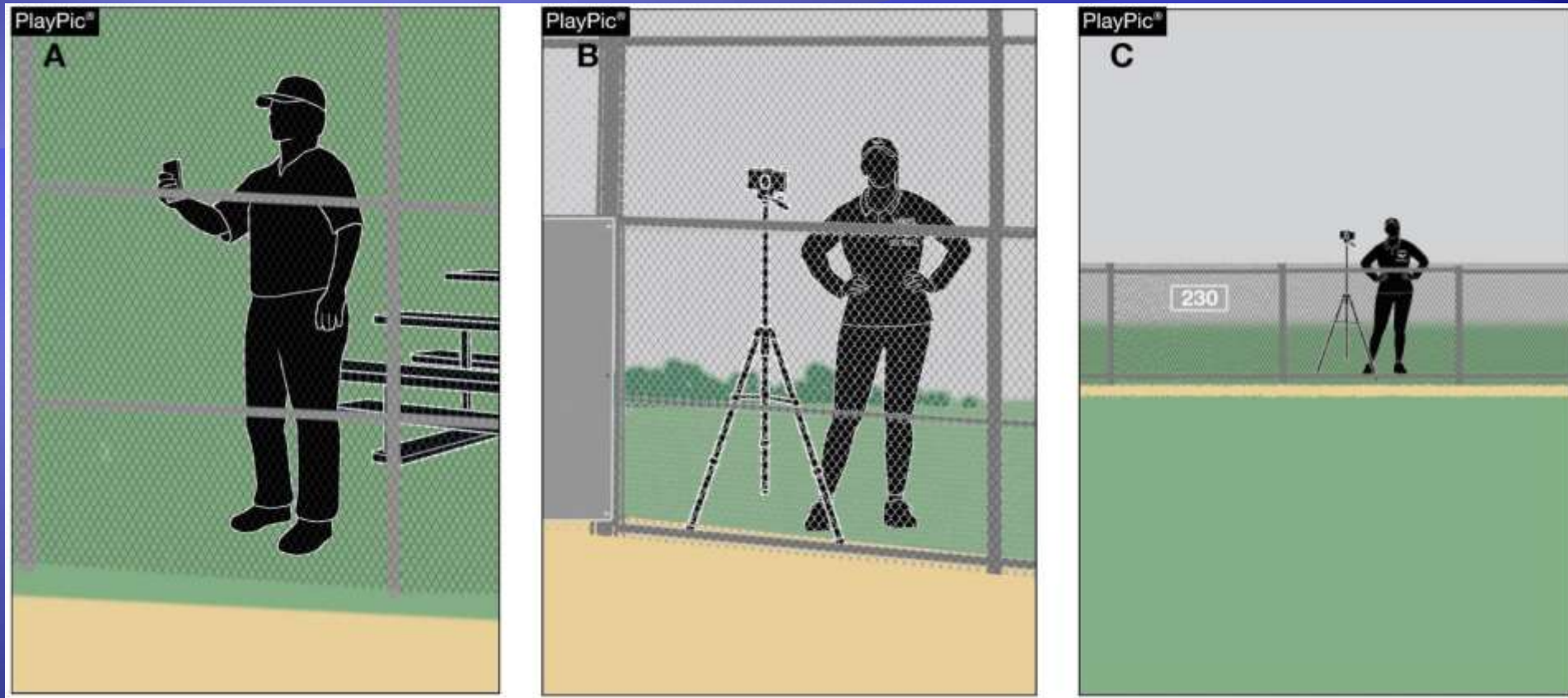


January 31, 2024

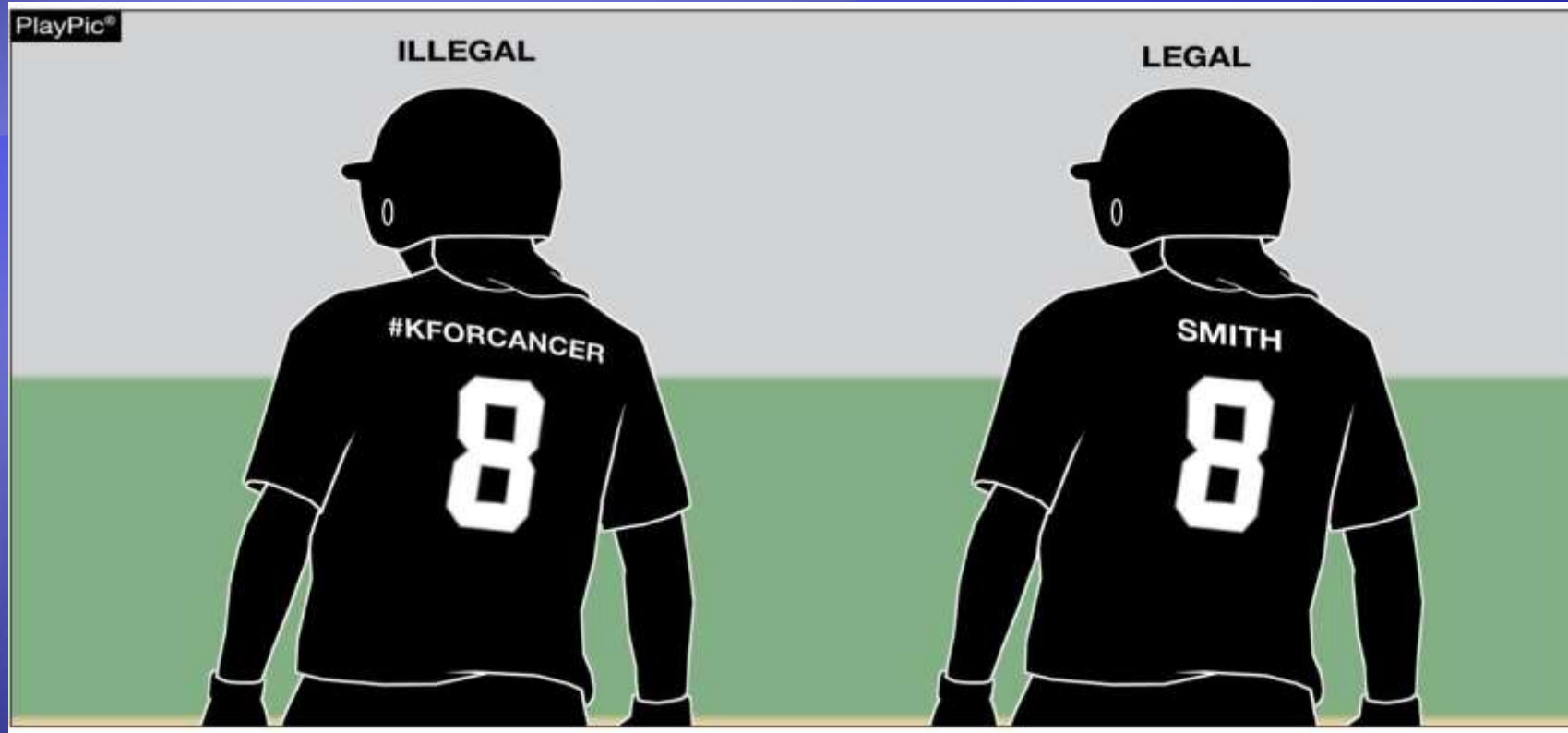
# 2024 NFHS SOFTBALL NEW RULES

# OTHER EQUIPMENT 1-8-6



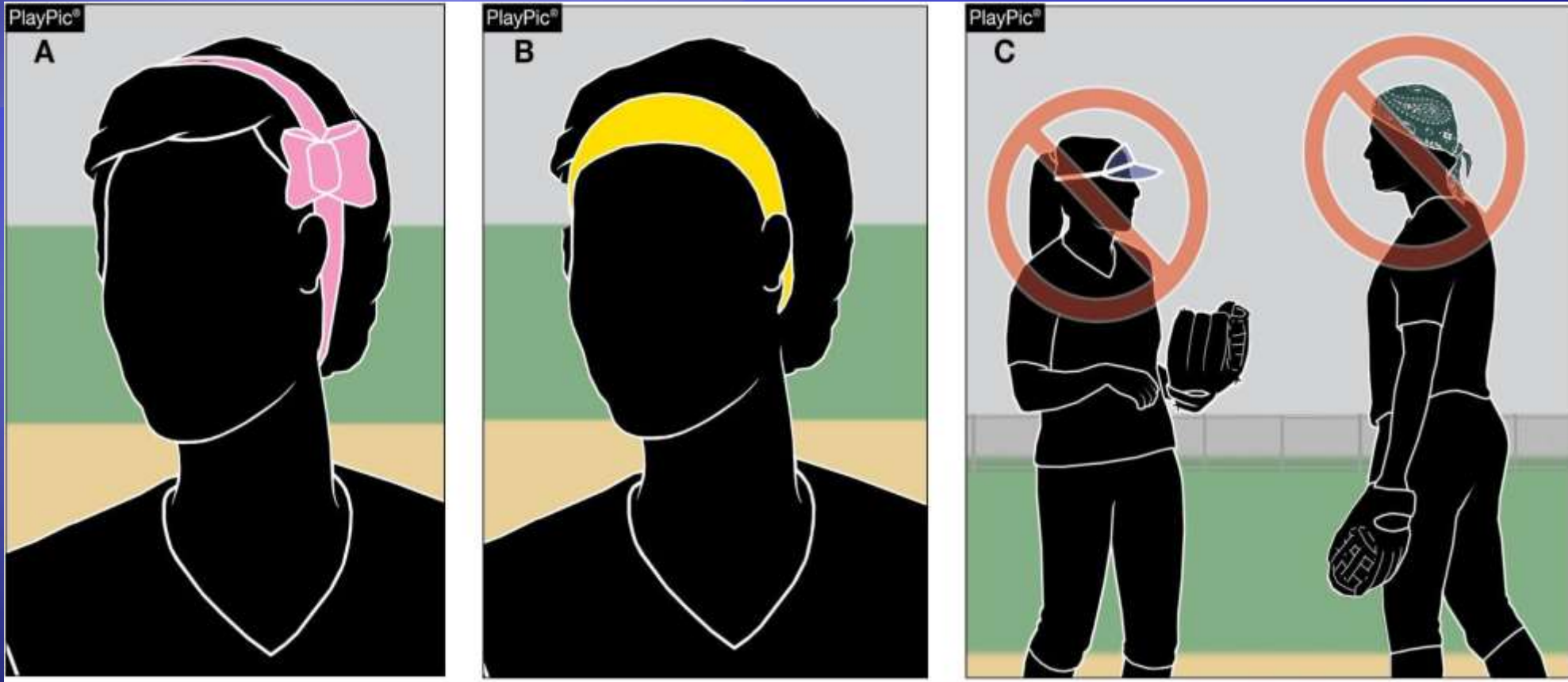
Electronic information may be transmitted to the dugout from anywhere outside of live ball area. However, electronic devices used for coaching purposes may only be utilized in the dugout.

