



WNYUA Baseball Rules Interpretation

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2020 NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES



DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4

44	4	Daniels		8
SUB.				DH
32	5	Edwards		
SUB.				6
17	6	Franklin		
SUB.				2
24	7	George		
SUB.				9
2	8	Hamilton		
SUB.				5
19	9	Irwin		
SUB.				1
6	10	Jackson		
SUB.				3
SUBSTITUTES				
NO.				POS.
11		Knutson		
28		Larson		
35		Matthewson		
1		Nelson		

The DH may still be a 10th starter hitting for any one of the nine starting defensive players.

DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4a1

44	4	Daniels	8
6	SUB.	Jackson	
32	5	Edwards	DH
	SUB.		3
17	6	Franklin	6
	SUB.		
24	7	George	2
	SUB.		
2	8	Hamilton	9
	SUB.		
19	9	Irwin	5
	SUB.		
6	10	Jackson	1
	SUB.		
			3
SUBSTITUTES			
11	Knutson		POS.
28	Larson		
35	Matthewson		
1	Nelson		

- When using a standard designated hitter, the role of the DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when
 - the defensive player (or any previous defensive player) for whom the DH batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch-runs for the DH.

DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4a2

14	4	Daniels		8
		SUB.		
32	5	Edwards		DH 3
		SUB.		
17	6	Franklin		6
		SUB.		
24	7	George		2
		SUB.		
2	8	Hamilton		9
		SUB.		
19	9	Irwin		5
		SUB.		
6	10	Jackson		1
		SUB.		
				3
NO.	SUBSTITUTES		POS.	
11	Knutson			
28	Larson			
35	Matthewson			
1	Nelson			

- The role of a standard DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4b

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS
**Official Line-up
Baseball**

DATE May 7, 20 TEAM Union Eagles

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
14	1 Abel		7
9	2 Baker		4
12	3 Charles		8
44	4 Daniels		3/DH
32	5 Edwards		6
17	6 Franklin		2
24	7		

- The starting designated hitter (DH) may now be any one of the starting defensive players, including the pitcher.
- A Player/DH then holds two positions: defensive player and designated hitter.

DESIGNATED HITTER

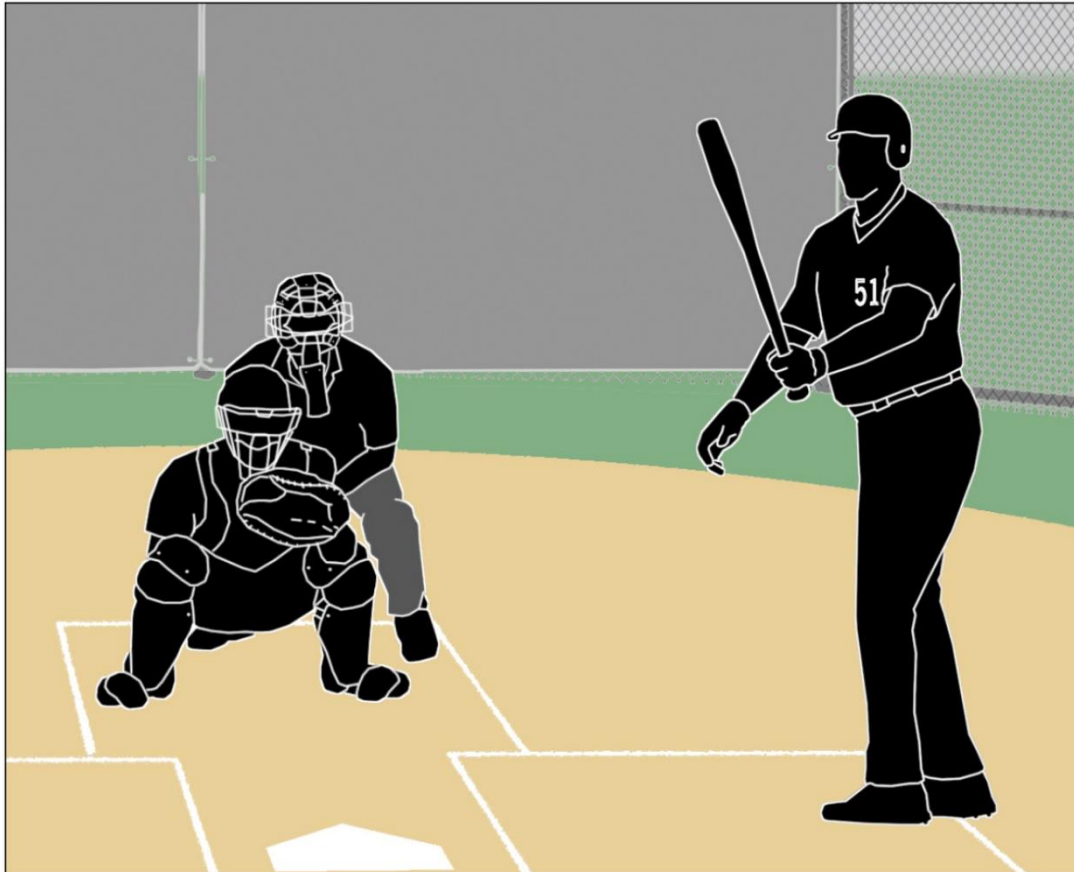
RULE 3-1-4b

SUB.	44	4	Daniels	8
SUB.	32	5	Jackson Edwards	3/DH
SUB.	17	6	Franklin	6
SUB.	24	7	George	2
SUB.	2	8	Hamilton	9
SUB.	19	9	Irwin	5
SUB.	10			1
NO.	SUBSTITUTES			POS.
6	Jackson			
11	Knutson			
28	Larson			
35	M...			

- In the case where one player is listed as a starting DH and a starting defensive player in the lineup, the role of the defensive player may be substituted for by any legal substitute.
- The original player/DH may re-enter defensively one time.

DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4b-1



When using the Player/DH, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when any player substitutes offensively for the DH.

DESIGNATED HITTER

RULE 3-1-4b-2



As a reminder from the previous slide, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when the starting defensive Player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or a runner.

DESIGNATED HITTER (DH)

RULE 3-1-4

- **Rationale:**

This rule change will provide coaches some options to strategize how to keep their better players in the game, to contribute to the offensive output of the team and give another player a chance to participate on defense. In addition, considering the pitch count rules, this change would help pitchers to keep their bat (because they are typically the best hitter) in the game, but can come out of the game to protect their arms from overuse.

LET'S TEST OUR KNOWLEDGE

Four examples to discuss when it comes to the DH rule...

EXAMPLE 1

DH Jones, batting in the second spot in the lineup for starting F5 Baker, safely reaches first base. The head coach substitutes Miller as a pinch runner for DH Jones at first base. Is the position of DH terminated for the remainder of the game?

