

**ARTICLE 260**  
**SOFTBALL**

---

**2600. LENGTH OF GAMES**

---

**CIF Sections are authorized to limit Junior Varsity softball games to seven innings or a maximum of 2 hours, whichever occurs first. No new inning shall begin after 2 hours have expired from the start of the game.**

#2600.1 Southern Section Leagues are allowed to adopt either or both of the following two rule modifications:

OPTION I - "VARSITY AND/OR LOWER LEVEL GAMES shall end after five innings of a seven-inning game when a team is behind by 10 runs."

OPTION II - "JUNIOR VARSITY games are limited to seven innings or a maximum of two hours. No new inning shall begin after two hours have expired from the start of the game."

NOTE: League approval is mandatory before either of the options can be used in league contests. For non-league games adoption of these rule modifications would be by prior mutual consent of the competing schools.

---

**2601. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK**

---

**Only balls with the National Federation authentication mark shall be used in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo (Revised to include lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council.)**

**NOTE: All softball bats must meet the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) bat performance standard (NFHS Softball Rule 1-5-1d). Please see the National Federation Rulebook for further clarification on this rule.**

---

**2602. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

---

**It is required that adult base coaches wear a protective helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE standards.**

**NOTE: NFHS rules govern use of protective equipment by a player/student. (Approved January 2015 Federated Council)**

---

**2603. RULES**

---

All softball games in the CIF Southern Section will be played under National Federation rules unless otherwise provided herein.

---

**2604. SCRIMMAGES**

---

An interscholastic scrimmage is a training session between a minimum of two and a maximum of three schools where no score is kept, free substitution and time outs are permitted, spectators are not urged to attend, and officials are not paid. (See Q & A following Bylaw 220.8 for definition.)

#2604.1 Schools are permitted one interscholastic scrimmage which may not be held prior to February 9 and must be held prior to team's first interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, or league).

---

**2605. TOURNAMENTS**

---

A team may not be entered in more than three tournaments.

2605.1 For each tournament, a team will be charged two games toward the allowable maximum number of contests.

**QUESTION:** Can a school enter two teams in the same tournament at the same level (i.e. varsity "A" and varsity "B")?

**ANSWER:** If a school chooses to split a single team into two teams in the same tournament at the same level they will be charged one allotted tournament for each team entered. If a school enters a varsity "A" and a varsity "B" team, they will be charged for two (2) of the allowable three (3) tournaments for the season.

2605.2 All tournaments, regardless of the number of teams participating, are allowed a maximum of 5 games while still counting as 2 of your allowable contests. (See Bylaw #2613 for number of contests allowed per day)

2605.3 Tournament managers are responsible for notifying participating schools of the number of games and/or teams participating in the tournament.

NOTE: Two contests could be played in the SAME TOURNAMENT only, but not two games in two different tournaments (See Bylaw #2612).

---

**<>2606. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS**

---

No interscholastic contests (non-league, tournament or league) may be scheduled prior to February 9.

---

**2607. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS**

---

A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 20 games during the season, including tournaments but excluding CIF Southern Section playoffs.

#2607.1 FACULTY: Each team will be permitted to play one game with the faculty which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

#2607.2 ALUMNI: Each team will be permitted to play one Alumni contest, which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

---

**2608. DOUBLEHEADER CONCEPT**

---

A school may select any two non-league games and play each as a doubleheader. Each of these doubleheaders would count as one of the 20 allowable contests.

#2508.1 Both games of the doubleheader must be between the same two schools.

#2508.2 The maximum amount of time between games shall be no more than 35 minutes.

NOTE: If school plays a league doubleheader contest, it will count as 2 contests.

QUESTION: May a school play more than two doubleheaders during a season?

ANSWER: Yes, with CIF-SS office approval. However, each doubleheader after the allowable two would count as single contests charged against your allowable 20 in a season.

---

**<>2609. END OF COMPETITION**

---

All league competition for entries must end on or before Thursday, April 25. Schools may compete until April 27 for non-league contests.

QUESTION: Will contest(s) played after the completion of league play and/or submission of league entries impact our seeding or rankings?

ANSWER: No, once the league entries have been submitted a school will be seeded and ranked based on a team's results as of April 25.

---

**2610. SUMMERTIME RULES/SUMMER DEAD PERIOD/SPORTS CAMPS**

---

2610.1 With the exception of the summer dead period, until the beginning of the first official starting date for fall sports, there shall be no restriction on high school coaches working with high school students registered and/or attending their respective high school or entering them in summer competition, provided approval is received from the school principal.

QUESTION: Who may participate in high school summer athletic programs approved by the principal?

ANSWER: Only students registered for the upcoming school year in grades 9 through 12. Additionally, it would be a violation to allow elementary students (8th grade and below) to participate with the high school team. For students enrolled in more than one school, all summer practice and competition must be confined to one school.

