



# 2019 NFHS BASEBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State  
High School Associations



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B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA  
Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services

# NFHS RULES BOOK AS E-BOOKS

National Federation of State High School Associations



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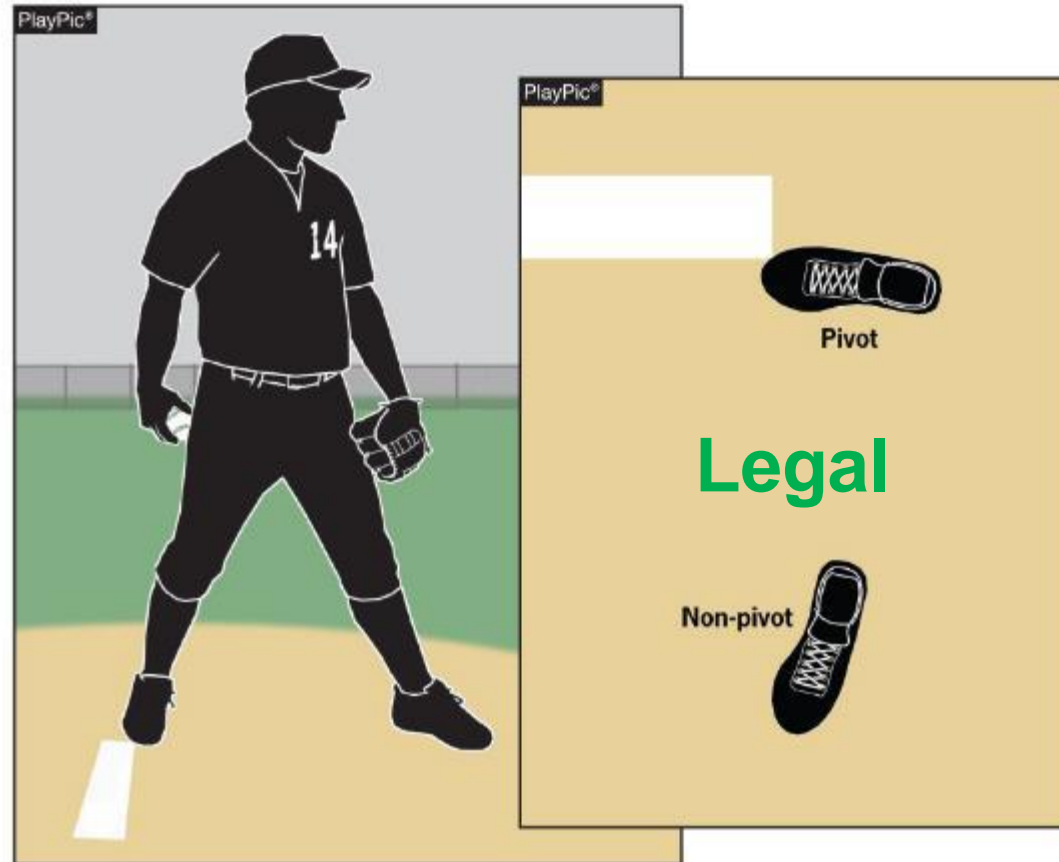


# NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES



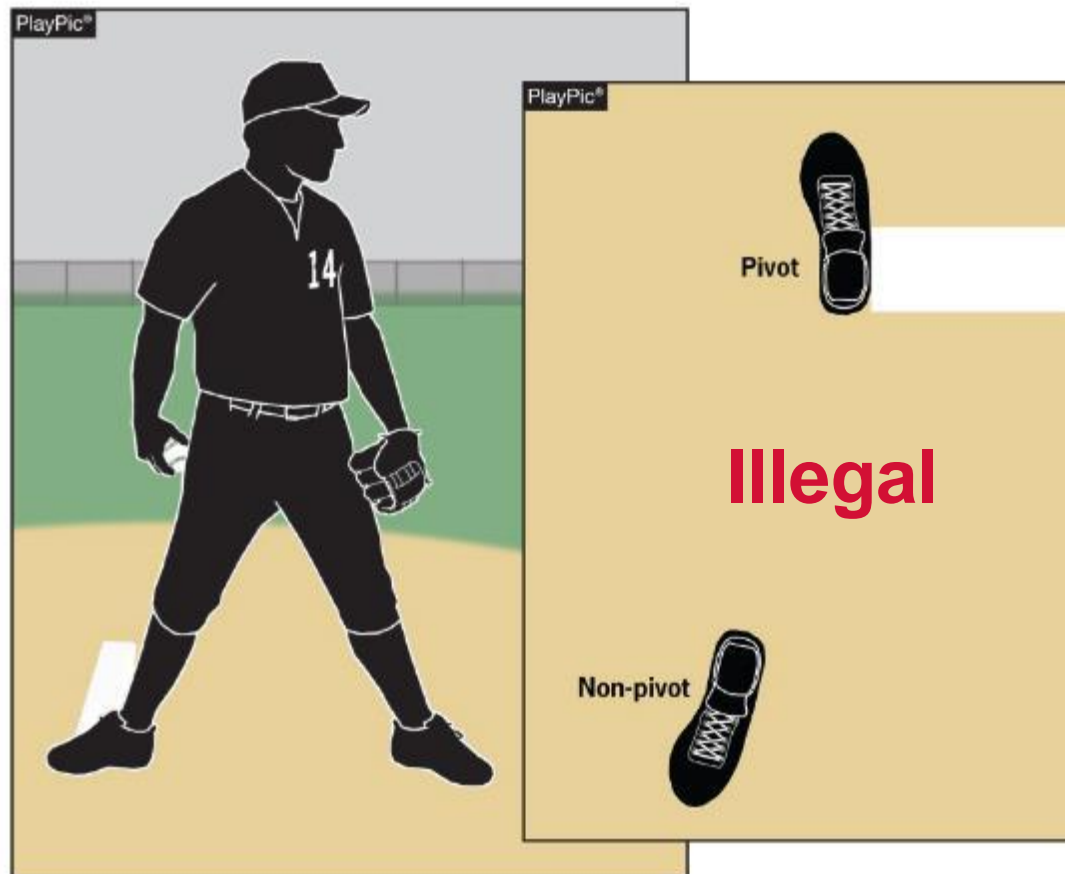
# PIVOT FOOT AND PITCHING PLATE RULE 6-1-3

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



# PIVOT FOOT AND PITCHING PLATE RULE 6-1-3

The 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.



## PIVOT FOOT AND PITCHING PLATE RULE 6-1-3

- **ART. 3 . . .** For the set position, the pitcher shall have the ball in either his gloved hand or his pitching hand. His pitching hand shall be down at his side or behind his back. Before starting his delivery, he 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 ~~entire~~ pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate. He shall go to...of any other infielder.