EXAMPLE 1 ANSWER

- No! The DH has been out of the game once. Miller may become the new DH or the original DH Jones may re-enter as DH (or may play defense).
- If any standard DH plays defense, the role of the DH is terminated.
- Casebook **3.1.4 Situation B** pages 25 – 26

EXAMPLE 2

With Draper listed in the starting lineup as the 2B/DH and batting fourth in the batting order, the head coach wants to bring in Gabriel to hit for Draper.

What happens to the position of DH?

EXAMPLE 2 ANSWER

- If substitute Gabriel comes in to hit (or run) for Draper, the role of the DH **is terminated** for the game.
- If eligible, Draper may re-enter the game on defense and bat in the same spot in the batting order.
- Casebook **3.1.4 Situation H** page 26

EXAMPLE 3

Williams is listed as the P/DH hitting in the third position in the batting order. In the 5th inning, Grady enters the game as pitcher (with Williams reaching his pitch count limit) and Williams continues as DH for Grady. In the 6th inning, Olsen enters to pitch replacing Grady with Williams continuing as DH for Olsen. In the 7th inning, Williams returns to defense as the catcher and is still listed as the DH.

Is Williams allowed to return to defense and still be listed as DH?

EXAMPLE 3 ANSWER

- This is **legal** (Casebook 3.1.4 Situation F page 26)
- The starting P/DH has two positions: the defensive player and the designated hitter.
- If the defensive player has been substituted for, the original player/DH may re-enter one time.
- The role of this DH is terminated when:
 - A substitute (or former substitute) for the defensive role subsequently participates in an offensive role
 - The starting defensive player/DH is substituted for either as a hitter or a runner.

EXAMPLE 4

In the 4th inning, Smith replaces Rothrock as the starting P/DH as the pitcher only. In the 4th inning, Rothrock sprains his ankle as he slides into third base on a triple. Rothrock cannot continue and so the head coach enters Kaiser as a pinch-runner.

What happens to Smith in this scenario?

EXAMPLE 4 ANSWER

- If an eligible substitute enters the game to pinch-run for Rothrock, the role of the DH is **terminated** and Rothrock is removed from the game.
- This will **end** Smith as the pitcher since the substitute Kaiser enters the game in the batting order spot already occupied by Smith.
- Casebook **3.1.4 Situation I** (page 26)

WHAT ABOUT NY'S P/DH RULE FROM 2019?

- How does this rule affect the 2019 rule in NY concerning the P/DH?
- Will NY eliminate the P/DH rule from 2019 with the implementation of this new expanded form of the NFHS DH rule?
- Answer: TO BE DETERMINED



POINTS OF EMPHASIS



DESIGNATED HITTER

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS
Official Line-up
Baseball

DATE May 7, 20 TEAM Union Eagles

NO.	PLAYER	RE	POS.
14	1 Abel		7
9	2 Baker		4
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17	6 Franklin		2
24	7 George		9
2	8 Hamilton		5
19	9 Irwin		1
10			
6	Jack		

SUBSTITUTES

There are now two options when using a designated hitter: the standard DH and the player/DH. Teams may also still choose to start the game without using a designated hitter (straight 9). All options must be declared prior to the start of the game.

DESIGNATED HITTER




The courtesy runner (CR) can never have any function with a designated hitter (DH). When a DH comes to bat, he is a DH (regardless of either lineup option); when at bat, he can never assume a defensive position. As a result, a CR is never a legal substitute for a DH.

DESIGNATED HITTER



If the DH is batting for another player, when he bats, he is a DH. As a result, if a runner comes in for him when he gets on base, it is a substitution, and that player is now the DH. If the DH is a Player/DH, he is batting as the DH. A substitution by an offensive player would eliminate the role of the DH.

GAME-ENDING PROCEDURES



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
VISITOR	3	2	4	1	4			14
HOME	1	0	0	0	0			1

A state association may adopt game-ending procedures that determine how games are ended, including suspended games. However, if a state does not adopt game-ending procedures, by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief, any remaining play may be shortened or the game terminated. If a state association has adopted game-ending procedures, only those game-ending procedures may be used, unless the opposing coaches wish to terminate the game (4-2-4).

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



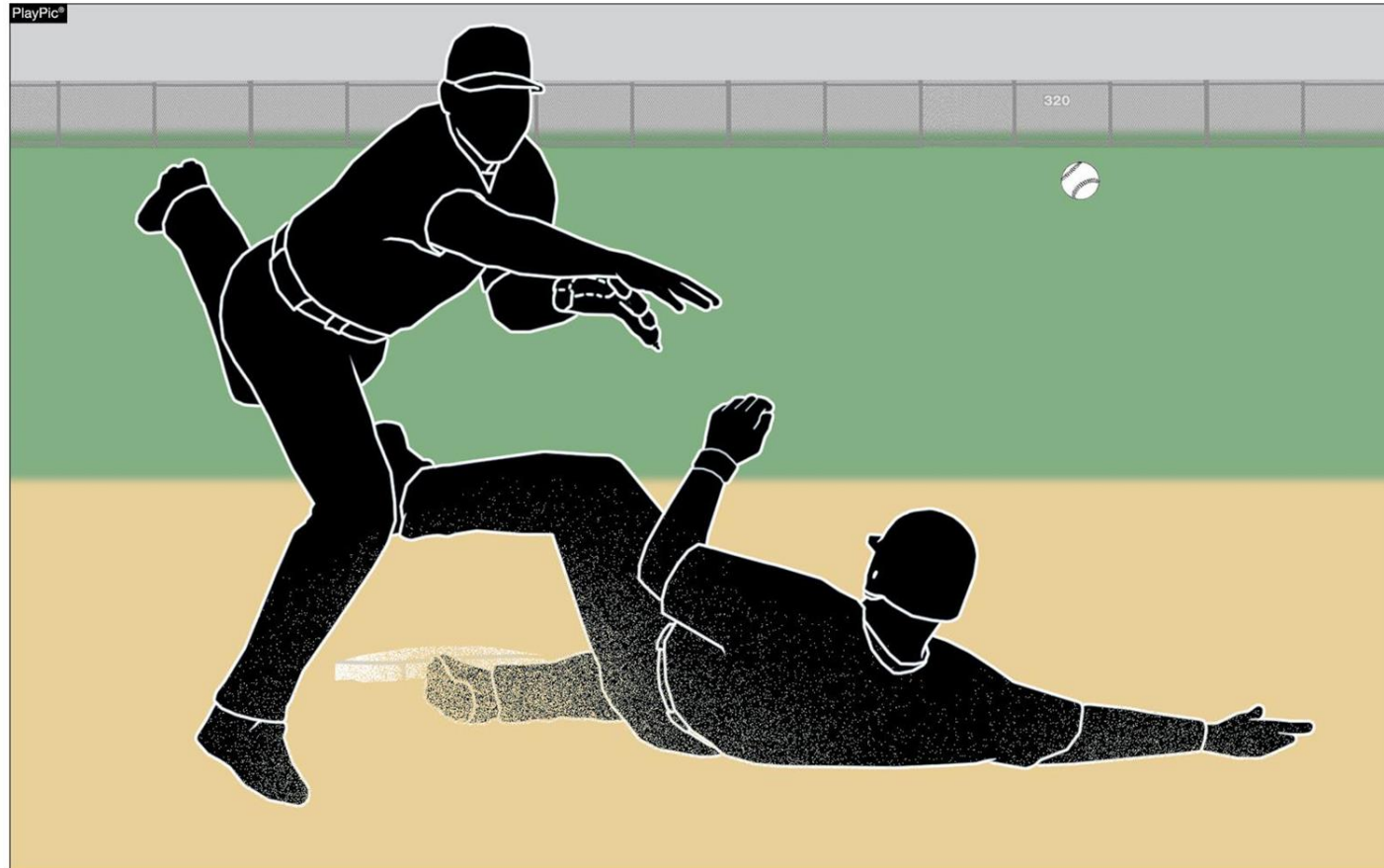
Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide at any base, it must be legal. A legal slide can either be feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground.

