### 2017 NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

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<th>Rule</th>
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<td>2-32-2c</td>
<td>Clarified when a base runner can slide through home plate in a straight line.</td>
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<td>3-2-2 PEN</td>
<td>Clarified when a coach-assisted runner is declared out.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-3-1 PEN</td>
<td>Developed a three-step process when administering disciplinary action to a player(s) or coach(es) for inappropriate behavior on the bench and in the field.</td>
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<td>6-2-6</td>
<td>Clarified that the pitching restriction is based on number of pitches thrown.</td>
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<td>8-3-6</td>
<td>Clarified when an umpire hinders the actions of the catcher in a defensive attempt and how baserunning awards are administered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-4-2s</td>
<td>A companion rule to support the above-mentioned 3-2-2 PEN modification regarding coaches’ and players’ conduct.</td>
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### 2017 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

**Defining the Legality and Location of Sliding (2-32-2c)**

The act of sliding is optional. However, if a base runner decides to slide, then he is held to certain criteria to ensure that neither the offensive nor defensive player is intentionally injured. There are six criteria that constitutes an illegal slide. Due to the physical design of home plate, it is not possible for a runner who chooses to slide to stop at or on top of home plate while running as fast as possible to score. In order to stop at or on home plate, the runner would have to run slower or begin his slide earlier, which would give the defense an advantage. This change allows the runner’s momentum to carry him through home plate in a straight line (baseline extended). He is still held to the other elements of Rule 2-32-2 and malicious contact as it relates to interference with the catcher. The catcher is protected because he has choices of locations where he can position himself to avoid contact.

**Determining When a Coach-Assisted Runner is Called Out (3-2-2 Penalty)**

Simply stated, the coach-assisted base runner is called out immediately without deference to other batter-runner or runners and play continues.
Clarifying the Penalty Administration to Coaches and Players (3-3-1 Penalty)

Coaches and officials are equally responsible to provide an ideal learning environment for the students who play baseball. That learning environment is severely disrupted if the adults show a lack of respect for each other’s position and role in the contest. The coach has the responsibility to coach and teach his players about basic and complicated skills of baseball and important life lessons. The game official has the obligation to administer the rules of the game and to judiciously address any coach’s or player’s behavior that is not consistent with those rules.

As he (umpire) administers any penalty resulting in a warning, restriction to the bench/dugout or ejection, his decision should be in response to the actions of the offending coach and player. The coach needs to understand that his behavior will dictate which level of discipline is applied. Utilizing a three-step process, the umpire is given the opportunity to de-escalate any situation that might arise during the course of the game.

This clarification of last year’s rule provides an additional “teachable moment” element to the current rule. Umpires are given clear procedures for dealing with minor unsportsmanlike behavior while at the same time promoting the practice of keeping coaches and players “in the game” and minimizing ejections. Officials are encouraged to clearly communicate their warnings and restrictions when possible to the coaches prior to ejection. The coaches also need to recognize when those warnings and restrictions are being issued so they can modify their behavior and continue to teach their players. When the adults are acting in a professional and respectful manner, the young people will be the ultimate winners regardless of the score of the game.

Modification of the Pitching Restriction Policy (6-2-6)

After years of research and thoughtful discussion on minimizing risk for the position of pitcher, it has been determined that modifying the pitching restriction rule to reflect that the policy should be based on the number of pitches thrown is a better indication of overuse and repetition than the current method of innings pitched during a contest.

Baserunning Awards for Umpire Hindering the Catcher’s Ability to Make a Defensive Play (8-3-6)

This rule change provides rules support that was missing from the rules book.

Subsequent Rule Supporting the Coach-Assisted Runner (8-4-2s)

This rule supports the action taken in Rule 3-2-2 Penalty regarding coaches’ conduct with assisting a base runner.

2017 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believe there are areas of the game of interscholastic baseball that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” For the 2017 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: correct use of NGHS Authenticated Mark Program baseballs, umpires asking assistance from his partner on a call, positioning of team personnel and legal slides. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because they are not being given the proper attention.
NFHS Authenticating Mark Program (AMP)
The NFHS AMP program was designed in 2000 to ensure that the equipment used in interscholastic contests is manufactured consistently and meets certain physical requirements. By using conforming equipment, players, coaches, and officials can rest assured that the baseballs used are designed for the age group for which playing rules are written for interscholastic competition. All such balls are required to display the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Manufacturers make balls to our standards and expect that their products are purchased for game competition. Using non-AMP balls puts players, coaches, fans and umpired at risk of injury and in consistent playability which hurts high school baseball. Using baseballs that meet the AMP requirements are good for our young people and even better for our game.

