

Joe V's 2024 NFHS vs OBR Rule Differences

NFHS Rule #	Topic	OBR Rule #	COMMENTS
Rule 1	Players, Field & Equipment		
1-1-4	Fielder (i.e. 1st Baseman) in fair ground	5.02 c	<p><u>NFHS</u>: fielder must have at least one foot touching fair - Penalty Illegal pitch.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: requires both feet in fair, except catcher & 1st baseman-unless opponent objects. No penalty in OBR</p>
1-3-1	Baseballs	3.01, 4.01 e	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Must have both Marks, NFHS and SEI/NOCSAE - Do NOT START or CONTINUE a game without these approved baseballs.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Our Summer leagues playing by OBR rules have their own requirements.</p>
1-3-7	Loose equipment on field	3.10 a, 2021 Ump Manual 3.13	<p><u>NFHS</u>: If loose equipment interferes with play, the umpire MAY call an out(s), award bases or return runners, based on his judgement and the circumstances concerning the play.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If a fielder is unable to make a play due to equipment left on the playing field, no interference shall be called. If a Live ball strikes any equipment left on the playing field, the ball shall remain alive and in play and no interference called.</p>
1-4-2, 6-2-1 f	Pitcher's sleeves / batting glove under fielding glove	3.03 e, 2021 Ump Manual 3.4	<p><u>BOTH</u>: No white or gray sleeves and sleeves of individual players must be same length for both arms.</p> <p><u>NFHS</u>: Allowed to wear a batting glove under his fielding glove unless judged to be distracting.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Pitcher Not allowed to wear a batting glove under his fielding glove.</p>
1-5-1	Coach's helmet	3.08 e	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Adult base coaches Not required to wear a helmet.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: All base coaches, including adult coaches, Must wear a protective helmet.</p>
1-5-4 Penalty	Failure to wear proper equipment	No OBR Rule	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Failure by a player to wear proper equipment after being so ordered by the umpire shall result in ejection. Head coach receives a Written Warning and is restricted to the dugout</p>
1-5-7	Illegal glove	2021 Ump Manual 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10	<p><u>NFHS</u>: If a ball is touched with an illegal glove or mitt that is discovered by the umpire, the coach of the team at bat has the choice of taking the result of the play or having the award (8-3-3 a,b,c) for use of an illegal glove or mitt. NOTE: A first baseman's glove/mitt can be worn by any fielder.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Umpire shall have the glove removed from the game when discovered. No Penalty. Only the first baseman playing the field in the first baseman's position can wear a first baseman's mitt. The first baseman is not permitted to wear a first baseman's mitt if another fielder is positioned at first base. The umpire should instruct the fielder to change from a first baseman's mitt to a fielder's glove</p>

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New 2023 in 1-5-9, 1-5-10, 1-5-12, 3-3-1 d	Jewelry	3.03 h, Ump Manual 3.5	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Jewelry is now legal to be worn in 2023 (New Rule) as long as it is not unsafe to the player himself or to any other player. Bandannas are still illegal.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: No "distracting jewelry". No pins or other attached items to uniform or cap or playing equipment.</p>
New 2024 1-6-1 & 1-6-2 and 3-2-5	Player Communication Equipment		<p><u>NFHS 1-6-1</u>: Wristband charts must be worn on the forearm and be a single solid color. Pitcher's must wear it on their non-pitching arm and it cannot be white or gray or distracting. <u>NFHS 1-6-2</u>: Only one-way electronic communication from dugout to catcher.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Electronic communication only from catcher to pitcher.</p>
Rule 2	Playing Terms & Definitions		
2-10-2, 3-2-4	Pre-Game Conference/Ground Rules	4.03	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Head coach is required to attend. Penalty- Coach who refuses shall be restricted to the dugout for the game (except to attend to an injured/sick player). Umpire must get verbal verification from each coach that his players are all legal, properly equiped, including all bats and baseballs. Per MIAA verify site manager. If no site manager, notify head coach that he is also the site manager. Obtain legible Lineup cards from each coach.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Receive Home Team's Lineup card first, then Visitor's. Umpire's jurisdiction starts after receiving Lineup cards. Lineup card retained by the umpire shall be the official batting order. NOTE: Most of our summer leagues who play OBR do not have a specific requirement as to who attends the pregame conference/ground rules.</p>
