

Larger first base option allowed in high school baseball

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

LEXINGTON — Beginning next year, high school baseball teams will be given the option to use an 18-inch first base or the double first base. The larger base is presented as an alternative to the previously mandated double first base, which goes into effect in 2027.

The larger first base option was one of seven rules changes recommended by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee at its meeting last month in Indi-

anapolis and which were subsequently approved by the NFHS Rules Review Committee and NFHS Board of Directors.

In conjunction with the double first base, allowing a larger first base has proven to be effective in reducing player collisions and enhancing player safety.

“The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee believes that providing schools with the option of using either an 18-inch first base or a double first base gives administrators the flexibility to enhance

player safety while recognizing the varying needs and resources of member schools,” said Elliot Hopkins, director of sports and liaison to the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee. “Both options are designed to reduce the potential for collisions at first base and support a reduced risk playing environment without changing the fundamental nature of the game.”

One-way electronic communication will now be allowed from the coach to the pitcher and/or the catcher for the purposes of

calling pitches. Prior, the catcher was the only defensive player allowed to receive communication from the coach. While the coach must still be located in the dugout/bench area, the committee believes this change responsibly integrates electronic communication that enhances game management.

Bat certification was addressed with USA Baseball assuming bat-testing standards. Effective in 2028,

SEE **LARGER/PAGE A8**

One-way electronic communications allowed for pitchers under softball rules changes

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

LEXINGTON — Pitchers will now join catchers as the only players in high school softball permitted to receive one-way electronic communication from the dugout, effective with the 2027 season.

This change was one of four recommendations by the NFHS Softball Rules Committee during its June 14-16 meeting in Indianapolis. All recommendations were later approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

“Deliberations by the NFHS Softball Rules Committee were spirited and robust,” said Sandy Searcy, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Softball Rules Committee. “Approval of these four rules proposals was the result of data collected from the membership, and specifically state association administrators. The committee is to be commended for its attention to detail, and thorough analysis of information available.”

Updated language now includes pitchers among the players permitted to receive one-way electronic communication from the dugout during games, allowing for faster delivery

of information. The use of all other electronic devices to transmit or record information remains prohibited on the field of play, and players are still prohibited from transmitting or recording audio or video from the playing surface.

The committee also simplified language regarding whether a pitcher and catcher must face the first batter on defense in relation to courtesy runners. In its comments, the committee said the change eliminates the requirement — or perceived requirement — that the pitcher and catcher listed on the starting lineup card must face the first batter on defense.

“Previously, there was a misconception that the pitcher and catcher listed on the lineup card were always required to face the first batter (one pitch), which was never the intent of the rule,” the committee noted. “This change simplifies the administration of the courtesy runner rule and eliminates a provision that applied only during the transition between the top and bottom halves of the first inning. By removing a unique scenario that applied only to the bottom of the first inning, the rule becomes easier for umpires, coaches, score-

keepers and players to administer and understand.”

Additional changes allow state associations to determine umpire uniforms and clarify the definition of an initial play to better align with other areas of the rules book.

“The committee was intentional in adopting changes that solve real issues encountered on high school softball fields,” said Andi Osters, chair of the NFHS Softball Rules Committee and assistant director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association. “Whether it’s improving communication between coaches and players, clarifying how interference should be judged after a deflected batted ball, streamlining the courtesy runner rule, or allowing states greater flexibility with umpire uniforms, each change reflects feedback

from the coaches and officials who administer our game every day. Our objective is always to make the rules as clear, consistent and practical as possible.”

A complete listing of the softball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on “Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Softball” and then “Rules.” The print version of the 2027 Softball Rules Book will be available for purchase in October at www.NFHS.com, and the digital version will be available in October via NFHS Digital at www.NFHS.org.

According to the 2024-25 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, a total of 338,315 girls participated in fast-pitch softball at 15,726 schools across the country, making it the fifth-most popular girls' sport.

High school track rules aim to improve throwing event safety

LEXINGTON — Two revisions in field events rules focused on reducing risk of injury highlight changes in high school track and field rules for the 2027 outdoor season.

The two field events rules were among four revisions recommended by the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee at its meeting last month in Indianapolis. All changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Rules Review Committee and NFHS Board of Directors.

In an effort to reduce risk of injury during warmups in the shot put and discus, all attempts now must be made from inside the circle and facing the sector. No backward, over-the-head attempts will be allowed.

The committee noted that warm-up attempts by athletes standing on the toe board with their backs to the sector are dangerous because competitors cannot see if the area is clear before throwing the implement. With the rule change next year, a clear line of sight will be available to make sure the landing area is safe prior to an attempt.

Another safety-related change approved by the committee addresses the growing use of foreign substances on shoes in the throwing events. Language has been revised to provide coaches and officials with clearer guidance.

“Overall, the top priority for the rules committee is always the safety and well-being of the student-athletes, and this year’s committee meeting

reflected that continued commitment,” said Julie Cochran, NFHS director of sports and middle schools and liaison to the Track and Field Rules Committee. “The rules committee continues to focus on minimizing risk in throws events and warm-ups to ensure a safer competitive environment. Overall, this was a highly productive meeting where the committee successfully balanced safety with practical rules revisions.”