Umpire Asking Assistance From His Partner
Often during contests, a coach will request that an umpire seek assistance from his partner for a particular call or play situation. Asking assistance from a partner is not mandatory. It is the discretion of the plate umpire if he feels that his view was obstructed or that his partner had a better angle on the play. If he does feel that his partner’s perspective will provide additional input to his final decision, then he has the flexibility to request his partner’s help. Once the opinion is shared, it is the plate umpire who will make the final determination on the call or play. This entire exchange will be quick and intentional using umpire signals that are relayed to players, coaches, and spectators.

Location of Team Personnel
Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purposed. Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench on buckets or stools. Players are not allowed to stand or kneel outside their dugout/bench and make “cat-calls” or any other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice. This is unsportsmanlike behavior and will not be tolerated in interscholastic baseball. Umpires and coaches need to work together for the benefit of the students they officiate and teach. It is these game situations that provide coaches and umpires excellent “teachable moments” to reinforce proper behavior and perspective. The positive values that are learned at the baseball diamond will serve the young people long after their high school careers have ended.

Legal Slides
There has been a misnomer that on any given play the base runner has to slide into the base he is trying to acquire. Even the universally accepted “force play slide” is misconstrued as the player having to slide into the base. NFHS rules are specific and very clear — runners are never required to slide. However, if they choose to slide then the slide must be legal. A player can legally slide either feet first or head first. If a player choose feet first, then at least one leg and buttock shall stay in contact with the ground. A slide is illegal if the runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide, into the fielder, or if the runner’s raised leg is higher than the fielder’s knee (while he is in a standing position), if the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with the fielder or alters his play, if the runner slashes or kicks the fielder, if the runner intentionally tried to injure the fielder and during a force play situation, the runner does not slide on the ground and in a direct line between the two bases. When a runner slides, he must slide within reach of the base with either hand or a foot. The consequence is that the runner is called out and based upon his actions there could possibly be malicious contact and the runner would be ejected from the game. Attention to when it is appropriate to slide and to do it legally will improve the overall process of baserunning, reduce unnecessary injuries to the runner and the covering fielder, and make for a more exciting game to watch and enjoy.
### 2017 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2017 NFHS Baseball Rules Book.
- Adopt suggested speed-up rule Courtesy Runners
- Adopt Rule 1-2-9 NOTE, permitting the optional use of the Double First Base, and adopting the suggested Double First Base Rules, as set forth in the NFHS Baseball Rules Book
- Modify Rule 3-1-5 (Concussion Rule), to clarify that “an appropriate health-care professional” is a licensed physician of medicine or osteopathic medicine (MD or DO)
- Adopt Rule 4-2-2, 10-runs after 5 innings
- Modify Rule 4-2-2, to include 15-runs after 3 innings
- Modify Rule 4-2-2 to permit a time limit for those Contests played in community/public parks that prohibits a new inning from starting after a predetermined time, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition
- Modify Rule 4-2-2b, two five-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader only at the sub-varsity levels (junior varsity and junior high/middle school) of competition
- Adopt Rule 4-2-4, relative to suspended games,
- Pursuant to Rule 6-1-6, adopt a PIAA Baseball Pitching Restriction that uses pitch counts as a part of pitching restrictions.

### OFFICIALS MANUAL

All officials could become aware of the contents of the Officials' Manual which can be found under the Officials heading at [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org).

This manual provides valuable information concerning many aspects of officiating as they relate to PIAA policies and procedures.

### ENFORCEMENT OF RULES AND USE OF SIGNALS / MECHANICS

All officials must pay particular attention to the enforcement of playing rules as they are written and also the use of approved signals and mechanics, especially as they relate to ejections. Failure to enforce the rules as written and/or failing to use approved signals and mechanics makes it difficult for PIAA to support officials when an ejection occurs.
EXAMPLES OF DISQUALIFICATION PROVISION
OF ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

The following examples are for players or coaches and are only examples and not a complete list. What this means is a player or coach ejected from a contest at any level must sit out the remainder of the day and the next day of the next contest at that level.