# PIVOT FOOT AND PITCHING PLATE

## RULE 6-1-3

- **Rationale:**

This rule change eliminates the requirement for the entire pivot foot to be in contact with or in front of the pitcher's plate. However, the pivot foot still has to meet the requirements of the rule to be in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate. Many pitching mounds are constructed in such a way that it is problematic for a pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. No advantage is gained by having some of his/her pivot foot not in contact with the pitcher's plate.





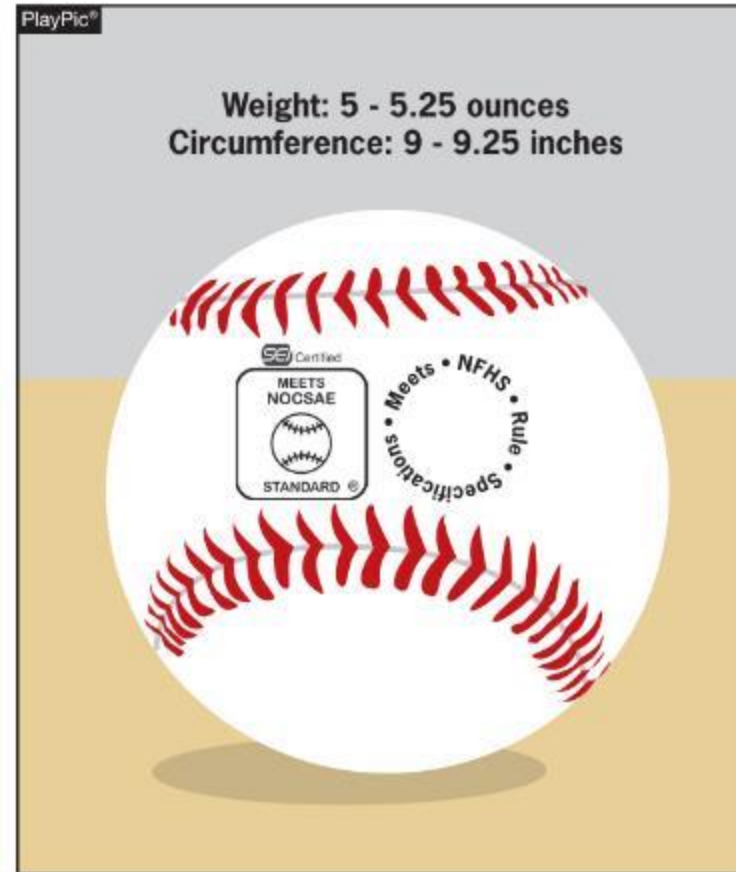
# NFHS BASEBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES





# BASEBALLS RULE 1-3-1

The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs effective January 1, 2020, which is an extension of the original implementation date of January 1, 2019. Balls that only have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 season.





## 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.
- Baseballs that have both marks (SEI/NOCSAE and NFHS Authenticating Mark) or just the single NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 high school baseball season.





# BASEBALLS RULE 1-3-1

- **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.

The deadline extension was granted to accommodate those schools that had a robust surplus of baseballs and allow them to be used and not be wasted or destroyed.



## RULE 8-2-6I

- **I. Last Time By.** If a runner correctly touches a base that was missed (either in advancing or returning), the last time he was by the base, that last touch corrects any previous baserunning infraction (Exception 8-4-2q).

- **Rationale:**

Per 8-4-2q, a runner cannot correct the baserunning infraction once he touches a succeeding base while the ball is dead even if he correctly touches all bases the last time by.



## **RULE 8-3-1a**

- **ART. 1 . . .** Each runner other than the batter-runner (who is governed by 8-1-2) is awarded one base when:
  - a. there is a balk (6-1-4, 6-2-4) or a pitch strikes a runner (5-1-1a);
  - Sub-articles b-c remain unaltered.
  
- **Rationale:**  
Clarification.