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



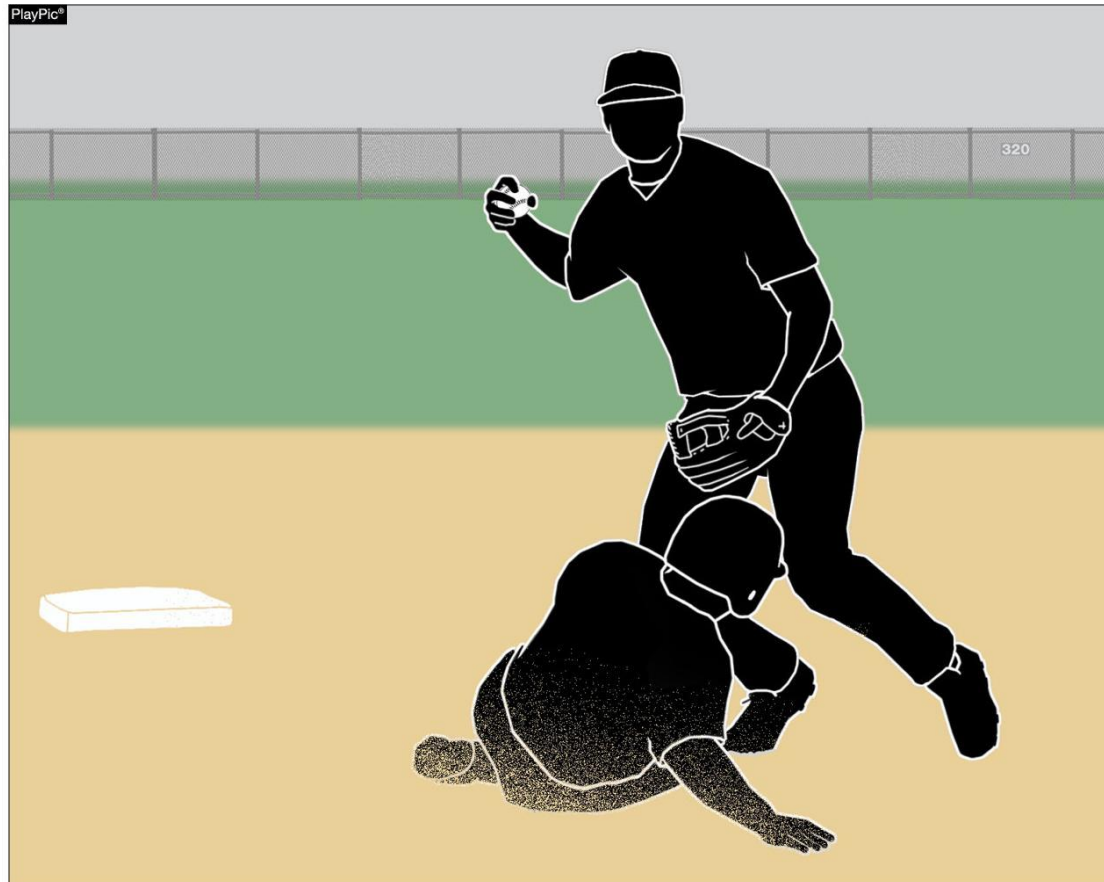
Runners may not have a leg raised higher than the fielder's knee.

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from a fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE



The runner is out when he illegally slides. On a force play, the runner is also guilty of interference. The batter-runner is also declared out and all other runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE EXAMPLE 1

R1 is on the first base. B2 hits a ground ball to the shortstop who flips to the second baseman covering second to turn a double play. R1 runs to second base and goes in directly to second base standing up. No contact is made with the second baseman, but the second baseman must take a step to the side to make the throw to first.

What is the proper call?

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE EXAMPLE 1 ANSWER

- **This is interference.** R1 is already out so time is called and the Batter-Runner is declared out for the interference.
- Combine rules 2-32-1 and 8-4-2b

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE EXAMPLE 2

R1 is on the first base. B2 hits a ground ball to the second baseman who flips to the shortstop covering second to turn a double play. R1 runs to second base and goes in directly to second base standing up. No contact is made with the shortstop, but the shortstop's throw hits R1 directly in the chest.

What is the proper call?

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE EXAMPLE 2

ANSWER

- **This is interference.** R1 is already out so time is called and the Batter-Runner is declared out for the interference.
- Combine rules 2-32-1 and 8-4-2b