The Track and Field Rules Committee also approved a revision in a rule change made last year in the vertical jumps, as well as a revision that provides games committees more flexibility in reporting for field events.

A complete listing of the track and field rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on “Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Track & Field” and then “Rules.” The print version of the 2027 Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book will be available for purchase in October at www.NFHS.com, and the digital version will be available in October via NFHS Digital at www.NFHS.org.

According to the 2024-25 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, outdoor track and field is the most popular sport for girls with a total of 513,808 participants in 17,373 schools, and it is the second-most popular sport for boys with a total of 644,235 participants in 17,390 schools across the country.



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Carroll County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids from qualified solid waste collection companies to provide comprehensive collection, transportation, and disposal of municipal solid waste within the unincorporated areas of Carroll County, Kentucky.

Bid specifications are available at the Carroll County Judge/Executive's Office, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, KY 41008, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by calling (502) 732-7000.

Sealed bids will be accepted beginning Friday, July 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and must be received no later than Monday, July 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Bids will be publicly opened during the Carroll County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

All bids shall be clearly marked:
"Solid Waste Collection, Transportation, and Disposal Franchise Bid"

The Carroll County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Carroll County.



LEGAL NOTICE

The Carroll County Fiscal Court will be accepting online bids for a 2013 F350 Ford Ambulance. Bidding will be open from July 17, 2026, through July 27, 2026.

All bids must be submitted through GovDeals.com.

For additional information, please contact the Carroll County Judge's Office.



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Carroll County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids from qualified contractors to provide comprehensive janitorial services for the William L. Wheeler Hall of Justice, located at 900 Clay Street, Carrollton, Kentucky 41008.

Bid specifications are available at the Carroll County Judge/Executive's Office, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, KY 41008, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by calling (502) 732-7000.

Sealed bids will be accepted beginning Friday, July 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and must be received no later than Monday, July 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Bids will be publicly opened during the Carroll County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

All bids shall be clearly marked:
"William L. Wheeler Hall of Justice Janitorial Services Bid"

The Carroll County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Carroll County.



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Carroll County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for Sodium Chloride (Road Salt).

Bid specifications are available at the Carroll County Judge/Executive's Office, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, KY 41008, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by calling (502) 732-7000.

Sealed bids will be accepted beginning Friday, July 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and must be received no later than Monday, July 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Bids will be publicly opened during the Carroll County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

All bids shall be clearly marked:
"Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) Bid"

The Carroll County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Carroll County.



LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

The Carroll County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for Courthouse Janitorial Services for the Carroll County Courthouse, located at 440 Main Street, Carrollton, KY 41008.

Bid specifications are available at the Carroll County Judge/Executive's Office, 440 Main Street, Carrollton, KY 41008, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by calling (502) 732-7000.

Sealed bids will be accepted beginning Friday, July 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and must be received no later than Monday, July 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Bids will be publicly opened during the Carroll County Fiscal Court meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

All bids shall be clearly marked:
"Courthouse Janitorial Services Bid"

The Carroll County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to accept the bid deemed to be in the best interest of Carroll County.

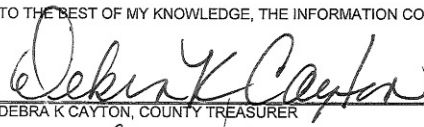


LEGAL NOTICE

Financial Statement
CARROLL COUNTY FISCAL COURT
Fund Type: Governmental
From: 07/01/2025 To: 06/30/2026

	General	Road	Jail	LGEA	Ambulance	SolidWaste	Parks & Rec.	SHERIFF	911 FUND	911 WIRELESS	INS FUND	CLERK SB135(79)
Total Receipts	10,918,537.97	2,870,671.60	3,556,073.11	887,149.06	2,835,449.98	269,398.70	490,379.20	1,641,266.57	23,401.90	193,379.11	119,807.54	17,588.24
Total Claims	4,450,191.79	1,600,165.94	3,472,710.91	629,834.09	2,343,065.13	215,704.92	475,017.06	1,604,373.32	23,401.51	193,373.55	8,810.20	
Cash Balance	6,468,346.18	1,270,505.66	83,362.20	257,314.97	492,384.85	53,693.78	15,362.14	36,893.25	0.39	5.56	110,997.34	17,588.24
Encumbrances												
Cash Balance	6,468,346.18	1,270,505.66	83,362.20	257,314.97	492,384.85	53,693.78	15,362.14	36,893.25	0.39	5.56	110,997.34	17,588.24
Bank Balance	4,195,973.09	1,539,094.13	150,967.57	215,133.57	299,982.77	54,083.84	16,347.54	41,940.69	0.39	5.56	110,997.34	17,588.24
Deposits												
Checks	27,626.91	268,588.47	67,605.37	7,818.60	7,597.92	390.06	985.40	5,047.44				
Investments	2,300,000.00			50,000.00	200,000.00							
Cash Balance	6,468,346.18	1,270,505.66	83,362.20	257,314.97	492,384.85	53,693.78	15,362.14	36,893.25	0.39	5.56	110,997.34	17,588.24

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE



DEBRA K CAYTON, COUNTY TREASURER

6/30/26
Date



JAMES DAVID WILHOITE, COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

6/30/26
Date