



2015 Points of Emphasis

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

An electronic device is defined as any device that accomplishes its purpose electronically. Technology has presented coaches and players with a wide variety of devices that can be used for their improvement. Rule 1-8-6 allows for team personnel to utilize technology to transmit or record information pertaining **ONLY** to their players or team's performance within their team dugout or bench area.

The information obtained from an electronic device may be used for coaching purposes during the game, but only in the team's dugout or bench area. During the game no electronic devices are allowed on the field to video record. Rule 3-6-10 allows for stopwatches and electronic score keeping devices in the coaching box. Rule 3-6-11 prohibits the use of any information obtained from an electronic device to review a decision made by an umpire. Any video recording solely targeting the actions of the opponent is prohibited.

INTERFERENCE

Interference is defined by Rule 2-32 as an act (physical or verbal) by a member of the team at bat who illegally impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder; or when a runner creates malicious contact with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline.

The NFHS Softball Rules Committee strongly emphasizes that coaches instruct their players of this definition, and what they need to do. As stated these acts may be physical or verbal and intentional or unintentional. Batters and runners must be taught to be aware of where the ball is and where the opposing team fielders are in relationship to the ball.

OBSTRUCTION

Obstruction is defined by Rule 2-36 as the act of a defensive team member that hinders or impedes the progress of a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitched ball or that impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running the bases, unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball. The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal.

The NFHS Softball Rules Committee strongly emphasizes that coaches must instruct their players of this definition. Players need to be instructed that they cannot hinder or impede any runner when they are not making a play on a ball or have the ball in their possession. Players need to be made aware of where they are on the field in relationship to opposing team members who are running the bases.