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE EXAMPLE 3

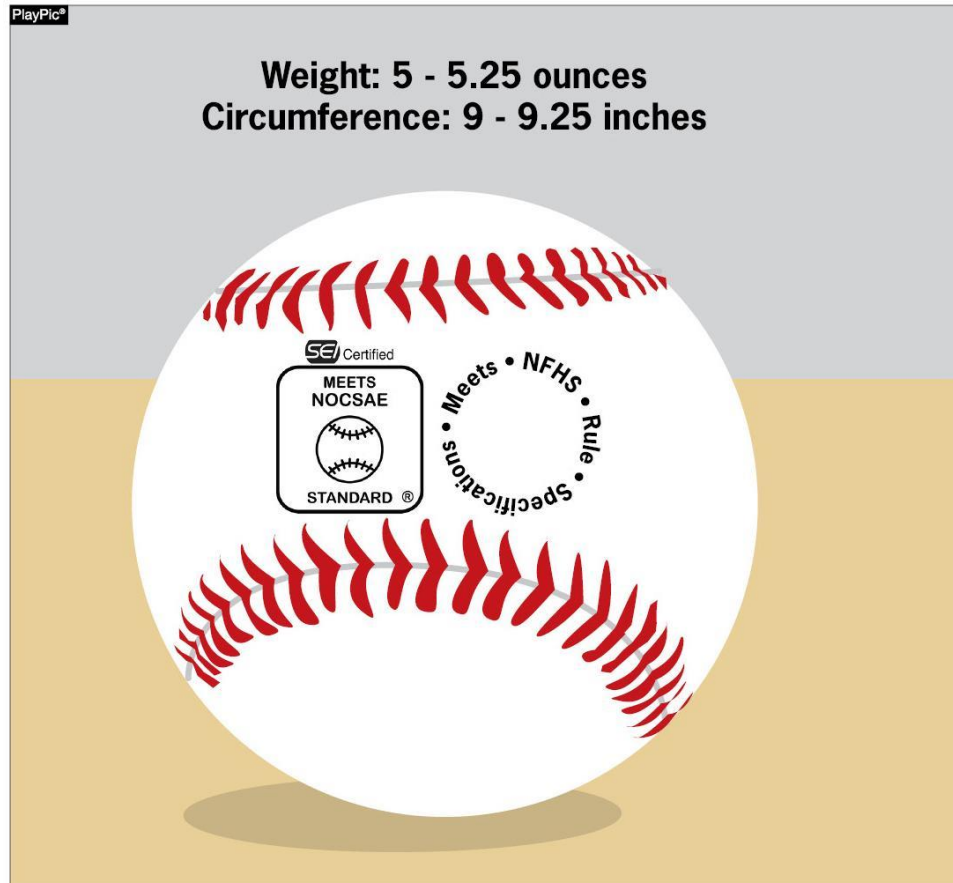
R1 is on the first base. B2 hits a ground ball to the shortstop who flips to the second baseman covering second to turn a double play. R1 runs to second base and goes in directly to second base standing up. As R1 reaches second base, he makes contact with the second baseman as he is reaching second base.

What is the proper call?

FORCE-PLAY SLIDE RULE EXAMPLE 3 ANSWER

- **This is interference.** R1 is already out so time is called and the Batter-Runner is declared out for the interference.
- Combine rules 2-32-1 and 8-4-2b

COMPLIANT BASEBALL



The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseball effective January 1, 2020. The NFHS authentication mark and the NOCSAE mark shall both be visible on the ball.

BASEBALLS

RULE 1-3-1

- Effective January 1, 2020 the SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all baseballs that meet the NOCSAE standard that will be used in high school competition.
- Baseballs shall have the SEI/NOCSAE mark along with the NFHS Authenticating Mark.

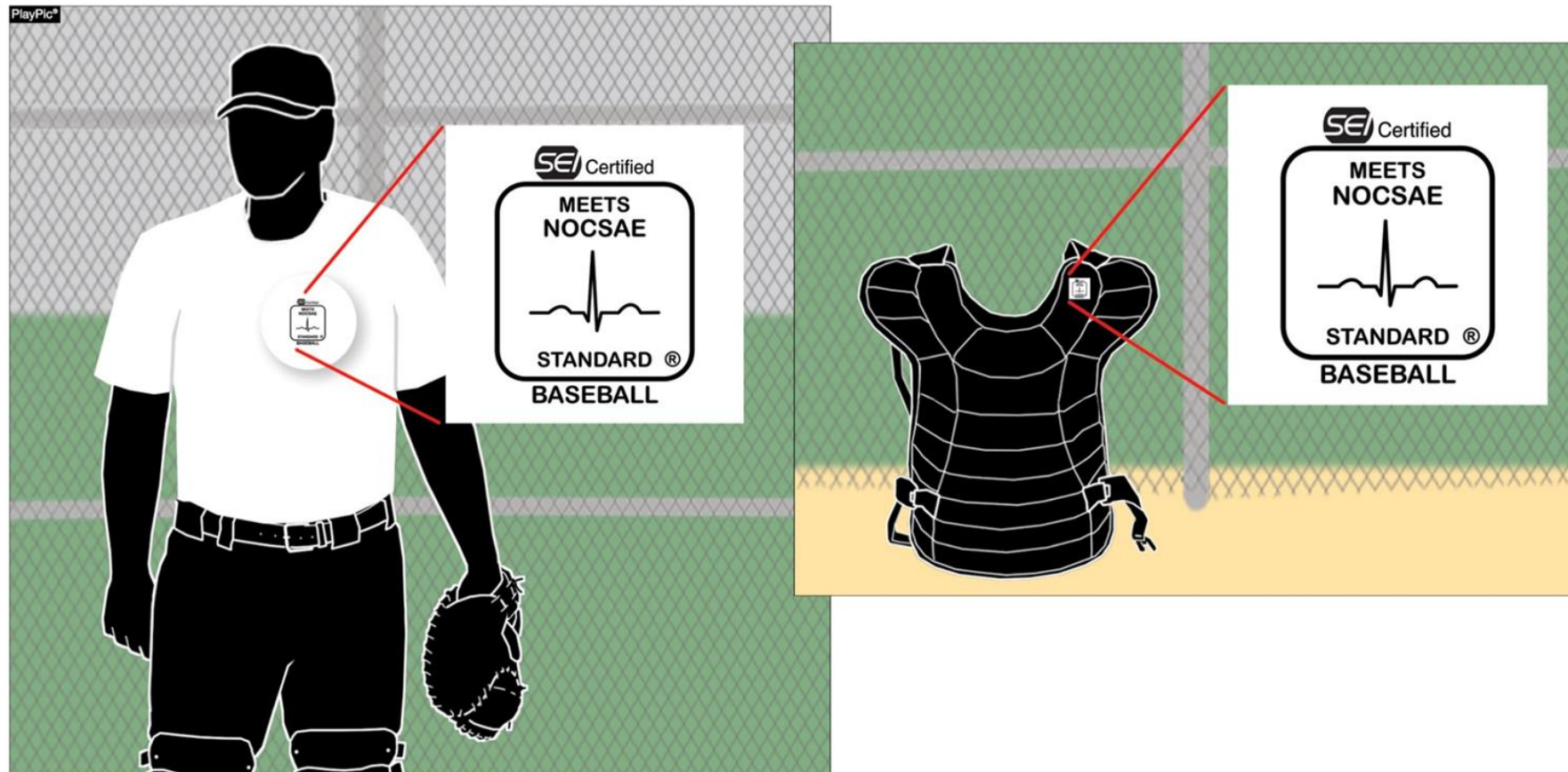
- **Rationale:**

To maintain a consistent and uniform standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability.

