

## Baseball Rules Changes - 2025 ⇒

By NFHS on November 07, 2024

baseball

Only 2 changes, And these changes are just modifications of existing Rules

1-3-2c1 - Modified that resin, pine tar or any other drying agent is permitted on the bat in a specific area. \*

\* The specific area is no higher than 18" from the knob of the bat.

4-4-1c - Modified the definition of forfeiture.

## Baseball Comments on the Rules - 2025's New Rules Modifications

By NFHS on August 12, 2024

baseball

Modified that resin, pine tar or any other drying agent is permitted on the bat in a specific area (1-3-2c1) -

This change allows the batter to have better control over their non-wood bat, so it does not slip out of their hands due to moisture or perspiration. It also makes the rule similar for wood bats and non-wood bats.

Modified the definition of forfeiture (4-4-1c) - There are seven criteria for forfeiture. This modification of the subsection "c" is the result when a coach, player or team personnel does not conform to the instructions of the umpire. An ejection is a serious violation of sportsmanship and game decorum. To aggravate the violation with a game forfeiture is egregious and contrary to the basic premise of education-based athletics.

# STICKY SITUATIONS

Hitting Aids, Forfeits Focus of NFHS Rule Changes *for 2025*



An NFHS rule change for the 2025 season allows batters to use resin, pine tar or any drying agent up to 18 inches from the base of the knob toward the barrel on any bat.

By Scott Tittrington

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee approved two rule changes related to equipment and forfeits during its 2024 meeting in Indianapolis.

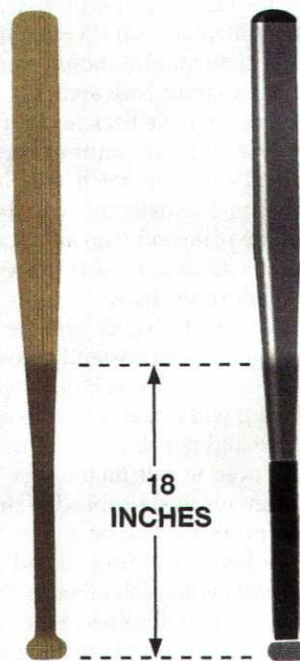
The new rule changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors for implementation during the 2025 high school baseball season.

Referee thanks Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports, sanctioning and student services, for reviewing this information.

### Bats, Ball and Gloves (1-3-2c1)

A change to rulebook language clarifies what is legal for a batter to use on all bats — both wood and non-wood — to aid in being able to hold on to the bat.

Resin, pine tar or any drying agent are permitted to enhance the hold on the bat, not to exceed 18 inches from the base of the knob.



KEITH JOHNSTON

The rationale for the change is to allow batters to have better control over non-wood bats so they do not slip out of the hands.

**Play 1:** As B1 is approaching the plate with a non-wood bat, F2 asks the home plate umpire whether the pine tar on B1's bat is legal. Upon visual inspection, the umpire rules the pine tar (a) does not exceed 18 inches from the base of the knob toward the barrel, or (b) exceeds 18 inches from the base of the knob toward the barrel. **Ruling 1:** In (a), the bat is legal. In (b), the bat is not legal and is removed from play. B1 is not out for using an illegal bat, as he has not yet entered the batter's box (7-4-1a).

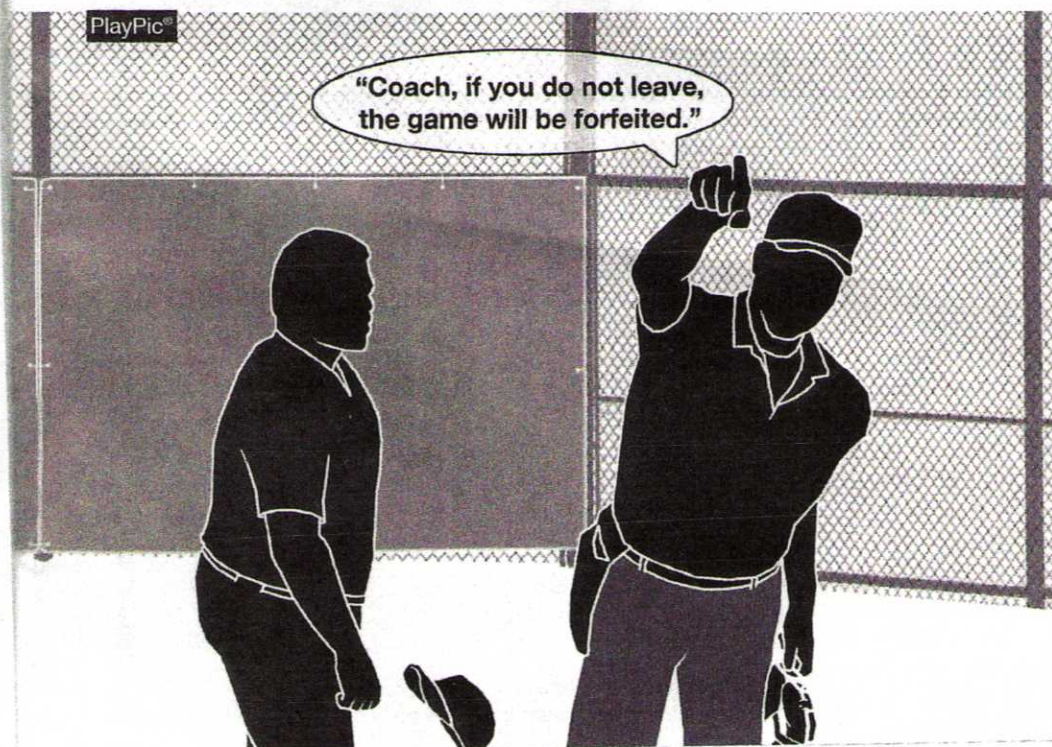
**Play 2:** B1 hits a home run to tie the game. As B1 touches home plate, the catcher challenges the legality of B1's bat, as it has pine tar above and on the bat off of the bat grip. **Ruling 2:** It is now permissible for pine tar to be on the bat and off of the bat grip, provided it does not extend beyond 18 inches from the knob of the bat. While B1's bat has pine tar above the grip, it does not extend more than 18 inches from the knob of the bat and thus is legal. The home run counts.

#### **Forfeits (4-4-1c)**

The language of the forfeiture rule has been expanded to include situations when a team delays more than a reasonable amount of time in not obeying an umpire's order to remove a player, coach or team personnel for violation of the rules.

**Play 3:** During the third inning, team A is leading, 3-0, when (a) F1 is ejected for intentionally throwing at B1, (b) team A's head coach is ejected after a second occurrence of a team A player using an illegal bat, or (c) an assistant coach is ejected for stepping out of the dugout and yelling at U1 following a close play at first base. In (a), the player refuses to leave the field and in (b) and (c), the coach refuses to leave the dugout and allow the game to resume. **Ruling 3:** In all three instances, the umpires shall declare a forfeit and rule a 7-0 victory in favor of team B (4-4-2).

*Scott Tittrington is an associate editor at Referee. He umpires high school and college baseball, and officiates high school and college basketball, and college football. □*



Coaches who do not leave the field in a timely manner following an ejection are subjecting their team to a possible forfeit under new language as part of rule 4-4-1c.