Example #1: Player/coach gets ejected from a junior varsity contest before a varsity contest. This player/coach gets disqualified for the remainder of the day and the next day of the next junior varsity contest. If this contest is followed by a varsity contest on the same day, the player/coach gets disqualified for the varsity contest also.

Example #2: Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity contest on Friday, the team’s next varsity contest is Friday. Before the varsity contest is a scheduled junior varsity contest, player/coach cannot participate in any of Friday contests.

Example #3: Player/coach gets ejected from a varsity baseball game Saturday. The next varsity contest is a game on next Friday but the game gets postponed to Saturday. On Saturday, the junior varsity team is to compete in another baseball game, a player and/or coach eligible to participate in the junior varsity game? Since the Friday contest was postponed the next varsity game is the same day as the junior varsity game and the player/coach are not eligible to participate the whole day.

**Note to officials: the enforcement of the rules as written and the use of the mechanics when ejecting personnel from a contest cannot be stressed enough. PIAA cannot defend the lack of enforcement of sportsmanship rules nor the failure to use approved mechanics with regard to these ejections.**

SPORTS MEDICINE COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that each registered sports official have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. Being physically fit and conveying an appropriate, positive image through proper health and nutrition habits will greatly assist all officials in keeping up with the game. After all, the game, the schools, players, coaches, spectators and fellow officials deserve no less. As importantly, officials owe good health habits to themselves and their families if for nothing more, than the health of it. If officials have any chronic health condition, officials are requested to share this information with on site medical personnel at their contest(s).

PIAA WEBSITE OFFICIALS’ INFORMATION

The officials’ section of the PIAA website may be accessed by registered PIAA sports’ official using their individual officials’ code. This code is secured individually by utilizing the first four (4) letters of your last name in (CAPS) and the last four (4) digits of your ID number. Items listed in the secured area include: Officials’ directory, on-line disqualification forms and on-line injury forms. Other information in the officials’ area on our website include: Applications for Becoming an Official; Sportsmanship Message; Rules Interpretation Meetings; Bulletins (Sports Specific); Athletic Officials’ Manual; Various Forms; Evaluation Information; Officials’ Merchandise; Officials Recognition and Power Point Presentations; along other important officials’ information. Please utilize this area for assistance and information in preparing for your games as well as hosting quality chapter meetings. Officials can also view the dates that their clearances will expire at this site.
OFFICIAL’S UNIFORM

1. The PIAA Official's Emblem must be worn on the upper left sleeve of the official's standard shirt when officiating in all PIAA sponsored games.

2. All PIAA-registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest.

3. Required uniform for Baseball umpires:

   **Shirt:** One of the following shirts is to be worn: (1) Navy blue pullover with red and white stripe trim on sleeves and collar. (2) Light blue pullover with navy blue and white stripe trim on the sleeves and collar with the standard buttons (No zipper style shirts permitted.) The pull-over style shirt shall only be of a micromesh material. (The silk / shiny dazzle type material is not approved). (3) The Long Sleeve shirt is now approved.
   **Note:** If an umpire wears a long sleeve undershirt or turtleneck, the long sleeve undergarment sleeve is not to be exposed under the pullover shirt. You must wear a jacket or sweater over the long sleeve undergarment so as the undergarment sleeves are not exposed.

   **Patch:** The **ONLY** patch that is permitted to be worn is the PIAA patch which **MUST** be worn on the left sleeve of the shirt 3" down from the shoulder seem. If you are wearing a jacket or sweater while umpiring, you are **NOT** required to have a PIAA patch on your jacket or sweater. Jackets or sweaters must be navy blue only. The jacket may have your PIAA umpires chapter identification on the left breast area or left sleeve **ONLY**. Jackets or sweaters with identification other than PIAA are **NOT** permitted to be worn while umpiring.

   **NOTE:** STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PATCH - The State Championship patch given to each umpire that officiates a state championship game is to be worn on the right sleeve of your shirt 3" down from the shoulder seam. The patch is to be worn during the State Championship Game **ONLY**! Following the State Championship Game, you may wear the patch on your warm up jacket but not on your shirt once the State Championship Game is completed.