COMPLIANT BASEBALL - PENALTY

- There is **no** penalty listed in the rule book.
- If a baseball does not have the NOCSAE mark, report the coach/team/school to NYSPHSAA
 - Still play the game

COMPLIANT BODY AND CHEST PROTECTOR



The catcher's body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective Jan. 1, 2020.

CHEST AND BODY PROTECTOR

RULE 1-5-3

- The catcher shall wear, in addition to a head protector, a mask with a throat protector, body/chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture (Effective January 1, 2020), protective cup (male only), and baseball protective shin guards. The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all body/chest protectors that meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture that will be used in high school competition.

CHEST AND BODY PROTECTOR

RULE 1-5-3

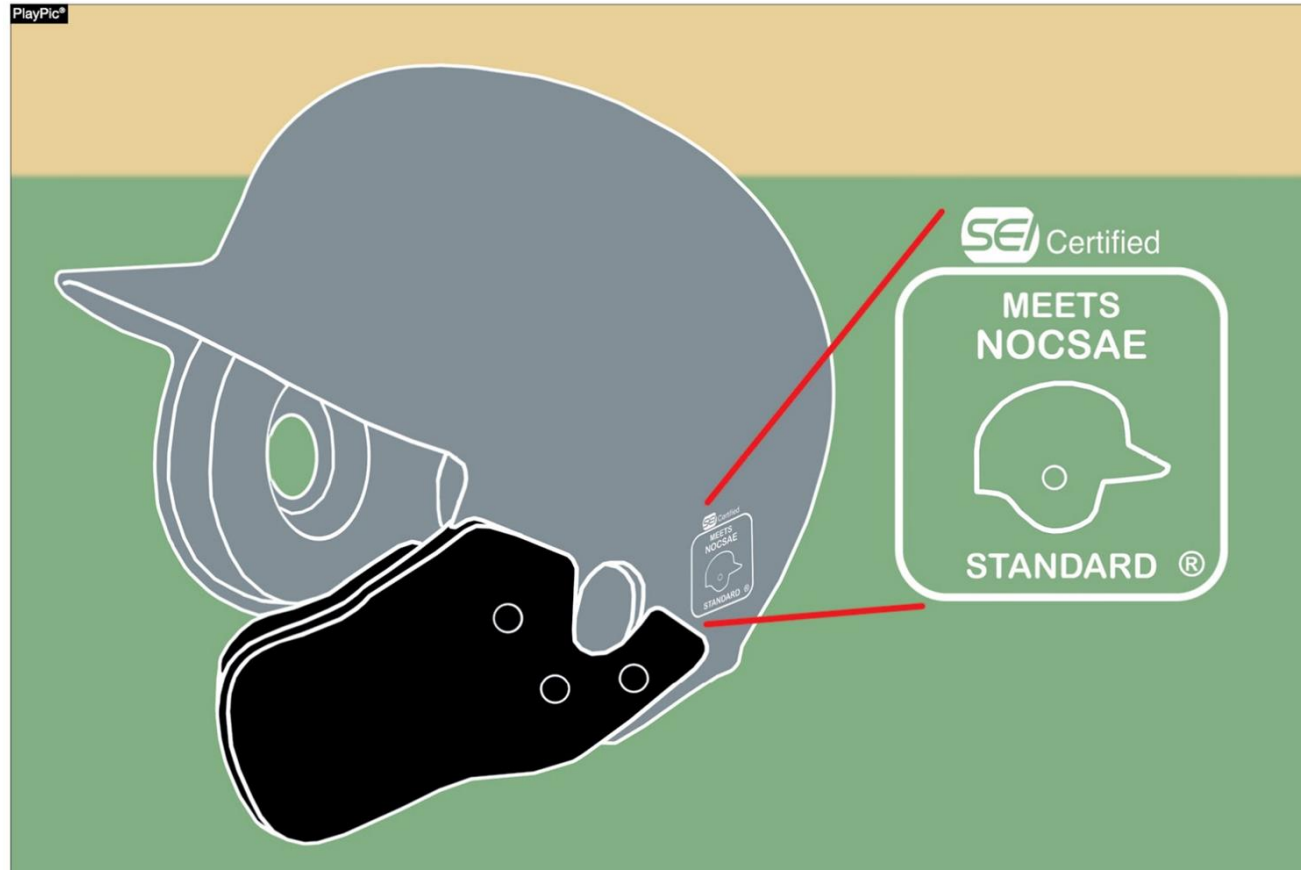
- **Rationale:**

A SEI/NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis. The NOCSAE standard could be included in a product that is either a separate device/apparel or a device constructed into a traditional chest protector. This proposal is recommended and endorsed by the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to minimize risk. The catcher has to wear either a chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard or a body protector that meets the NOCSAE standard underneath a traditional chest protector. It is the responsibility of the coach to verify that his/her players are properly equipped and in uniform.

CHEST AND BODY PROTECTOR - PENALTY

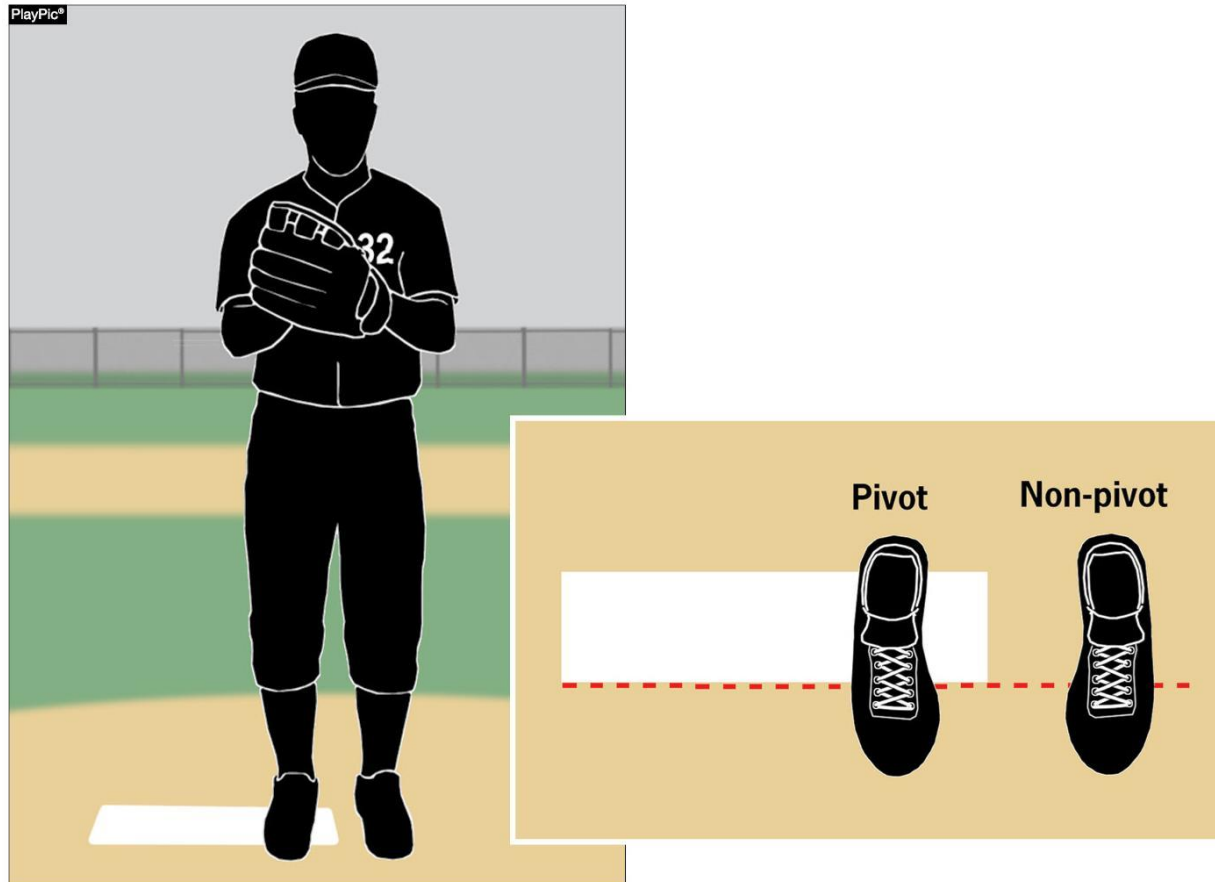
- Per Elliot Hopkins:
 1. Order the player to wear the proper equipment.
 2. If the player does not comply, **eject** them from the contest.
 - Rule 1-5-4 Penalty