# UNIFORMS, PLAYER EQUIPMENT 3-2-3



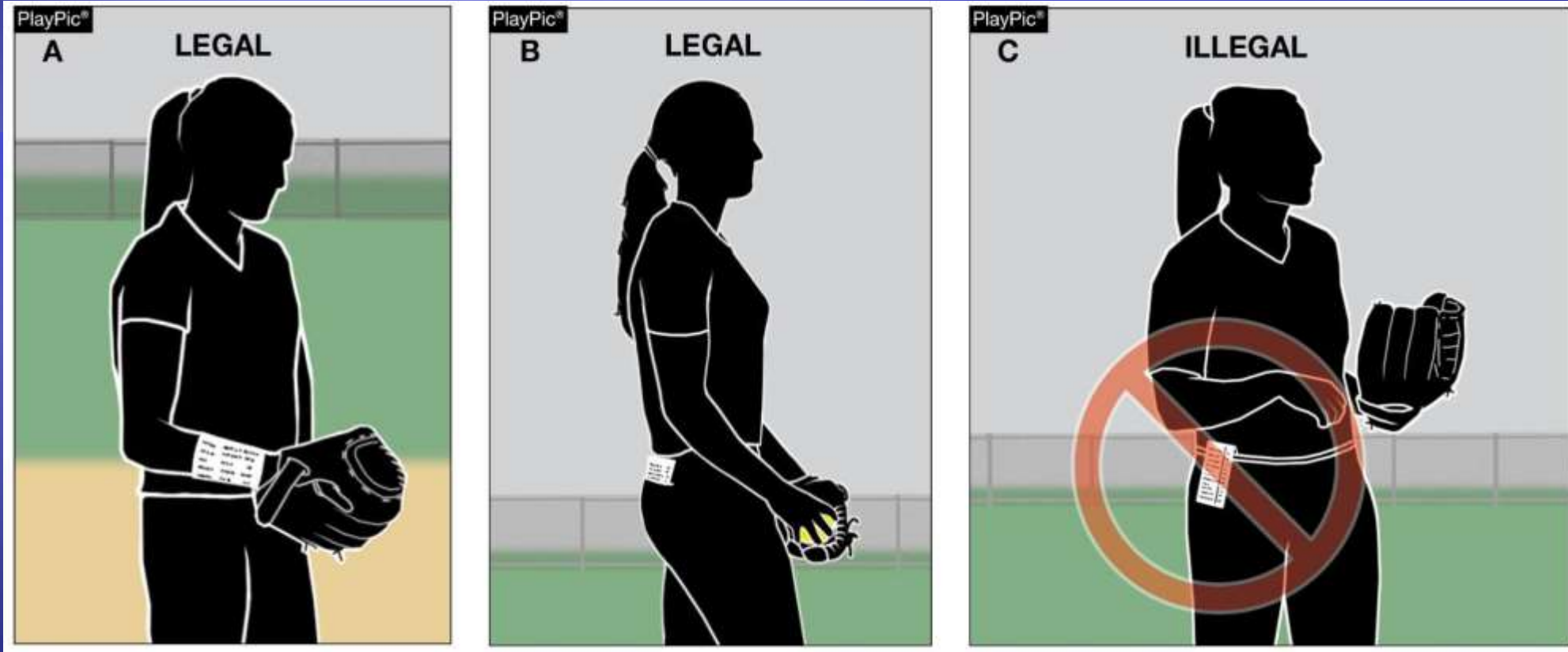
Beginning January 1, 2027, uniforms may only bear a single manufacturer's logo, school name, school logo, mascot and/or the participant's name. Advertisements, messages, team slogans, etc., will no longer be permitted.

# UNIFORMS, PLAYER EQUIPMENT 3-2-5



There is no longer a color restriction for headbands and ribbons and they may be mixed. However, if judged to be distracting / dangerous, must be removed. Plus, plastic visors and bandanas are still illegal.

# UNIFORMS, PLAYER EQUIPMENT 3-2-7



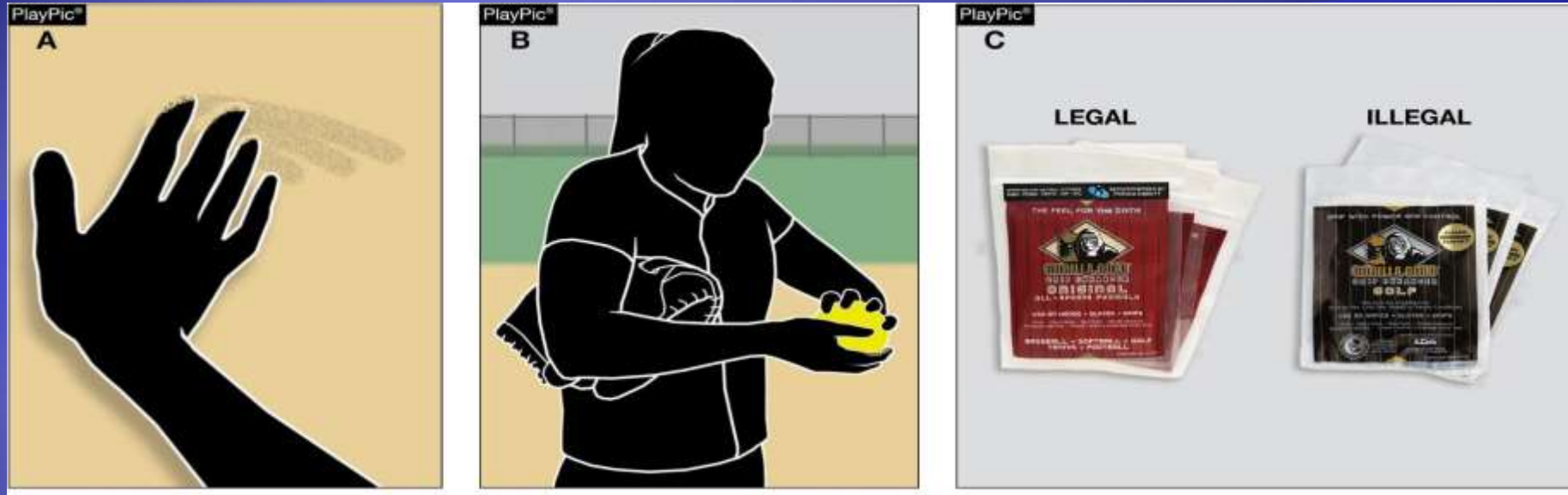
A wristband with a playbook/playcard may only be worn on a player's wrist or arm or kept in the back pocket. It may not be worn on the belt. If a pitcher wears one, it must be on the non-pitching arm.

# ENDING A GAME, PLATE UMPIRE 4-2-7 & 10-2-3e, h



The umpire may call (end) a game if playing conditions around the facility become unacceptable to safely continue the game.

