

CIF Southern Section
10932 Pine Street
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April 24, 2023

To: Athletic Directors and Head Baseball Coaches
Re: Reminder Bylaw 1515.2 No Batting Practice in the CIFSS Playoffs

CIF Southern Section A.D.s and Head Baseball Coaches,

Please review the following language posted in our 2023 playoff bulletin. Bylaw 1524.2 requires that teams may not have batting practice the day of a playoff game. The definition of batting practice as created by the CIFSS baseball advisory committee can be found in the playoff bulletin

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cifss.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/17155911/2023-Baseball-Playoff-Bulletin.pdf>

,and is also included below:

2. BATTING PRACTICE

Blue Book Rule 1515.2 states, "Teams entered in the baseball playoffs will not be permitted to take batting practice on the day of a playoff game prior to the commencement of the contest." Batting practice will be construed as ANY type of pitching motion with ANY type of ball from in front of the batter (including pitching machines and overhand throwing). **THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE BATTING WARMUP WILL BE SIDE SOFT TOSS OR BATTING TEE WORK. This should be done with only non-hard balls such as whiffle, smush, or reduced flight balls.**

- A) For side soft toss, the guidelines are as follows: the tosser should be on a knee, to the side of the batter and the ball should be lifted, not pitched, to the batter. **NO PEPPER IS ALLOWED AT ANY DISTANCE.**
- B) To clarify any questions that may arise. "Tracking", the idea that hitters will stand in a batter's position, while pitchers throw overhand to a catcher, and "track" pitches as they come toward the plate, is not considered batting practice by definition and is allowable prior to playoff contests. Batters who swing, or attempt to swing or bunt in any fashion, will be in violation of this rule and may face the consequences of that action. Coaches should be very careful to monitor any and all pre-game activities.
- C) No batting practice of any type may take place in batting cages.

THE PENALTY FOR BATTING PRACTICE MAY BE FORFEITURE OF THE GAME. Games will start at the scheduled time and each team will be allowed a maximum of 15 minutes for infield practice.

All the best,



RICH SHEARER • Assistant Commissioner

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