

Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)

Amendments to National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Rules

79. Softball

79.1 Softball will be played under the rules of the National Federation of High School Associations with the following modifications.

79.1.1 Leagues may amend a rule provided such an amendment is not a substantive change to MIAA rules. However, leagues may wish to change such things as the type of ball, free substitutions, or similar acts to speed the game.

79.2 Safety bases are recommended. The Sports Medical Committee recommends a breakaway or impact base.

79.3 Prior to starting the delivery (pitch) the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher's plate and the nonpivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. Both feet must be in contact with the pitcher's plate and on the ground within the 24-inch length of the pitcher's plate.

79.4 The distance between the nearer edge of the pitcher's plate and the apex of home plate shall be 43 feet.

79.5 Metal cleats and metal toe plates will be allowed (as per NFHS Rules).

79.6 A regulation game shall be declared, if a team is leading by 12 or more runs after 5 complete innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead). The 12 run rule applies in tournament play, prior to sectional semi-final rounds. This rule is also in effect for all games played during the regular season. Individual leagues are allowed to include a by-law or rule that reduces the number of runs, (less than 12) that places this rule into effect.

79.7 Each team when on defense may be granted one conference (time out) per inning without penalty. A second defensive conference (timeout) during the same inning will result in the removal of the pitcher. The number of charged conferences is not cumulative. Time granted for an incapacitated player shall

not constitute a charged conference. A conference is not charged when the pitcher is removed as pitcher. The defensive team charged conference rule coverage is in effect when the ball first becomes live at the start of each half inning.