

**ARTICLE 280  
SOFTBALL**

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**2800. LENGTH OF GAMES**

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CIF Sections are authorized to limit junior varsity softball games to seven (7) innings or a maximum of two (2) hours (no new inning shall begin after two (2) hours have expired from the start of the game), whichever comes first.

2800.1 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.

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**2801. OFFICIAL NATIONAL FEDERATION AUTHENTICATION MARK**

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Only balls with the National Federation authentication mark shall be used in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, flag football, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, and water polo.

(Revised to include lacrosse November 2000 Federated Council/Editorial May 2023)

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.

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**2802. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

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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)

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**2803. REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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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)

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**2804. RULES**

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

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**<>2805. SCRIMMAGES**

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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, and spectators are not urged to attend. (See Q & A following Bylaw 220.8 for definition.)

<>2805.1 Schools are permitted two interscholastic scrimmage which may not be held prior to February 17 and must be held prior to team's first interscholastic contest (non-league, tournament, or league).

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**2806. STARTING DATES FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS**

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No interscholastic contests (non-league, tournament or league) may be scheduled prior to February 17.

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**2807. MAXIMUM TEAM CONTESTS**

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A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 28 games during the season, including tournaments but excluding CIF Southern Section playoffs, CIF State playoffs, Section Foundation or Scholarship Games or League culminating tournament.

2807.1 FACULTY: Each team will be permitted to play one game with the faculty which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

2807.2 ALUMNI: Each team will be permitted to play one Alumni contest, which will not count toward the allowable number of contests.

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**<>2808. END COMPETITION**

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All competition must end on or before Wednesday, May 7.

<>QUESTION: Are contest(s) at any level allowed after the submission of league entries?

<>ANSWER: No, once the league entries have been submitted no other contest(s) are allowed to be played. See last allowable contest date on the sports calendar.

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**2809. OUTSIDE COMPETITION BY AN INDIVIDUAL**

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*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).

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**2810. SOFTBALL-BASEBALL SLOW-PITCH DISTINCTIONS**

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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.

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**2811. NIGHT SOFTBALL GAME TIME LIMIT**

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

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**2812. COUNTING A GAME**

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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.

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**2813. PLAYOFFS**

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Refer to Article 34 (Playoffs) for details regarding playoff information. (Specific information will be contained in playoff information bulletins.)

2813.1 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.

2813.2 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.)