



## 2012-13 IHSAA Softball Equipment

The following information pertains to the National Federation rules regarding softball equipment for the 2012-13 season.

### **Ball Compression (NFHS Rule 1-3-3)**

The ball compression for fast pitch softballs cannot exceed 375 lbs. All balls shall be marked with the COR (.47) and Compression (375lbs) by the manufacturer.

### **Bats (NFHS Rule 1-5-1d and 1-5-2a)**

The bat shall meet the Amateur Softball Association (ASA) 2004 Bat Performance Standard, bear either the 2000 or 2004 certification mark, and not be listed on the ASA non-approved bat list as found on [www.asasoftball.com](http://www.asasoftball.com). A bat with the new 2013 certification mark is an illegal bat. The new mark is for slow pitch bats only, and are not approved for fast pitch bats. Bat barrels made entirely of wood are permitted and need not bear an ASA mark, but shall not exceed 2¼ inches in diameter. **Umpires are expected to carry updated lists to each contest, and are responsible for checking all bats.**

The bat knob may be molded, lathed, welded or permanently fastened. Cone and axe shape handle are legal. Devices, attachments or wrappings are permitted that allow the knob to become flush with the handle. However, choke up devices are illegal. A one-piece rubber knob and bat grip combination is illegal.

### **Batting Helmets (NFHS Rule 1-6-1, 1-6-6)**

A batting helmet with a permanently affixed NOCSAE stamp and legible exterior warning label is mandatory for each batter, on-deck batter, players/students in the coaches box, runners and retired runners. The exterior warning label may be affixed to the outside of the helmet, which includes both sides of the bill, in either sticker form or embossed (at the point of manufacturer). Batting helmets shall be equipped with a NOCSAE-approved face protector. The phrase, "Meets NOCSAE Standard" must be permanently affixed to the face protector.

### **WARNING**

**DO NOT USE THIS HELMET IF THE SHELL IS CRACKED OR DEFORMED; OR IF THE INTERIOR PADDING IS DETERIORATED. SEVERE HEAD OR NECK INJURY, INCLUDING PARALYSIS OR DEATH MAY OCCUR TO YOU DESPITE USING THIS HELMET. NO HELMET CAN PREVENT ALL HEAD INJURIES OR ANY NECK INJURIES A PLAYER MIGHT RECEIVE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL.**

### **Catcher Headgear (NFHS Rule 1-7-1)**

The catcher shall wear a catcher's helmet and mask combination that meets the NOCSAE standard. The helmet shall bear the permanent NOCSAE seal. A throat protector that is part of or attached to the mask shall extend far enough to adequately protect the throat. An attached throat protector shall be commercially manufactured, properly attached, unaltered and worn properly.

### **Shoes (NFHS Rule 3-2-11)**

Shoes are required equipment. All players must wear shoes with plastic, nylon, canvas, leather or similar synthetic material uppers. The soles may be smooth, have soft or hard rubber cleats or rectangular metal spikes. Metal cleats must not extend in excess of ¾ inch from the sole and shall not be round. Shoes with detachable rubber or metal cleats that screw into the sole of the shoes are permitted.