2-16-2, 5-1-1 d2	Foul Tip caught by catcher	5.09 a2 Comment	<p><u>NFHS</u>: A foul tip is a batted ball that goes directly to the catcher's hands and is legally caught by the catcher. It is a strike and ball remains in play. A foul tip that first touches anything else before being caught is a dead ball/Foul ball.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If a foul tip first strikes any part of the catcher's body or paraphernalia and is caught by hand or glove against his body or protector, before the ball touches the ground, it is a strike, and if the third strike, batter is out.</p>

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2-21-4	Batter's Follow-through interference	6.03 a3 & a4 Comments	<p><u>NFHS</u>: per NFHS terminology "Follow-Through Interference" is when the bat hits the catcher after the batter has swung at a pitch and hinders action at home plate or hinders the catcher's attempt to play on a runner. Such action results in an Interference penalty. However, if a runner is not attempting a play, or attempting to advance, then there is No penalty, dead ball.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If a batter swings at a ball and misses and his swing carries the bat all the way around, and unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in back of him on the backswing, it shall be called a strike only (No interference). The ball will be dead and no runners shall advance on the play. OBR refers to this as "Backswing Interference" and has no term called "Follow-Through Interference".</p>
2-22-1 , 5-1-2b, 8-3-2	Obstruction	6.01 h1 & h2	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Always a delayed dead ball. On conclusion of action, call "Time" and award bases to nullify obstruction, but Always a minimum one base beyond the point of the obstruction.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: "Type 1" obstruction is when a play is being made on the runner - Immediate dead ball; award base beyond last legally touched. "Type 2" obstruction is when a play is not being made on the runner - delayed dead ball; award bases, if any, to nullify the effect of the obstruction.</p>
2-22-2	Fake Tag Obstruction	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : A fake tag is Obstruction.
2-22-3	Act of fielding / Obstruction	6.01 h Comment	<p><u>NFHS</u>: It is Obstruction if the fielder, without possession of the ball, denies access to the base the runner is attempting. NFHS does not consider "in the act of fielding" as having possession.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If a fielder is "in the act of fielding" a thrown ball, that is, he is about to receive a thrown ball and if the ball is in flight directly toward and near the fielder so he must occupy his position to receive the ball, and the fielder catches the ball, the umpire may rule no obstruction.</p>
2-32-1, 2-22-2	Illegal slides	6.01 j	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Review the legal slide criteria in Art 1; and Review the types of illegal slides in Art 2 a thru f.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: review the 2021 Umpire Manual pg 98 "Guidelines For Enforcement of Rule 6.01 j (Slide Rule)"</p>
2-33	Speed-up Rules	No OBR Rule	Some of our Summer leagues playing under OBR rules might have their own Speed-up rules
2-35	Strike Zone	Def, of Terms, & Diagram in Appendix 5	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Top of which is halfway between batter's shoulders and the waistline, and bottom being the knees, when he assumes his natural batting stance.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: The upper limit is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the kneecap, determined from the batter's stance as the batter is prepared to swing at the pitch - generally considered to be when he strides to prepare to swing.</p>

NFHS Rule #	Topic	OBR Rule #	COMMENTS
2-36-3 e	Illegal Substitute -Courtesy Runner	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : A player who violates the Courtesy Runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute. He shall be called out and restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game.
Rule 3	Substituting - Coaching - Bench & Field Conduct - Charged Conferences		
3-1-1	Discovery of illegal Substitute	5.10 d, 2021 Ump Manual 5.54 pg 82 under "To Clarify"	<u>NFHS</u> : An illegal substitute on offense shall be called out and restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game. If the illegal sub should score a run, advance, or cause a play to be made that allows another runner to advance, discovery must be made before the first pitch to the next batter. This would invalidate the action. Any out(s) made on the play stands and all other runners return to their base occupied at the time of the pitch. An illegal substitute on Defense is immediately removed from the game and he is restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game. If the illegal player is involved in a play, and discovered before the first pitch to the next batter, the team on offense has the option to let the play stand or to allow the batter to bat again. <u>OBR</u> : If an ineligible (illegal) player/substitute is noticed before a play commences, put the correct player/substitute into the game, no penalty. If play has commenced, a) remove the illegal player, b) remove the substitute player who should have been there, c) a new substitute shall enter that position. Any play that results from an illegal player being in the game shall stand. This has no effect on the "unannounced substitute rule".