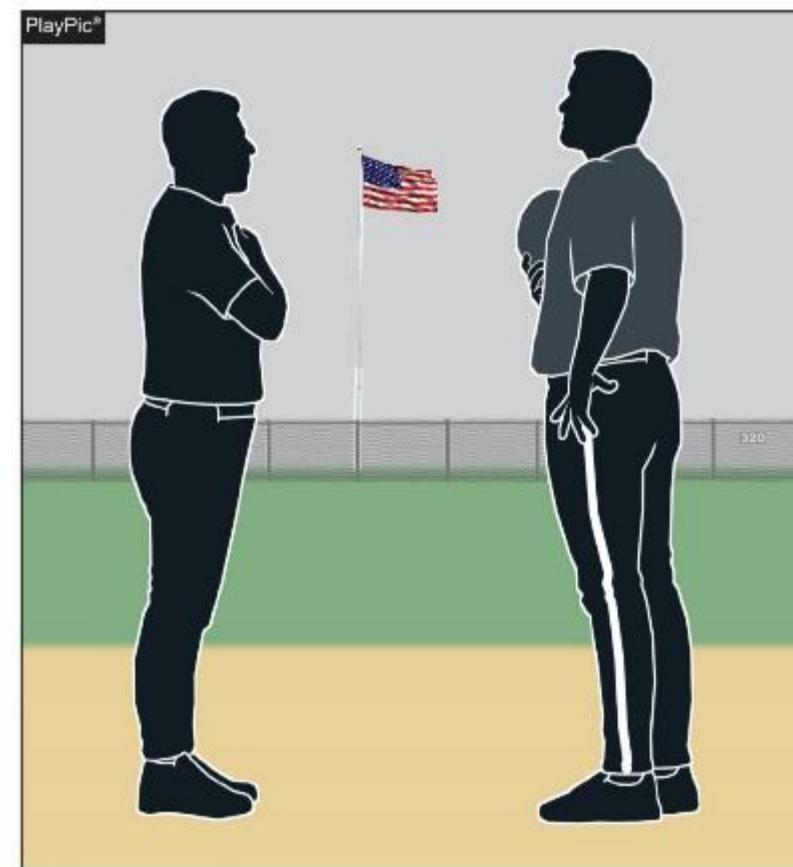
# POINTS OF EMPHASIS





# SPORTSMANSHIP — NATIONAL ANTHEM STANDOFF

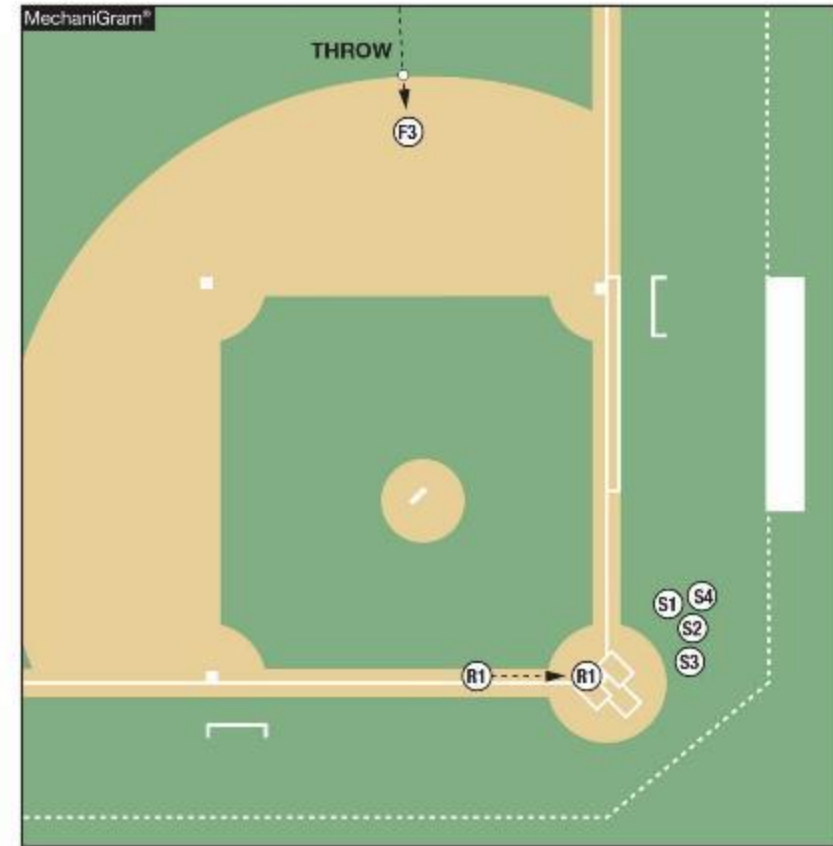
National anthem standoffs do not reflect education-based athletics. Staring down opponents after the national anthem to try to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is juvenile and disrespectful.





# SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS

Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purposes.







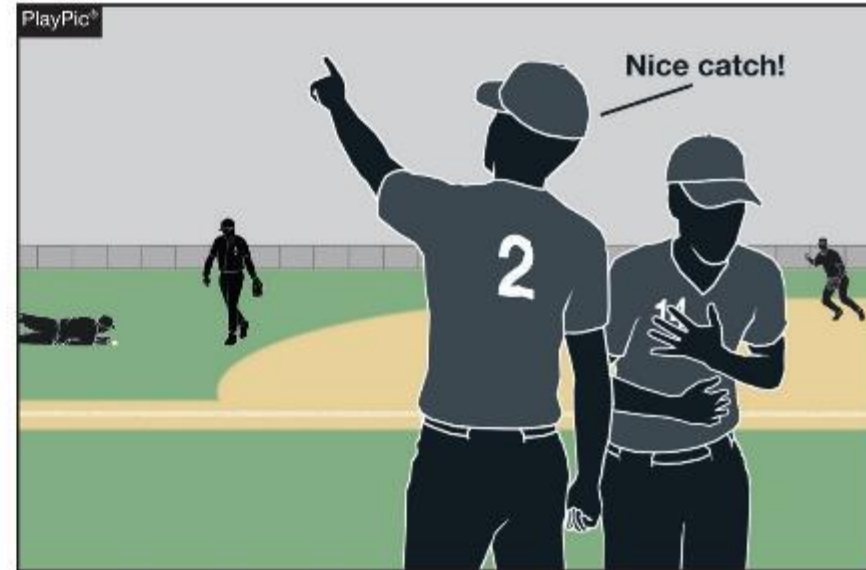
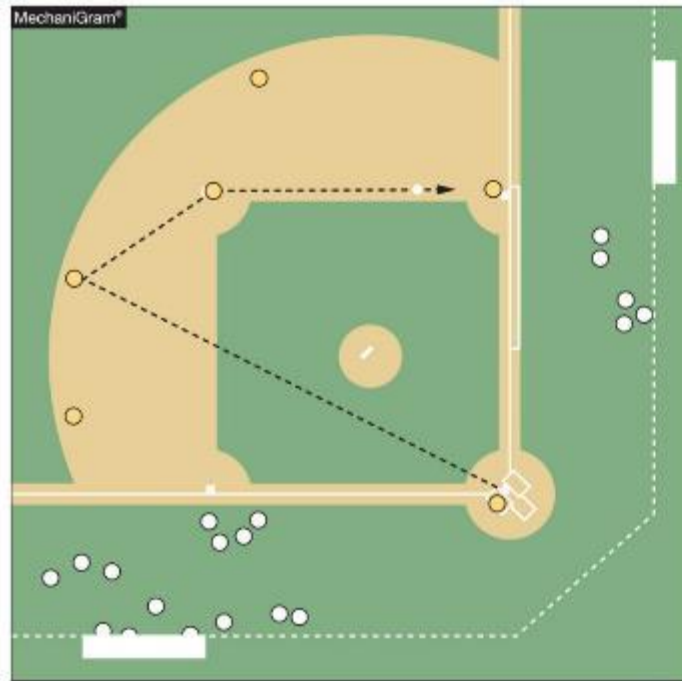
# SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS

Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench area on buckets or stools.





# SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS

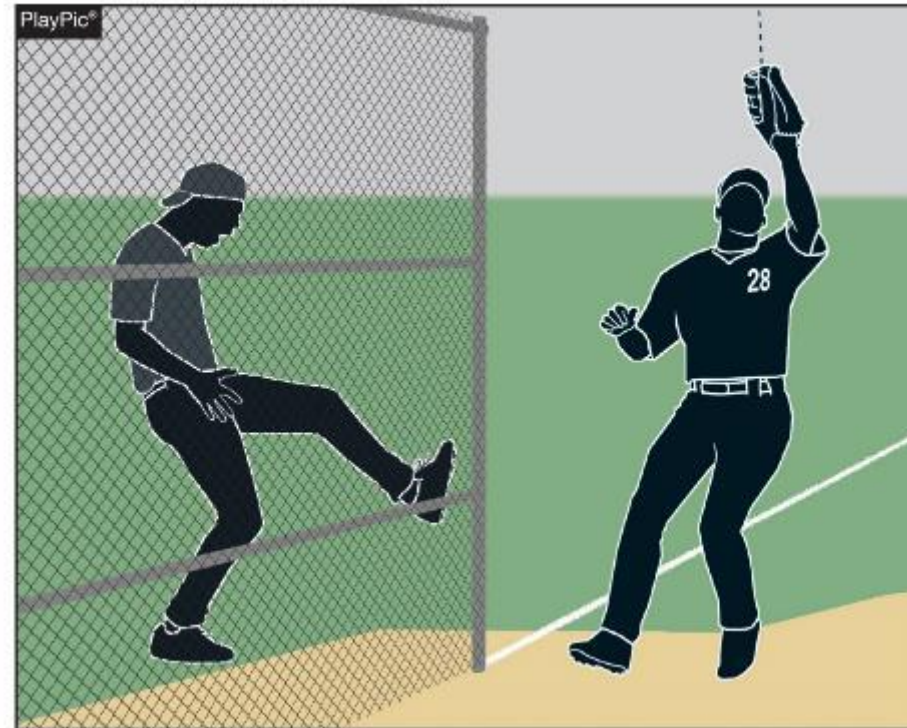


Players are not allowed to stand outside their dugout/bench area and make “cat-calls” or other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice.



