in the game, she will receive five warm-up pitches. When a pitcher is removed by rule and the incoming pitcher has not pitched in the game, the umpire is authorized to permit warm-up pitches.



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Rule Change

## PITCHING REGULATIONS (F.P.) RULE 6-1-2b

- Any step backward shall begin prior to the start of the pitch. The step backward may end before or after the hands come together. Once the pitch has started, the pitcher shall not take more than one step which must be forward, toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery.



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Rule Change

## INFRACTIONS BY PITCHER (F.P.) RULE 6-2-5 NOTE 2



- ART. 5 . . . At the beginning of each half-inning or when a pitcher relieves another, no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than five balls to the catcher or other teammate. The one-minute time limit begins from the third out of the previous half-inning. Play shall be suspended during this time.

**NOTE 2:** Umpire is authorized to allow more pitches when weather is inclement or if pitcher was removed by rule or due to an injury.

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Rule Change

## PITCHER'S RECORD RULE 9-6-2

- ART. 2 . . . The number of bases on balls, batters being hit by a pitch (F.P.), strikeouts, and base hits allowed by each pitcher shall be recorded in the summary. If a batter is hit by what would have been the fourth ball (F.P.), it is recorded as a hit batter. An intentional walk is recorded as a base on balls.

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Rule Change

## PLATE UMPIRE RULE 10-2-3a



- ART. 3 . . . The duties include those listed in 10-2-1 and also the following:
  - conduct the pregame conference as in 4-1-2. Inspect equipment, including batting and catcher's helmets, bats, inspect the condition of the field, define the dugout/bench areas, and if necessary, designate the official scorekeeper (9-2-2).

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Editorial Change

**BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT  
RULE 3-6-12**




▪ **ART. 12 . . . Tobacco-products, in any form, are prohibited:** No participant, coach or administrator shall use alcohol or any form of tobacco product (e-cigarette or similar items) beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the contest.

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Rule Change

**8-1-2 HIT BY PITCH**

▪ **ART. 2 . . .** A batter is awarded first base when:

c. (F.P.) a pitched ball (not entirely in the batter's box) not swung at nor called a strike touches any part of the batter's person or clothing. It does not matter if the ball strikes the ground before hitting the batter. The batter's hands are not to be considered part of the bat. If no attempt is made to avoid being hit, the batter will not be awarded first base unless it is ball four.



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Editorial Change

## BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT RULE 10-1-6



- ART. 6 . . . Umpires shall not use tobacco products in any form in the vicinity of the playing field; No game official shall use alcohol or any form of tobacco product (e-cigarette or similar items) beginning with arrival at the competition site until departure following the completion of the contest.

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## 2018 NFHS SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



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Points of Emphasis

## COACHES RESPONSIBILITY

- Coaches are responsible for verifying at the pregame conference that all their players are legally and properly equipped. Penalties for illegal equipment range from correcting the problem if possible or having the equipment removed. Possible restriction to the dugout or ejection for the player and coach depending on the severity of the infraction could occur.



Is your team properly equipped?  
Yes

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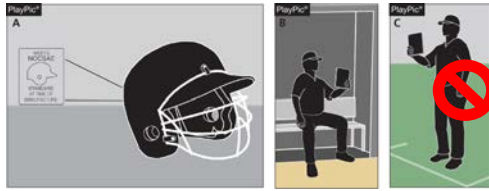
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Points of Emphasis

## OTHER EQUIPMENT



- Coaches should also review Rule 1-8 to be familiar with what other equipment is permitted for players and coaches.



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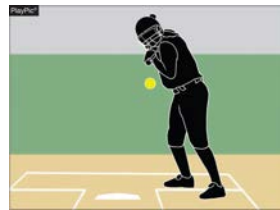
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Points of Emphasis

## HIT BY PITCH

- The ball is not in the strike zone and is not completely in the batter's box. The batter still must make an effort to avoid being hit.



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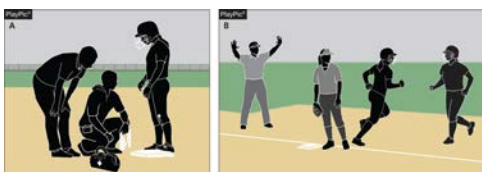
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Points of Emphasis

## COURTESY RUNNER FOR PITCHER AND CATCHER



- The pitcher is injured (PlayPic A) and is unable to face the first batter in the bottom of the first inning. The player who ran for her is retroactively her substitute, no longer a courtesy runner (PlayPic B). All substitution rules apply and the pitcher and/or catcher has left the game.



