



IGHSAU Softball Empire Newsletter

2022 Vol. 3



Cathy's Corner: Newsletter from IGHSAU Softball Coordinator of Officials

Newsletter 3 already! This newsletter is to educate IGHSAU umpires and coaches with information and rules for softball. Our goal is to raise your softball IQ!

Tournament Dates to remember:

Regional Dates

1A/ 2A

July 1, 6, 8, 11

3A

July 6, 9, 12

4A/5A

July 7, 9, 12

State Tournament – Fort Dodge

July 18-22

Picture credits – the first pic is Gorilla Gold. LEGAL for high school softball. The middle pic is the actual Gorilla Gold towel. It is designed to not transfer a tacky substance to the ball; therefore, it is approved. If the ball has a sticky substance on it, simply remove the ball from the game. The pic on the right is the powdered rosin, also legal. To see if the bag is powdered rosin, watch the pitcher toss it to the ground. It will 'pouf' if it is powder. If an umpire believes it is rock rosin, feel free to check, but try to check before the inning starts – if you check after a pitch, the pitch is illegal, and all penalties apply. Rule 6-2-2. If you find this in your game, please call me and Jason or I will talk to the coach.

Registration - registration for softball remains open in the Center for Official Services (Dragonfly). The website is: <https://max.dragonflyathletics.com/maxweb/max-cover/login?context=COS>. Registration questions and issues with rule meetings and downloads



IGHSAU Softball Umpire Newsletter

2022 Vol. 3

of certificates should be directed to Sherry@ighsau.org. If you register after the IGHSAU and the IHSAA close out their school year, sometime around June 15, you will have to pay registration for the 2022-2023 year.

Clinic - This clinic may still be viewed on the IGHSAU website:

<https://ighsau.org/ighsau-officials/>

Scroll down to Softball and follow the instructions.

The clinic may be viewed at any time for credit toward post season eligibility, however, we start assembling state tournament names in the next couple weeks. Please complete your requirements including the demographic information on Dragonfly. Please call if you have any issues.

Running lane – With the bases loaded, B4, who bats left-handed, hits a ground ball to F3, who is left-handed. The ball is just inside the foul line. F3 throws to F2, but hits B4, who is on the way to first base. B4 is in fair territory but has not reached the 30-foot running lane. There is no violation unless the batter-runner intentionally interfered with F3's throw. 8.2.6 SITUATION A. Note – there must be a throw and the runner is considered outside the running lane if either foot last contacted the ground completely outside the lane.

Kicking a call – We all miss a call now and then. I missed one last week. I asked my partner if I had kicked a call at 1B (and I had a feeling I did) and he was honest with me – yes I did. Be honest with each other, and then try to figure out why you missed the call. Did you call it too soon? Were you missing an element of the play (ball, base, offense, defense)? Then, go on with the game. You must forget about it so it will not affect the remainder of the game. Don't hang your head or beat yourself up. Finish the game

Pitching – we still have leapers in our ranks. There was a picture in the paper of a varsity pitcher clearly off the ground. The rule has not changed in NFHS/IGHSAU. It may change at a later time, but both feet off the ground during the delivery is illegal.

Obstruction - The NFHS rule on obstruction for a tag play is simple. If the defensive player has the ball, she may block the base. CASE - A throw from F9 draws F2 into the base path of R1. In (a), the ball arrives just before R1 and F2 has possession of the ball. Contact then occurs between F2 and R1, F2 drops the ball and R1 scores. In (b), contact occurs just prior to F2 catching the ball. In both cases, the contact is not malicious.



IGHSAU Softball Umpire Newsletter

2022 Vol. 3

In (a), there is no obstruction or interference. This is viewed simply as a collision. The run scores. In (b), F2 has committed obstruction; R1 will be awarded the base that would have been reached had there been no obstruction. 8.4.3 SITUATION F

Do not confuse the NFHS rule with any other softball sanction.

Post season - To work post season IGHSAU softball, you must register on Dragonfly, watch the rules meeting, pass the NFHS/IGHSAU softball exam and attend an IGHSAU sponsored clinic within the past 3 years. We look at several different types of criteria. If you have not completed the survey, the advisors or I may call you to do so. So far we only have about 250 post season eligible umpires who have completed the survey. Last year we had 350 – if you have not completed the survey please do so. If you have already completed it, do not fill out another. Here is the link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_7bSoQkBWMRFXF2qVzW-wtu7LQPSOJPBta-6DD7ujReg/viewform?edit_requested=true

Rule questions and comments should be directed to the IGHSAU Softball Coordinator of Officials: Cathy Creighton at cathy@ighsau.org. I am able to receive phone calls most every day and also emails. Feel free to call your regional advisor, too. Player eligibility questions are to be referred to Jason Eslinger at jasoneslinger@ighsau.org.

Regional Advisors and their basic geographical areas of responsibility:

Tom Burger, Northeast and eastern Iowa, tomburger88@gmail.com.

Pat Pacha, Southeast and eastern Iowa, pep1@iowatelecom.net

Jim Doyle, Southwest and south Iowa, doylefloor@hotmail.com

Craig Snider, Northwest and western Iowa, craigdsnider@gmail.com

Tom Sullivan, North Iowa, some northeast and northwest, tsullivan@centralsprings.net.

Cathy Creighton, Central Iowa (metro), cathy@ighsau.org, or ccreighton48@gmail.com

We are almost halfway to post season time. Keep working hard! Call me or your regional advisor if you have questions.

Cathy