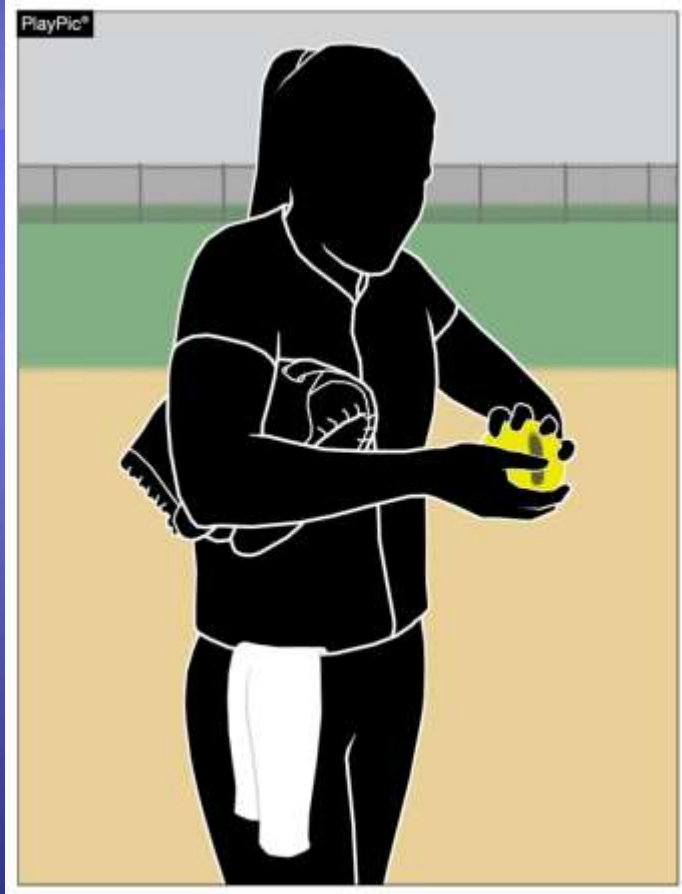
# INFRACTIONS BY PITCHER (F.P.) 6-2-2



Pitchers may only use dirt, powdered rosin or comparable drying agents that are listed on the **USA Softball's certified equipment webpage to dry the hand**.

- Gorilla Grip – Original – legal;      Gorilla Grip – Golf – Not legal

# Comparable drying agents



- ◆ Pitchers are not permitted to use any **non-approved** substance on the ball or on contact points of the pitching hand or fingers.
- ◆ No foreign substances may be applied to the ball.
- ◆ If a pitcher licks their fingers, the player must wipe their fingers prior to touching the ball.
- ◆ It is not necessary to wipe off the drying agent before making contact with the ball.
- ◆ Can be rubbed on your hand but neither can be rubbed on the ball, the same as dirt.
- ◆ Chalk is considered not foreign and using it to dry the hand is not considered as deliberately removing a line on the field of play.



# PITCHING REGULATIONS (F.P.) 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 with the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot.
- 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.**
- Definition for "Replant" has been added to the rule book and "Crow Hop" has been removed.

## PITCHING MECHANICS: REPLANT POE

- A replant prior to the delivery would result in an illegal pitch.
- “Closing the hip,” is pushing with the pivot foot while delivering the pitch. Depending on the pitching style, the pitcher will either bring their pivot foot forward to square up toward the batter or they will tuck the pivot foot behind the non-pivot foot. This push is during the act of delivering the pitch and is legal.

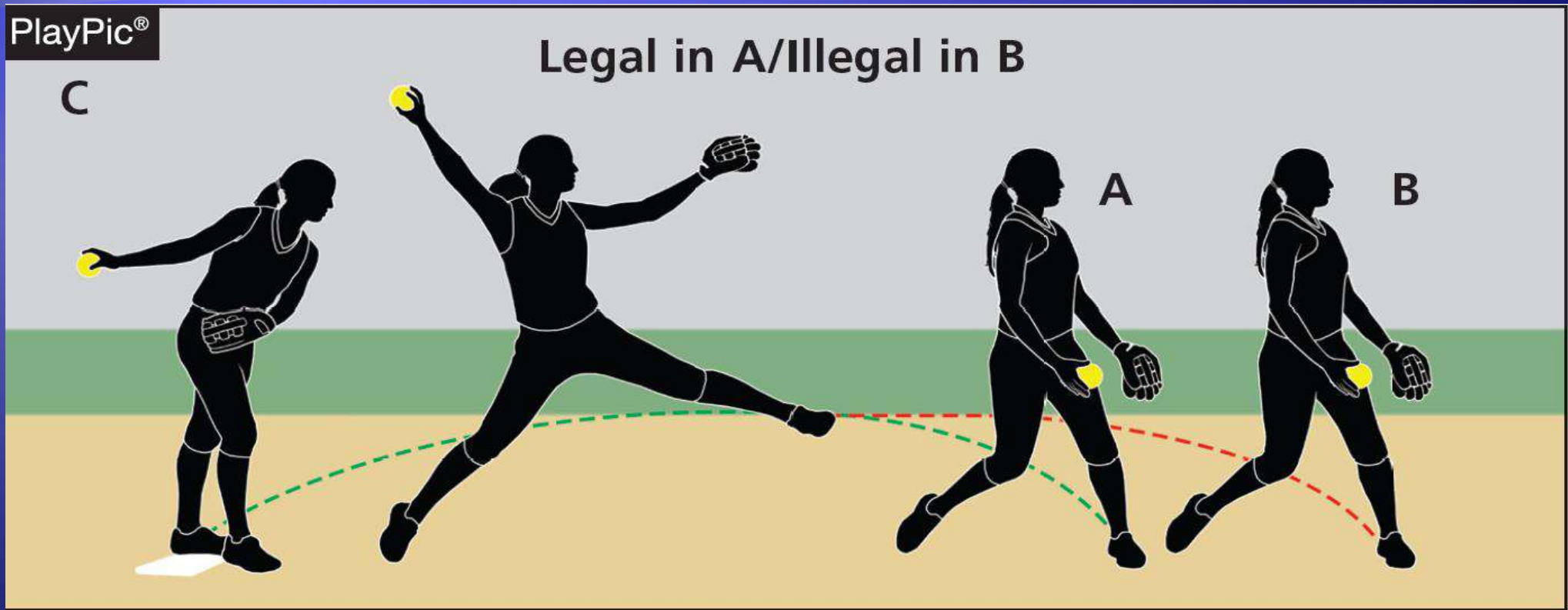
# PITCHING MECHANICS: REPLANT

**BREAKDOWN OF PITCH AND  
DISCUSSION ON REPLANT**

## PITCHING MECHANICS: REPLANT POE

- A replant prior to the delivery would result in an illegal pitch.
- It is an illegal action if the pitcher slides their foot forward past the pitching plate pushing off to start their movement from a position in front of the pitching plate (no part of their foot is still in contact with or over the pitching plate).

