

Item 1

USA softball has added a new bat certification marking



If you see this on a bat and it is not on the banned bat list the bat is legal.
The previous markings are still also legal as long as the bat is not on the banned bat list.

Item 2

Uniform requirements

Proper uniforms are required for all games worked Varsity, JV, Modified and Rec softball. NYS baseball hats are not to be worn while working a softball game.

Item 3

We spent a lot of time at the clinic going over obstruction, please use the same diligence to enforcing interference. Both interference and obstruction place the opposite team at an unfair advantage and the proper penalties must be enforced. Neither interference or obstruction need to be intentional for the infraction to be enforced. If one team is put at a disadvantage the penalties must be enforced.

Item 4

If you run into any issues on the field, never engage the spectators who are voicing disapproval. You are always required to explain any rule enforcement or no call to a coach, but a parent who feels his or her child was wronged will never be calmed down by you trying to explain a rule they have no idea exists. Always go to the head coach or site administration to get the unhappy parent to calm down, if they don't calm down then you may have to have the coach or site administrator have them leave the field/area. If it gets to this point, do not restart the game until they leave.

Item 5

Again this year I am getting calls about umpires who will not work the plate based on a relationship with either the school or team. BOCES does not assign plate or base for softball. If you feel you can't work the plate based on a perceived conflict, then don't work the game at all. Your conflict is not lessened by your position on the field.

Item 6

Line up issues...once a coach moves the FLEX to either hit or run for the DP, the FLEX does not become the new DP, and the DP become the new Flex.

Please keep an accurate line up card and do not allow coaches to make changes which are not legal.

Item 7

Please keep your BOCES availability up to date and accurate. Last week several members were charged with a turn back fee because they showed available on the same day BOCES offered them a game.

Item 8

Walk up music during a game.

Music.

As far as the music is concerned they can play music as the batter walks up to the plate as long as all previous playing action has stopped. Once the batter enters the box the music is to be shut off. This falls under rules supplement 49 on page 146, and rule 10 section 1 on page 110 of the 2019 USA softball rule book

Item 9

Excessive timeout request by players

Timeouts are requested by a player or coach and may be granted by an umpire. There is no specific rule governing the amount or frequency of time outs but it is the umpires job to maintain some sort of flow to the game. Obviously some points in the game are more critical than others and some discretion would be warranted.

Item 10

Unsporting talk between players

This falls under sportsmanship and should not be tolerated. Umpires who hear or are made aware of such taunting or foul language should warn players once and eject if necessary based on the conduct observed. Important to note the umpire must hear the offense to eject a player, not simply go by the accusation of a coach or player.

Item 11.

Suspended games

A game suspended for any reason is to be resumed at the exact spot where they were stopped. See rule 5 section 3.