

# ALLIANCE FASTPITCH NATIONAL EVENTS

## MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO NFHS PLAYING RULES

The items below will be used in place, or in addition to the NFHS rules

Includes Events:

Alliance National Qualifying Events, Alliance Fastpitch Regional Championships (AFRC)  
Alliance Fastpitch Championship Series (AFCS), Alliance Fastpitch Open Nationals (AFON)

### 1. DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

**NFHS Rule 1-8-6:** Permits electronic information to be transmitted to the dugout from anywhere outside of live ball area.

Rationale: The rule change reflects current technology and still requires that electronic devices used for coaching purposes may only be used in the dugout but does not stipulate where the video is recorded or how it is transmitted.

**Alliance Fastpitch recognizes the following two brands as approved electronic communication devices and Official Coach to Player Communication Partners.**

**GoRout - Official Coach-to-Player Communication Platform**

**PitchCom - Official Coach-to-Player Communication Partner**

**Alliance National Event Modification & Addition - using NCAA 5.9.8 - Electronic Equipment to be used on Defense or Offense**

**NCAA Rule 5.9.8 - Electronic Equipment -** To Allow the use of an exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout to the field for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call.

Rationale: To improve the pace and flow of the game and maintain the integrity of a team's signs

Clarification: Digital Communication can be used for either, or both, Offense or Defense, but must be from the dugout, and not from an on field coach. But must be one way and be used within the time allotted between pitches

### 2. UNIFORMS

**NFHS Rule 3-2-3:** Beginning January 1, 2027, uniforms may only bear a single manufacturer's logo, school name, school logo, mascot and/or the participant's name. Advertisements, messages, team slogans, etc., will no longer be permitted.

Rationale: Consistent language has been established for NFHS sports that describe what information is permitted on the uniform. A player's name, school name, school nickname, school mascot and/or the school logo may be placed on the uniform.

**Alliance National Event Modification**

There will be no restrictions on a team's logos, name, sponsors, mascot, etc

Each player must be able to be differentiated from any other player on the team. This can be with the jersey number or last name.

No consequence for duplicate numbers as long as there is something that differentiates the players

### 3. DECISION TO DELAY OR CANCEL DUE TO WEATHER

**NFHS Rule 4-2-7, 10-2-3e, h:** The umpire may call (end) a game if playing conditions in or around the facility become unacceptable to safely continue the game.

Rationale: Provides rule justification when an umpire ends a contest due to unacceptable playing conditions to continue play in addition to weather.

**Alliance National Event Modification**

Each Complex or Event UIC will make the final determination on the decision to stop/delay and restart a game.

### 4. PITCHING

**NFHS Rule 6-1-2c, 2-47:** The pitcher may now have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain within the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot. A definition for a replant was added.

Rationale: The rule change permits both feet to disengage from the playing surface while delivering a pitch. The addition of Rule 2-47 defines that a replant of the pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate prior to the act of delivering the pitch.

**Alliance National Event Modification & Addition - using NCAA 10-5-4 & 10-5-5**

**NCAA 10-5-4:** While pushing off from the pitcher's plate, both feet may disengage from the playing surface as long as they remain within the 24-inch width of the pitcher's plate and do not create a replant of the pivot resulting in the pitcher being farther away from the pitcher's plate. Pushing off with the pivot foot from a place other than the pitcher's plate resulting in the non-pivot foot becoming closer to home plate is illegal

**NCAA 10.5.5:** The pitcher is not allowed to hop or drag to a replant (crowhop), gain a second starting point and push off their pivot foot. Once having lost contact with the pitcher's plate, the pivot foot may trail on the ground but may not bear weight again until the pitch is released.

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### **5. UNREPORTED SUBSTITUTIONS**

#### **NFHS Rule 6-1-2c, 2-4 - SUBSTITUTION RULES - UNREPORTED SUBSTITUTES**

In contrast to an illegal substitute, an unreported substitute is a player that could legally occupy the position they are in the lineup but has simply failed to report that they are entering the game. All substitutions and courtesy runners are required to be reported to the plate umpire upon entering the game. When a player enters the game unreported, a warning is issued to the head coach. Any subsequent violation results in both the head coach and player being restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game.

#### **Alliance National Event Modification & Addition - using NCAA 8-3-3 - Unreported/Misreported Players**

8.3.3 Unreported/Misreported Players. An unreported/misreported player is one who has a right to change defensive position, enter or reenter the game but has not been reported or has been inaccurately reported to the umpire before her participation. The following regulations govern unreported/misreported substitutions, players, defensive changes and reentries: (See also Appendix B.)

8.3.3.1 If the coach in violation informs the plate umpire before the offended team's challenge, there is no penalty regardless of the length of time the unreported/misreported player was in the game. The unreported/misreported player shall be declared officially in the game.