3-1-3	Re-entry of Starters	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : Any Starter may be withdrawn and re-entered once in a game
3-1-4	Designated Hitter (DH)	5.11	<u>NFHS</u> : Two types of DH - a) Traditional 10 player DH. The DH is considered a 10th starter and can bat for any specifically identified starting defensive player. b) 9-player "Player/DH". The Player/DH holds two positions. He is the DH on offense and the position player on defense. <u>OBR</u> : The Traditional DH may only bat for the pitcher. HOWEVER, most of our summer leagues allow the DH to bat for any starter.
3-1-6	Blood on uniform	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : If there is any amount of blood on the uniform, it shall be changed or cleaned before the individual participates again.
3-2-1	Coach not in uniform		<u>NFHS</u> : A coach not in the uniform of the team shall be restricted to the bench/dugout. <u>OBR</u> : Most of our summer leagues who play OBR do not have a specific uniform requirement for the coach, Except American Legion, which has a rule.
New 2024 3-2-5	Electronic Communication		See descriptions in Rule 1: 1-6-1 & 1-6-2 ABOVE

NFHS Rule #	Topic	OBR Rule #	COMMENTS
3-3-1	Bench & Field Conduct	8.01 d	<p><u>NFHS:</u> Conduct violations by a Coach may involve a Three Step process. 1st a verbal warning, 2nd a Written Warning (MIAA's "Strike One" warning), 3rd ejection. Egregious acts or language can result in one or more steps being skipped directly to the 3rd step ejection. The Written Warning results in the head coach being restricted to his dugout for the remainder of the game. The actions of other bench personnel such as players, assistant coaches, scorekeepers, etc. can cause the head coach to receive a Written Warning.</p> <p><u>OBR:</u> Our summer leagues playing OBR do not have a formal three step process. You cannot restrict the coach to his dugout.</p>
3-3-1 c	Throwing bat carelessly	No OBR Rule	<p><u>NFHS:</u> At the end of playing action, the umpire shall issue a warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be ejected.</p>
3-3-1 l	Deliberately throw a bat, helmet, glove, etc.	8.01 d	<p><u>NFHS:</u> The umpire shall eject the offender from the game.</p> <p><u>OBR:</u> Umpires discretion as to whether to eject</p>
3-3-1 i	Coach sitting outside dugout	No OBR Rule	<p><u>NFHS:</u> Cannot be outside the designated dugout area</p>
3-3-3	On-deck batter during warmups	No OBR Rule	<p><u>NFHS:</u> Players loosening up to bat shall remain in the area of their team's on-deck circle per NFHS 1-2-3 while the pitcher is warming up. Penalty - Umpire shall issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved. The next offender on that team shall be ejected.</p> <p><u>OBR:</u> our summer leagues playing OBR may have their own league rule</p>
3-4-1	Defensive Conferences	5.10	<p><u>NFHS:</u> Three charged conferences allowed at any time for a 7 inning game before pitcher must be removed. One charged conference per inning allowed for an extra innings game but these are not cumulative. Removing a pitcher is not considered a charged conference, nor is a conference charged to visit a potentially injured pitcher.</p> <p><u>OBR:</u> Our summer leagues playing OBR do not limit the number of defensive conferences during a game as in Pro MLB, which in 2024 is four. HOWEVER, they limit one visit to the same pitcher per inning. The pitcher must be removed on the 2nd visit to the same pitcher in the same inning. Furthermore, only one visit to the same pitcher while the same batter is at bat. A second visit while the same batter is at bat cannot be allowed. Stop the coach from visiting.</p>
3-4-2	Offensive Conferences	No OBR Rule	<p><u>NFHS:</u> One conference per inning allowed. If the defensive team has called a conference, the offense may conference without being charged but must end their conference when the defensive conference ends.</p> <p><u>OBR:</u> Summer leagues playing OBR do not limit the number of offensive conferences UNLESS that league has its own rule.</p>

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3-4-3, 3-4-4	Conclusion of Conferences	5.10 l	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Defensive conference concludes when the coach crosses the foul line if the conference was in fair territory. If conference was in foul territory it ends when coach initially starts to return to dugout. Offensive conference concludes when coach starts to return to coach's box or dugout.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Conference concludes when coach leaves the 18 ft. circle surrounding the pitcher's plate.</p> <p><u>Under BOTH Rules</u>: Limit the conference time to 30 seconds.</p>