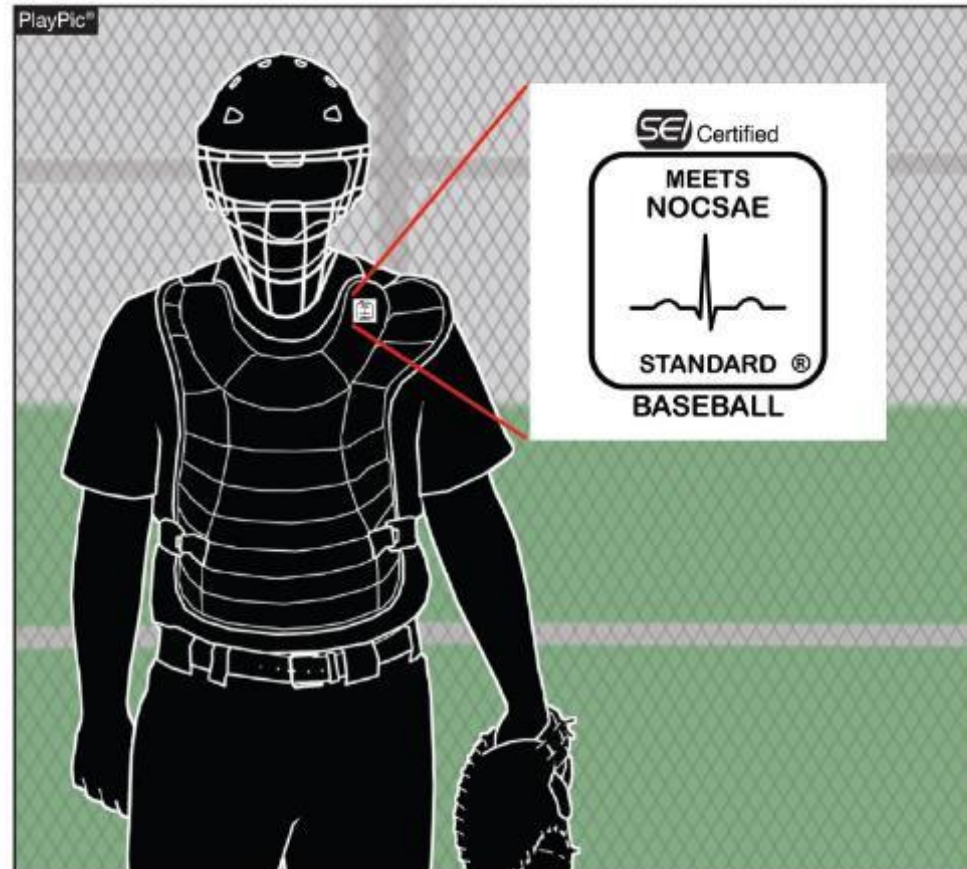
# SPORTSMANSHIP — INTENTIONAL DISTRACTIONS

Chants, intentional distractions and loud noises directed at the opponent's pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play do not represent good sportsmanship.



## COMPLIANT OF PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT – BODY/CHEST PROTECTOR

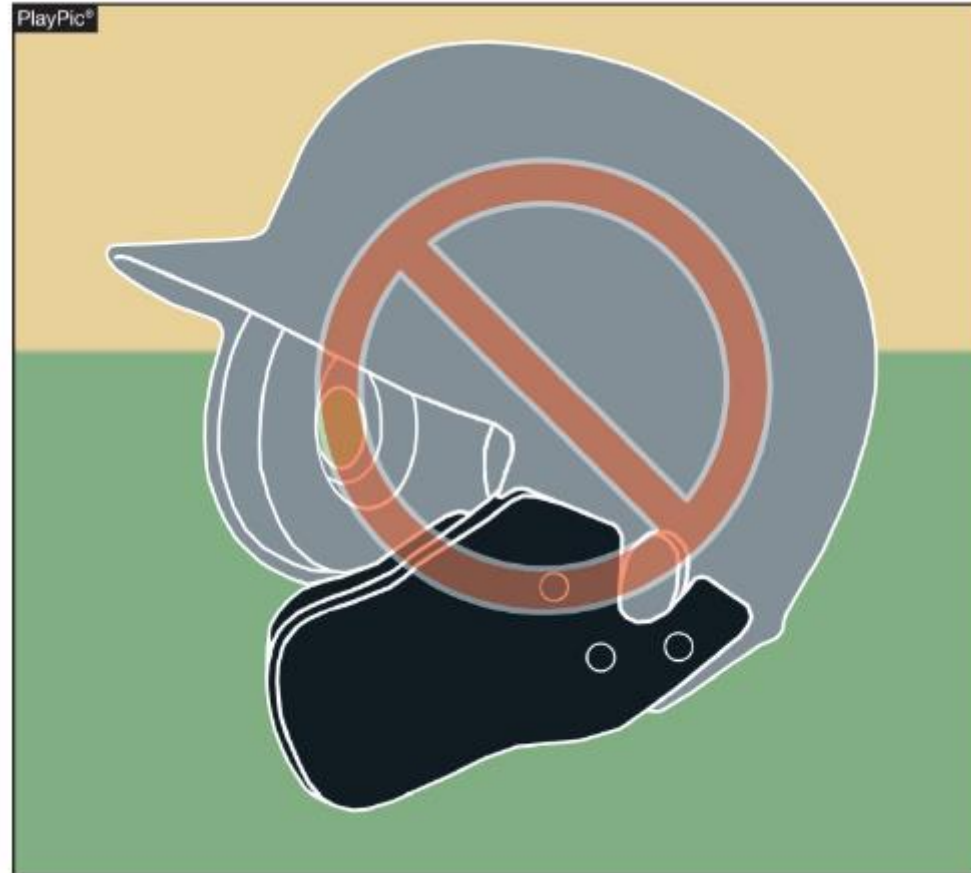
Per a rule change approved in 2017, the catcher's body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective January 1, 2020.





