

**ARTICLE 26:
Softball**

26.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

26.1.1 The CAA shall adopt the current edition of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Softball Rules and Regulations. These rules shall govern unless noted below.

26.1.2 Any discrepancies will be ruled upon by the league director and/or Competition Committee.

26.2 COACHING

26.2.1 Certification - Refer to Article 4

26.3 HOME TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

26.3.1 Home team must enter scores within 24 hours.

26.3.1.1 Enter forfeit results as 2-0. Score of a forfeited game is 2 to 0 unless the game is forfeited after the number of innings required for a regulation game and the offending team is behind. Then the score remains as recorded. If the offending team is leading, the score shall be 2 to 0; otherwise, the score shall be the score at the time of the forfeit if the team ahead at the time of the forfeit is not the offending team.

26.4 EQUIPMENT, UNIFORM & FIELD GUIDELINES

26.4.1 BATS

26.4.1.1 All bats must have an ASA 2000, ASA 2004 or a USA certified stamp on them to be legal.

26.4.1.2 Bat must meet current NFHS requirements. See USA softball non-approved bat list.

26.4.1.2.1 NFHS illegal bats will be enforced.

26.4.1.3 Verify with the umpire regarding bat questions.

26.4.2 CLEAT/SHOES

26.4.2.1 Metal cleats are allowed in High School and Junior High. Cleats shall not extend beyond $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the sole and shall not be round.

26.4.2.2 Shoes with detachable rubber or metal cleats that screw into the sole are permitted.

26.4.2.3 Shoes are required. All players must wear shoes with plastic, nylon, canvas, leather or similar synthetic material uppers. The soles may be smooth, soft or hard rubber cleats or rectangular metal cleats.

26.4.3 PLAYER UNIFORM

26.4.3.1 A uniform shall not have any dangerous or reflective buttons or ornaments.

26.4.3.2 A pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs, which may, in the umpire's judgment, be distracting to the batter.

26.4.3.3 Players are allowed to wear jewelry as long as the umpire finds it not distracting or over done such as large hoop jewelry. String and rubber wristbands are allowed but hard bracelets will not be allowed. Rings are not allowed. Religious or medical-alert items are not considered jewelry. The pitcher shall not wear any form of jewelry on her pitching hand /arm/wrist.

26.4.3.4 No players on the same team shall wear identical numbers (0 and 00 are considered the same number.)

26.4.3.5 Catchers are now permitted to wear electronic device on there non throwing arm to receive pitch calls / locations

26.4.4 COACH ATTIRE

26.4.4.1 When in live ball areas, a coach shall be attired in a school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with slacks, shorts, or other leg coverings in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray.

26.4.5 FIELD

26.4.5.1 The pitching plate will be 43'.

26.4.5.2 Bases will be 60' feet apart.

26.4.6 SOFTBALL

26.4.6.1 Teams are strongly encouraged to use the Wilson softball, official softball of the CAA, for all regular season contests. Wilson is the official ball of the CAA and will be used in all state playoff games.

26.4.6.2 The ball must be a 12" .375 compression and 47 core (Wilson Champion is the official game ball)

26.5 GAME AND TIME MANDATES - Regular Season

26.5.1 High School - 10 minute grace period from posted game time

26.5.1.1 Junior High - 10 minute grace period

26.5.2 Games for High School are scheduled for 7 innings.

26.5.2.1 Junior High games are scheduled for 6 innings.

26.5.3 Regular Season Time Limits

26.5.3.1 High School games will adhere to a strict time limit of 1 hour and 45 minutes

26.5.3.2 Junior High games will adhere to a strict time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

26.5.3.3 Time will officially start on the first pitch.

26.5.3.4 No new inning will be started after the expired time limits.

26.5.3.5 An inning will be considered started after the final out of the previous inning is recorded.

26.5.3.6 If teams are tied after the time limit has expired and both teams have completed their at bats a tie is allowed. (If it becomes a darkness issue you then revert back to the last completed inning for the result)

26.5.4 The CAA regular season has the following Mercy Rules in effect:

26.5.4.1 Junior High Only: A team can only score a max of 10 runs per half-inning in Junior High.

26.5.4.1.1 After the 10th run scores that half inning is over regardless of outs.

26.5.4.1.2 Applies only during regular season games

26.5.4.2 A game will end any time after 3 innings, or after 2 ½ innings if the team is 20 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

26.5.4.3 A game will end any time after 4 innings, or after 3 ½ innings if the team is 15 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

26.5.4.4 A game will end any time after 5 innings, or after 4 ½ innings if the team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

26.6 GAME GUIDELINES

26.6.1 CAA allows teams to start or finish an official game with 8 players. (shorthanded rule)

26.6.1.1 The ninth spot in the batter order is left blank until filled and will be recorded as an out. A player coming late is still a legal participant and may then occupy the vacant 9th spot in the order.

26.6.1.2 A team may not continue to compete with less than 8 players at any time or the game will end in a forfeit.

26.6.2 DP/Flex rule will be used according to NFHS rules.

26.6.3 Teams may use courtesy runners for pitchers and catchers to help speed up the game. Courtesy runners must be players NOT currently in the game and have not previously entered the game. You may not use the same player for both the catcher and the pitcher.

26.7 SPORTSMANSHIP AND EJECTION: Refer to Article 12

26.8 POSTSEASON INFORMATION

26.8.1 Tournament brackets will be created according to standings from power rankings.

26.8.2 Game time is forfeit time.

26.8.3 CAA Tournament games are 7 innings for High School

26.8.4 CAA Tournament games are 6-inning games for Junior High

26.8.4.1 No time limits.

26.8.4.2 CAA Mercy rules are in effect.

26.8.4.2.1 10-run rule will not be enforced

26.8.5 State Tournament games will be played with the Wilson softball, the official softball of the CAA.