Rule 4	Starting & Ending Game		
4-1-3 b	Legal items (players, equipment, bats, balls, etc.) verification	No OBR Rule	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Prior to the start of the game (at the Pre-Game Coaches Conference/Ground Rules) the plate umpire shall ask and receive verification from each head coach that his participants are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules using only legal equipment, including bats, and balls.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Our summer leagues playing OBR have their own rules regarding bats and balls.</p>
4-2-2	10 Run Mercy Rule	No OBR Rule	MIAA has adopted the 10 Run Mercy Rule. Some of our Summer leagues who play OBR have adopted their own Mercy Rules
4-4-1 f	Less than 9 players	7.03 b	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Must start the game with nine players, but is allowed to continue a game with eight players, even if the team has substitutes available. An out is declared every time the absent ninth player is due to bat.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: A team unable or unwilling to field nine players at any time during the game has to forfeit.</p>
Rule 5	Dead Ball - Suspension of Play		
5-1-1 h	Umpire handles a Live Ball	5.12 b5	<p><u>NFHS</u>: The ball is dead immediately any time the umpire handles a live ball</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If umpire releases the ball immediately, the ball remains live; otherwise, the ball is dead.</p>
5-1-1 i	Catch near out of bounds area	5.09 a1 Comment & 2021 Ump Manual 5.30	<p><u>NFHS</u>: catch needs only 1 foot in bounds</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Both feet need to be in bounds, or one foot can be in the air with neither foot on the ground in the out of play surface.</p>
5-1-2 e, 1-3-7	Deliberate removal of batting helmet	5.09 a8 Comment	<p><u>NFHS</u>: It is a delayed dead ball when anyone who is required to wear a batting helmet deliberately removes his helmet while the ball is in live ball territory and the ball is live. If the deliberately removed helmet interferes with the defense's ability to make a play the runner will be declared out and runners returned to their last legally touched base at the time of the interference. If no interference has occurred, a team warning is given. The second violation by the same team results in a bench restriction.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If in the umpire's judgement there is intent on the part of the base runner to interfere with a batted ball or a thrown ball by dropping his helmet the runner would be out, the ball dead, and runners would return to their last base legally touched.</p>

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5-1-4	Call "Play" procedure	5.12	<u>NFHS</u> : After a dead ball, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher in a legal pitching position, provided the pitcher has engaged the pitcher's plate, the batter and the catcher are in their respective boxes, and the umpire calls "Play" and gives the appropriate signal. <u>OBR</u> : After a dead ball, the umpire shall call "Play" as soon as the pitcher takes his place on the pitcher's plate with the ball in his possession.
Rule 6	Pitching		
6-1-1	Pitcher receiving his pitch signs	5.07 a	New in NFHS for 2022 : A pitcher can take signs from the bench even when he is off the pitcher's plate. However, the pitcher must subsequently simulate taking a sign from the catcher with his foot in contact with the pitcher's plate before making his wind-up delivery, or before coming set in the Set Position. <u>OBR</u> : Pitchers shall take signs from the catcher while in contact with the pitcher's plate.
New 2023 in 6-1-1 & 6-1-3	Hybrid Pitching Stance	5.07 a, 2021 Ump Manual 5.25	New in NFHS for 2023 : The Hybrid pitching stance is Legal. Only the pitcher's pivot foot position on the pitching plate will determine if he is in the Wind-Up or the Set Position. <u>OBR</u> : If Pitcher is in the Hybrid stance he must declare if he is in the Wind-Up or the Set position.
6-1-3	Hands position requirement for the Set Position complete Set Stop	6.02 a13, 2021 Ump Manual 6.33	<u>NFHS</u> : A complete Set Stop must have the hands be at or below chin. <u>OBR</u> : The OBR umpire manual interpretation of "in front of the body" is that the hands must come to a complete Set Stop below the top of the pitcher's head. Otherwise it shall be called a balk.