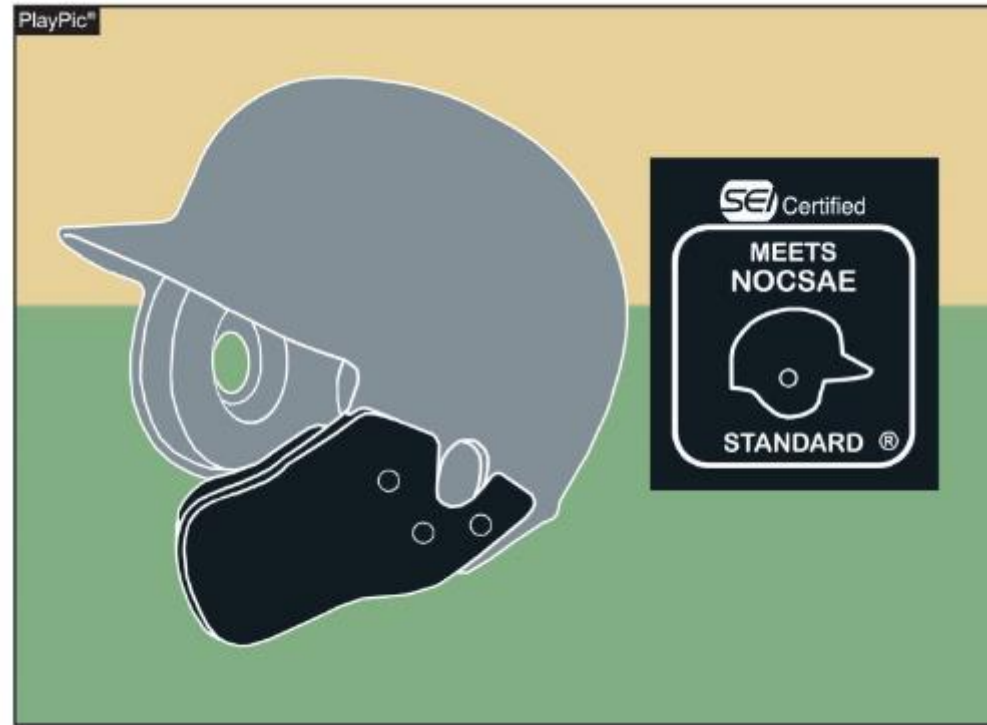
# COMPLIANT OF PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT - HELMETS

Helmets must meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-2, including that all face mask/guards attached after manufacture are approved by the manufacturer and meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.



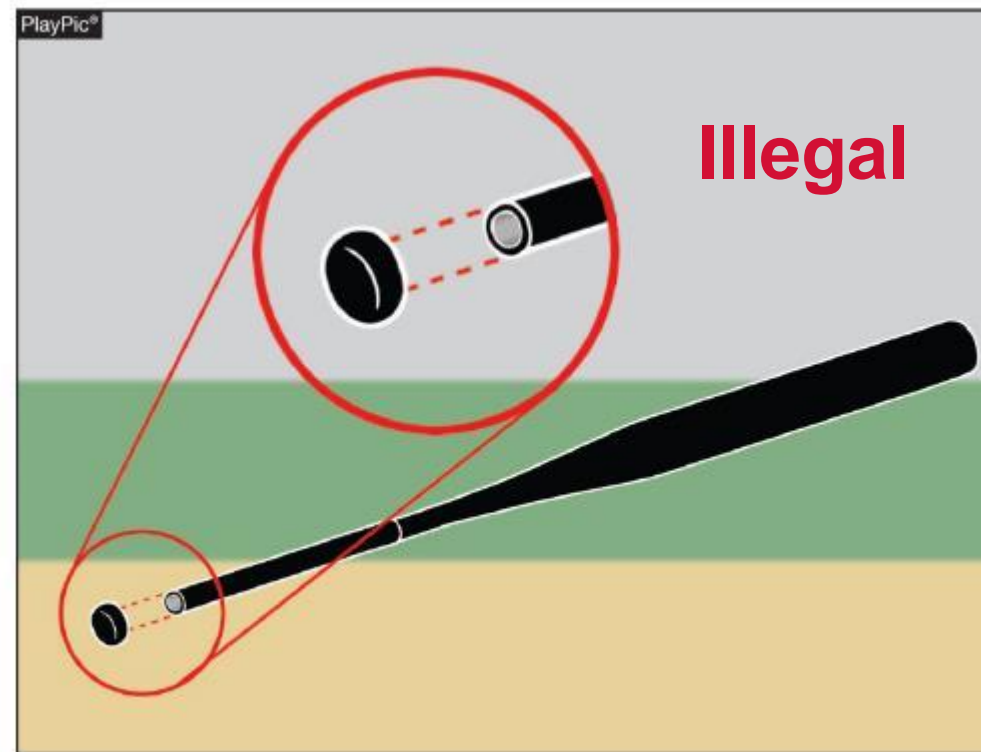
## COMPLIANT OF PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT - HELMETS

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 NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.



## COMPLIANT OF PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT - BATS

Bats shall be unaltered from the manufacturer's original design and production and must meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2.



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, 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.

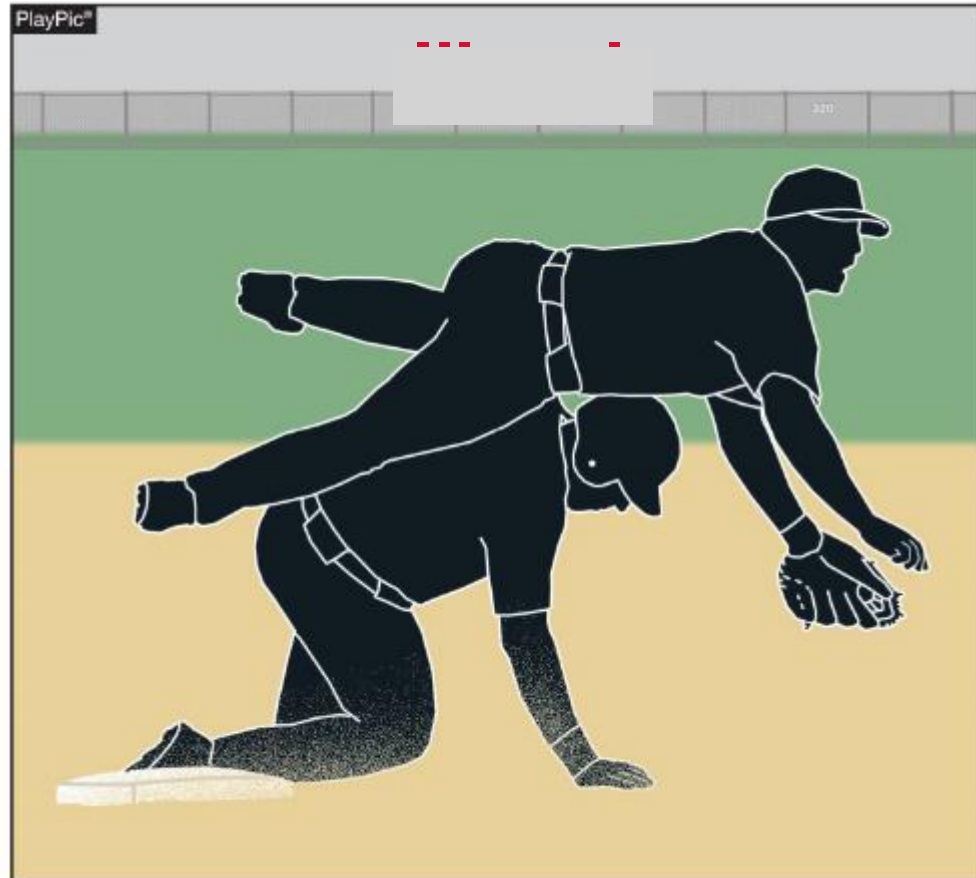






# BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Runners may not pop-up into the fielder.



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground.



