



# 2025 NFHS SOFTBALL PACE OF PLAY DISCUSSION



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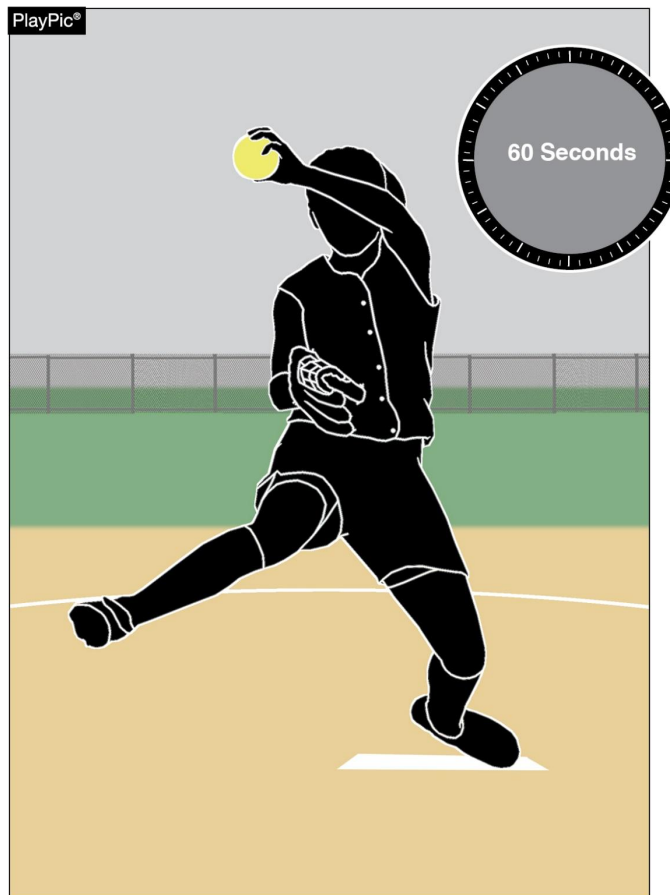


# DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE ABOUT PACE OF PLAY

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- NFHS POE for the last several years
  - Focused on time between innings
  - Reminder for umpires to maintain good game flow as a part of game management
  - Focused on coaches role in game flow
  - Reminder of timing between innings and timing aspects for batter and pitcher between pitches

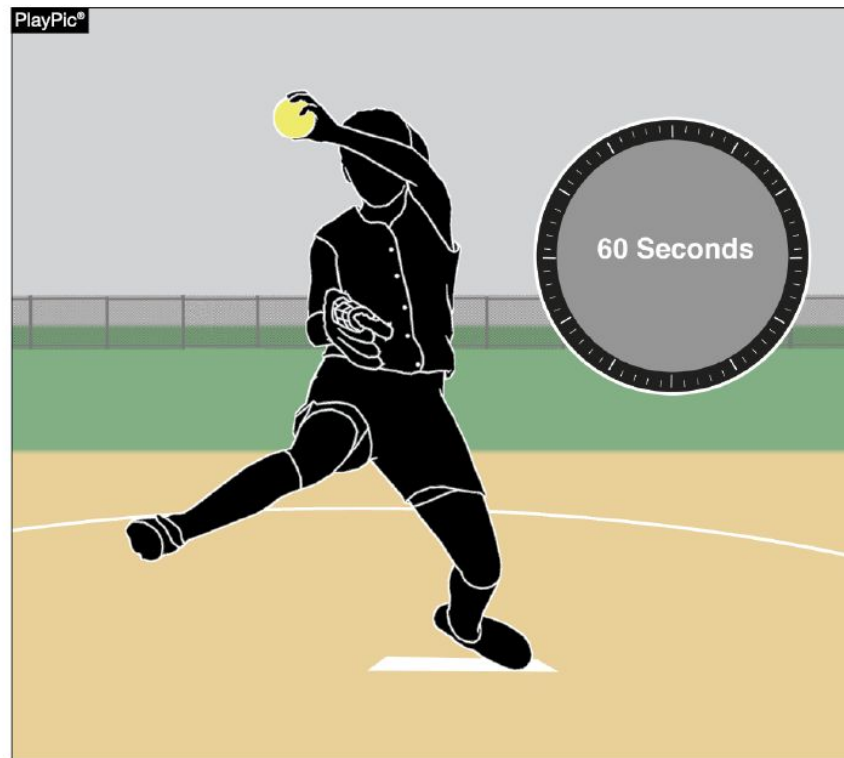
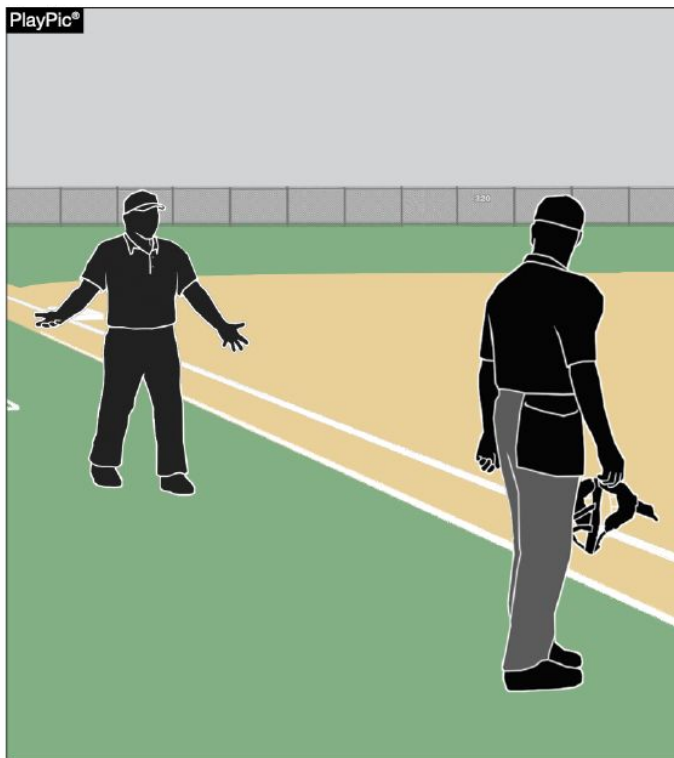
## TIME BETWEEN INNINGS 2022-23



