

2017 BASEBALL STUDY GUIDE

- 1 An illegal player on defense shall be replaced immediately upon discovery and then restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.
- 2 It shall be the responsibility of the host school Game Manager to insure crowd and spectator control.
- 3 If the first game of a double-header is terminated the second game is also terminated.
- 4 The field umpire is required to keep a written record of defensive and offensive team charged conferences for each team and notify the respective coach each time a conference is charged to his team.
- 5 For the wind-up position, the pitcher is not restricted as to how he shall hold the ball.
- 6 Once a game ejection is assessed it can be reversed after a review at a later time. (F) GHSA Policy
- 7 An improper batter is not considered to be at bat until the ball is pitched.
- 8 When a batted ball makes contact with a field umpire prior to passing or being touched by any defensive player other than the pitcher, a dead ball shall be called immediately.
- 9 If there is a question about a rule that was possibly misapplied, the team's coach or captain shall inform the umpire at the time of the play and before a pitch to the next batter of either team.
- 10 If during the game injury forces a team to play with eight players, the team may return to nine players should another eligible player become available.
- 11 A runner shall be declared out when he runs more than three feet away from a direct line from his position and the base to which he is moving in an effort to avoid a tag.
- 12 It is the responsibility of the Pitch Count Monitor to tell each coach how many pitches the pitcher has thrown at the end of each half inning.
- 13 After receiving four pitches called "balls", the ball immediately becomes dead after the pitch that results in the fourth called ball.
- 14 During the delivery, a pitch dropped that crosses the foul line shall be called a no-pitch.
- 15 When an intentional base on balls is awarded the ball becomes dead when the batter-runner reaches first base.
- 16 When a batter's backswing interferes with the catcher a delayed dead ball shall be called.
- 17 If a thrown ball goes into any dead ball area, and then rolls back into the field of play, a dead ball shall be called.
- 18 Obstruction of the batter is ignored if the batter-runner reaches first and all other runners advance at least one base.
- 19 The position of the pitcher's feet shall determine whether he will pitch from the windup or the set position.
- 20 The home team is wearing a vest-type uniform with a white shirt worn underneath. The sleeves of the shirt under the vest extend only to the elbow. This is legal, even for the pitcher.
- 21 A team shall have nine players on the starting line-up card, but may finish the game with seven players.
- 22 The pitch ends when it is touched by the catcher.
- 23 With a runner on 1st, the pitcher comes set and attempts a jump turn pickoff – simultaneously disengaging the pitching plate and throwing to 1st. His throw goes into the dugout. The runner is awarded 2nd base.
- 24 The plate umpire is required to make all decisions on the batter and final decisions on points not covered by the rules.
- 25 An illegal pitch can only be called when a runner is on base.
- 26 A batter is not in proper order if he follows the player whose name precedes his in the lineup, even though such preceding batter may have batted out of order.
- 27 A runner must move off the base to avoid being hit by an infield fly ball.
- 28 Any violation for the use of an illegal bat shall result in an ejection of the head coach of the offending team.
- 29 Malicious contact always supersedes obstruction.
- 30 A dead ball is called immediately when a fielder steps with both feet outside the field of play.

