



Rules Reference	NFHS 2015 Baseball Rules Changes
1-5-1  Other Rule Affected: 1-5-5	<p><b>NEW: ART. 1 . . .</b> It is mandatory for on-deck batters, batters, runners, retired runners, players/students in the coaches boxes as well as non-adult bat/ball shaggers to wear a batting helmet that <u>has a non-glare or mirror-like surface</u> that meets the NOCSAE standard <u>at the time of manufacture</u>. The batting helmet...allowed on the field.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> To provide the same rule coverage for the offensive players and personnel that is shared by rule for defensive players. This is a risk minimization rule.</p>
2-16-1f, g	<p><b>NEW:ART. 1 . . .</b> A foul ball is a batted ball:            a.-e. Remains the same.  <u>f. that hits the batter in the batter’s box; or</u>  <u>g. that hits the ground or home plate and then hits the batter or the bat which is held by the batter, while he is in the batter’s box.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Consistent with current rule 8-4-1-d2 and should be reflected in the definition.</p>
2-21-4, 5	<p><b>NEW: ART. 4 . . .</b> Follow-through interference is when the <u>bat hits the catcher after the batter has swung at a pitch and hinders action at home plate or the catcher’s attempt to play on a runner.</u></p> <p><b>ART. 5 . . .</b> Backswing interference is when a <u>batter contacts the catcher or his equipment prior to the time of the pitch.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The follow-through and the backswing are two separate and distinct acts and the rules treat them differently. The distinction needs to be clarified.</p>
3-3-1f	<p><b>Delete:</b> <del>f. use video monitoring or replay equipment for coaching purposes during the course of the game;</del></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Technological advances make it extremely difficult to determine if a coach is videotaping a game or players’ performance in a game for coaching or social media purposes.</p>



3-3-1 Penalty	<p><b>Delete: PENALTY: At the end of playing action, the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be ejected, <del>except for (f), where the coach shall be ejected.</del> In (b), it is also obstruction (8-3-2).</b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Technological advances make it extremely difficult to determine if a coach is videotaping a game or players' performance in a game for coaching or social media purposes. Deleting the penalty is appropriate action after deleting the rule.</p>
5-1-1n	<p><b>Modify: ART. 1 . . .</b> Ball becomes dead immediately when:  a.-m. Remains the same.  n. <u>Backswing interference occurs.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Consistent with the aforementioned definitions of follow-through and backswing interference.</p>
7-3-5c	<p><b>Modify: ART. 5 . . .</b> Interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:  a. -b. Remains the same.  c. making any other movement, including <del>backswing</del> <u>follow-through</u> interference, which hinders actions at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner, or  d. Remains the same.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Consistent with the aforementioned definitions of follow-through and backswing interference.</p>
7-3-7	<p><b>Modify: <u>ART. 7 . . . Commit backswing interference.</u></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Consistent with the aforementioned definitions of follow-through and backswing interference.</p>
7-3-7 Penalty	<p><b>Modify: <u>PENALTY: The ball is immediately dead.</u></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Consistent with the aforementioned definitions of follow-through and backswing interference.</p>



<p>Courtesy Runner #1</p>	<p><b>Modify:</b> At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. <u>In the event that the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order.</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> Clarification. Additional information was needed to clear up the situation when this action occurs.</p>
-------------------------------	--