



### **2025 MHSAA Softball Items & Reminders**

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1. Online rules meetings will launch on February 3 and will close on April 17. The head varsity coach **MUST** complete a rules meeting or the coach is prohibited from coaching at any level in the MHSAA tournament. Assistant varsity coaches and subvarsity coaches must also complete the rules meeting requirement, or have their Athletic Director attest to them doing so.
2. Bats: For the 2025 softball season, National Federation playing rules again require that all non-wood bats must (1) display the **ASA** certification mark from 2000 or 2004 or the USA Softball All-Games Certification Mark to be a legal bat and not appear on the USA/ASA “banned bat” list and (2) must not appear on the list of the [USA Softball Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks](#).
3. MHSAA tournament sites and groupings are posted on [www.MHSAA.com](http://www.MHSAA.com)
4. Umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets prior to the game. Head coaches shall attest at the pregame conference that all players are legally equipped.
5. Health & Safety: Information regarding concussion protocols and heat & hydration policies can be found by [Clicking Here](#). For all MHSAA tournaments conducted at either school or non-school facilities, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is required to be within visible distance of the event.
6. Umpires are required to collect, and coaches submit a lineup card to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference. Umpires must maintain a line card throughout the game, and all substitutions, including CR, must be reported to the plate umpire. If a DP/FLEX is used, it must be on the lineup card properly at the pre-game conference, when lineups become official.
7. Again in 2025, the season maximum is 38 games for a team and individual during the regular season. A school may not schedule more than 38 regular season games. MHSAA Tournament games do not count toward the 38-game maximum.
8. **2025 MHSAA Tournament Dates**
  - Districts: May 31 (or May 29, May 30)
  - Regionals: Saturday, June 7
  - Quarterfinals: Tuesday, June 10
  - Semifinals: Thursday & Friday, June 12-13 - Secchia Stadium, East Lansing
  - Finals: Saturday, June 14 - Secchia Stadium, East Lansing

## **2025 NFHS SOFTBALL RULE CHANGES**

**Rule 1-8-6 EXCEPTION & PENALTY:** A high school softball coach is now able to use electronic devices in the dugout for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense. The penalty from Rule 3-6-11 was added to Rule 1-8-6 as well, with violators subject to ejection unless the offense is ruled to be of a minor nature.

**Rationale:** The committee has made these changes to support the use of emerging technology within the sport of softball. Being a permissive rule, the use of this one-way electronic communication will allow those who choose to embrace the technology an additional option to communicate with the catcher while on defense.

**Rule 3-6-11:** This rule change specifies that coaches are prohibited from using the device to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense and the coach cannot use the device outside the dugout/bench area.

**Rationale:** Clarifies that a coach may use an electronic device for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense.

**Rule 9-3-2b:** When a baserunner who is declared out for being hit by a fair batted ball, the batter-runner is credited with a fielder's choice in the scorebook.

**Rationale:** This change corrects an error in the rules book that awarded a base hit in this instance.

## **2025 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**

Figure 1-1, Figure 1-3, 1-3-4, 1-3-5, 1-6-6, 1-7-1, 2-47, 3-2-3, 3-2-12 NOTE, 3-6-12, 5-1 Table, 5-1-1o, 6-1-2c, 8-1-2a EFFECTS 3, 8-6-4, 10-1-6

## **2025 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Team's Role in Pace of Play
2. Situational Awareness