2610.2 High schools may sponsor sport camps and/or allow non-school sponsored sport camps to use their facilities.

- \* High school students and individuals from the general community can attend.
- \* The high school name, nickname and identifying marks can be used in the title and/or promotion of the camp.
- \* The principal of the high school must give permission for the camp to take place; non-school sponsored camps must secure a facility permit for use of any facilities and equipment.
- \* The camp must comply with all CIF rules, including those pertaining to undue influence and dead period.
- \* Non-school sponsored camps should provide required liability insurance for the use of any school facilities.

<>2610.3 A summer dead period must be declared by the school principal for all sports. The dates of the dead period must be forwarded to the Southern Section Commissioner. The dead period must be the same for all levels and must be three (3) consecutive weeks between the end of school or last Friday in May, whichever is first, and the last Monday in August. No class could be offered which could circumvent the rule. There are no exceptions to the summer dead period.

During the dead period, weight lifting ONLY would be permitted. No running or other type of conditioning would be allowed.

Special nationally recognized programs in various sports that require a national or regional championship format, such as Bobby Sox Softball, American Legion or Mickey Mantle Baseball, etc., would be allowed to continue, until completion, during the dead period.

---

#### **2611. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL**

---

*During Individual's Season of Sport* - A member of a high school softball team may not, during his or her season of sport, compete for an outside team in the sport of softball. A season of sport (See Bylaw 504) is defined as that period which begins with a student's first interscholastic competition (non-league, tournament or league game) and ends with that student's last interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, league or CIF Southern Section playoff).

---

#### **2612. LEVEL OF COMPETITION**

---

No student shall participate in more than one level of competition in the same sport on the same day.

---

#### **2613. MAXIMUM ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN ONE DAY**

---

All interscholastic contests are to be arranged in such a way that no student shall take part in more than two athletic contests in any one day.

---

#### **2614. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

---

Standards for school attendance are determined by local school governing boards.

---

#### **2615. SOFTBALL-BASEBALL SLOW-PITCH DISTINCTIONS**

---

The sport of softball is considered separate and distinct from the sport of baseball and competition by a school softball player on an outside baseball team during that individuals' softball season is permissible. Slow-pitch, however, is considered to be softball.

---

#### **2616. NIGHT SOFTBALL GAME TIME LIMIT**

---

In any night softball game, no inning will be permitted to start after 11:30 p.m., except for the championship finals.

---

#### **2617. COUNTING A TIE GAME**

---

A regulation *called* game with a tie score shall be counted as ½ game won and ½ game lost for each team. This rule will apply to all contests and leagues may not waive this rule.

---

#### **2618. SUNDAY RESTRICTION**

---

A school may not play a softball game nor conduct a scrimmage or softball practice of any type on Sunday during the season of sport.

QUESTION: May a team be assembled on a Sunday "skill session" or review a game film?

ANSWER: Neither of these activities would be permitted.

QUESTION: Does a meeting on Sunday of a single student with a coach constitute a violation of Bylaw 2618?

ANSWER: Yes, the intent of Bylaw 2618 is to allow no contact with student athletes on Sundays.

QUESTION: What constitutes a scrimmage or practice on Sunday?

ANSWER: Any preparation of an upcoming softball game in which a player or players meet with the coach(s) on a Sunday is prohibited.

QUESTION: If my club/travel team coach is also my high school coach can we meet on Sundays under the guidelines/parameters of the club/travel program?

ANSWER: No, the relationship of the club/travel team does not release the student and/or coach from the Sunday Contact Rule during the season of sport.

---

## 2619.PLAYER CONDUCT

---

Any player who is ejected for any reason shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest and may not attend. A second ejection will constitute a two-contest suspension and a third ejection will cause suspension for the remainder of the season. A player who was ejected from the previous contest, who knowingly, or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of that contest.

Any player whose conduct merits ejection from a game by an official for fighting or assaultive behavior shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest. After the suspension from play, the student may only return after certification by the school principal that the student(s) has completed a conference with a school administrator. The appropriate form (post-ejection return to competition form) indicating the completion of the conference must be uploaded to the CIFSSHome misconduct manager for that specific misconduct. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the "School Action" portion of the misconduct.

A second ejection from a game or contest for fighting or assaultive behavior will cause suspension for the remainder of the season.

A player who was ejected from the previous contest, who knowingly, or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of every contest until the suspension is completely served.

Any player who leaves the confines of the bench or team area during a fight that has broken out or may break out will be ineligible for the team's next contest. After the suspension from play, the student may return only after certification by the school principal that the student(s) has completed a conference with a school administrator. The appropriate form indicating the completion of the conference must be filed with the Section office prior to rejoining the team. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the "School Action" portion of the misconduct.

