PIAA - Nfhs baseball rules changes
Rule Change

TODAYS MEETING

RULE CHANGES:

• Illegal Slide – Runner slides beyond home plate.
• Coach Assists a Runner.
• Bench and Field Conduct.
• PIAA Pitching Restriction Rule.
• Plate Umpire Hinders Catcher.
TODAY'S MEETING CONT:

- Umpires Manual Changes:
  - Double Tag up Signal.
  - Designation of Plate Umpire and Base Umpires.

- 2017 Points of Emphasis:
  - NFHS Authentication Mark.
  - Umpire Asking Assistance from Partner.
  - Location of Team Personnel.
  - Legal Slides.

- PIAA BASEBALL DOCUMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS.
Illegal Slide
RULE 2-32-2c
ART. 2. . . A slide is illegal if:
- Sub-articles a-b remain the same.
- c. except at home plate, the runner goes beyond the base and then makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder. At home plate, it is permissible for the slider’s momentum to carry him through the plate in the baseline extended.
- Sub-articles d-f remain the same.
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.
Assisting Runner RULES 3-2-2 Penalty and 8-4-2s

- If a runner is physically assisted by a coach, the runner is called out immediately and the ball remains live.
3-2-2 PENALTY

Rationale: The old rule interpreted the play as a “Delayed Dead Ball Situation” requiring the umpire to:

- To notice and call “Interference”.
- Take eyes away from the ball to locate other runners.
- Remember the location of every runner.
- Rule on subsequent plays.
- Call “TIME” and return all runners, not called out, to their last acquired base at the time of the coach’s interference.
Umpires have access to a three-tier system for dealing with coaches’ misconduct: verbal warning, written warning with restriction to the dugout and, finally, ejection.
1. If the umpire judges an offense to be minor, the umpire shall issue a verbal warning.
2. If the warning is written, the coach shall be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. The plate umpire will note the details of the warning on the lineup card.
3. After receiving a written warning, if the coach commits an additional offense, the coach will be ejected from the game.
BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT

RULE 3-3-1 Penalty

- If the umpire deems an offense to be major, such as, “physical contact, spitting, kicking of dirt or any other physical action directed toward an umpire,” the umpire shall immediately eject the coach from the game.
BENCH AND FIELD CONDUCT
3-3-1 PENALTY (CONTINUED)

- For violation of f(6) both the head coach and offending coach shall receive a written warning and be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game unless the offense is so severe the umpire may eject the offender and restrict or eject the head coach.

- A coach may leave the bench/dugout to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured. In f (7), the state association shall determine appropriate action.
The new addition to the rule has initiated a penalty progression. Whenever possible:

1. Start with a verbal statement.

2. Issue a written warning. This includes restriction to the bench.

3. Ejection from the contest. This includes a BRIEF report to be submitted to the PIAA immediately.

NOTE: The written warning referred to in this rule is nothing more than a brief notation on the line-up card. WE ARE NOT TO ISSUE A CITATION.
Over all, the majority of umpires are going to be just fine calling the game as always:

- Handle situations with an even temperament.
- Be courteous at all times and, under all conditions, firm and confident.
- Draw the line, when needed, and do what is necessary when someone crosses it.

NOTE: NEVER FORFEIT a game. In extreme situations, especially those involving team safety, TERMINATE the game. Send a report to the PIAA, and let the administrators determine the consequences.
ART. 6. . . . When a plate umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher's throw attempting to prevent a stolen base or retire a runner on a pickoff play, if an out is not made at the end of the catcher's initial throw, the ball shall be dead and all runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference.
Rule Change

RULE 8-3-6

- This rule clarifies when an umpire hinders the actions of the catcher in a defensive attempt and how base-running awards are administered.

- Previously, the penalty for CASE BOOK plays 5.1.2 SITUATIONS B and C did not appear in the RULE BOOK.
Pitching Restriction
6-1-6
ART. 6. . . . Each state association shall have a pitching restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown to afford pitchers a required rest period between pitching appearances.

Rationale: 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.
the PIAA has adopted the following Baseball Pitching Restriction Procedure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pitch Count</th>
<th>Rest Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 25 pitches</td>
<td>No rest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 to 50</td>
<td>1 day rest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 75</td>
<td>2 days rest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76 to 100</td>
<td>3 days rest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pitching Restriction Rule Cont:

- If a pitcher reaches 100 during a time at bat, he may continue pitching until the batter is retired or the inning ends, whichever occurs first, and the pitch count will revert back to 100 pitches.

- The pitch count only reverts back when the pitcher reaches 100 during a time at bat. In all other cases use the exact count.

