

2026-27 FHSAA Baseball Rule Modifications & Sport-Specific Regulations

Florida high-school baseball uses NFHS Baseball Rules as the base code, with additional FHSAA modifications and sport-specific regulations that officials must apply in FHSAA contests.

Training objective: Know where Florida differs from the standard NFHS rule set so the crew can handle field setup, game administration, conduct, run rules, suspended games, sub-varsity time limits, and coach equipment consistently.

At-a-Glance: Florida-Specific Items

Topic	Florida rule / modification
First base	Double first base is required.
Memorial patches	Require written approval from the FHSAA Office.
Speed-up rules	Either head coach may use them; mutual agreement is not required.
Conduct penalties	Florida modifies dugout restriction/ejection handling under NFHS 3-3-1.
Run rules	15 after 3.5/4 innings; 10 after 4.5/5 innings.
Interrupted games	Florida defines when contests are suspended vs. completed.
Sub-varsity time limit	No new inning after two hours, subject to listed exceptions.
Protests	Officials' decisions are final; no protests are allowed.
Base coaches	First- and third-base coaches must wear a non-earflap helmet.
Arm care conditioning	Permitted beginning the first Monday in January under FHSAA conditions.

Important: This is a CFU training aid. For an actual ruling, use the current NFHS Baseball Rules Book together with the current FHSAA rule modifications, sport manual, and Officials Regulations.

Field, Equipment & Administrative Modifications

NFHS 1-2-9 - First Base

FHSAA modification / regulation

FHSAA requires a **double first base**.

Umpire training focus

Confirm the field has the required double first base during the pregame inspection. Do not apply the broader NFHS option that permits another first-base configuration when working an FHSAA contest.

NFHS 1-4-4 - Commemorative / Memorial Patches

FHSAA modification / regulation

Commemorative or memorial patches may be affixed to jerseys only with **written approval of the FHSAA Office**.

Umpire training focus

If a patch issue is raised, do not assume a memorial patch is automatically legal. The governing standard is whether FHSAA approval has been granted.

NFHS 2-33 - Speed-Up Rules

FHSAA modification / regulation

Speed-up rules may be exercised by **either or both head coaches**; mutual agreement is not required.

Umpire training focus

Be prepared for one team to use a permitted speed-up option even if the opponent does not. Apply the option consistently for the team choosing to use it.

FHSAA Competition Rule - Base Coaches Helmets

FHSAA modification / regulation

A coach occupying the first-base or third-base coaching box must wear a **non-earflap style helmet**.

Umpire training focus

Address the requirement before play when possible. This is a Florida-specific competition requirement for coaches in the coaching boxes.

Conduct, Ejections & Game Administration

NFHS 3-3-1 Penalty - Florida Conduct Modification

FHSAA modification / regulation

For violations of items g, h, i, j, k or l, coaches or players are **not restricted to the dugout**. If a coach is ejected, the coach is removed from the coaching position and must leave the facility. An ejected player must remain in the dugout under the supervision of the head coach. An illegal player discovered under 2-36-3 is restricted to the dugout.

Umpire training focus

Know the difference between restriction and ejection in Florida. Do not automatically use the standard NFHS dugout-restriction language where the FHSAA modification says otherwise.

Practical note

FHSAA Officials Regulations also require an ejected coach to leave the premises and cease all communication with the team for the remainder of the contest.

NFHS 4-2-2 - FHSAA Run Rules

FHSAA modification / regulation

15-run rule: after 3.5 innings if the home team is ahead, or after 4 complete innings.

10-run rule: after 4.5 innings if the home team is ahead, or after 5 complete innings.

Umpire training focus

Know both thresholds and the score situation before each half-inning ends. These are mandatory FHSAA game-ending rules, not local options.

FHSAA / NFHS 4-5 - No Protests

FHSAA modification / regulation

The decisions of game officials are final. **No protests are allowed.**

Umpire training focus

If a coach states that the game will be protested, remain professional and explain that FHSAA does not permit protests of game officials' decisions. Continue administering the contest under the rules.