6-1-3 & 2022 Case Book 6.1.3 Situation Q	Swinging pitching arm in Set Position	5.07 a2	<u>NFHS</u> : When the pitcher is bent at the waist in the preliminary stretch and his pitching arm naturally hangs down slightly in front or to the side away from his body he must keep his pitching arm stationary. Any movement of the arm, such as, swinging the arm, is considered the start of his pitching motion, and thus this motion results in a balk. <u>OBR</u> : Has no specific interpretation identified with regards to a swinging arm. The rule states that from the preliminary stretch position the pitcher shall go to his Set position as defined in 5.07 a2 without interruption and in one continuous motion.
6-1-6	Pitch Count restriction	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : per MIAA for pitch count and associated required days of rest <u>OBR</u> : Our summer leagues have their own rules for pitch count, and/or days of rest. Under BOTH Rules : It is not the umpire's responsibility to keep track of the pitch count, nor enforce the required days of rest should the two coaches disagree.
6-2-2 c	Time limit to deliver pitch	5.07	<u>NFHS</u> : 20 seconds to pitch or attempt a play - at all times (with or without baserunners). <u>OBR</u> : Rule book says 12 seconds with no baserunners. But, New in 2023 15 seconds with no baserunners & New in 2024 reduced from 20 seconds in 2023 to 18 seconds with baserunners.

NFHS Rule #	Topic	OBR Rule #	COMMENTS
Rule 7	Batting		
7-3-1	Batter not ready Penalty	5.04 b3	<p><u>NFHS</u>: For failure of the batter to be ready within 20 seconds after the ball has been returned to the pitcher the umpire shall call a Strike. The pitcher need not pitch and the ball remains live.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If the batter refuses to take a position in the batter's box during a time at bat, the umpire shall call an automatic strike on the batter. The proper mechanic is for the umpire to call "Time" and then signal a "Strike".</p>
7-3-1, 6-2-4d	Batter stepping out of batter's box	5.04 b2	<p><u>NFHS</u>: If the batter, after assuming his position in the batter's box, leaves the box with one foot out and delays the game the plate umpire shall charge a strike. If the pitcher stops or hesitates his delivery because the batter a) stepped out of the box with one foot, or b) because he holds up his hand to request "Time", it shall not be a balk and here is no penalty on either the batter or the pitcher - This is the same in OBR. But, if the batter c) completely leaves the box with both feet out, the umpire shall charge a strike for violating 7-3-1. The pitcher need not deliver a pitch to get this strike. However, in a), b), and c) if the pitcher does indeed deliver a legal pitch (without balking) it shall be called a strike (no matter where the pitch is in relation to the strike zone), and the ball remains live. Thus, Two strikes are called on the batter in c) - yes, one pitch two strikes!</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: If after the pitcher starts his wind-up or comes to a "set position" with a runner on base, he does not go through with his pitch because the batter has stepped out of the box with either one foot, or two feet, the umpire shall not call a balk. The umpire shall call "Time" and reset the batter and the pitcher. If the pitcher delivers his pitch without balking then the umpire will adjudge the pitch to be either a ball or a strike accordingly.</p>
7-3-4	Batter "permits" pitch to hit him / does not attempt to "avoid being hit"	5.05 b2	<p>Although the wording differs among the two rule codes, an umpire would not be wrong if they were to judge hit batsmen the same regardless of the rules under which the game was being played. NFHS rules state a plunked hitter is awarded first base unless he "permits the pitched ball to touch him". That implies the batter must attempt to get out of the path of the ball, which happens to be OBR wording. If we turn those words around, a batter does not make an attempt to avoid getting hit (OBR wording) if he permits the pitch to hit him (NFHS wording). No base is awarded.</p>
7-3-7	Batter's "Backswing" interference	6.03 a3 & a4 Comments	<p>Don't confuse NFHS "Backswing" interference with NFHS "Follow-Through interference. "Backswing" interference is the same in BOTH Rules - immediate dead ball, No penalty, reset batter, pitcher & catcher. See "SOME RULES WORTH REPEATING" below.</p>

NFHS Rule #	Topic	OBR Rule #	COMMENTS
Rule 8	Baserunning		
8-1-1 d2	Pitch hits batter's loose garment	5.05 b2 Comment	<u>NFHS</u> : If a batter's loose garment, such as a shirt not worn properly, is touched by a pitched ball, the batter is not entitled to first base. <u>OBR</u> : No rule regarding loose garment, Only pertains to jewelry. A batter shall not be considered touched by a pitched ball if the ball only touches any jewelry being worn, such as necklaces, bracelets, etc.
