

# **2025 SIJHSAA BASEBALL ACTIVITY UPDATE**

## **NFHS Rule Changes**

**1-6-1:** Any wristband with defensive shifts/offensive plays/pitching choices or game directions attached shall be considered non-electronic equipment and is permitted as long as it is a single, solid color. For pitchers, it may not contain the colors white, gray or be distracting. It does not have to match the color of the uniform or the sleeves worn underneath the uniform. It shall only be worn on a players wrist or forearm and pitchers shall wear it on their non-pitching arm.

**1-6-2:** One-way electronic communication devices are permissible from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.

**3-2-5:** A coach may use a one-way electronic communication device to communicate to the catcher for the purpose of calling pitches. Coaches may not use electronic communication device(s) to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense.

## **Points of Emphasis / Reminders**

**\*20-second Time Limit Between Innings:** This rule has been in the rulebook since the late 1970's as a tool to use when the pitcher is prolonging the delivery of the pitch because of gamesmanship or overall lack of game efficiency.

**\*Time Between Half-Innings:** There are a lot of moving pieces in between half innings. By rule, the time from the last out to the next pitch is 1 minute and 20 seconds. The role of the umpire is to facilitate the defense getting into place, the pitcher warming up and start the inning.

**\*Batter Repeatedly Stepping Out of the Batter's Box:** The NFHS Rule Book is clear when the batter is allowed to step out of the batter's box and when they cannot. The batter needs to be encouraged to get back in the batter's box with a sense of expediency. Repeatedly stepping out to alter the rhythm of the pitcher or delay the game is not acceptable and the penalty needs to be applied by the umpire.

**\*Excessive Player Conferences:** A player conference is very different than a charged conference. When team bonding becomes excessive and it begins to delay the game, then the umpire needs to step in and expedite the conclusion of the meeting.

## **SIJHSAA Site Changes for 2025:**

**Class L & S Softball & Baseball:** Oasis Sports Complex, Marion, IL

**Class M Softball & Baseball:** Perry County Fairgrounds, Pinckneyville, IL

### Run Rules

15-run after 3 innings

12-run after 4 innings

10-run after 5 innings

### Pitch Count Records

Coaches are responsible to keep pitch count records on their pitchers during the regular season and state series games. Details on how to do this are listed on the Pitch Count Limitation Rules. Violations or failure to keep records will result in forfeiture of contests.

### SIJHSAA Recommendations, but not required

\*Time Limits: No inning should start after 2 hours

\*International Tie-Breaker: May be instituted starting the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning.

\*\*Time Limits and International Tie-Breaker will not be used in the SIJHSAA Baseball State Series.

### Commonly Asked Questions

Q1 – Can a baseball player on my junior high team also play on a travel team at the same time?

A – This is a local school decision. Coaches, students, and families need to check with the school administration regarding the school's policy on participation on a school team and a non-school team at the same time.

Q2 – Can a baseball player wear jewelry?

A – Yes – umpires still have the authority to rule on anything they deem dangerous.

Q3 – Do schools have to use a time limit or international tiebreaker on baseball games?

A – Competing schools may use either as long as both schools are in agreement previous to the start of the contest.

### Official Rawlings Baseballs for State Series Play

Model Number: RSIJHSAABB (No NFHS Logo Required)

### Regional Officials Pay

Regional Officials are each paid \$70 per game. The cost of which is split by the schools participating in the given contest (s).

### Sportsmanship

A player ejected from a contest must serve a 2-game suspension and complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course. A player ejected a second time during the school year must serve a 4-game suspension.

A coach ejected from a contest must serve a 2-game suspension and complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course. A coach ejected a second time during the school year must serve a 4-game suspension.

**A fan ejected from a contest must serve a 3-game suspension and complete the NFHS Sportsmanship Course. A fan ejected a second time during the school year will be banned from attending any further SIJHSAA Contests.**

**\*Note all player/coach/fan ejection consequences must be met, documented and confirmed by the SIJHSAA previous to eligibility and or attendance is reinstated.**

**\*\*Additional penalties may be assessed by the school and/or the SIJHSAA.**