

Softball Announcements

April 4, 2023

Lightning Procedures

It is always a good time to review the lightning procedures.

1. When thunder is heard or cloud-to-ground lightning is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to pose a lightning risk. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
2. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes from the last sound of thunder or lightning strike witnessed before resuming the activity.
3. Any subsequent thunder or lightning strike during the 30 minute waiting period resets the clock, and a new 30 minute waiting period begins.
4. When independently validated lightning detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning detection device.

Playcard on Wristband

If teams are electing to use the playcard on the wrist band for communication they need to make sure it is worn on the wrist/arm. Equipment is to be worn as the manufacturer intended. Pitcher shall wear it on the glove hand.

Regional Assignments

Now posted: <https://www.kshsaa.org/Public/Softball/Regionals.cfm>

Covering the Rules of Softball

Situation: R1 is on first base and leads off on the pitch. As R1 is returning to 1B, F3 moves toward the base blocking the front edge of the base causing R1 to alter their path while returning to the base. The base coach asks the umpire about F3 obstructing R1 and they inform the coach that there is no need to signal obstruction since R1 obtained the base they would have reached had there not been obstruction. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. Although there may be no award/advancement for this obstructed runner, obstruction must be called (delayed ball signal and verbal of “obstruction”) every time that a defender impedes the progress of a runner without possession of the ball or not making an initial play on a batted ball. Consistency in making this call every time it occurs is critical to enforcement when a play results in awarding an obstructed runner the base they would have reached had there been no obstruction. If the umpire does not signal obstruction every time it occurs and only signals when the runner is put out and then they

award that runner a base, the discussion with the defensive coach becomes much more difficult. This “routine” obstruction signal also does not have to be flashy or verbalized loudly, however it is necessary to signal so all can see and verbalized just loud enough for the runner, F3 and possibly the base coach to hear. (8-4-3b PENALTIES)

Situation: With R1 on second base and no outs, B2 hits a deep fly ball to left field. As R1 is approaching home, F7 throws toward home but the throw is offline toward the fence drawing F2 into R1’s path resulting in contact between the two players. R1 recovers and is able to touch home without any issue. The plate umpire makes no signal, after the ball is dead the third base coach asks if F2 running into R1 was obstruction. The plate umpire tells the coach that since R1 was able to continue to home and score there was nothing. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling, incorrect procedure. Any time that a fielder not in possession of the ball or not making an initial play on a batted ball, impedes the progress of a runner that is legally running the bases obstruction has occurred. In this play, as soon as R1 was impeded (they slowed down, adjusted their path etc., any reaction R1 had to F2’s position or actions) obstruction occurred and should be signaled with a delayed dead ball signal and a verbal of “obstruction”. As with situation 1 above, consistently enforcing the rules by correctly indicating a violation has occurred (delayed dead ball signal and verbal) every time it happens is critical when the obstruction results in a runner being awarded a base. (8-4-3b, 8-4-3b Penalties)