# PITCHING MECHANICS: REPLANT

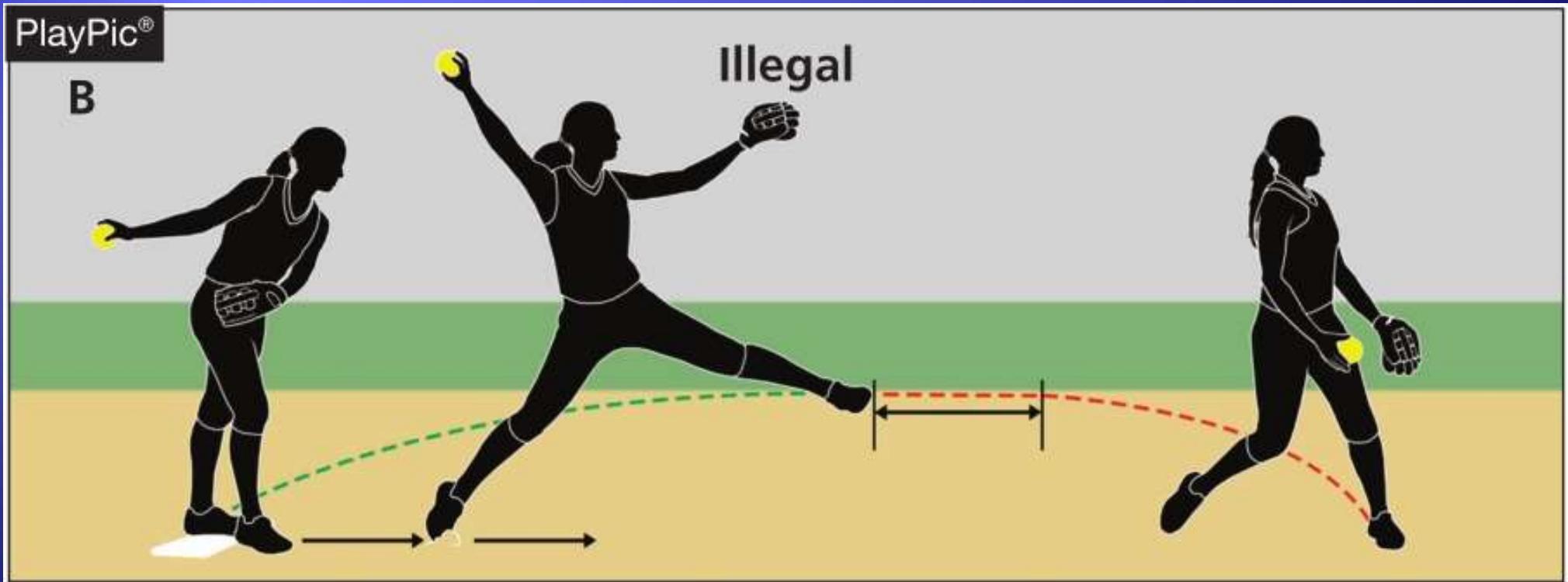


## PITCHING MECHANICS: REPLANT



Stepping forward and pushing off from a position in front of the pitcher's plate is a re-plant and illegal.

# PITCHING MECHANICS: REPLANT



# **2024 NFHS SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**



# BATS

## 1-5-1c & 2-4-3



Adds the words “when initially detected” to clarify what occurs when a damaged bat is initially discovered in the game.

# BATTING AND CATCHERS HELMETS

## 1-6-1 & 1-7-1

- Rule 1-6-1: Updates the current stamp used by NOCSAE for approved batting helmets.

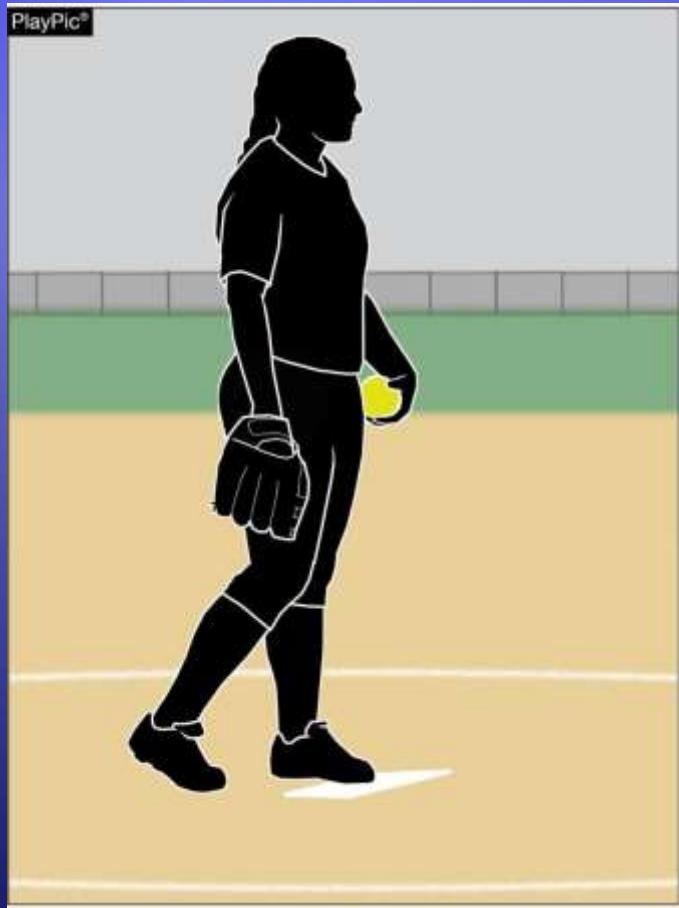


- Rule 1-7-1: Updates the current stamp used by NOCSAE for approved catcher's helmets.



# PITCHING REGULATIONS (F.P.)

## 6-1-1b



Adds the wording “in contact with the pitcher’s plate” to clarify where the pitcher is required to take (or simulate taking) a signal from the catcher.