Crew reminder: Ejection administration is one of the places where FHSAA procedure matters as much as the underlying NFHS playing rule. Communicate clearly with the head coach, record the reason, and follow required reporting procedures.

Suspended, Completed & Sub-Varsity Games

NFHS 4-2-4 / FHSAA 19.2.1.1.1 - Suspended Game

FHSAA modification / regulation

A game called for darkness, rain, mechanical failure or another condition where a winner cannot be determined is treated as a **suspended game**. A game called at any time for mechanical failure is also treated as suspended. If completed later, play resumes from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order as they existed at suspension.

Umpire training focus

Record the exact game state: inning, outs, score, runners, batter, count, lineup and any substitutions. Good suspension documentation prevents problems when the game resumes.

FHSAA 19.2.1.1.2 - Completed Game

FHSAA modification / regulation

A game called because of darkness, rain, mechanical failure or another condition after **4.5 innings or 5 innings** have been completed is a completed game **if a winner can be determined**.

Umpire training focus

Do not confuse the minimum-inning threshold with an automatic completed game. The score situation still must allow a winner to be determined under the applicable rules.

FHSAA 19.2.1.1.3 - Sub-Varsity Two-Hour Limit

FHSAA modification / regulation

In sub-varsity baseball, **no new inning starts two hours after the first pitch**. An inning already in progress is completed.

Umpire training focus

Track the official first-pitch time and discuss the time-limit procedure with the site administrator/coach crew before play when appropriate.

Practical note

Exception 1: weather-delay time is added to the two-hour limit. **Exception 2:** when another game is not scheduled to follow, a tie after the limit is played out with additional innings. **Exception 3:** on Saturday, in a doubleheader situation such as varsity following sub-varsity, a tie at the time limit ends as a tie.

Source clarification: The 2026-27 Officials Regulations state that Exception 2 applies when another game is not scheduled to follow. This wording is used in this training guide because it is the current published officials-regulation language.

Pregame & Chapter Training Checklist

FHSAA Administrative Rule - Arm Care Conditioning

FHSAA modification / regulation

Beginning on the first Monday of January, baseball and softball student-athletes may participate in "Arm Care Conditioning" using a glove and baseball under coach supervision. The provision applies to all players, including bullpen activity.

Umpire training focus

This is primarily a preseason/administrative rule rather than an in-game ruling. Officials should recognize the term and understand that it is an FHSAA-authorized conditioning period, not regular team practice.

- **1. Field:** Confirm the required double first base is installed and usable.
- **2. Coach equipment:** Verify first- and third-base coaches understand the non-earflap helmet requirement.
- **3. Speed-up rules:** Be prepared for one team to exercise an allowed option without opponent agreement.
- **4. Conduct:** Review Florida's restriction/ejection differences before the game so the crew uses the correct consequence.
- **5. Run rules:** Know both thresholds - 15 after 3.5/4 and 10 after 4.5/5.
- **6. Interrupted games:** If play is stopped, document the full game state before leaving the field.
- **7. Sub-varsity clock:** Record first pitch, add weather-delay time, and know whether another game follows.
- **8. Protests:** Remember that officials' decisions are final under FHSAA rules; no protest procedure applies.

Chapter Discussion Prompts

- A JV game reaches the two-hour mark tied on a Tuesday with no game scheduled afterward. What happens next?
- A Saturday JV/varsity doubleheader reaches the JV time limit tied. How is the JV game handled?
- A coach receives a penalty under NFHS 3-3-1. What does Florida change about restriction versus ejection?
- A game is stopped by a light failure in the third inning. How should the crew classify and document the game?
- A home team leads by 15 runs after the visiting half of the fourth. Is the game over immediately?

Primary References

FHSAA, 2026-27 Baseball Sport Manual - Competition Rules 4.1.1.1.1 and 4.1.1.1.2.

FHSAA, 2026-27 Officials Regulations - Baseball Regulations 19.2.1.

Training-use note: This guide summarizes Florida-specific differences for umpire education. It does not replace the current NFHS Baseball Rules Book, FHSAA Handbook/Sport Manual, FHSAA Officials Regulations, official interpretations, or later FHSAA updates.