



2024 MHSAA Softball Items & Reminders

Andi Osters, MHSAA Assistant Director

Phone: 517-332-5046

Email: andi@mhsaa.com

1. Online rules meetings will launch on February 5 and will close on April 18. 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 2024 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
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](#).
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 time of the pre-game conference when lineups become official.
7. Again in 2024, 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. **2024 MHSAA Tournament Dates**
 - Districts: June 1 or May 31
 - Regionals: Saturday, June 8
 - Quarterfinals: Tuesday, June 11
 - Semifinals: Thursday & Friday, June 13-14 - Secchia Stadium, East Lansing
 - Finals: Saturday, June 15 - Secchia Stadium, East Lansing

2024 NFHS Softball Rules Changes

Rule 1-8-6: Permits electronic information to be transmitted to the dugout from anywhere outside of live ball area.

Rationale: The rule change reflects current technology and still requires that electronic devices used for coaching purposes may only be used in the dugout but does not stipulate where the video is recorded or how it is transmitted.

Rule 3-2-3: Beginning January 1, 2027, uniforms may only bear a single manufacturer's logo, school name, school logo, mascot and/or the participant's name. Advertisements, messages, team slogans, etc., will no longer be permitted.

Rationale: Consistent language has been established for NFHS sports that describe what information is permitted on the uniform. A player's name, school name, school nickname, school mascot and/or the school logo may be placed on the uniform.

Rule 3-2-5: Removes the color restriction for headbands and ribbons.

Rationale: Adds consistency amongst headwear requirements for other NFHS sports.

Rule 3-2-7: Defines where a wristband with a playbook/playcard may be worn. If worn by the pitcher, the wristband with a playbook/playcard must be worn on the non-pitching wrist or arm.

Rationale: Clarifies where this equipment can be worn. This change will prohibit wristbands from being worn on the belt. It remains legal for players to keep the wristband with a playbook/playcard in their back pocket.

Rule 4-2-7, 10-2-3e, h: The umpire may call (end) a game if playing conditions in or around the facility become unacceptable to safely continue the game.

Rationale: Provides rule justification when an umpire ends a contest due to unacceptable playing conditions to continue play in addition to weather.

Rule 6-1-2c, 2-47: The pitcher may now have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain within the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot. A definition for a replant was added.

Rationale: The rule change permits both feet to disengage from the playing surface while delivering a pitch. The addition of Rule 2-47 defines that a replant of the pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate prior to the act of delivering the pitch.

Rule 6-2-2: Pitchers can only use dirt, powdered rosin or comparable drying agents that are listed on the [USA Softball's certified equipment webpage](#) to dry the hand.

Rationale: Clarifies the difference between tape and other non-approved substances on the pitching hand or fingers versus the use of approved substances under the supervision and control of the umpire.

2024 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-5-1c, 1-6-1, 1-7-1, 2-4-3, 1-6-1b, 7-1-2 PENALTIES 2 & 3, 7-4-4

2024 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Game Management
2. Unacceptable Conditions
3. Unreported vs. Illegal Substitutions
4. Pitching Mechanics: Replant