



# A review of New Rules from Prior Years

NFHS Rules



# New Rules in 2018

- ▶ Batter-runner may overrun or over-slide 1<sup>st</sup> base **on an award** without immediate risk of being tagged out (8-2-7).
  - ▶ He is at risk only if he attempts or feigns an advance to 2<sup>nd</sup> base
- ▶ Bats shall not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener or attachments that would present a potential hazard (1-3-2a2).



# New Rules in 2017

- ▶ Slides at Home Plate (2-32-2c): A runner may legally slide past home plate, even if he makes contact with a fielder or alters the play of the fielder, provided the slide meets all other provisions of the sliding rules and he does not initiate malicious contact.
  - ▶ On a force play, the runner still must slide directly into home plate
- ▶ Coach assisting a runner (rules 3-2-2 & 8-4-2s): If a runner is physically assisted by a coach, **the runner is called out immediately** and the ball **remains live**.
- ▶ Manager / Coach Misconduct: Umpires have access to a three-tier system for dealing with coaches' misconduct (3-3-1 Penalty):
  - ▶ verbal warning,
  - ▶ written warning with restriction to the dugout
  - ▶ ejection.
- ▶ **Minor** misconduct offenses result in a warning (verbal or written with restriction to dugout)
  - ▶ Repeated minor offenses escalate to a written warning and/or finally ejection
- ▶ **Major** misconduct offenses result in **immediate ejection**



# 2017 New Rules continued

- ▶ Pitching restriction (6-1-6): Each state association shall have a pitching restriction policy based on **the number of pitches thrown** to afford pitchers a required rest period between pitching appearances.
  - ▶ See the charts about specifics
- ▶ **Umpire Interference** (8-3-6): When the plate umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base or to retire a runner on a pickoff play, if an out is not made at the end of the catcher's initial throw, the ball shall be dead and all runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference.
  - ▶ Rule is not so much new as now specifically written in 1 place



# New Rules in 2016

- ▶ Written warnings introduced
  - ▶ Offender is restricted to dugout
  - ▶ Umpire makes a written note on his line-up card (who, did what)
  - ▶ Used for minor violations (minor violation of Rule 3-3-1f, 1-5, (g-k))
- ▶ Major offenses expanded; these are immediate ejections (3-3-1q)
  - ▶ physical contact, spitting, kicking of dirt or any other physical action directed toward an umpire
- ▶ Compression sleeves clarified:
  - ▶ Only applies to the pitcher
  - ▶ If compression sleeve worn below either elbow, must be solid, dark color
- ▶ Base coaches must wear helmets (rule is not in the rulebook)



# New Rules in 2015

- ▶ Batting helmets must have a non-glare surface
  - ▶ Penalty for illegal helmet is to remove it from the game
- ▶ Foul ball rule clarified for when:
  - ▶ Batted ball touches batter while he has at least 1 foot in batter's box, or
  - ▶ Batted ball rebounds into his bat while batter has at least 1 foot in box
- ▶ Use of Video permitted, when in dead ball areas (e.g. Dugout)
  - ▶ Teams may watch it for coaching purposes
  - ▶ Umpires shall not use it during the game
  - ▶ Coaches and players may not record video from any live ball areas (e.g. coaching box)
  - ▶ Radar guns may also be used (treat it like video equipment)



# 2015 continued

- Batter follow-through interference clarified (2-21-4)
  - It is one type of batter interference
- Batter back-swing interference clarified (2-21-5)
  - It is **not** batter interference
  - It happens before the pitch. Call time, start over