

Softball Announcements

April 24, 2023

Postseason Applications

Umpires need to fill out their postseason application by May 10th in order to be able to work the State Softball Tournament. This is done strictly online under your KSHSAA account.

Umpires Take Your Time

On out/safe or ball/strike take your time with the call. We need not be in a hurry. See the play and see it again in your head and then communicate the call. There are never situations where hurrying a call is beneficial. For example, on a tag play, watch the entire play...see that the fielder actually held on to the ball.

NFHS Softball Questionnaire

The annual NFHS Softball Questionnaire was emailed last week. The questionnaire is due May 8th.

24 -Inch Lane

NFHS rule does not specify that we outline a 24-inch lane for the pitcher however umpires need to be mindful that rule still says we need adhere. The pitcher must begin delivery, and finish in or partially in the 24-inch lane. This needs to be seen and called by the umpires each time it occurs. This goes for illegal pitches in general. Too many times we see illegal pitches go unnoticed during the regular season and then called in the postseason. Do homework in between innings. If you are in doubt about an illegal pitch and the feet can help you out, then in between innings go investigate footprints.

Covering the Rules of Softball

Situation: With no outs and a 2 ball 0 strike count, B1 is at bat in the right-hand batter's box and hits a ball that goes directly off home plate and bounces up hitting the batter in the helmet, which is over home plate at the time of contact. The plate umpire rules this a foul ball as B1 is still within the batter's box when contact was made with the batted ball. **RULING:** Correct ruling. Since the batter's feet were both still within the batter's box the batter is still considered to be within the batter's box. When the batter is contacted while still within the batter's box the ball is foul and B1 continues their at bat with a 2 ball 1 strike count. (2-25-1f; 7-2-1f)

Situation: With no outs and a 0 ball, 1 strike count, B1 is at bat in the right-hand batter's box and hits a ball that bounces off the plate and hits the batter in her elbow that is completely outside of the batter's box in fair territory. The plate umpire rules B1 out since the ball was in fair territory when contact was made. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. Although this would normally be a fair ball as it was first touched on or over fair territory between home and third base, rule 2-25-1f and 7-2-1f specifies that when contact between a batter and a batted ball occurs when the batter is still within the batter's box it is a foul ball. In this case, the batter is still considered to

be within the batter's box and the correct ruling is a foul ball and B1 remains at bat with a 0 ball, 2 strike count. (2-25-1f; 7-2-1f)

Situation: With no outs and a 0 ball, 1 strike count, B1, a left-handed slapper, is up to bat. As B1 finishes their swing making contact with the ball, their front foot is in the air in front of the batter's box in fair territory while their back foot is still within the batter's box. The batted ball bounces up and makes contact with the batter's front foot while still in the air. The plate umpire rules a dead ball, foul ball. B1 continues their at bat with a 0 ball 2 strike count. **RULING:** Correct ruling. When contact occurs, the umpire must judge if that contact between the batted ball and the batter happened while the batter was still considered within the batter's box. Since neither of the batter's feet had contacted the ground completely outside of the batter's box when contact was made with the batted ball the batter is still considered within the batter's box. This is a foul ball and the batter continues their at bat with a 0 ball 2 strike count. (2-25-1f; 7-2-1f)