   **Undershirt:** Navy Blue - All umpires must wear the same color undershirt during the game.
   **Slacks:** Dark (charcoal) Gray - Shorts are **NOT** permitted.
   **Ball Bag:** Navy Blue only.
   **Socks:** Black - Footies are **NOT** permitted.
   **Shoes:** Solid Black - Black with no white markings of any kind.
   **Belt:** Black, if worn - Large metal buckles **NOT** permitted.
   **Cap:** Navy Blue - Caps are to be fitted type only, not adjustable style. Both male and female umpires must wear caps properly in all positions. Cap with **Gold** 1½” high “PIAA” letters are **REQUIRED** for all regular season, district and inter-district advanced play.
   **Jewelry:** Umpires are **NOT** permitted to wear jewelry, with the exception of your wedding band and a Medical Alert Bracelet or Necklace while umpiring. The restrictions that pertain to a player for a Medical Alert Bracelet of Necklace also pertain to umpires.

**NOTE:** ALL UNIFORM ITEMS MUST BE IDENTICAL TO PARTNER(S), DRESS ALIKE!!!
2017 PIAA BASEBALL DISTRICT INTERPRETERS

District 1 .................. John W. Herr ................................................................. jwherr@verizon.net
District 2 .................. Charles R. Coslett ............................................................ coslettlaw@verizon.net
District 3 .................. William E. Meyers, Sr ....................................................... billmeyers@embarqmail.com
District 4 .................. Robert S. Hansen ............................................................. hansen.robert7@gmail.com
District 5 .................. John Roswell Shinew ....................................................... rshinew@yahoo.com
District 6 .................. James C. Delarre, Sr ......................................................... delarre0924@yahoo.com
District 7 .................. Leonard Leiper ............................................................... lenny.leiper@gmail.com
District 8 .................. Andrew J. White ............................................................... andywhite45@gmail.com
District 9 .................. Samuel P. Bevak .............................................................. ssbevak@comcast.net
District 10 .................. Stephen Hoover ............................................................ shoover@mercer.k12.pa.us
District 11 .................. Michael Applegate ........................................................ appleump41@aol.com
District 12 .................. Stephen K. Kupsov ......................................................... kupsov8532@verizon.net

PIAA 2017 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

First Practice Date ................................................................. Monday, March 6
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date ........................................ Saturday, March 11
First Regular Season Play Date ........................................... Friday, March 24
Last Regular Season Contest Date and
District Championship Deadline ........................................ Saturday, June 3
PIAA Baseball Championships:
  First Round ................................................................. Monday, June 5
  Quarterfinals ............................................................... Thursday, June 8
  Semi-Finals ............................................................... Monday, June 12

PIAA Baseball Championship Finals
Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University .................. Friday, June 15
  Championship Schedule:
    A Championship ....................................................... 11:00 am
    AAA Championship ................................................ 1:30 pm
    AAAAA Championship ............................................... 4:00 pm

Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University .................. Friday, June 16
  Championship Schedule:
    AA Championship .................................................. 11:00 am
    AAAAA Championship ............................................ 1:30 pm
    AAAAAA Championship .......................................... 4:00 pm
TEAM WARNINGS

The PIAA has adopted a new format pertaining to Team Warnings for second time team offenders. These same Team Warnings under NFHS rules would be ejections. Since these Team Warnings are not “unsportsmanlike acts” and since an ejection causes a player a one game suspension, this provision has been adopted. These Case Book Plays listed pertaining to Team Warnings are as follows:

- 1.3.5F Using a heating device on bats (natural or artificial)
- 1.5.1A,B,C,D Deliberately removing helmet (live ball)
- 1.5.4A Catcher’s equipment
- 1.5.12A,B Jewelry
- 3.3.1A thru E Leaving dugout/bench area (live ball)
- 3.3.1N Unauthorized items in coaches box
- 3.3.1X (b) Carelessly throwing equipment
- 3.3.1GG Carelessly throwing bat (natural or artificial)
- 3.3.1JJ/KK Video replay (dugout/coaches box)
- 3.3.1MM/NN/OO Use of tobacco
- 3.3.3 On-Deck Circle violation
- 8.3.2B Fake Tags
- 8.3.2E Fake Tags

PIAA BY-LAWS: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 8

Any coach and/or contestant who, while coaching or competing for a PIAA member school, is ejected from a Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official in that sport for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition. For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s).