COMPLIANCE OF PLAYER EQUIPMENT



A face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, provided that procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the SEI/NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS

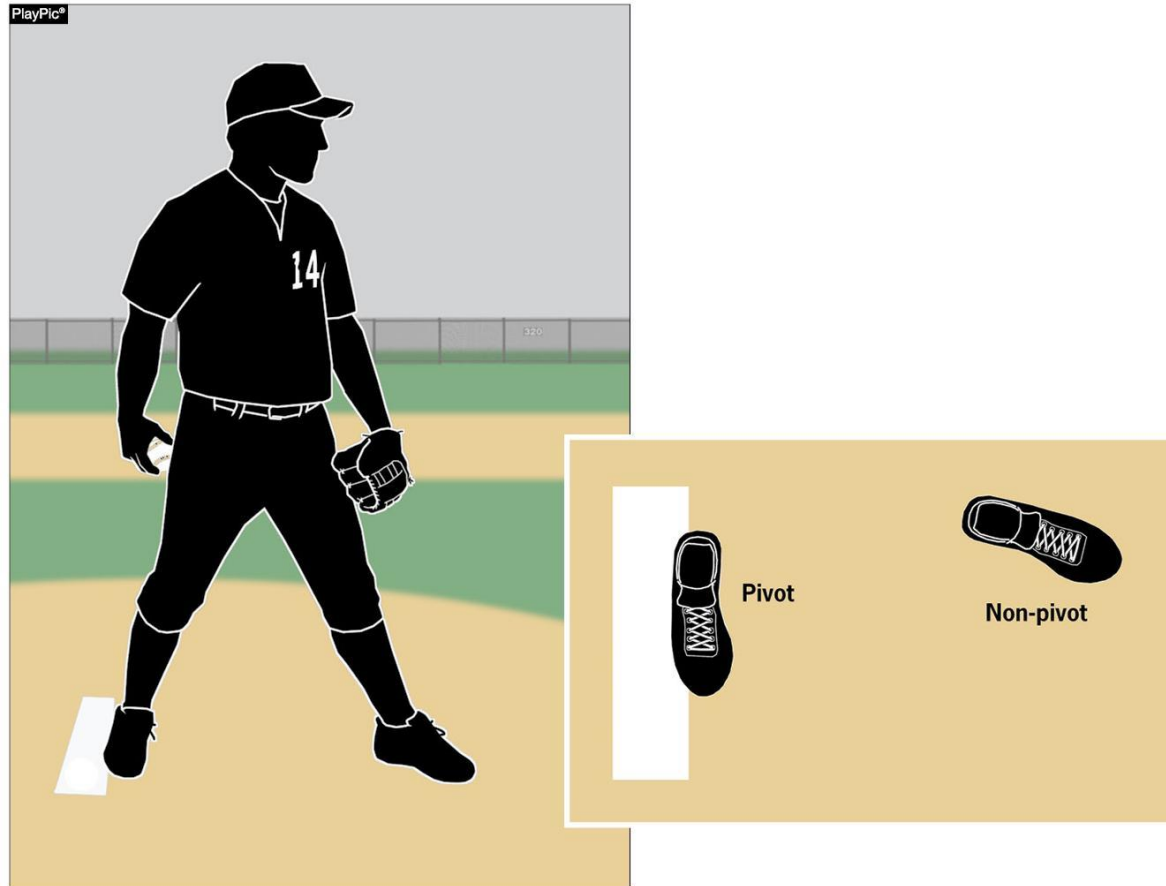


The windup is one of two legal pitching positions. For the windup, the pitcher's non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate.