- 31 Failure to have a substitute to replace an injured player shall result in an out being declared in the spot the injured player occupied in the batting order.
- 32 A catch cannot be called a legal catch if the ball is touching the playing surface while in the grasp of the defender.
- 33 A pitcher shall not wear a white or grey exposed undershirt with sleeves that extend below the elbow.
- 34 A "restricted player" may occupy a coach's box providing they are wearing a legal helmet.
- 35 Any coach may attend the mandatory pregame conference.
- 36 A ball/strike/out indicator is optional for use by the field/base umpire(s) during GHSA sanctioned games.
- 37 Obstruction is an intentional, physical act by any member of the defensive team or its team personnel that hinders a runner or changes the pattern of play.
- 38 Umpires have the authority to have Game Administration have any spectator(s) removed from the premises whose behavior has become a detriment to the fair administration of the game.
- 39 It is the responsibility of each head coach to indicate that all the players are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules during the coaches/umpires pregame meeting.
- 40 A skull cap and mask combination is permitted for high school baseball.
- 41 When two runners occupy the same base at the same time, the lead runner shall be the runner declared out when both are tagged.
- 42 If a pitch ball contacts a batter's jersey that is illegally being worn, and goes directly into the catcher's mitt, a dead ball shall not be called.
- 43 If an over the fence home run is hit to end the game, the ball is dead and the game is over at that time.
- 44 Regardless of the location of the pitch, a strike shall be called when the batter squares to bunt and leaves the bat in the strike zone without an attempt to contact the ball.
- 45 Beginning in 2017 the GHSA State Championship series will be held at neutral sites for all classifications.
- 46 It is not spectator interference if a spectator physically hinders a fielder who is reaching into a dead ball area to make a play on a batted or thrown ball.
- 47 A catcher warming up a pitcher in the bullpen may wear a skull cap and mask combination.
- 48 Following the first pitch of the game the umpires have the sole responsibility for determining the playability of the field.
- 49 An offensive conference is completed once the coach departs for the dugout or coach's box.
- 50 When an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball with runners on base, the batter is called out and all runners shall return to the base previously occupied.
- 51 A live ball is in play when a catcher catches a foul tip that goes directly into the glove.
- 52 Umpire jurisdiction begins upon the umpires arriving at the field (within the confines of the field) and ends when the umpires leave the playing field at the conclusion of the game.
- 53 When the batter intentionally contacts the ball with the bat twice he is declared out.
- 54 Failure to pitch to a batter in a continuous motion after the habitual movement of the body shall be called a balk when runner(s) are on base.
- 55 When a game is terminated before it becomes a legal game, it shall be considered a "no contest" and replayed beginning with the first inning.
- 56 With no runners on base, a batter shall receive a "ball" toward the count if the pitcher fails to deliver a pitch within thirty seconds after receiving the ball from the catcher.
- 57 If a runner slides beyond home plate and makes contact with or alters the play of the catcher, it is an illegal slide.
- 58 The batted fair ball becomes dead immediately when it contacts a base runner after glancing off the pitcher's glove.
- 59 A runner must slide in a direction toward the base/plate to avoid the tag or alter the play.
- 60 Each team is permitted only two pitching conferences per inning prior to replacing the pitcher.
- 61 During the coaches/umpires meeting in addition to discussing line-up cards all special ground rules must be presented.

- 62 If a runner misses any base (including home plate) and desires to return to touch the base, he must do so immediately. If the offensive team initiates a play before the next pitch, the defensive team does not lose the right to appeal.
- 63 With two outs and the bases loaded, the batter hits a fly ball toward right field. The pitcher runs toward his team's dugout on the first base side and collides with the batter-runner. As long as the fly ball is caught by the right fielder, the obstruction is ignored.
- 64 A runner advancing to second base dives over a fallen defensive player. There was no interference by the runner. The runner is out and the ball remains live.
- 65 When the ball becomes dead, no action by the defense can cause a player to be put out.
- 66 A designated hitter, if used, shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief.
- 67 The ball is dead immediately when a thrown ball contacts the on-deck batter.
- 68 All baseballs used in GHSA baseball games shall bear the NFHS Authentication Mark
- 69 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.
- 70 After the pitcher has come set, the batter steps from the right-side batter's box to the left-side batter's box, the batter is called out.
- 71 A batter shall have both feet completely inside the boundary lines of the batter's box.
- 72 The starting pitcher is required to pitch until the 1st batter is put out or reaches base.
- 73 If a coach physically assists a runner during playing action, the ball is dead at the end of playing action. The involved batter-runner or runner is out and any additional outs made on the play stand. Runners not put out return to bases occupied at the time of the infraction.
- 74 A batted ball is foul when a fielder, while standing in fair territory but reaching into foul territory, touches and then drops the ball from his glove.
- 75 A defensive conference is completed once the coach departs from the pitching mound area.