

NYSSO PLAYS & INTERPRETATIONS

SITUATION 1

May a player wear religious headwear?

AR1

Yes. Provided the use of safety equipment (e.g., batter's helmet) is not compromised, a player may wear religious headwear.

SITUATION 2

May a HS game be played with foul poles but without outfield fencing?

AR 2

A HS softball contest shall not be canceled due to a field containing foul poles but no outfield fencing.

SITUATION 3

There seems to be a lot of talk about the Easton "Ghost" bat. Which bats are legal for HS play?

AR 3

The bats that meet the requirements of the rulebook are legal. The requirements include, but are not limited to, the 2000 or 2004 ASA Certification Mark.

SITUATION 4

Are bats with the 2013 ASA Certification Mark legal?

AR 4

Not in HS play.

SITUATION 5

A player has a medical/NYSPHSAA waiver to wear a daith piercing/earring. Does it need to be taped?

AR 5

No.

SITUATION 6

I heard metal cleats are permitted in HS baseball, so they must be legal in HS softball, right?

AR 6

Wrong. Metal cleats are not permitted in HS softball.

SITUATION 7

With R3 on 3rd base and 2 outs, B4 lays down a squeeze bunt. R3 crosses home plate. Then, B4 is called out for 3-foot lane interference. Does R3's run count since she crossed home plate before the 3-foot lane interference?

AR 7

No. No run shall score when the 3rd out of the inning is on the BR prior to reaching 1st base, regardless of how that out occurred.

SITUATION 8A

With R3 on 3rd base and R2 on 2nd base, F1 throws a passed ball. R3 advances aggressively toward home plate, but puts the brakes on when she realizes she would be out at the plate. R3 retreats back to 3rd base and is standing on 3rd base. R2 is also standing on 3rd base. F5 tags both R3 and R2 while they are standing on the base simultaneously. Who is out?

AR 8A

R2 is out. R3 is entitled to her base until she (1) advances to and **reaches** the next base or (2) is forced from the base as a result of the batter becoming a batter-runner (force play).

SITUATION 8B

What if on the same play, F5 tagged R2 standing on 3rd base right before R3 returned to 3rd base?

AR 8B

R2 would not be out at this point. 3rd base was not occupied by 2 runners at the same time and R2 was permitted to advance to 3rd base. She simply is not entitled to it if R3 returns and stands on 3rd base.

SITUATION 9A

The game is being played with a temporary fence. B1's batted ball hits 6 inches below the top plain of the fence and "falls" over the fence. The fence was loose and "had some give." The ball passed over the fence on the fly. Is this a homerun?

AR 9A

No. The batted ball must cross the natural plain of the top of the fence. In this case, pressure from the ball caused the fence to fold/roll. When the ball does this or "climbs" the fence, a 2 base award shall be granted.

SITUATION 9B

But what about the rule that says something like "if the ball hits the top of the fence and then goes over, it's a home run?"

AR 9B

That is still true. However, the "top of the fence" means the actual top that faces upward toward the sky. "Top of the fence" does not mean the top couple of inches of the fence facing the field.

SITUATION 10A

With R2 on 2nd base, B3 hits a long fly ball. The ball is caught and R2 tags up. Who is responsible for what?

AR 10A

Because R2 is a sole runner and is on 2nd base, the base umpire is responsible for her tag up. The play on R2 going into 3rd base is the plate umpire's responsibility. This mechanic is endorsed by NYSSO. Do not use another association's mechanic if it deviates from this mechanic.

SITUATION 10B

Are there any possible deviations that NYSSO **would** accept on this play?

AR 10B

Yes. The SOLE exception is if the plate umpire is pinned at home plate because he/she must remain there to determine fair/foul and catch/no catch down the **right field** line. In that case, the plate umpire must loudly communicate this deviation to his/her partner by saying "take her" or "she's yours" etc. This mechanic is a

deviation and may only be used in the situation described above. Umpires cannot default to a deviation because they prefer to use outdated mechanics.

SITUATION 10C

What if R2 advances to 3rd base, the ball gets passed F5 and R2 attempts to advance home?

AR 10C

In this case, the plate umpire is responsible for getting back home and covering the play. This situation is clearly described in the NYSSO Manual. Unless the plate umpire drops dead on the field, the base umpire has absolutely no business covering home plate in the 2-umpire system.

SITUATION 11

Team A submitted an official line up card using the DP/Flex. After the 9th batter bats, the Flex bats, rather than the lead off batter. Is this batting out of order or something else?

AR 11

Batting out of order involves players 1-9 in the batting order, not the Flex. When the Flex bats without a line-up change being reported to the plate umpire, this is an unreported substitution. But that is only step one. Remember, there is no player penalty in NYSSO softball for an unreported substitution. With that said, step two is determining whether the Flex batted illegally. If the lead off batter was the DP, this can be ruled simply as an unreported substitution without penalty. However, if she batted for someone other than the DP, this move would be illegal because the Flex was not eligible to bat for someone other than the DP. The penalties imposed will depend on the timing of this infraction being brought to the plate umpire's attention.

SITUATION 12

A batting helmet has a NOCSAE stamp, but no external warning label. Is this permitted?

AR 12

Effective 2018, HS no longer requires the external warning label. The NOCSAE stamp, however, is still required.