Any coach and/or contestant ejected from the last Contest in that sport in a sport season shall be disqualified from coaching and/or participating in the first Contest(s) in that sport in the subsequent sport season, at the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition, at any PIAA member school or, if the student changes levels of competition, such as from junior varsity to varsity, the first Contest (s) in that sport.

In Baseball, the athletic director and principal must meet with the ejected coach/contestant and detail in a report what corrective action has been taken. This report then must be signed by all parties and sent to the district Baseball chairperson. This form is located on the PIAA website on the Baseball page.

When a coach or contestant is disqualified/ejected from a Regular or Post-Regular Season Contest a report must be filed by the official who disqualified/ejected the coach or contestant. When the report is received in the PIAA Office it is viewed by the concerned school Principal and Athletic Director and mailed to the respective District Chairmen, officials’ representatives and sportsmanship chair. A copy is also given to the Assistant Executive Director and placed in the school’s file.

The official shall file a report on-line with the PIAA Office on the form prescribed for the sport involved, within twenty-four (24) hours following the completion of the Contest in which the ejection occurred. Failure to file such report shall not affect the validity or consequences of the ejection.

OFFICIALS ARE TO FILE A REPORT ONLINE WITH THE PIAA OFFICE ON-LINE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE EJECTION OR THEY MAY BE PLACED ON PROBATION. OFFICIALS SHOULD GO TO THE “FORMS SECTION” UNDER THE OFFICIALS TAB AT www.piaa.org.
### OUTDOOR EVENTS: SPECTATOR DECORUM

The presence and/or the use of balloons, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are PROHIBITED! The Principal and Athletic Director of each school will be requested to confiscate these items from their cheerleaders and/or the spectators from their school and community. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small portable listening devices with earphones is permitted. Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirts and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and Inter-District Championship Contests. Principals and Athletic Directors of competing schools shall announce and publicize these regulations.

*As copied from the PIAA Policies and Procedures Manual.*

### PIAA SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

**This message shall be read to the head coach and captains prior to each contest officiated by a registered PIAA official. This message shall be enforced by contest officials and its enforcement shall include a strict and swift enforcement when unsportsmanlike actions involve demeaning remarks or actions that may be related to the racial or ethnic background of any party.**

*PIAA requires all registered sports' officials to enforce the sportsmanship rules for coaches and contestants. Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, team, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated. Let today's contest reflect mutual respect. Coaches please certify to the officials that your players are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions. Good luck in today's contest.*

Chapter interpreters are requested to remind all officials to read this message at each contest they officiate.

There have been some concerns addressed by the schools that some of our officials are not reading the PIAA Sportsmanship message prior to the contest. This is an improper procedure and this message MUST be read. Officials are not to paraphrase, modify, or develop their own Sportsmanship Message to the captains and head coaches. The proper procedure is head coaches and captains MUST attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message. For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials' 2016-2017 identification cards.

This message **MUST BE READ VERBATIM** by the contest officials. Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Baseball Rules. The reading of this message will have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.
CANCELLATION OF AN OFFICIAL’S CONTRACT BY A PIAA MEMBER SCHOOL

If a PIAA member school violates or cancels a contract with an official, the District Committee or the Board of Directors, in their respective jurisdictions, may require a school so violating or so canceling to pay to the offended official the fee or fees for the Contest or Contests which have been provided in the official contract. Failure of a PIAA member school to live up to the terms of the contract shall be considered a violation of the Constitution and By-Laws of PIAA.

Comment: It has been brought to our attention on numerous occasions that officials have lost assignments or games because a school or assignor has “double booked” the contest. Officials are reminded that unless there is a written contract executed between the parties, they have no claim to any type of reimbursement from the offending school(s). Many schools have made a “good faith” effort to the officials to get them an additional assignment in the future or offer a scrimmage to pick up the lost fees. However, officially, without a written, signed, properly executed contract between the official(s) and the school(s), there is no recourse for the officials. In this day of technology it is not very hard for assignors, or schools, to execute these contracts. This is part of an assignor’s responsibility. Officials should request contracts from their assignors or schools for both parties protection.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND SKIN INFECTION PROCEDURES

Proper precautions are needed to minimize the potential risk of the spread of communicable disease and skin infections during athletic competition. These conditions include skin infections that occur due to skin contact with competitors and equipment. The transmission of infections such as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Herpes Gladiatorum, blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis B, and other infectious diseases such as Influenza can often be greatly reduced through proper hygiene. The NFHS SMAC has outlined and listed below some general guidelines for the prevention of the spread of these diseases.