8-1-1 e	Catcher's Obstruction / Catcher's Interference	5.05 b3	<u>NFHS</u> terminology is "Catcher's Obstruction". <u>OBR</u> : term is "Catcher's Interference". No actual rule difference. Only the terminology used for the act is different.
8-2-1	Game Ending "Walk Off" winning run	5.08b	<u>NFHS</u> : all baserunners who are forced to advance must advance to the next base. If a forced runner does not advance he can be called out for abandoning his base and if this is the 3rd out the run would not count. <u>OBR</u> : Only the runner on third and the batter runner must advance.
8-2-6	Appeals procedures	5.09 c, 8.02	<u>NFHS</u> : Appeals can be made during a Live Ball, or a Dead Ball with a verbal appeal by a player or coach. <u>OBR</u> : Can only make appeals during a Live Ball and only players can make an appeal.
8-2-6 j	End of Game Appeal	5.09 c4	<u>NFHS</u> : Appeal must be made while an umpire is still on the field of play <u>OBR</u> : Appeal must be made before the pitcher and all infielders have left fair territory.
8-3-2	Obstruction Penalty	6.01 h1 & h2	<u>NFHS</u> : A minimum of one base beyond the point of the obstruction. <u>OBR</u> : Penalty award depends on whether it is Type 1, or Type 2 Obstruction. SEE "SOME RULES WORTH REPEATING" below.
8-4-1 g	Batter Runner out of 3ft lane (Running lane interference)	5.09 a11	<u>NFHS</u> : Interference in the running lane is invoked with any throw to retire runner who violates running lane, regardless of the quality of the throw. In effect, runner is interfering with fielder's opportunity to make the play. <u>OBR</u> : Interference in the running lane requires a catchable throw, such that he "interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base." New in 2024 : the running lane is extended to be to the infield grass. No longer has the restriction for the last 45 ft.
8-4-2 b	"Force Play Slide Rule"	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : Baserunner in a force play must either make a legal slide, or veer out of the way of the defender so as not to alter the play. The Force Play Slide Rule does Not mean the baserunner is forced to slide. <u>OBR</u> : No "Force Play Slide Rule", but a baserunner's actions on a double play attempt must not alter the play and if he slides, then the slide needs to be a legal "bona fide slide" per 6.01 j.
8-4-2 d	Runner dives over a fielder	No OBR Rule	<u>NFHS</u> : Runner is out if he dives over a defender who is standing or kneeling, but ball remains live. However, if a defender is laying flat on the ground, runner may jump/leap/hurdle the defender.

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2-21-1 b, 3-3-1 m, 8-4-2 e & f	Collision Rule / Collisions at Home / Malicious Contact	6.01 i1 & i2, 2021 Ump Manual 6.23	<p><u>NFHS</u>: A runner must either execute a legal slide or attempt to avoid the fielder/catcher. The catcher cannot block the plate, or pathway to the plate without being in possession of the ball. Malicious contact always supercedes obstruction. If egregious, or malicious, the ball is immediately dead, if on offense, the player is ejected and declared out, unless he has already scored. If on defense the player is ejected and umpire will rule either safe or out and award runner(s) appropriate base(s) he felt would have obtained if malicious contact had not occurred.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: A runner attempting to score may not deviate from his direct pathway to the plate in order to initiate contact with the catcher, or otherwise initiate an avoidable collision. Unless the catcher is in possession of the ball, the catcher cannot block the pathway of the runner as he is attempting to score. It shall not be considered a violation if the catcher blocks the pathway of the runner in a legitimate attempt to field a throw in reaction to the direction, trajectory, or hop of the incoming throw. If contact is malicious umpire may still rule obstruction or interference, out or safe. Regardless of the ruling umpire may eject the offender.</p>
Rule 9	Scoring - Record Keeping		NFHS: The Home Team scorebook is the official scorebook
Rule 10	Umpiring		
10-1-2	Umpire jurisdiction	4.03 e	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Begins upon umpires arriving within the confines of the field.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Begins when the Home Team's Lineup card is handed to the plate umpire at the Pregame/Ground Rules Conference</p>
10-1-4 a	Asking for help on a "check swing"	8.02 c Comment	<p><u>NFHS</u>: Plate umpire MAY ask base umpire for help.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: Plate umpire MUST, by rule, ask base umpire for help. See "SOME RULES WORTH REPEATING"</p>