Legal Pitching Positions - Windup

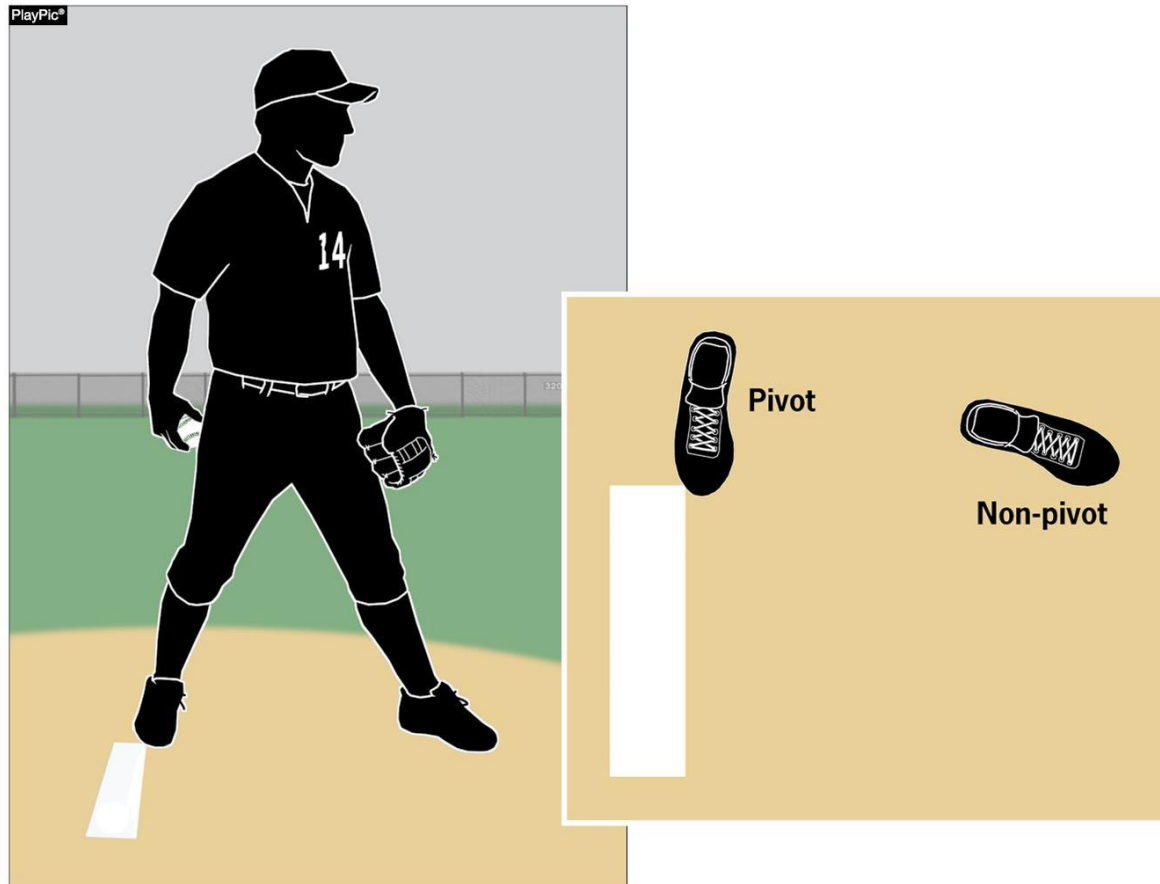
- Hands
 - Together in front of the body
 - Both at pitcher's side
- Feet
 - Pivot foot contacting and perpendicular to rubber
 - Non-pivot (free) foot contacting or behind front edge of rubber extended
- Legal Actions
 - Legally disengage by stepping backward with pivot foot (become an infielder)
 - Deliver a pitch (free foot steps to side or backward)
- Illegal Actions
 - Pickoff attempt while contacting rubber
 - More than 2 pumps or rotations
 - Pivot foot loses contact w/ rubber during delivery

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



The set is one of two legal pitching positions. For the set position, a pitcher shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



Pitchers are no longer required to have their entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. This recognizes that many mounds are such that it is problematic for the pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

Legal Pitching Positions - Set

- Hands
 - Apart, ball in either hand or glove
 - Pitching hand at side or behind back
 - No restriction on glove hand
- Feet
 - Pivot foot parallel to and in contact with rubber
 - Non-pivot (free) foot in front of rubber extended
- “Coming Set”
 - One continuous motion
 - Complete and discernible stop (change of direction does not qualify)
 - Hands come together in front of body and at or below chin

Legal Pitching Positions - Set

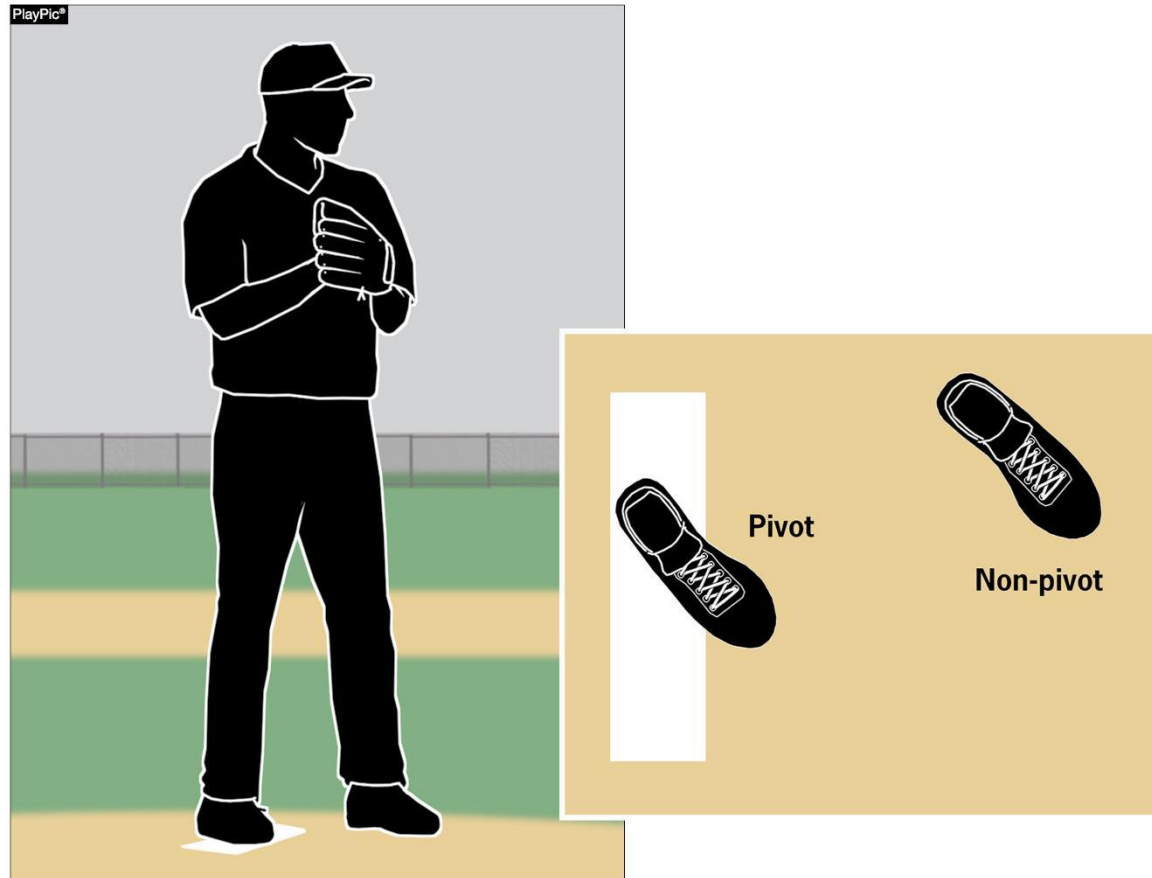
- Legal Actions

- Spin/jump turn, as long as free foot steps toward base (and ball is thrown if step is to 1B)
- Legally disengage by stepping backward with pivot foot (become an infielder)
- Deliver a pitch
- Feint to 2B or 3B