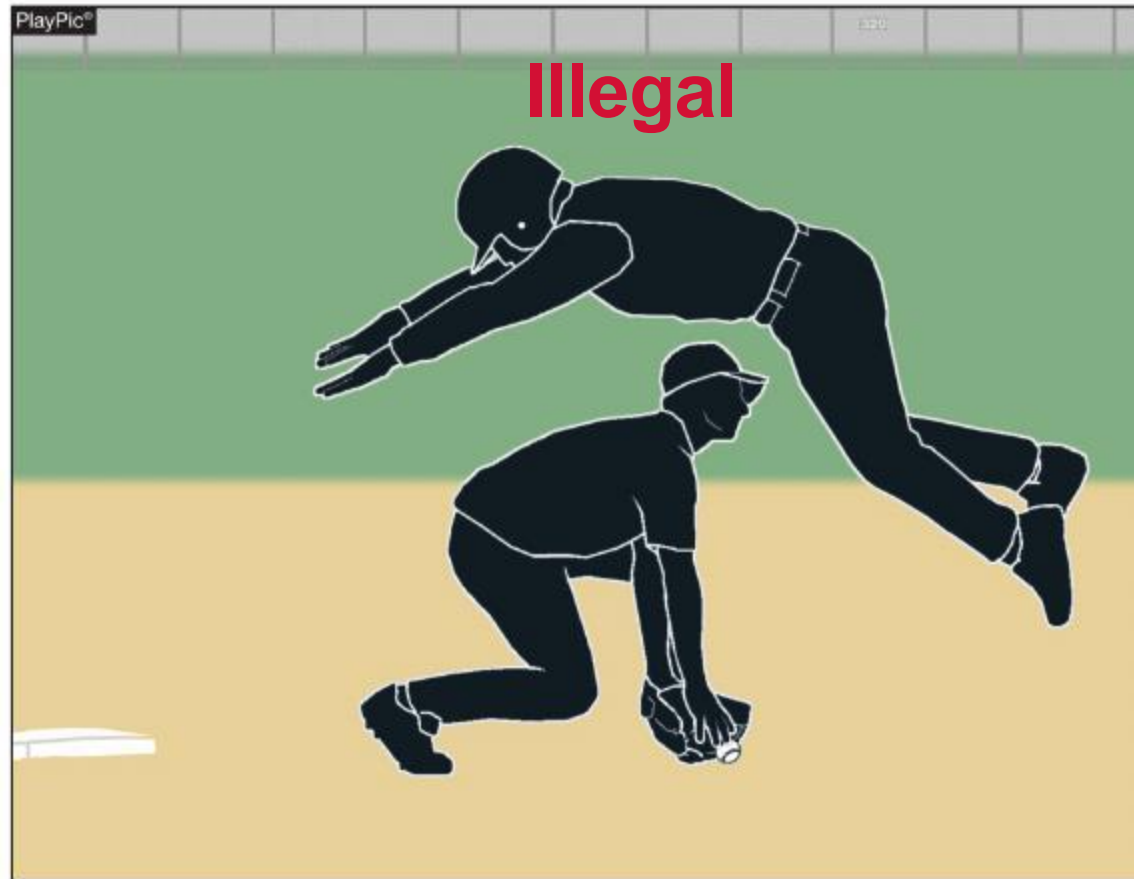
## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

When illegally executed, as shown in the PlayPic, hurdling, jumping or leaping over a fielder supersedes obstruction.



## BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Diving over a fielder is always illegal. Diving supersedes obstruction.