- If a pitcher has 45 pitches going into a time at bat and throws 9 pitches, the pitch count will be 54 (not 50). This will require two days rest.
PITCHING RESTRICTION RULE CONT:

- A pitcher can not pitch on more than 2 consecutive days.
- A pitcher is limited to 200 pitches in a calendar week.
- A pitch is defined as a live ball delivered to the batter that results in a strike, ball, or batted ball fair or foul.
The only involvement an umpire has in this process is to inform the pitch counters when a pitch does not count, such as but not limited to, time being called followed by a delivery, a ball slipping out of the hand that does not cross the foul line, an illegal pitch, or a pitch delivered after a balk.
PITCHING RESTRICTION RULE CONT:

- Each team will designate a pitch counter, with the home team being the official counter. The pitch counters are to confer with each other frequently. If there is a discrepancy, the HOME BOOK is to be used.

- Each team must send their pitch counts to MAX PREPS before the next game, so others can check them.
PITCHING RESTRICTION RULE CONT:

- Umpires are not to get involved in the enforcement of the PIAA Baseball Pitching Restriction Rule.

**Example:** Umpire Smith had the plate on a game in which Pitcher Jones threw 50 pitches. Umpire Smith has the same team the next day. Pitcher Jones tries to enter the game in the 5th inning, as a relief pitcher. Umpire Smith informs the coach that Jones can not enter the game or they will forfeit.

**Ruling:** Umpire Smith’s actions are incorrect. He should say nothing and accept the substitution.
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NEW UMPIRE’S SIGNAL
DOUBLE TAG-UP SIGNAL
NEW UMPIRE’S SIGNAL – THE DOUBLE TAG-UP SIGNAL

- The “Double Tag-Up Signal” is one that the umpires give to one another when there are runners on first and second base with less than two outs to indicate that the plate umpire will take any play at third base involving the runner on second base should he tag-up and try to advance.

- **Rationale:** Better communication between umpires.

- **Exception:** If the ball is hit to the right field corner, the plate umpire will stay with the ball and the base umpire will have all runners.
CHANGING DESIGNATION OF PLATE UMPIRE AND OTHER BASE UMPIRES

- In a 2-man system, the nomenclature of identifying the plate umpire has been changed to Plate Umpire (PU), and U1 now represents the first base umpire.

- In a 3-man system, the plate umpire has been changed to Plate Umpire (PU), and U1 now represents the first base umpire and U2 represents the third base umpire.

- In a 4-man system, the plate umpire would be recognized as PU, U1 now represents the first base umpire, U2 represents the second base umpire and U3 would represent the third base umpire.
NFHS BASEBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS
Ball Markings

- All baseballs used in interscholastic contests shall meet the specifications outlined in Rule 1-3-1 and shall bear the NFHS Authenticating Mark.
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 that we write playing rules for interscholastic competition.
Ball Markings

SITUATION: The Umpire notices the baseballs given to him by the home team do not have the NFHS Authenticating Mark.

PROCEDURE: See if the Visiting team has the proper baseballs and use them.

If proper baseballs are not available:
• Play the game with the improper balls.
• Report the infraction to the Chapter President.
• The Chapter President should report the infraction to the Athletic Director.
Umpire Asking Assistance
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.
UMPIRE ASSISTANCE

• An umpire should render a decision before asking for assistance.

• Example: On a swipe tag at first base the base umpire in the “B” or “C” position should make the call according to what he sees from his angle. Then, if necessary, ask for help.

• If the base umpire asks for help before making the call and his partner can not help, we now have two umpires who did not see the play!
Once the opinion is shared, it is the umpire making the original call who will make the final determination on the call or play and announce it to the teams. This entire exchange will be quick and intentional using umpire signals that are relayed to players, coaches and spectators.
Location of Team Personnel

- Coaches, player, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose.
Location of Team Personnel

- Additionally, coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench area on buckets or stools.
Players are never required to slide, but if they choose to do so, the slide must be legal.
LEGAL SLIDES (CONTINUED)

- A slide is illegal:
  - if the runner uses a rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder;
  - 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;
    - Exception: A player can slide through home plate in a straight line.
  - if the runner slashes or kicks the fielder;
if the runner intentionally tries 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 base-running, reduce unnecessary injuries to the runner and the covering fielder, and make for a more exciting game to watch and enjoy.
PIAA BASEBALL DOCUMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

PIAA Chapters are encouraged to utilize the wealth of materials available in the Baseball Page of the piaa.org website:

• CHAPTER MEETING GUIDE.
• PIAA UMPIRES MANUAL.
• POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS.
• RULES BULLETINS.
Points of Emphasis

PIAA BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Thursday June 15 and Friday June 16
- Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, PSU
- 6 Championship Classes.
PIAA OFFICIALS CONVENTION

- 2017 PIAA OFFICIALS CONVENTION
- AUGUST 4-5 2017
- HARRISBURG HILTON & TOWERS
THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

www.nfhs.org