- Umpires and coaches should pay strict attention to the 60-second time limit between half-innings.
- At the beginning of each half-inning no more than one minute may be used to deliver no more than five pitches to the catcher or other teammate.
- The one-minute time limit begins from the third out of the previous half-inning.
- A pitcher returning to the pitching position in the same half inning will not be granted any warm-up pitches.
- Umpires may authorize more pitches during inclement weather or if a pitcher was removed due to injury or by rule.



# GAME MANAGEMENT 2023-24



- 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.



## TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY 2024-25



There has been a lot of emphasis on pace of play the past several seasons. This year, the focus is on coaches, who play a vital role in creating and maintaining pace-of-play standards.

Between innings, 60 seconds is provided for the defense to take the field and throw warm-up pitches. If the catcher was batting when the inning ended, coaches should have another teammate prepared to receive warm-up pitches.

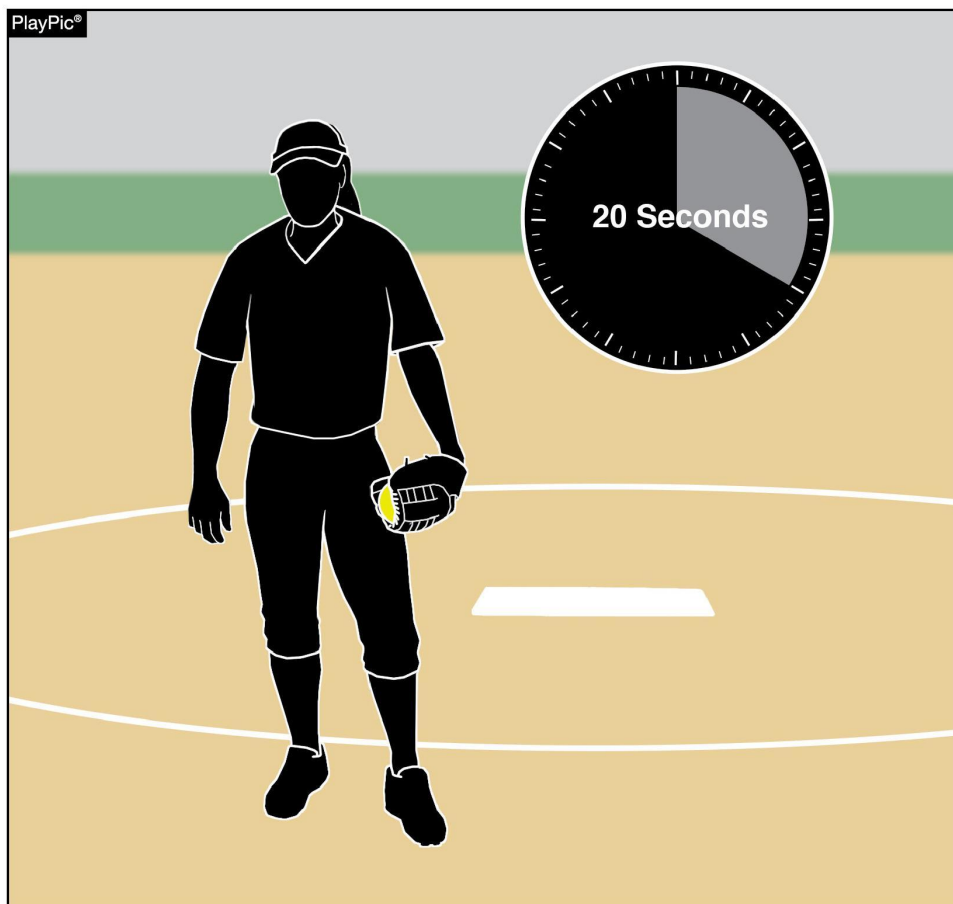
## TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY 2024-25



