

# **2024 Rule Reminders:**

## **1. METAL CLEATS**

- a. **Metal cleats are permitted for all levels this season, Spring of 2024.**

## **2. EYE BLACK**

- a. There is no “eye black” restriction, provided it isn’t unsporting. Excessive, poorly done, poorly designed, not your particular taste, etc.” does not amount to unsporting. When in doubt, err on the side of participation, not disqualification. Remember, this is not NFHS and we aren’t PIAA.

## **3. FASHION POLICE**

- a. NYSSO umpires do not wear zebra striped shirts – we are NOT the fashion police. Teams swap home and away, uniform orders come in late or don’t reflect what was actually ordered, parents screw up laundry, high schoolers are forgetful. Find a way to justify allowing players to play.

## **4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Refer to pages 51 and 52 for guidance regarding having a rostered player who you might not have expected. Coaches may only submit lineups for players meeting their schools’ standards. Questioning it is outside the officials’ jurisdiction.

## **5. APPEALS**

- a. Softball allows both live ball and dead ball appeals. Remember, once runners have completed their attempted base running responsibilities and the pitcher has the ball in the circle, the defense can simply request “time.” Once granted, they can verbally announce what they are appealing.
- b. Throwing to the base isn’t necessary and, arguably, is a nullity since the ball is dead anyway.

## **6. CATCHER’S BOX**

- a. Regardless of how it may be drawn erroneously on the field, the width of the catcher’s box extends to the outermost line of each batter’s box. That makes the box 8’ 5”.

## **7. INTENTIONAL BASE-ON-BALLS**

- a. Intentionally walking a batter requires the pitcher to throw four pitches declared “ball” by the plate umpire. There are no automatic intentional walks in USA Softball. The pitcher may not drop the ball or intentionally create an illegal pitch to avoid throwing four balls. The catcher is permitted to stand anyway in the catcher’s box (this is true even when not attempting to intentionally walk a batter). They are restricted to the box until the pitch is released. After that, she can move as far out as she wishes.

## **8. UNREPORTED SUBS**

- a. Despite NYS not penalizing a player for being an unreported substitute, substitutes must be reported to the plate umpire. This is the only way to ensure the integrity of the lineup by knowing who has entered and who has been removed. It is the plate umpire’s responsibility to report changes to the other team.