



2014 MHSAA Softball Items & Reminders

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1. Online rules meetings will launch on February 3 and will close on April 11. The head varsity coach **MUST** complete a rules meeting or the coach is prohibited from coaching at any level in the MHSAA tournament.
2. Bats: For the 2014 softball season, National Federation playing rules again require that all non-wood bats must display the **ASA** certification mark to be a legal bat and not appear on the ASA “banned bat” list.
3. MHSAA tournament sites and groupings are posted at MHSAA.com.
4. Again in the 2014 season, umpires are still required to inspect bats and helmets prior to the game.
5. Health & Safety: Information regarding concussion protocols and heat & hydration policies can be found at the following link:

<http://www.mhsaa.com/Schools/Administrators.aspx>
6. Umpires are required to collect, and coaches submit a lineup card to the plate umpire at the pre-game conference. Umpires must maintain a line card throughout the game and all substitutions, including CR must be reported to the plate umpire. If a DP/FLEX is used it must be on the lineup card properly at the time of the pre-game conference when lineups become official.
7. Effective for the 2014 (NEW), the season maximum is 38 games for a team and individual during the regular season. The “point system” is no longer in use. A school may not schedule more than 38 regular season games. MHSAA Tournament games do not count toward the 38-game maximum.

8. 2014 MHSAA Tournament Dates

- Districts: May 27, May 30, or May 31
- Regionals: Saturday, June 7
- Quarterfinals: Tuesday, June 10
- Semifinals: Thursday & Friday, June 12-13- Secchia Stadium, East Lansing
- Finals: Saturday, June 14- Secchia Stadium, East Lansing

2014 Softball Rules Changes

1-5-2C

The taper is the transition area which connects the narrower handle to the wider barrel portion of the bat. The taper shall have a solid surface and shall have a conical shape. Its length and material may vary.

Rationale: Not all legal bats have smooth tapers.

1-8-6

The use of electronic devices by team personnel to transmit or record information pertaining to his/her player or team's performance shall be permitted within the team's dugout/bench area only. Information obtained from an electronic device may be used for coaching purposes during the game.

Rationale: To be consistent with other NFHS sports.

2-58

TEAM MEMBERS Team members are players listed on the team's roster and lineup as submitted to the umpire at the pregame meeting.

Rationale: To facilitate requirements for adherence in other areas of the rules; equipment, uniforms, field access, etc.

2-59

TEAM PERSONNEL Team personnel consist of all school representatives located in the team dugout, including but not limited to coaches, managers, certified athletic trainers, and scorekeepers.

Rationale: To distinguish those who have an official role in the school's softball team.

3-6-11

The use of electronic devices is permitted during a game; however any information obtained shall not be used to review decisions made by the umpires.

Rationale: To be consistent with other NFHS sports.

2014 MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

1-5-2A: Defined the knob component of the bat.

1-6-3: Added coach to those who may be in violation if helmet is not worn in live-ball area.

7-3-2: Clarified the batter's responsibility to either avoid or NOT avoid a pitched ball.

2014 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Flex/Designated Player Education
2. Player Safety
3. Equipment Check (Bats, Helmets)
4. Electronic Devices