



Rules Reference	NFHS 2017 Baseball Rules Changes, Rationale, Comments
<p>2-32-2c ILLEGAL SLIDE</p>	<p><b>ART. 2...</b>A slide is illegal if: Sub – articles a-b remain the same. <b><i>c. except at home plate, the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder. At home plate, it is permissible for the slider's momentum to carry him through the plate in the baseline extended.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The act of sliding is optional. However, if a base runner decides to slide, then he is held to certain criteria to ensure that neither the offensive nor defensive player are intentionally injured. There are six criteria that constitutes an illegal slide. Due to the physical design of home plate, it is not possible for a runner who chooses to slide to stop at or on top of home plate while running as fast as he can to score.</p> <p><b>Comments:</b> In order to stop at or on home plate, the runner would have to run slower or begin his slide earlier which would give the defense an advantage. This change allows the runner's momentum to carry him through home plate in a straight line (baseline extended). He is still held to the other elements of Rule 2-32-2 and malicious contact as it relates to interference with the catcher. The catcher is protected because he has choices of locations where he can position himself to avoid contact.</p>
<p>3-2-2 PENALTY and 8-4-2s</p>	<p><b><i>PENALTY . . . The runner shall be called out immediately. (8-4-2s)</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Rationale: The coach-assisted base runner is called out immediately without deference to other batter-runner(s) and play continues.</i></b></p>



### 3-3-2 PENALTY

**PENALTY:** The umpire shall warn the offender unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case an ejection shall occur. *A warning may be verbal or written. If written, the offender shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. If a coach has previously received a verbal warning, he shall receive a written warning (10-2-3j) and be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. If a coach has previously received a written warning, he shall be ejected for any subsequent offense. Any offense judged to be major in nature shall result in an immediate ejection. For coaches who violate f (1-5), g, h, i, j or k, the umpire may: (1) issue a verbal warning to the offender, (2) issue a written warning to the offender (any offender receiving a written warning shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game), or (3) eject the offender for a major offense.*

*For violation of f(6) both the head coach and offending coach shall receive a written warning and be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game unless the offense is so severe the umpire may eject the offender and restrict or eject the head coach.*

A coach may leave the bench/dugout to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured. In f (7), the state association shall determine appropriate action.

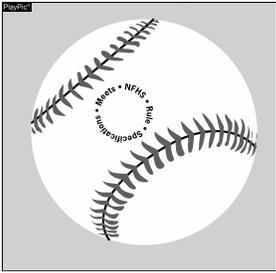
**Rationale:** Coaches and officials are equally responsible to provide an ideal learning environment for the students who play baseball. That learning environment is severely disrupted if the adults show a lack of respect for each other's position and role in the contest. The coach has the responsibility to coach and teach his players about basic and complicated skills of baseball and important life lessons.

**Comments:** Coaches and officials are equally responsible to provide an ideal learning environment for the students who play baseball. That learning environment is severely disrupted if the adults show a lack of respect for each other's position and role in the contest. The coach has the responsibility to coach and teach his players about basic and complicated skills of baseball and important life lessons. The game official has the obligation to administer the rules of the game and to judiciously address any coach's or player's behavior that is not consistent with those rules. As he administers any penalty resulting in a warning, restriction to the bench/dugout or ejection, his decision should be in response to the actions by the offending coach and player. The coach needs to understand that his behavior will dictate which level of discipline is applied. Officials are encouraged to clearly communicate their warnings and restrictions when possible to the coaches prior to the ejection. The coaches also need to recognize when those warnings and restrictions are being issued so they can modify their behavior and continue to teach their players. When the adults are acting in a professional and respectful manner, the young people will be the ultimate winners regardless of the score of the game.



<p>6-2-6 Pitching Restrictions</p>	<p><b>ART. 6. . . . Each state association shall have a pitching restriction policy <i>based on the number of pitches thrown to afford pitchers a required rest period between pitching appearances.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> After years of research and thoughtful discussion on minimizing risk for the position of pitcher, it has been determined that modifying the pitching restriction rule to reflect that the policy should be based on the number of pitches thrown is a better indication of overuse and repetition than the current method of innings pitched during a contest.</p>
<p>8-3-6 Baserunning Awards</p>	<p><b>ART.6. . . . <i>When a plate umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base or retire a runner on a pickoff play, if an out is not made at the end of the catcher's initial throw, the ball shall be dead and all runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference.</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This rule changes provides rules support that was missing from the rules book.</p>
<p>8-4-2s</p>	<p><b><i>s. is physically assisted by a coach. (3-2-2)</i></b></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> This rule supports the action taken in Rule 3-2-2 Penalty regarding coaches' conduct with assisting a base runner.</p>



<b>2017 NFHS Baseball Points of Emphasis</b>	
<p><b>Ball Markings</b></p>	<p>All baseballs used in interscholastic contests shall meet the specifications outlined in Rule 1-3-1 and shall bear the NFHS Authenticating Mark.</p>  <p>The image shows a close-up of a baseball with the NFHS Authenticating Mark. The mark is a circular stamp on the white leather of the ball, featuring the NFHS logo and the text 'NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK' and 'SPECIFICATIONS'.</p>
<p><b>Umpire Asking Assistance</b></p>	<p>When requested by a coach, an umpire is not required to seek assistance from a partner.</p> <p>Often during contests, a coach will request that an umpire seek assistance from his partner for a particular call or play situation. Asking assistance from a partner is not mandatory. It is the discretion of the plate umpire if he feels that his view was obstructed or that his partner had a better angle on the play. If he does feel that his partner's perspective will provide additional input to his final decision, then he has the flexibility to request his partner's help.</p> <p>Once the opinion is shared, it is the plate umpire who will make the final determination on the call or play. This entire exchange will be quick and intentional using umpire signals that are relayed to players, coaches and spectators.</p>
<p><b>Team Personnel Location</b></p>	<p>Coaches, player, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose.</p> <p>Additionally, coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench area on buckets or stools.</p> <p>Players are not allowed to stand or kneel outside their dugout/bench and make "cat-calls" or any other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice. This is unsportsmanlike behavior and will not be tolerated in interscholastic baseball.</p>



<b>Legal Slides</b>	<p>Players are <u>never</u> required to slide, but if they choose to do so, the slide must be legal.</p> <p>There has been a misnomer that given a particular play that the base runner has to slide into the base he is trying to acquire. Even the universally accepted “force play slide” is misconstrued as the player having to slide into the base. NFHS rules are specific and very clear that runners are <u>never</u> required to slide. However, if they choose to slide, then the slide must be legal. You can legally slide either feet first or head first. If you choose feet first, then at least one leg and buttock shall stay in contact with the ground.</p> <p>A slide is illegal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ if the runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder;</li><li>▪ if the runner’s raised leg is higher than the fielder’s knee (while he is in a standing position);</li><li>▪ if the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with the fielder or alters his play;</li><li>▪ if the runner slashes or kicks the fielder;</li><li>▪ if the runner intentionally tries to injure the fielder;</li><li>▪ and during a force play situation, the runner does not slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases;</li><li>▪ when a runner slides, he must slide within reach of the base with either hand or a foot.</li></ul> <p>The consequence is that the runner is called out and based upon his actions there could possibly be malicious contact and the runner would be ejected from the game. Attention to when it is appropriate to slide and to do it legally will improve the overall process of base-running, reduce unnecessary injuries to the runner and the covering fielder, and make for a more exciting game to watch and enjoy.</p>
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