# POSITION AND BATTING ORDER 7-1-2 PENALTY 2

PlayPic®

**A**

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS  
Official Line-up  
Softball

DATE: May 7, 23 TEAM: Union Eagles

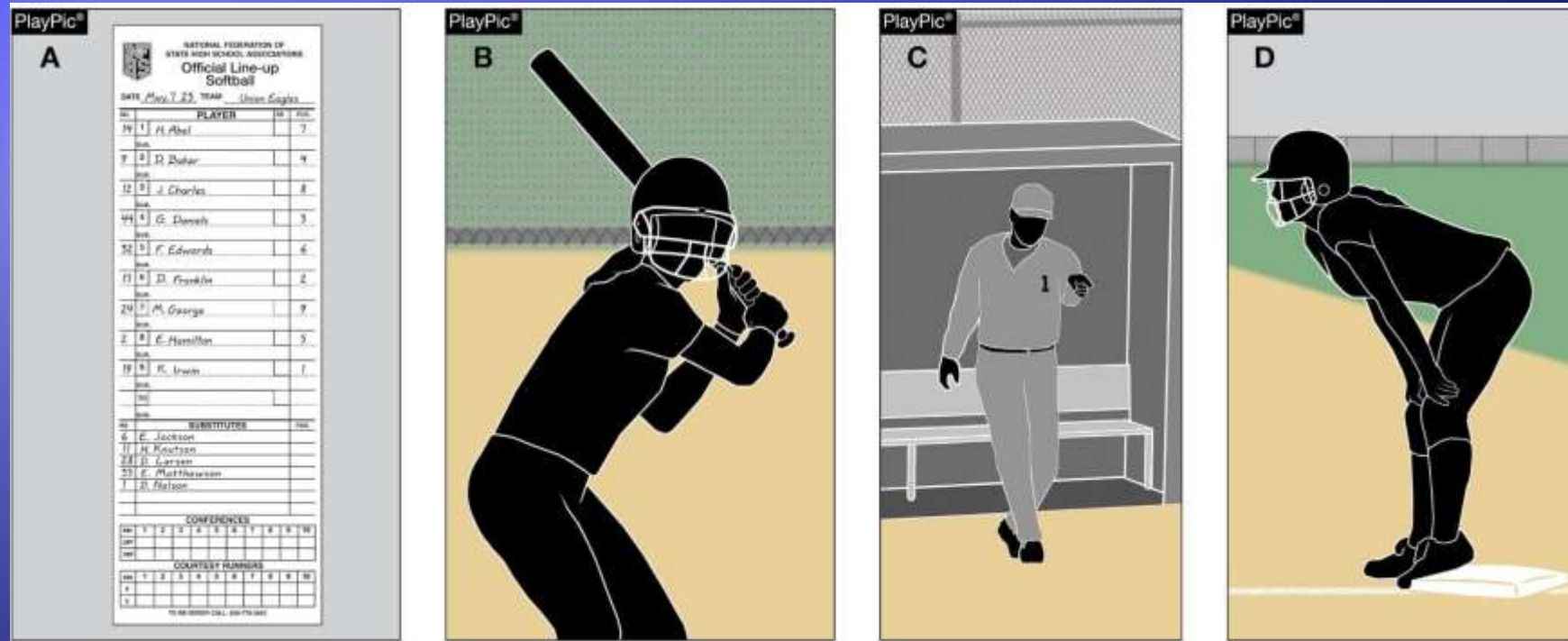
NO.	PLAYER	POS.	HT.							
11	H. Abel	7								
7	D. Baker	4								
12	J. Charles	8								
99	G. Daniels	3								
32	F. Edwards	6								
17	D. Franklin	2								
24	M. George	9								
2	E. Hamilton	5								
19	K. Irwin	1								
SUBSTITUTES										
6	E. Jackson									
11	H. Lawson									
23	D. Lawson									
35	E. Matthews									
7	D. Nelson									
CONFERENCES										
INF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DEF										
INF										
COURTESY RUNNERS										
INF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
DEF										
INF										

TO BE ORDER CHECKED BY THE UMP



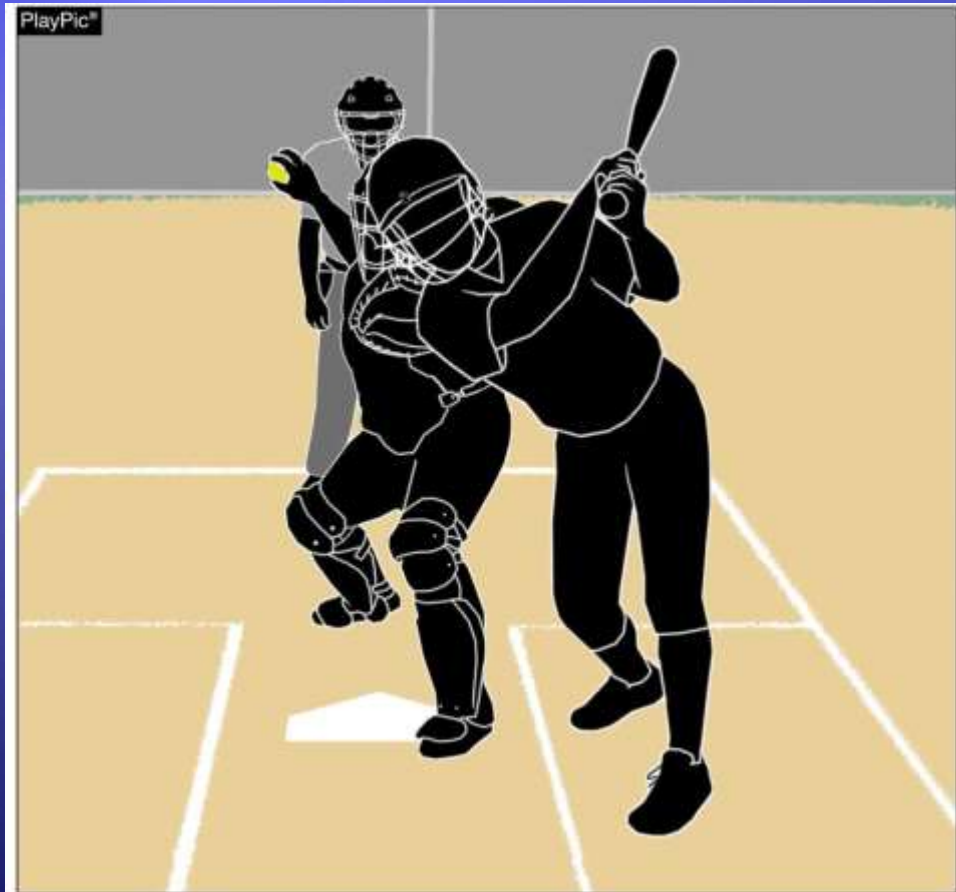
Changes the formatting in the penalty to clarify the effects of when an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the next pitch.