- Illegal Actions

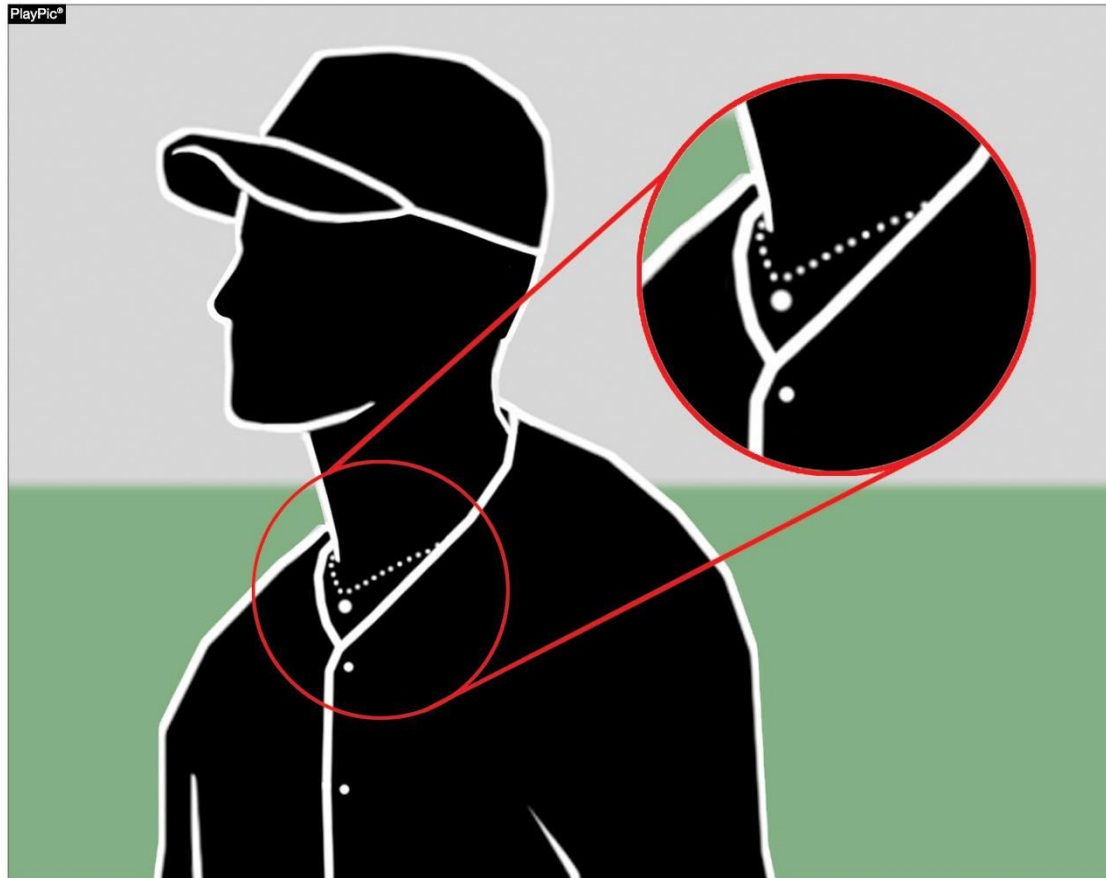
- Feint to 1B
- Spin/jump turn with no ground gained toward base (will see this toward 2B occasionally)

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



The so-called hybrid stance is illegal as it does not meet the requirements of either the windup or set positions.

ENFORCEMENT OF NFHS JEWELRY RULE



Jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings, shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.



**LOCAL POINTS
OF EMPHASIS**



BALKS AND ILLEGAL PITCHES

- We are warning/talking to pitchers WAY too much and calling it “preventive umpiring.” Call balks when you see them. Grabbing balks and illegal pitches early in the season will clean things up later on when league titles, records, sectional positions are on the line.
- There are many pitchers who now pitch exclusively from the set position. No-stop is illegal even with no runners on – call the illegal pitch and clean things up!



WHAT IS A BALK? (6-2-4)

- Feint toward batter or 1B
- Dropping of ball and ball does not cross foul line
- Failure to step directly toward base when throwing or feinting from rubber
- Illegal pitch
- Failure to pitch in continuous motion once delivery is started
 - Exception: If batter's action causes this, either reset or call the pitch (depending on how batter causes)
- Taking hand off ball while in set position without a pitch, throw, or feint.
- Failing to pitch after free foot crosses back edge of rubber (unless throwing or feinting to 2B)
- Any movement naturally associated with pitch while not engaged
- Within approximately 5 feet of rubber without the ball (use dirt as a guide)

RESTRICTION OF THE HEAD COACH/BEHAVIOR OF ASSISTANT COACHES



- Bench restriction (or the threat of it) is a HUGE asset in addressing the behavior of bench players, assistant coaches, and the head coach.
- Instances in which the HC is restricted by rule:
 - Not in uniform
 - Assistant coach ejected
 - Player enters box with illegal bat
 - Bench player conduct, umpire is unsure of offender
 - Borderline ejectable offense
- REMEMBER: The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his players, coaching staff, and fans.



HANDLING FAN BEHAVIOR

- Under NFHS rules, officials do NOT have direct jurisdiction over fans. Don't talk to them.
- The HEAD COACH is responsible for fans of his team. He can be restricted to the bench on the behavior of his fans, then ejected if the behavior continues.
- “Coach, by rule, you are responsible for the behavior of your fans. Get them under control or you will be ejected.” Be ready to give specifics.
- Use site management when available. “This fan (point him/her out) is out of control and must be removed. The game will not continue until he/she is gone.”



HANDLING SITUATIONS

- Proper handling of situations does NOT mean “we want fewer ejections.” It means that we want ejections to happen when they are warranted.
- Ignore, Acknowledge, Warn (Restrict), Eject.
- Make sure your warning is clear. State the offense, state the penalty, state the potential penalty for continuing the behavior.
 - “Coach, this is your official warning for arguing balls and strikes. By rule, you are restricted to the dugout for the rest of the game. If you leave the dugout without my permission, you will be ejected.
- Have rule backup for any restriction or ejection.



NY STATE ADOPTED RULES



CONCUSSIONS – PAGE 72

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of a concussion.
- Suggested Concussion Management:
 - No athlete should return to play on the same day of a concussion.
 - Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional as soon as possible.
 - **RULE 3-1-5 (page 28):** “Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.”

BLOOD – PAGE 74

- Student-athlete who is:
 - bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on a uniform, or has blood on their body **shall be directed to leave the game** until:
 - the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to the game.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface **must be reported** and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

LIGHTNING OR THUNDER – PAGE 75

- When thunder is heard or lightning is seen:
 - Vacate the field **immediately**.
 - Once play has been suspended, wait **at least** 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed.
 - Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute suspension count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.