

2022-SIJHSAA SOFTBALL REGULATIONS

(www.sijhsaa.com)



*The SIJHSAA follows National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Rules. These are the same that are used by the Illinois High School Athletic Association. The following are exceptions to the NFHS Rules.

SOFTBALL

1. 12 inch fast pitch softballs will be used in games.
2. The distance between bases shall be 60 ft. and pitching distance 40 ft.
3. **Bat Rules:** May be found on the following site:
<http://www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-asa/certified-asa-equipment>
(Bats with the approved ASA/USA Certification Mark on it are legal as long as the bat is on the Approved Bat List. Some bats have been approved in the past and will have the proper certification mark on it, but have been decertified. Both the Approved and Non Approved Bat lists are on the above mentioned website.)
4. **Bat Rule Penalties:** If a player has been found to have an illegal or altered bat during play – the batter will be declared out and restricted to the bench the remainder of the game. This infraction must be administered before the next pitch is thrown. The bat will also be taken out of play.
5. As of July 1, 2009 metal spikes and rubber cleats are permissible during SIJHSAA play.
6. **Olympic Tie-Breaker:** May be used for regular season games if both coaches agree. Regular season tournaments may use the Olympic Tie-Breaker as determined by the tournament manager. The SIJHSAA State Series will not use the Olympic Tie-Breaker.

Baseball & Softball Time Limits: Time Limits may be used during regular season games if both schools agree. Some conferences are institution time limits for conference games.

SIJHSAA Mercy Rule: (Baseball and Softball)

20 Runs after 3 innings
15 Runs after 4 innings
10 Runs after 5 innings

COACHES

1. You are responsible to make sure that all your bats and equipment (catchers gear & helmets) are in compliance with NFHS standards.
2. Per NFHS rules in 2013 umpires will ask you at the pre-game conference if your bats and equipment are in compliance. **You as coach are responsible to make sure they are in compliance!**
3. If your player used an altered or illegal bat, they will be declared out and restricted to the bench the remainder of the game. The bat will also be taken out of play.
4. It is highly advised that coaches get an NFHS Baseball or Softball Rule Book, whichever applies. They can be purchased from the IHSA website (www.ihsa.org)

SIJHSAA RULES VS IESA RULES: Schools that are members of the SIJHSAA often play schools that are members of the IESA (Illinois Elementary School Association). The rules are somewhat different in reference to the metal spike rules and the mercy rule. Make sure if you are an SIJHSAA school and you are playing an IESA school that your athletic directors confer before the game. As members of the SIJHSAA – our schools adhere to our rules. The bat rules for the SIJHSAA and the IESA are the same.