SITUATION 1. On a dropped third strike, where the batter-runner has the opportunity to advance to first base, the plate umpire interferes with the catcher’s throw to retire the BR. Ruling?

**RULING:** The play stands. The batter and any runners remain where they were at the end of playing action.

When the catcher drops the 3rd strike he becomes a fielder. There can be no umpire interference with a fielder. It is just the rub of the green. The umpire will feel bad, be embarrassed, take some heat, but there is no interference.

SITUATION 2. Runner on third, no outs. Runner takes off from third. Batter bunts ball. Runner from third crosses home plate before catcher fields the ball and he throws the ball. Ball hits batter-runner who is outside of running lane. Interference is called and batter-runner is called out. Time play or does runner return to third?

**RULING:** Case Book plays 8.4.1.d and 8.4.1.j seem to differ in placement of runners, i.e. return to base occupied at time of interference in 8.4.1.d and time of the pitch in 8.4.1.j.

Interference by the batter returns the runners to bases occupied at the time of the pitch and not the time of interference to avoid a situation with two outs where the interference by the batter occurs after a run scored. We would then have to score the run even though the 3rd out was made by the batter runner before he reached 1st base.
SITUATION 3: Has the PIAA adopted a suspended game rule? Is there a need to play at least 4.5 innings for a regulation game. All references in the NFHS Rule Book and Case Book refer back to the "state association"?

RULING: The PIAA has adopted a suspended game rule and guidelines are stated on page 11 of the 2018 PIAA Chapter Meeting Guide, found on the PIAA website under baseball rules documents.

Unless a winner can be determined, the game shall be suspended.

SITUATION 4: Substitution, courtesy runner rule. Team A starts the game with #2 as pitcher. He pitches for 2 innings. He is removed from the game. A few innings later the replacement pitcher walks and coach of team A asks for a CR and #2 comes out and takes his place on first. Team B then brings it to the attention of PU that #2 had already been in the game. The umpires confer and call #2 out and restrict #2 to the dugout. When #2 took his place on first, he became an illegal courtesy runner since he had been in the game already. Should the umpires have allowed Coach A to get a different CR since the ball was dead? Should they have asked him if he wanted to bring in a legal CR?

RULING: The umpires should handle the situation without restricting #2 to the bench. Since #2 is permitted to re-enter the game as a substitute in the same position in the line up, the umpires can rectify the problem by affording the coach the option of entering #2 as a substitute, or bring in another eligible CR.
SITUATION 5: With a runner on 2nd base, the shortstop in his initial attempt to field a ground ball bobbles it slightly. As he attempts to recover the ball, the runner advancing from 2nd makes contact with him.

Page 33 of the 2018 Chapter Meeting Guide on the PIAA website addresses this with the following statement:

NOTE: A fielder is entitled to one attempt to field a ball. If he errors in that attempt and must leave his position to retrieve the ball and contact with a runner occurs, the runner is not to be called out for interference unless his actions are intentional.

This statement could lead one to believe that a fielder is no longer protected within a step and a reach.

RULING: There is no “step and reach protection for a fielder who has had a chance to field a ball. A runner is out if he hinders a fielder’s INITIAL attempt to field a batted ball. A fielder is not protected, except from initial contact, if he miss plays a ball and has to move (lift and replace a foot) from his original position.

SITUATION 6: A game is suspended and will be continued, at a later date in the top of the third, as part of a double header. If pitcher X starts the top of the 3rd and he throws 50 pitches, and then he is removed or the game is over, is he then eligible to pitch in the second game for 50 pitches, since the games are being played on the same day? Or is the conclusion of the first game considered a day, and the start of the next game he is then ineligible with his days of rest starting on the following day?

RULING by Mike Applegate, District Interpreter, supported by the PIAA office: Pitch counts are based upon a calendar day. Pitcher “X” can pitch in the suspended game that is being completed and then pitch in the regularly scheduled game on the same date PROVIDED he is eligible to pitch on that date based upon his days of rest prior to the date of competition. He is limited to 100 pitches for the DAY.
For the 24th consecutive year, PIAA will host its Annual Officials' Convention on August 3-4, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg. This convention provides officials countless opportunities to become better educated in a number of issues involving high school athletics and the sports these officials officiate.

As a result of these educational sessions, PIAA officials are better prepared to serve PIAA member schools and its student athletes.

The culminating banquet on Saturday night will recognize officials who have dedicated at least three decades of service to PIAA, its members schools and their student athletes. NFL personality Ross Tucker will be the keynote speaker for this banquet which will bring to a close this year's convention.

Links to the convention registration and hotel information can be found at:

http://www.piaa.org/officials/convention/default.aspx