10-2-3 i	Protests		<p><u>NFHS</u>: Offended team must protest at the time of the play and before the next pitch, or before the umpires leave the field of play if the play in question is the last play of the game.</p> <p><u>OBR</u>: For all of our summer league games Protests follow the same rule as stated for NFHS.</p>
Special	Speed-Up Rules	No OBR Rule	Only NFHS has Speed-up Courtesy Runner Rules. But, some of our Summer leagues who play by OBR have their own Speed-Up rules
SOME RULES WORTH REPEATING			
<p>Proper Appeals Live Ball/Dead Ball >> NFHS 8-2-6: Appealing the failure of a runner to touch a base advancing or retreating, and/or failure to tag up, can both be either a live-ball or dead-ball appeal. Live ball appeal must be a proper appeal; dead-ball appeal may be made by manager or any defensive player by clearly indicating verbally the nature of the infraction. OBR 5.09 c: A proper appeal must be made while the ball is live, and may only be made by defensive players on the field.</p>			

NFHS Rule #	Topic	OBR Rule #	COMMENTS
SOME RULES WORTH REPEATING			
Balks: Live Ball/Dead Ball >> NFHS 5-1-1 k: Immediate dead ball even if the pitch is delivered before "Time" can be called. If the ball is put in play on the pitch, kill the play by calling "Time" and award all runners one base. OBR 6.02 a: If a pitch is delivered before "Time" can be called, then Delayed dead ball; and if all runners and batter-runner advance at least one base, ignore the balk. Otherwise, call "Time" and advance all runners one base on the balk. If balk is enforced, the Count remains the same on the batter -"no pitch".			
Obstruction: Delayed Dead Ball/Immediate Dead Ball >> NFHS 2-22-1, 8-3-2: Obstruction is always a delayed dead ball. On conclusion of action, call "Time" and award bases to nullify obstruction, but minimum one base beyond the point of the obstruction. OBR 6.01 h1 & h2: "Type 1" obstruction - Immediate dead ball; award base beyond last legally touched. "Type 2" obstruction - delayed dead ball; award bases, if any , to nullify the effect of the obstruction.			
Substitutes: Illegal - penalty >> NFHS 3-1-1: Illegal substitute is restricted to the bench for duration of game. If same player re-enters, he is ejected. OBR 5.10 d: No penalty. Remove illegal substitute from the game. Any action by the illegal substitute stands.			
Umpires Jurisdiction Begins/Ends >> NFHS 10-1-2: Umpire jurisdiction begins when they arrive in the confines of the field for purpose of officiating game; jurisdiction ends when umpires leave the playing field. Post-game ejections are valid. OBR 4.03: Umpire jurisdiction begins when lineups are exchanged at the plate meeting. There is no rule on when jurisdiction ends.			
Appeal on checked swing >> NFHS 10-1-4 a: If a called ball on a checked swing is appealed, the plate umpire may ask for help on checked swing appeal, but is not required to do so. HOWEVER-I recommend to nearly Always allow the appeal. OBR 8.02 c COMMENT: If a called ball on a checked swing is appealed (by the manager or catcher only), plate umpire is required to ask for help, then is obligated to take the partner's ruling. For BOTH Rules: On a potential 3rd strike dropped ball when batter is eligible to run to first base, don't wait to be asked to appeal. Quickly ask your partner.			
Backswing interference / Follow-through interference >> NFHS 5-1-1 n, 5-1-2 a2, 2-21-4, 2-21-5, 7-3-7: NFHS draws a distinction between backswing interference and follow-through interference - Follow-through interference is when bat hits catcher after batter has swung at pitch and hinders catcher's play on a runner. Ball immediately dead; runners return; batter is out if impeding play on runner. If no impending play on runner, dead ball, runners return and no penalty. Backswing interference is the term used in NFHS when a batter contacts the catcher or his equipment prior to the pitch - No penalty, and reset pitcher, catcher & batter. OBR 6.06 a3 COMMENT: When the momentum of a batter's swing carries the bat around and contacts the catcher or his equipment, this is called Backswing Interference in OBR . The ball is dead, and runners, if moving, must return. There is no penalty so long as deemed by umpire to be not intentional. Furthermore, Per 5.05 b3 Comment & 6.01 c Comment: If the catcher interferes with the batter before the pitcher releases the pitch it shall not be considered interference. Similarly, in both OBR and NFHS if the batter's practice swing tips the catcher's mitt before the delivery of the pitch, the procedure is for the plate umpire to call "Time" immediately and reset the pitcher, batter and catcher with No penalty.			