In the case of any suspension from play, the next contest may not be a forfeited, postponed or canceled game.

QUESTION:	What must be submitted to the Section office before a student can be cleared to rejoin his/her team?
ANSWER:	The Section office will provide a form on their website that must be uploaded to CIFSSHome or directly emailed to the CIF Office. The School must also indicate the date(s) of the contest in which the player will not be in attendance in the "School Action" portion of the misconduct.
QUESTION:	What is meant by attendance at a contest?
ANSWER:	Attendance is defined as being present at the location/site of the contest, which includes at the team bench/area, in the stands/spectator area, any location where the contest can be observed at any time, inside a gymnasium, stadium or playing area. The intent of this rule is that the ejected person is not present at the location/ site of the next contest.
QUESTION:	What happens when a student engages in Fighting/Assaultive Behavior during an athletic contest that is not observed by game officials?
ANSWER:	In cases when a student engages in Fighting/Assaultive Behavior that is not observed by game officials, it is the expectation of the CIF Southern Section Executive Committee that the building principal of the school involved will impose a minimum one-game suspension for students who commit such offenses.
QUESTION:	What happens if a student is ejected from the first contest at a tournament when there are two contests on that day?
ANSWER:	When a game ejection of any kind occurs, the student should not be present at the next contest except in situations where supervision is necessary (i.e.: in a tournament). In tournament situations, it is understandable that the student remains in an area where they can be monitored (i.e.: bleachers, stands, etc.) however, they are still ineligible to compete or participate in any way. It is not the expectation that the student leave the facility unsupervised.
QUESTION:	What happens if a student receives a red card, misconduct of any kind, or an ejection during the last game of the season?
ANSWER:	The game suspension(s) carry over to the first game(s) at the beginning of the subsequent season. For example, a sophomore soccer player receives a red card the last game of the 2017 season. He/she will serve a game suspension the first game of 2018 season. Suspensions carry over and must be served before the athlete becomes eligible to compete in that sport. See next Q&A for answers regarding seniors.
QUESTION:	What if a senior (12th grader) student receives a red card, misconduct of any kind, or ejection during the last game of the season?
ANSWER:	If a senior (12th grade) student receives a red card, misconduct or ejection during the last game of the season, he/she must serve the penalty in the NEXT sport in which he/she participates. If the student does not participate in any other sports, the CIF Office WILL need a letter from the principal indicating the corrective action taken with that student.

---

**2620. COACH EJECTION**

---

Upon ejection, the head or assistant coach shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the game and will be ineligible for the team's next contest. The next contest may not be a forfeited, postponed or canceled game. A second ejection will constitute a two-contest suspension and a third ejection will cause suspension for the remainder of the season. A coach who was ejected from the previous contest who, knowingly or unknowingly, participates in or is in attendance at the next contest, will result in the forfeiture of every contest until the suspension is completely served.

**QUESTION:** What is meant by attendance at a contest?

**ANSWER:** Attendance is defined as being present at the location/site of the contest, which includes at the team bench/area, in the stands/spectator area, any location where the contest can be observed at any time, inside a gymnasium, stadium or playing area. The intent of this rule is that the ejected person is not present at the location/ site of the next contest.

**QUESTION:** How does the Accountability Rule affect a coach who coaches more than one level of a particular sport?

**ANSWER:** A coach who has been ejected from a contest may not be in attendance at ANY contest prior to serving his/her mandatory suspension at the level in which the coach was ejected. (i.e.: An ejected JV coach who is also a varsity assistant may NOT be in attendance at any contest until his/her mandatory JV suspension has been completed.)

---

**2621. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED**

---

No noisemakers (horns, bells, victory bells, sirens, chimes, musical instruments other than those in the band, etc.) will be permitted inside the gymnasium, stadium or playing fields at any CIF Southern Section contest (non-league, league, tournament or playoff). Cheering devices such as wooden blocks, or other similar objects, are prohibited. Megaphones shall be used only by uniformed cheerleaders for the purpose of directing and controlling rooting sections. The improper use of any of the above listed devices by supporters of a team would subject that team to possible forfeiture of the contest.

---

**2622. PLAYOFFS**

---

Refer to Article #330 (Playoffs) for details regarding playoff information. (Specific information will be contained in playoff information bulletins.)

2622.1 The Commissioner has the authority to determine the sites of all softball playoff contests. For any playoff contest, the Commissioner may direct that such a contest be played on an alternate field if the home field does not meet CIF Southern Section standards.

2622.2 Teams entered in the softball playoffs will NOT be permitted to take batting practice on the day of a playoff game prior to the commencement of the contest or during the contest. (See playoff bulletin for definition of batting practice.)