23rd ANNUAL OFFICIALS’ CONVENTION AUGUST 4-5, 2017 HILTON HARRISBURG

PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE

For the 2016-17 school year, American Specialty Insurance Services will provide the following benefits:

- One Million Dollars of Liability Coverage
- $25,000 Excess Accident Medical Coverage (with a $250 deductible)
- $5,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment (including a cardiac benefit).

This program is administered by American Specialty Insurance Services and underwritten by USF&G and Mutual of Omaha. Again this year, all regularly scheduled chapter meetings and the mandatory rules meeting will be covered under PIAA’s basic liability coverage. Chapters are requested to please enter their list of regularly scheduled chapter meetings online at www.piaa.org to assist procedurally in the exchange of information to have all local association meetings covered.

Contact information is as follows:
Drew Smith, Vice-President for Client Services
Sara Douglass, Administrative Assistant
American Specialty Insurances Services, Inc.
142 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 309
Roanoke, Indiana 46783-0309
Phone: 260-672-8800
Fax: 260-673-www.amerspec.com
INFECTIONOUS SKIN DISEASES

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these infectious agents include:

- Athletes must be told to notify a parent or guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any skin lesion prior to any competition or practice. An appropriate health-care professional should evaluate any skin lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, all team members should be evaluated to help prevent the potential spread of infection.
- Coaches, officials and appropriate health-care professionals must follow NFHS or state/local guidelines on “time until return to competition.” Participation with a covered lesion may be considered if in accordance with NFHS, state or lock guidelines and the lesion is no longer contagious.

BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these agents include following Universal Precautions such as:

- An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the activity (game or practice) until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to activity.
- Athletic trainers or other caregivers need to wear gloves and take other precautions to prevent blood or body fluid-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- In the event of a blood or body fluid-splash, immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves when cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

If you are in need of updating your officiating supplies, please be reminded that Officially Sports is the official vendor of PIAA Sport Officials’ Uniforms. Please give them your consideration for any purchases regarding officials’ supplies.
If interested, you may provide them with your email address to send you their catalog, seasonal specials and discounted items that may be of interest and service to your avocation of sports’ officiating.
Officially Sports may be contacted via email at sales@officiallysports.com, by calling 800-934-4555 or at www.officiallysports.com.
### OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:

- Appropriate vaccination of athletes, coaches and staff as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- During time of outbreaks, follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as State and local Health Departments.

For more detailed information, refer to the Infectious Disease and Blood-borne Pathogens” and “Skin Disorders” sections contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

### UNIVERSAL HYGIENE PROTOCOL FOR ALL SPORTS

- Shower immediately after every competition and practice.
- Wash all workout clothing after each practice.
- Wash personal gear (knee pads and braces) weekly.
- Do not share towels or personal hygiene products (razors) with others.
- Refrain from full body (chest, arms, abdomen) cosmetic shaving.

### GUIDELINES ON HANDLING CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

#### Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play.
   - When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for thirty minutes and take shelter immediately.
   - Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
   - Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.
5. Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.

For more detailed information, refer to the “Lightning Safety” section contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

*As copied from the NFHS 2017 Baseball Rules Book.*
During the baseball Regular Season and Postseason, a disqualified baseball player, coach, and/or Team personnel shall not be permitted to participate for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the player, coach, and/or Team personnel was previously disqualified. For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s), in accordance with ARTICLE XIII, Section 8, of the PIAA By-Laws; and NFHS Baseball Rules 1-3-5 (coach only-2nd/3rd violation), 2-21-1b, 2-32 (malicious only), 3-1-1 (2nd violation), 3-3-1g, 3-3-1k, 3-3-1m, n, o, q, 3-3-2, 4-1-3b, 4-4-1e, 6-2-3, 7-4-1h (2nd violation), 10-1-2, and 10-2-3c. The umpire must complete this form on-line, as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the completion of the Contest in which the disqualification took place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Disqualified Player, Coach and/or Team Personnel</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Game</td>
<td>Location of Game/Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Referee Who Issued Disqualification</td>
<td>Level of Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION

DATE OF REPORT OFFICIAL’S NAME (person issuing DQ) PIAA DISTRICT