

## 2025 IGHSAU Softball Adaptations

The 2025 National Federation of High Schools Softball Rules will be followed, subject to the following adaptations:

**Legal bats** – Rule 1-5 regarding bats will have the following modification to 1-5-1d: Bats must meet the 2004 ASA Softball Bat Performance Standard, bear the ASA 2004 certification mark, and not be listed on the USA Softball non-approved bat list. Bats made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear a USA Softball mark. Bats bearing the newer USA Softball Certified mark are also legal. Bats with the 2000 certification mark are ILLEGAL. There is a current bat list posted on the IGHSAU website. Here is a link to the USA webpage with further information:

[Certified Equipment - USA Softball](#)

These are the correct certification marks:



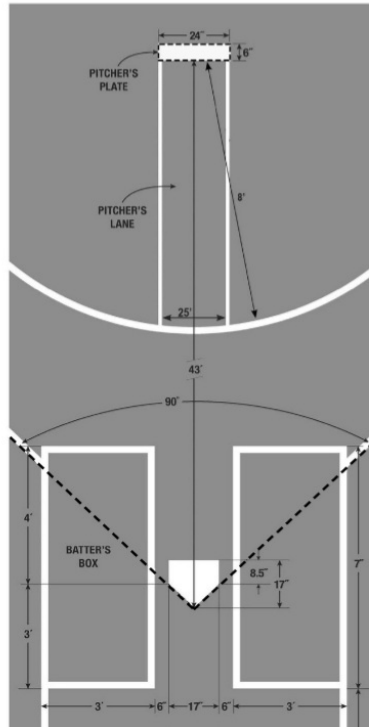
All Games

**Eye black and markings** – If eye black is used, it may only be BLACK and may only be worn in a straight line under the eye. No swoops, glitter or decorations are to be added to eye black. If a pitcher is wearing something on her face that the umpire deems distracting, then she would be asked to remove it or will be unable to pitch.

**Fence Covering** – Any fence that is less than six feet high and made of metal/steel shall be covered with a protective covering. This includes all fences on the diamond. There is no specific color requirement.

**Player Uniforms** – IGHSAU will follow rule 3-2 regarding uniforms with the following exceptions: There shall be no advertising or sponsor's name on the uniform. If worn, headbands may be any color or multi-colored and do not have to match among teammates.

**Pitcher's lane** – Fields shall be lined as per rule NFHS rule 1-1 with the following addition: there shall be field lines marked for a pitcher's lane as in the following diagram:



**Pre-game infield – Varsity only** – For regular season dual competition and regional tournament, both teams may take infield practice on the actual playing diamond. There is a seven-minute limit. The timing shall be done by the home management – preferably by the PA Announcer or scoreboard operator. A reminder shall be issued with one minute remaining. A team still has the option of hitting ground balls in front of its dugout in foul territory during the seven-minute warm up time if they prefer. But both teams must be allowed to use the playing diamond for their seven minutes if they choose. Regular season tournaments and sub-varsity warm up protocols remain at the discretion of the home management.

**Umpire attire** – A powder blue polo shirt with blue and white stripes on the sleeve and heather gray slacks are DEFAULT for varsity contests. A white polo shirt (including those with blue or red side panels) and heather gray slacks may be worn for sub-varsity games. Heather gray slacks OR charcoal gray slacks with the same powder blue polo shirt with the IGHSAU logo and a navy blue or black hat

with the IGHSAU logo are REQUIRED to be worn in the regional and state tournaments. Pants may be pleated. Navy blue shirts and/or charcoal gray pants may be worn for regular season ONLY if both umpires agree. Partners must match.

**Game ending protocol** – At the varsity level, it is required to use a 10-run differential rule after 4 innings (3.5 innings if the home team is leading by 10 or more runs) and a 8-run differential rule after 5 or 6 innings (5.5 innings if the home team is leading by 8 or more runs). At the sub-varsity level, the use of the run differential is optional. Note: all regular season games must comply with rule NFHS rule 4.2 to be considered a complete (regulation) game. This includes games played in tournaments. Schools hosting tournaments should provide written communication on the game-ending procedures for the tournament to all teams, particularly when there is a time limit or weather delays. These game ending procedures should also be shared with umpires and discussed during each pre-game conference with coaches.

**International Tie Breaker** – When used in regular season games, the international tiebreaker will start at the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning. To apply the rule, determine the first legal batter of the inning and then place the player immediately preceding them in the lineup on second base with no outs. If used during a regular season tournament, it is permissible to begin using the international tie-breaker rule before the 8<sup>th</sup> inning if the time limit has expired.

**Suspended game** – Apply rule 4-2-1 and 4-2-2 to determine if you have a regulation game with a winner decided. If not, the game shall be suspended, and if made up later, the game shall resume from the point of interruption.

**Protested games** – Rule 4-4 – The IGHSAU does not recognize protests.