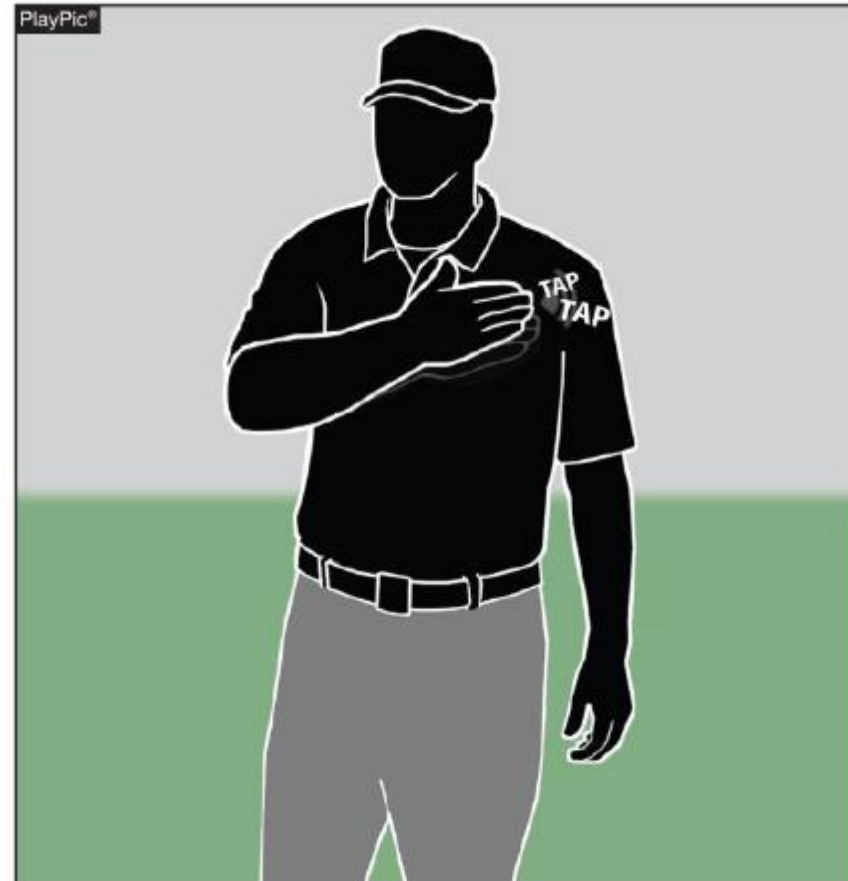


# UMPIRE MECHANICS CHANGES



## UMPIRE SIGNALS: INFORMATION AVAILABLE

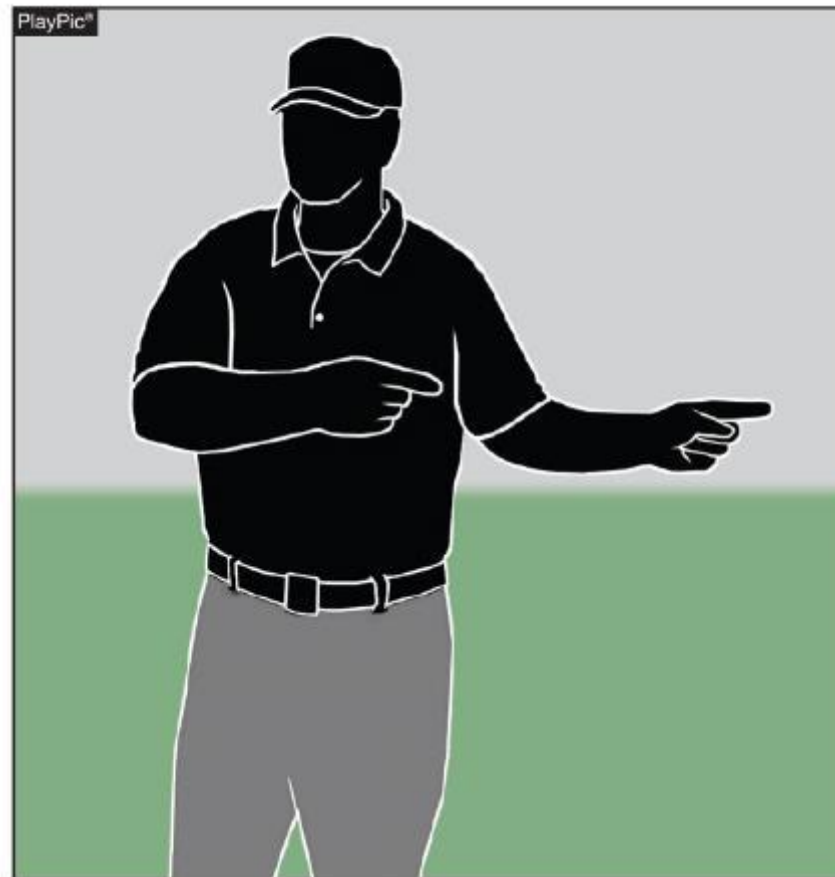
To assist in providing pertinent information between partners, a new umpire signal — “information available” — was approved. The umpire indicates he or she has relevant information for their partner by tapping two times over the left chest (heart).





## UMPIRE SIGNALS: CORRECT ROTATION

In three- and four-umpire mechanics, umpires can signal to partners which direction they will be rotating to a specific base for coverage of an anticipated play. The new “correct rotation” signal involves umpires pointing with both hands in the direction of the base that they are moving toward.





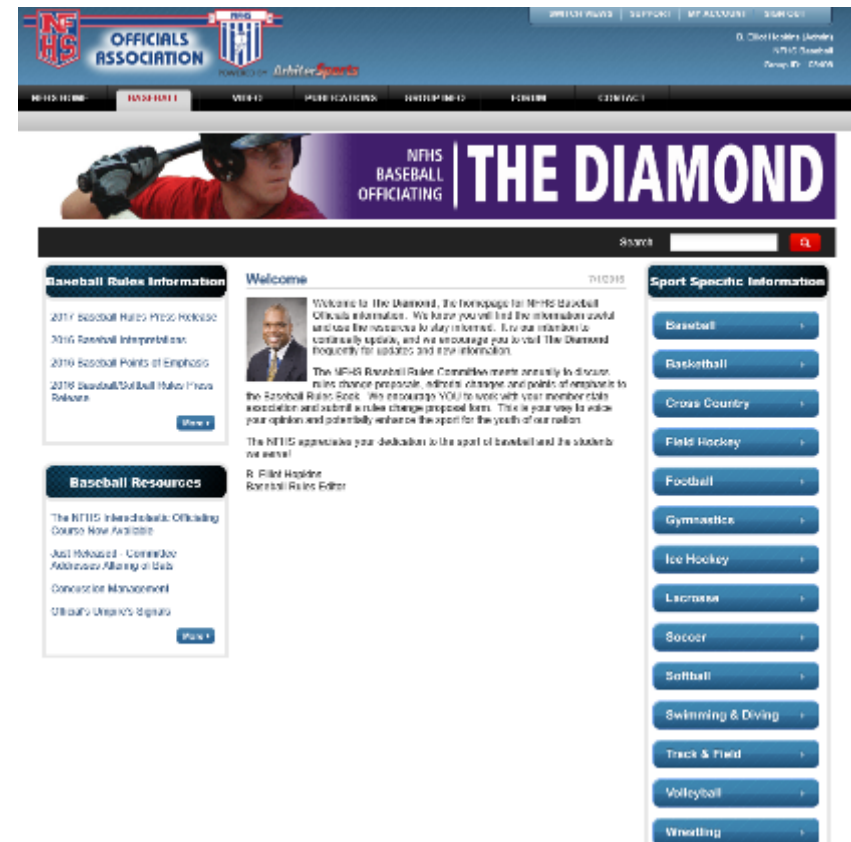
# NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB



# NFHS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION CENTRAL HUB

[HTTPS://NFHS-BASEBALL.ARBITERSPORTS.COM/FRONT/105406/SITE](https://nfhs-baseball-arbitersports.com/front/105406/site)

- Contains:
  - Sport information
  - Rules information
  - Rules library
  - Searchable rules book
  - Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations



The screenshot displays the website's header with the NFHS logo and navigation links. Below the header is a banner for 'THE DIAMOND' featuring a baseball player. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'Baseball Rules Information' with links to rule packages and points of emphasis; a 'Welcome' message from the Rules Editor; and 'Sport Specific Information' with a vertical list of sports including Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Volleyball, and Wrestling.



# NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION COURSE AND VIDEOS

- Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating
- 30-45 minutes to complete
- Topics include: Basics of Becoming and Staying an Official, Science of Officiating, Art of Officiating
- Course is FREE to NFHS Officials Association members, non-members fee is \$20
- NFHSLearn.com
- Sports such as soccer, basketball and baseball offer direct illustrations of the rules book, including rules references and officials signals
- Animated mechanics videos for softball and baseball umpires
- Video interpretation of the NFHS Basketball Rules Book created through a partnership with the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials



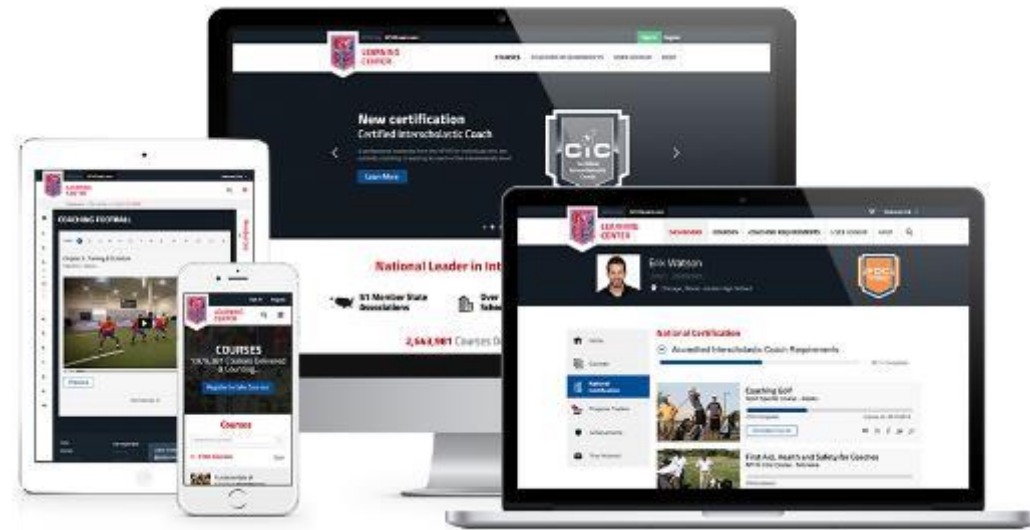


# NFHS LEARNING CENTER



# THE NFHS LEARNING CENTER

- **Mission:** Provide ongoing professional development for Coaches, Administrators, Students, Parents and Officials on the role they play within interscholastic athletics and activities.





# WWW.NFHSLEARN.COM

- Register on NFHSLearn.com and receive the following great benefits:
  - Immediate access to all 18 NFHS free courses
  - Opportunity to receive email updates on your sport, upcoming courses and much more
  - Access coursework 24/7/365
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- Coaching Pole Vault
- NCAA Eligibility
- Positive Sport Parenting
- Sportsmanship
- Sports Nutrition
- Heat Illness Prevention
- Introduction to Music Adjudication
- Introduction to Pitch Smart
- Learning Pro – Suite of 4 courses
- Coaching Unified Sports
- Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest
- Captains Course
- Interscholastic Officiating



**National Coach Certification Program**





NFHS NETWORK



## NFHS NETWORK

- By 2020, every high school sporting event in America will be streamed live.
- The NFHS Network will be THE DESTINATION for fans to view these broadcasts.



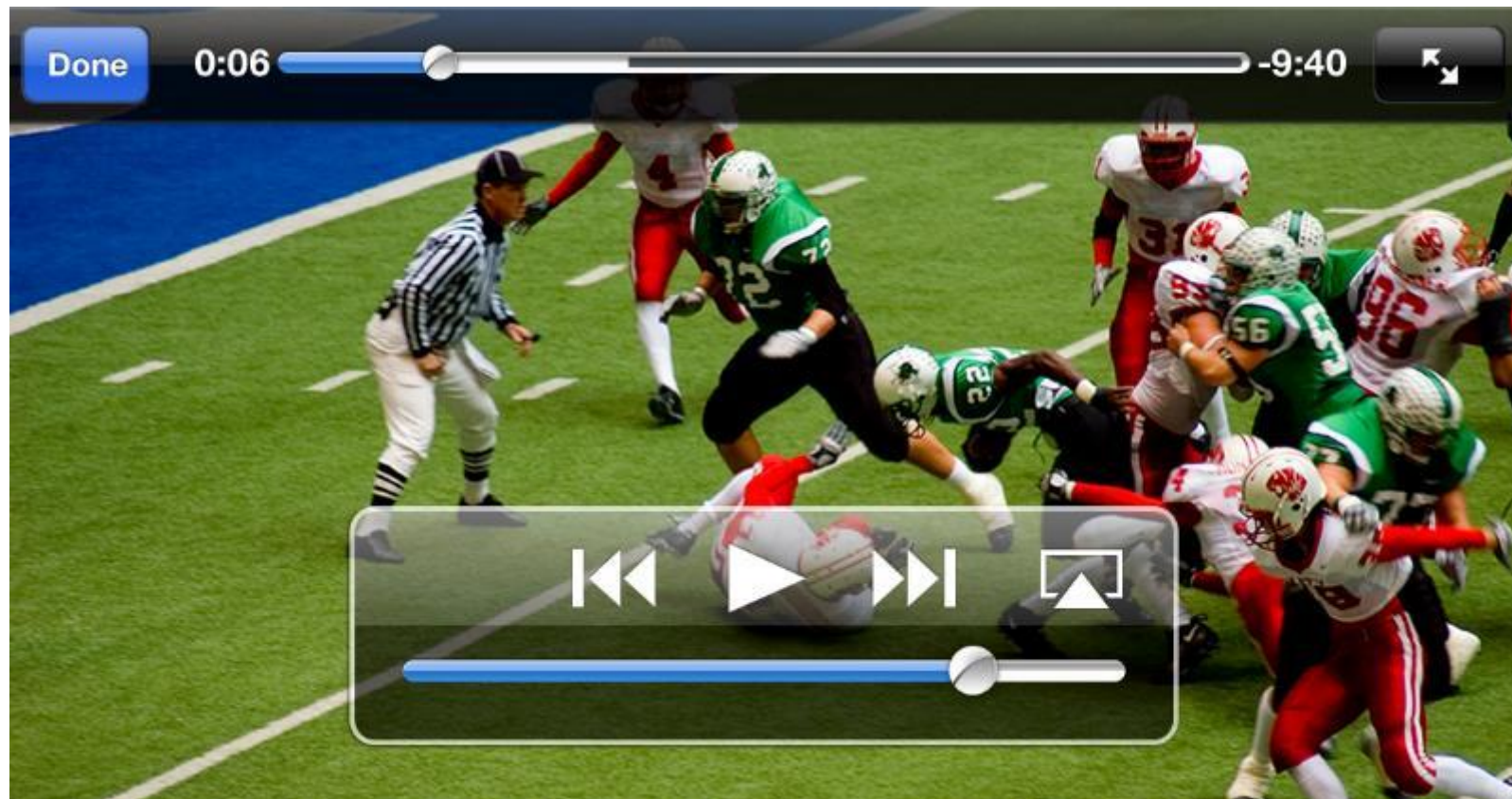
# 27 DIFFERENT SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES



# 3 MILLION UNIQUE VIEWERS

# NFHS NETWORK

- View from mobile...





**THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT  
BASEBALL SEASON!**

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