

Softball Announcements

March 20, 2023

Looking forward to another great year of softball! Coaches and umpires will receive weekly communication surrounding timely topics including situations covering the rules of the game. Have something that is tripping you up? Need it clarified? Let us know and we can see if it needs to be covered in the announcements for others to be educated.

Private Instruction Is Permitted

During the school season a student/athlete may continue to receive private instruction in the same sport that they are participating in (softball). Private instruction is defined as one-on-one instruction. A support person may be present but not receive instruction. For instance, if the player was going to a pitching lesson the school catcher could go to “support” and catch, but the catcher cannot receive instruction during the lesson. A pitcher could not go to a group pitching lesson during the season.

Part of the rationale for the rule is when players are participating on the school team, they need to do things the way the school coach has asked. When multiple people are giving instruction, the player is challenged with what advice to follow, and it becomes confusing. If a player is taking private lessons, they should inform the school coach.

No participation on a Non-School team

During the school season a player may not also play on a non-school team in the same sport. School team membership is over when a player’s school squad has completed their last game. At that point they can begin playing on a non-school team but are limited to no more than 5 from the same school squad playing or practicing together until the Saturday before Memorial Day.

Covering the Rules of Softball

Situation: With R1 on first base and no outs, B2 is due to bat but B3 comes to bat. The first pitch to B3 is a wild pitch and R1 steals second base. With a 3-0 count on B3 the next pitch is called a ball and B3 is awarded first base on ball four. Before a pitch to B4, the defensive coach appeals that B3 has batted out of order. The umpire agrees and rules B2 out, negates B3’s at bat by removing B3 from first base and returning R1 to first base. The umpire announces that B3 is the next proper batter with R1 on first base and one out. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. Any advancement while the improper batter is at bat is legal, in this situation R1 should remain at second base. The proper ruling is to call B2 out, remove B3 from first base and R1 remains at second base. B3 is the next proper batter with one out and R1 on second base. (7-2-1 Penalties 2)

Situation: B1 hits a stand up double but misses first base on their way to second base. As B2 is approaching the plate the defensive coach informs the plate umpire that they wish to intentionally walk B2, and the plate umpire awards B2 first base on the intentional walk. Prior to a pitch to B3 the defensive coach now appeals that B1 missed first base. The umpire denies the appeal as the intentional walk to B2 is the same as throwing a pitch and the previous play can no longer be appealed. **RULING:** Correct ruling. Once an intentional walk has been awarded the previous play cannot be appealed. (2-65-2 a & b)