

**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. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**A Regional Championship will be held following the completion of Section playoffs. The CIF Seeding Committee will determine the divisional placement of the Section entries for their respective regional tournament.
(Approved January 2020 Federated Council)**

#2604. RULES

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

#2605. 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 urged not 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 March 19 and must be held prior to team's first interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, or league).

#2606. TOURNAMENTS

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

#2606.1 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.

#2606.2 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 1227 for number of contests allowed per day)

#2606.3 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 1226).

<>2607. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

No interscholastic contests (non-league, tournament or league) may be scheduled prior to March 19.

#2608. 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.

#2608.1 FACULTY: Each team will be permitted to play one game with the faculty which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

#2608.2 ALUMNI: Each team will be permitted to play one Alumni contest, which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

#2609. 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.

#2609.1 Both games of the doubleheader must be between the same two schools.

#2609.2 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.

<>2610. END OF COMPETITION

All league competition for entries must end on or before Thursday, May 27. Schools may compete until May 29 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 May 27.

#2611. SUMMERTIME RULES/SUMMER DEAD PERIOD/SPORTS CAMPS

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1223 for specific information on Summertime Rules/ Summer Dead Period/ Sports Camps

#2612. 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).

#2613. LEVEL OF COMPETITION

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1226 for specific information on Level of Competition.

#2614. MAXIMUM ATHLETIC CONTESTS IN ONE DAY

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1227 for specific information on Maximum Contests in one day.

#2615. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1228 for specific information on standards for School Attendance.

#2616. 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.

#2617. 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.

#2618. 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.

#2619. SUNDAY RESTRICTION

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1229 for specific information on Sunday Restriction.

#2620. PLAYER CONDUCT

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1224 for specific information on Player Conduct.

#2621. COACH EJECTION

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 125.1 and 1225 for specific information on Coach Ejection.

#2622. NOISEMAKERS PROHIBITED

Refer to Blue Book Bylaw 1230 for specific information on Noisemakers.

#2623. PLAYOFFS

Refer to Article 33 (Playoffs) for details regarding playoff information. (Specific information will be contained in playoff information bulletins.)

#2623.1 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.

#2623.2 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.)