Batter Runner's ability to run to 1st on uncaught 3rd strike >> NFHS: 8-4-1 i: Runner abandons effort to advance when he enters the dugout area, or (with two outs) before all fielders leave the diamond. OBR 5.05 a2 COMMENT: Runner abandons effort to advance when he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.			
Defensive Conferences (Trips to the Mound) >> NFHS 3-4-1: Three "charged" conferences (visits) per regulation game (no limit per pitcher). Allowed to visit the same pitcher during the same batter. On fourth charged visit, and every charged visit thereafter, pitcher must be removed. One visit per inning in extra innings, but no roll-over. Visit to replace a pitcher is not a charged visit. Time out/visit to attend to injured player is not a charged visit. OBR 5.10: One visit per pitcher per inning. Second visit in an inning requires removing pitcher. Cannot visit the same pitcher during the same batter. A visit to remove a pitcher or attend to injured player is not a charged visit.			
Defensive Conference/Mound Trip Ends >> NFHS 3-4-3: A defensive conference ends when the coach crosses the foul line returning to the dugout. If conference is held in foul territory, it concludes when the coach first starts back toward dugout. OBR 5.10 l: A defensive conference ends when the manager or coach has left the 18' circle (pitching mound).			
Disciplinary actions against coaches >> NFHS 3-3-1 Penalty: Three-tier system: verbal warning, written warning MIAA's "Strike One" (coach restricted to bench) and then ejection. Teams may be subject to bench warning; players subject to immediate ejection. OBR 8.01 d: No provision for warnings; ejection for egregious action on part of coach, player, etc.			
Ball Lodged in glove >> NFHS: NFHS 2022 Points of Emphasis handles this situation as a Live ball the Same as the OBR. OBR: OBR allows tossing glove or mitt in which ball is lodged for purpose of making a play.			

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<p><u>Pitcher's Legality of fake to 3rd & throw to 1st >></u> NFHS 6-1-2: With his feet in the Wind-up position, the pitcher may ONLY deliver a pitch or step backward off the pitcher's plate with his pivot foot. From the Wind-up the pitcher Cannot step and throw to any base, nor can he fake to 3rd from the Wind-up position while engaged on the pitcher's plate. Can fake to 3rd from the Set position, then disengage the pitcher's plate during/after the fake, and then throw to 1st base. OBR 6.02 a, 5.07 a1: From the Wind-up position the pitcher can step directly to a base and throw to attempt a pickoff. Cannot fake a throw to any base from the Wind-up Position. From the Set Position can only fake a throw to 2nd base.</p>			
<p><u>Illegal Pitch >></u> NFHS 6-1-3 Penalty: Immediate dead ball. If runners on base, it's a balk; otherwise, ball to the batter. OBR 6.02 b: A ball to the batter (unless batter reaches base on the pitch). Live ball award. With runners on base, a balk.</p>			
<p><u>Walk-Off Scoring >></u> NFHS 9-1-1 Note 2: All runners, including batter-runner, must touch the base to which they are advancing, or to which they are forced to advance. Forced Runner(s) shall be called out for abandoning the base if they intentionally fail to advance. This is not an appeal play. But, Unintentionally missing a base while advancing can only be called out on Appeal. OBR 5.08 b: Game ends when runner advancing from third has touched home, and the batter-runner has touched first base. Other runners, if any, need not advance. No appeal on the "other" runners.</p>			
<p><u>Baserunner Colision with defender / malicious contact >></u> NFHS 2-21-1 b, 3-3-1 b: It is interference, dead ball, runner out. In NFHS malicious contact always supersedes obstruction. If egregious or malicious, may eject player. OBR 6.01 i: Contact can be result of either Obstruction or Interference. If Obstruction but with malicious contact by baserunner, then baserunner may be awarded base but still be ejected. Runner may not deviate from pathway to initiate contact. If Interference is called, and if malicious, runner out and may be ejected; ball dead at moment of contact, runners return to last base at time of interference.</p>			
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