The offense also has 60 seconds to prepare to bat. While coaches may choose to huddle with their team as they come off the field, coaches should encourage their lead-off batter to gather their equipment and get ready to bat.



## TEAM'S ROLE IN PACE OF PLAY 2024-25

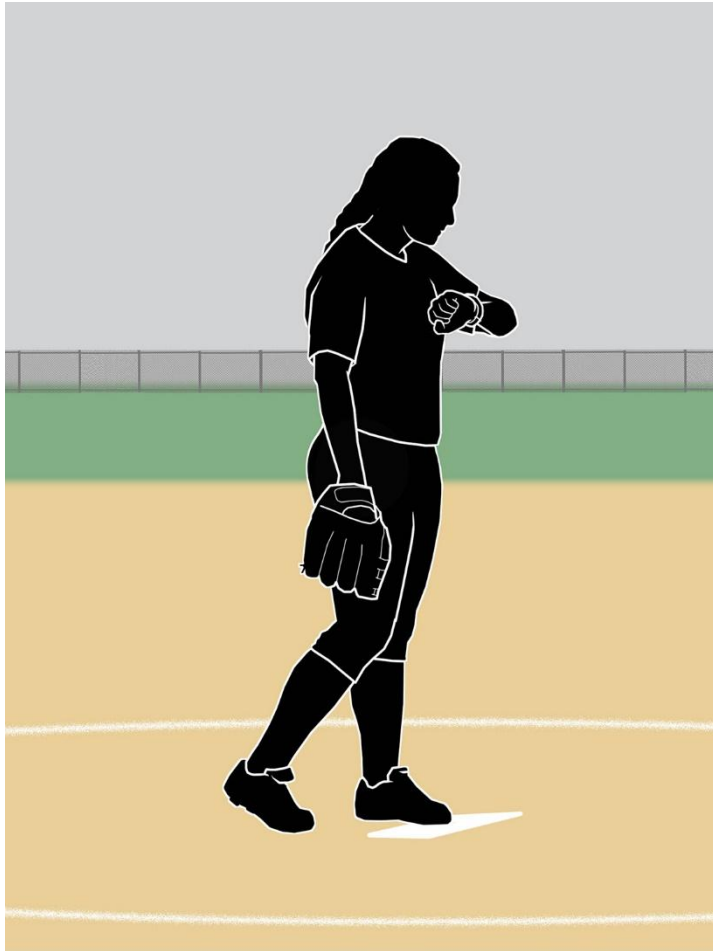


Once the 60 seconds between innings has elapsed, the batter has 10 seconds to enter the batter's box and the pitcher has 20 seconds to legally deliver a pitch.

The pitcher also has 20 seconds to release a pitch once the ball has been returned from a previous pitch and the batter has 10 seconds to enter the batter's box after the ball is returned.

A ball or strike is added to the count, depending on the tardy party.

## OTHER CONCERNS ABOUT PACE OF PLAY



- One item that has been mentioned is the perceived increase in time taken to call pitches
- There have been delays in coaches searching the playcard then relaying the call
- Resulting in increased time between pitches approaching or exceeding the 20 second allowance





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# OPEN DISCUSSION



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# QUESTIONS



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# THANK YOU

National Federation of State High School Associations

PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, IN 46206

Phone: 317-972-6900

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