# POSITION AND BATTING ORDER 7-1-2 PENALTY 3



Formats the penalty to clarify the effect for when an improper batter has completed their turn at bat and no appeal has been made before the next pitch.

# BATTER IS OUT 7-4-4

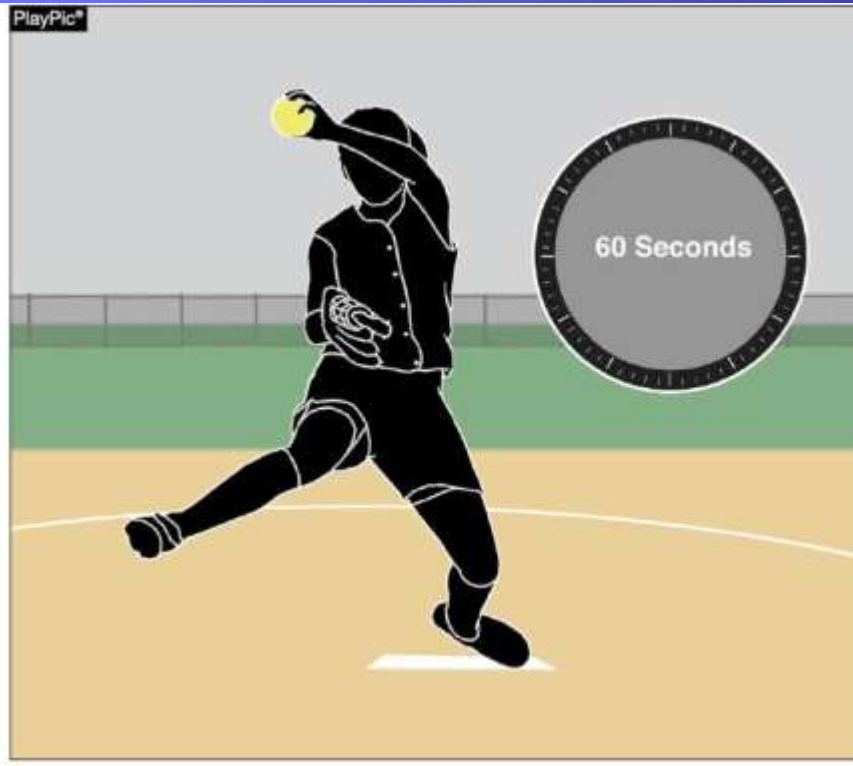
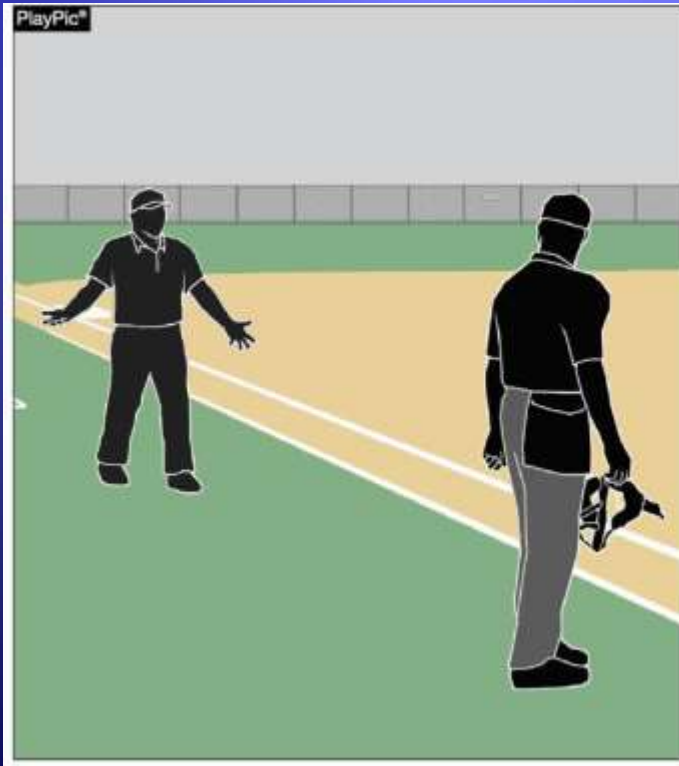


Formats the rule to clarify the various ways the batter can interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing.

# **2024 NFHS SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

# GAME MANAGEMENT

## Points of Emphasis



- Umpire and coach communication should be conversational, not confrontational.

Professionalism should be followed by coaches and umpires to maintain a successful working relationship.

Although umpires are not there to “rush” players, one of their responsibilities is to help maintain a good flow of the game.



# UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS



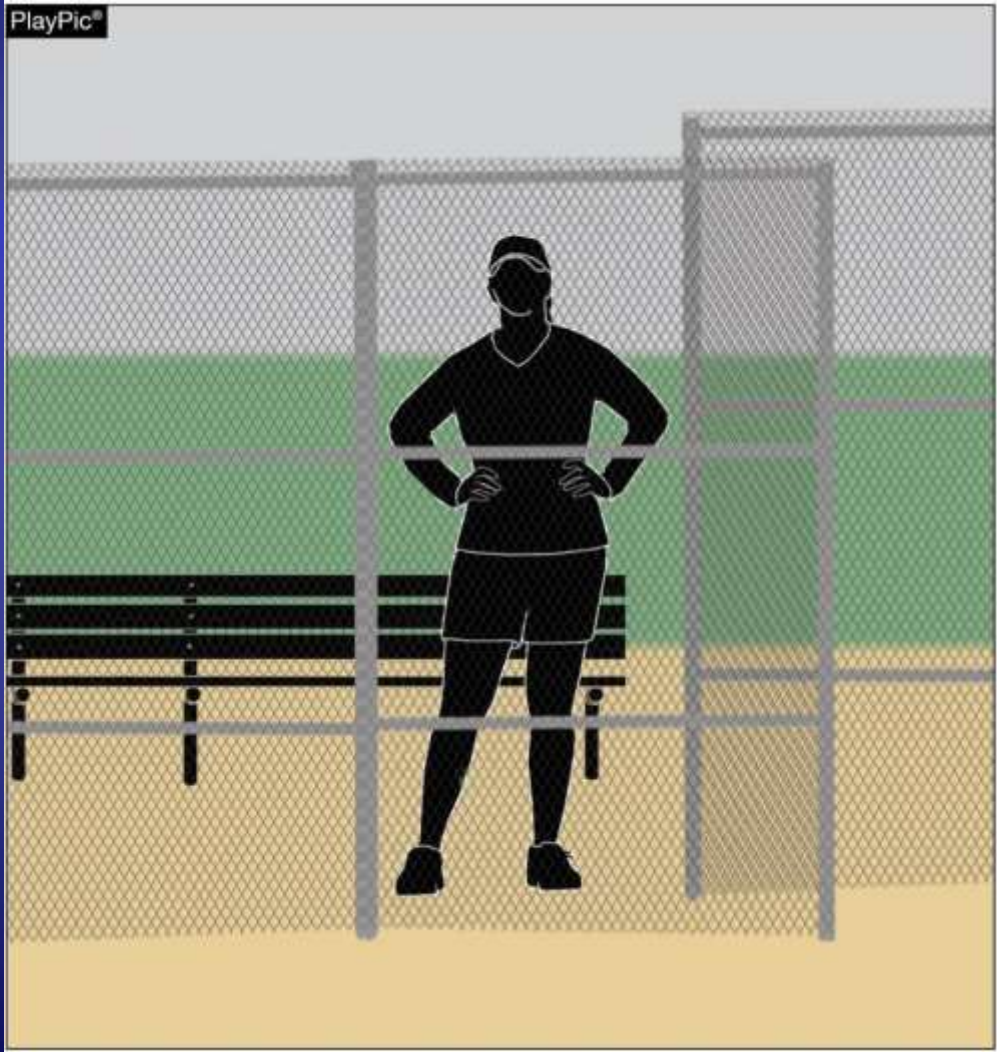
- Umpire jurisdiction is limited to the confines of the field of play. Issues outside of the field of play such as spectator behavior is monitored and controlled by event management.
- Absent a designated event manager, the home team's head coach assumes this responsibility.
- However, if conditions become unacceptable for play due to spectator conduct, umpires have the authority to call (end) the contest.

# UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS



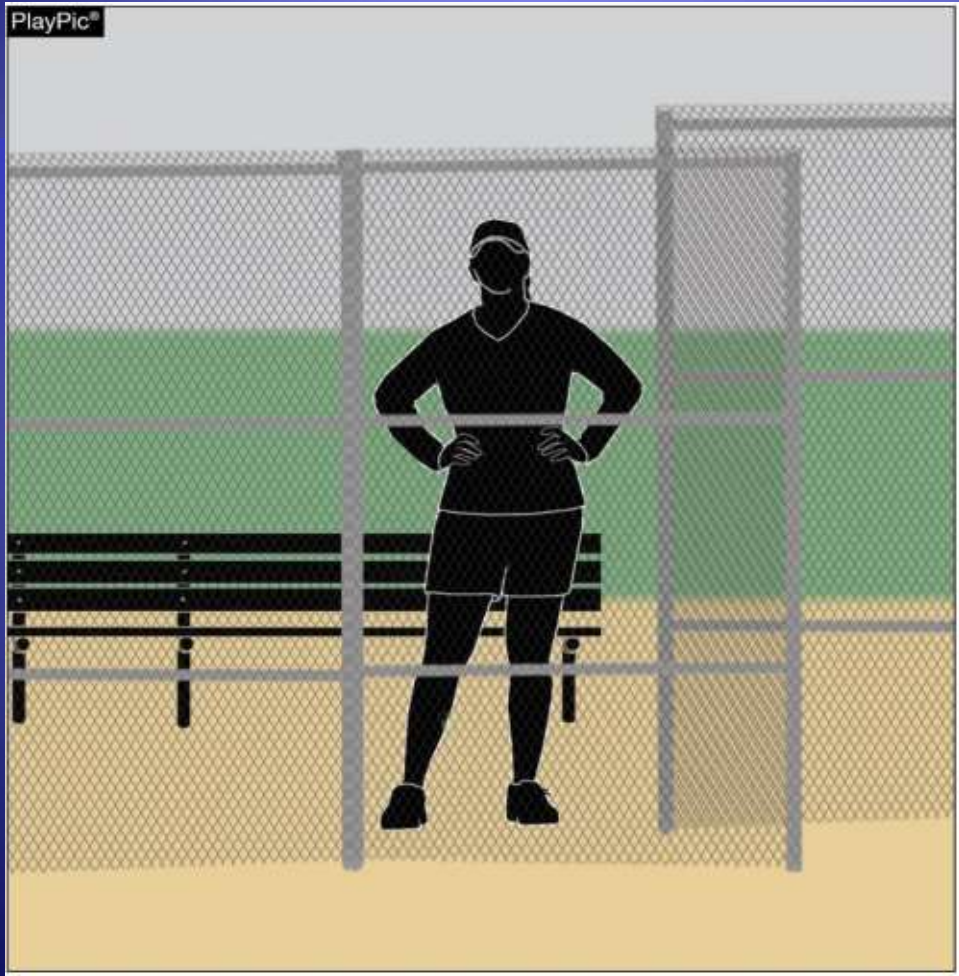
- In addition to spectator behavior, other external conditions could result in the umpire having to call (end) the contest.
- For example, at the start of a game, a wildfire might be a safe distance with winds carrying the smoke away from the field. If these conditions change and result in conditions becoming unacceptable for play, it may result in an umpire having to call (end) the game.

# UNREPORTED VS. ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTIONS



- An illegal substitute is a player who is ineligible to occupy a position in the lineup. This can occur when a player:
  1. Enters or re-enters the game without eligibility to do so (illegal re-entry).
  2. Re-enters the game in the wrong position in the batting order.
  3. Is the (F.P.) FLEX and enters the game as a batter or runner in a different position in the batting order than the DP.
  4. Violates the courtesy runner rule.
- All of these violations result in an illegal substitution and the offender is restricted to the bench/dugout for the first offense.

# UNREPORTED VS. ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTIONS



- 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.
- The first offense results in a team warning.
- Subsequent offenses result in the offender being restricted to the bench/dugout for the first offense.

