



April 4, 2022

NFHS Softball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Situation 1: With R1 on second base and no outs, B2 swings and misses a pitch. F2 throws to third attempting to make a play on R1 who was stealing on the pitch. F2's throw hits B2 who: In (a) is stationary in the batter's box (has not moved since swinging at the pitch). In (b) has moved back toward F2 and into the area F2 has thrown the ball but is still within the batter's box. In (c) is outside the batter's box when contacted with the throw.

RULING: In (a) there is no interference. If B2 has not made any movement that the umpire judges has hindered F2's attempt to play on a runner there is no interference. In (b) although still in the batter's box, B2 has made a movement, intentional or not, that hindered F2's attempt to play on R1 and is guilty of interference. In (c) B2 has interfered with F2's throw by stepping out of the batter's box (7-4-4).

COMMENT: The batter's box is not a safe haven where the batter is free to do what they want and never be guilty of interference. As discussed in (b) if the batter moves in a way that the umpire judges the movement interfered with F2's attempt to play on a runner, the batter is guilty of interference even if they remain completely inside the batter's box.

Situation 2: With R1 on second base and R2 on first base with no outs, B3 hits a ground ball that deflects off F6 and R1 could not avoid accidentally kicking the ball as she ran to third base. In (a) the ball is still within a step and a reach of the spot where F6 made initial contact with the ball. In (b) the ball is farther than a step and a reach from the spot where F6 made initial contact with the ball.

RULING: In (a) R1 is guilty of interference since F6 is still considered to be making an initial play on the batted ball when it remains within a step and a reach of the initial point of contact. R1 kicking the ball away from F6 would be considered hindering or impeding her ability to make the initial play and results in interference. In (b) since the ball is farther than a step and a reach from where F6 made initial contact she is no longer considered to be making an initial play on the batted ball. In this case, a fielder has touched the ball and in the umpire's judgement R1 could not avoid contact with the ball so there is no interference. (2-78-3c, 8-6-10a, 8-6-12, 8-8-6)

Situation 3: As Team A takes the field, the umpires notice that several players have multiple manufactures logos on their uniforms each is less than 2 ¼ square inches and has no dimension exceeding 2 ¼ inches. In (a) F1 has manufacturer A's logo on their jersey, and the same logo on their pants and socks. In (b) F3 has manufacturer A's logo on their jersey, manufacturer B's logo on their pants and manufacturer C's logo on their socks. The umpires rule that both of these uniforms are illegal and the players are not allowed to play.

RULING: Incorrect ruling. Each item of the players uniform is allowed to have a manufactures logo as long as it does not exceed the size requirement (2 ¼ square inches and no dimension exceeding 2 ¼ inches). There is no requirement that these logos be the same on each item of the uniform. A player is allowed to wear a headband with manufacture A's logo, a jersey with manufacture B's logo, pants with manufacture C's logo and socks with manufacture D's logo. As long as these logos each adhere to the size requirements, there is no rule violation. (3-2-3)