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## NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB

<https://nfhs-softball.arbitersports.com/front/105414/Site>

- Contains:
  - Sport information
  - Rules information
  - Rules library
  - Searchable rules book
  - Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations

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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**




[www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)

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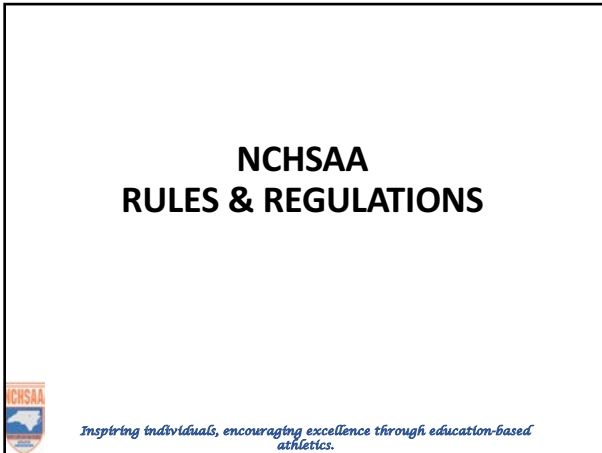
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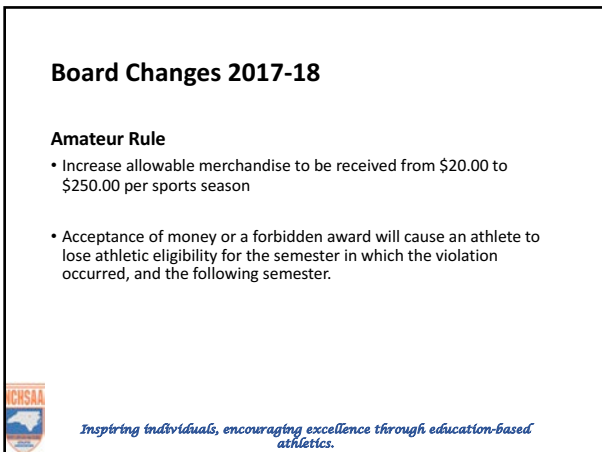
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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### Wet Bulb Globe Temperature

- Add 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.

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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. Effective Date: August 1, 2017



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## Board Changes 2017-18

### Eligibility Summary Submission Dates

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



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## Board Changes 2017-18

### Skill Development/Dead Periods

- Change In-season dead periods from 6 weeks to 3 weeks
- Add new dead period:
  - Last 10 student days of the school year
  - Effective 2017-2018



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## Board Changes 2017-18

### Playoff Bracket Size

- Change 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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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## Board Changes 2017-18

### 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<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

- Date of 1<sup>st</sup> Practice: February 14, 2018
- Date of 1<sup>st</sup> Contest: February 28, 2018
- Reporting Deadline: May 5, 2018 at 11:59pm  
(MaxPreps entries)
- **NOTE:** The reporting deadline is incorrect in the printed copy of the Handbook but has been updated on-line and on this PPT.



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### Playoff Dates

Seeding: May 7<sup>th</sup>  
 1<sup>st</sup> Round: May 9<sup>th</sup>  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Round: May 12<sup>th</sup>  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Round: May 15<sup>th</sup>  
 4<sup>th</sup> Round: May 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Regional: May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>  
 State Championship: June 1-2, 2018

**(Note: Discuss facility seating capacity)**



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### Dead Periods

Summer 2017	July 3-July 9 July 17-23
Fall 2017	July 31-August 19
Winter 2017	Oct 30 (Oct 16 for non-football schools) through November 18
Last five (5) days of the first semester	
Last ten (10) days of the second semester	
Summer 2018	July 2-July 8 and July 16-July 22



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## Season Limitation

- No more than 23 games, or 24 with one being an approved Endowment Game
- Teams and individuals are limited to two games on a school day. The limitation extends to four games, if on a non-school day.
- Conference tournaments are not included



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## MaxPreps

Official Statistics Provider

- Records and standings for post-season qualifications
  - 2017-18: MaxPreps Record = Official Record
  - Incorrect record subject to DQ from playoffs
- All game results MUST be entered by May 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.
  - Triple check your record!
- Instructions can be found on the NCHSAA website
- **NOTE: The reporting deadline is incorrect in the printed copy of the Handbook but has been updated on-line and on this PPT.**



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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 temperature can also cause serious heat-related problems.

- 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.



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## ELIGIBILITY & COMPLIANCE



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### Eligibility

PowerPoint

- 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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Programs
- Visit the NCHSAA website often
- Pick-up your card as you leave today
  - Enter your code into the computer immediately to get credit for attendance
    - Mobile device or computer
    - All fields required except the 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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