8.3.3.2 If an unreported/misreported player is reported to the plate umpire by the opposing team before a pitch is made, there is no penalty. The unreported/misreported player shall be declared officially in the game.

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8.3.3.1 If the coach in violation informs the plate umpire before the offended team's challenge, there is no penalty regardless of the length of time the unreported/misreported player was in the game. The unreported/misreported player shall be declared officially in the game.

8.3.3.2 If an unreported/misreported player is reported to the plate umpire by the opposing team before a pitch is made, there is no penalty. The unreported/misreported player shall be declared officially in the game.

8.3.3.3 If the unreported/misreported player is reported by the defense before the offensive coach in violation informs the umpire and:

8.3.3.3.1 A pitch has been thrown, but the unreported/misreported player still is at bat.

EFFECT—The unreported/misreported player is called out and declared officially in the game. All other play while the unreported/misreported player was at bat is legal.

8.3.3.3.2 The unreported/misreported player has completed her turn at bat, but the next pitch has not yet been thrown, or the pitcher and all infielders clearly have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory.

EFFECT—The unreported/misreported player is called out and declared officially in the game. All other play as a result of the unreported/misreported player becoming a batter-runner is nullified.

8.3.3.3.3 The unreported/misreported player has completed her turn at bat, but a pitch (legal or illegal) has been thrown to the next batter, or the pitcher and all infielders clearly have vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory.

EFFECT—The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game. In addition, the unreported/misreported player, if on base, is declared out. All other play while the unreported/misreported player was at bat or due to her becoming a batter-runner is legal.

8.3.3.4 If the unreported/misreported player is the base runner placed on second base in the tiebreaker or is a pinch runner, and a pitch has been thrown and:

8.3.3.4.1 The unreported/misreported player is on her original base when the violation is reported by the defensive team.

EFFECT—"No pitch" is declared. The unreported/misreported player shall be called out and declared officially in the game.

8.3.3.4.2 The unreported/misreported player advances at least one base and before a pitch is thrown after the advance when the violation is reported by the defensive team.

EFFECT—"No pitch" is declared. The unreported/misreported player is called out and declared officially in the game. All other play is nullified.

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8.3.3.4.3 The unreported/misreported player advances at least one base and a pitch has been thrown after the advance when the violation is reported by the defensive team.

EFFECT—"No pitch" is declared. The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game. In addition, the unreported/misreported player, if on base, is declared out. All other play stands.

8.3.3.5 If the unreported/misreported player is reported by the offense before the defensive coach in violation informs the umpire, and:

8.3.3.5.1 The unreported/misreported player has made a play, but the next pitch has not yet been thrown, the pitcher and all infielders clearly have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory, or it is the last play of the game, and the Umpires have not yet left the field.

EFFECT—The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count she had before the report of the unreported/misreported player with each base runner returning to the base legally occupied at the time of the last pitch.

8.3.3.5.2 The unreported/misreported player has made a play, and the next pitch has been thrown, or the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory.

8.3.3.5.3 The unreported/misreported player has not made a play, and a pitch has been thrown.

EFFECT—(8.3.3.5.2 and 8.3.3.5.3)—The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game, and all play will stand.

8.3.3.4.3 The unreported/misreported player advances at least one base and a pitch has been thrown after the advance when the violation is reported by the defensive team.

EFFECT—"No pitch" is declared. The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game. In addition, the unreported/misreported player, if on base, is declared out. All other play stands.

8.3.3.5 If the unreported/misreported player is reported by the offense before the defensive coach in violation informs the umpire, and:

8.3.3.5.1 The unreported/misreported player has made a play, but the next pitch has not yet been thrown, the pitcher and all infielders clearly have not vacated their normal fielding positions and have not left fair territory, or it is the last play of the game, and the Umpires have not yet left the field.

EFFECT—The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game. The offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter return and assume the ball and strike count she had before the report of the unreported/misreported player with each base runner returning to the base legally occupied at the time of the last pitch.

8.3.3.5.2 The unreported/misreported player has made a play, and the next pitch has been thrown, or the pitcher and all infielders have clearly vacated their normal fielding positions and have left fair territory.

8.3.3.5.3 The unreported/misreported player has not made a play, and a pitch has been thrown.

EFFECT—(8.3.3.5.2 and 8.3.3.5.3)—The unreported/misreported player is declared officially in the game, and all play will stand.

### Notes:

1. If an unreported/misreported player is also an illegal player, the penalty for an illegal player applies.
2. Violation of the unreported/misreported player rule may be reported to the umpire at any time as long as the player is still in the game.
3. If the player in violation is the pitcher or catcher, delivering or receiving a pitch is considered making a play