## 2018 NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-3-1</td>
<td>Modified that baseballs shall meet a NOCSAE performance standard. (Effective January 1, 2019)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3-2a(2)</td>
<td>Clarified what cannot be attached on a bat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-5-3</td>
<td>Modified that chest protectors for catchers shall meet a NOCSAE performance standard. (Effective January 1, 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-2-7</td>
<td>Modified that runners who reach first base safely may over-run and over-slide first base without penalty.</td>
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</table>

## 2018 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

**Modified That Baseballs Meet A NOCSAE Standard (1-3-1)**
To maintain a consistent and uniformed standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability. The effective date is January 1, 2019.

**Delineation Of What Cannot Be Attached To A Bat [1-3-2a(2)]**
Further clarification that attachments that would present a potential hazard are not permitted.

**Modified That Catcher's Chest Protectors Meet A NOCSAE Standard (1-5-3)**
A NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis. The effective date is January 1, 2020.

**Modified That Runners Who Reach First Base Safely Are Protected From Being Put Out (8-2-7)**
Runners who reach first base safely may over-run, over-slide and return without the threat of being put out as long as they do not attempt or feint an advance toward second base. This change is easy to coach, officiate and execute as a player. All batter-runners are treated equally and consistently.
The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believes 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 is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” For the 2018 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: Sportsmanship (bench jockeying celebrations, negative comments between opponents), Jewelry Rule Enforcement, Administration of NFHS Rules and Proper Pitching Positions. 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.

SPORTSMANSHIP

National Anthem Standoff
The standing and singing of the national anthem is a valued tradition that is held prior to sporting events. Staring down an opponent after the national anthem, trying to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is not consistent with the mission of education-based athletics. Coaches are the closest role models to these students and are held accountable for the behavior of their players as they represent their school and community. If those actions are not representative of high school sports and what they stand for, then corrective measures should take place.

Bench Jockeying, Celebrations and Negative Comments Between Opponents
Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose. 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. Rooting for your team is an integral part of high school baseball. However, making disparaging remarks toward your opponent does not improve the game; in fact it detracts from the contest. The purpose of interscholastic sports is educational. Chants/intentional distractions/loud noises (natural or artificial) directed at the opponent’s pitcher prior to his pitching, or the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play is not good sportsmanship. We should strive to have our young people play to the best of their ability and let their natural talent be the barometer of their success.

This is unsportsmanlike behavior and shall 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.
Enforcement of NFHS Jewelry Rule
Items that are attached except medical appliances/devices are considered to be jewelry. The primary cause for the restriction of jewelry is primary for risk minimization for the wearer and for the opponent. Earrings and various other piercings can be problematic for a player if the piercing gets caught on equipment and torn away from the body. Obviously, if a physician has provided documentation in support of a particular piercing, the local state association has the latitude (with proper justification) to make a special accommodation for the player. We need to be more vigilant to protect our players and their opponents.

Enforcement and Administration of NFHS Rules
The rules of high school baseball are written for the age and skill level of varsity high school players. The role of interscholastic athletics is not to prepare young people for the next level. In fact, the purpose of education-based athletics is three-fold. First, the purpose of high school baseball rules is to minimize risk. Second, the rules are designed to maintain the balance between offense and defense. Third, the rules are to preserve the sound traditions of the game. Essentially, the NFHS and its member state associations use athletics to teach valuable life lessons. In addition, simplicity, fairness and ease to implement as an umpire or to teach or illustrate as a coach are additional reasons why our playing rules are designed in this manner. Other rules codes have significantly different objectives and rationales for their rules. When non-approved interpretations or rulings that are contradictory to NFHS rules as written are used, they can confuse students, coaches, umpires and fans.

Proper Pitching Positions
The rules that govern the pitcher’s movement and his position on the pitcher’s plate have not varied over the years. However, modified or hybrid positions continually are developed and are attempted to be introduced into the high school game. While these creative pitcher’s stances might work for advance levels of baseball, they are not appropriate for interscholastic baseball. Our rules are perfect for the age and skill level of the students for whom we write playing rules. The game has evolved over the years and new equipment and strategies have been very beneficial for our game. However, there are some things that stand the test of time and the proper position of the pitcher is one of those rules that enjoys a rich tradition.
The pitching requirements begin once he engages the pitcher’s plate. In NFHS sanctioned baseball, there are only two positions the pitcher can possess, the windup and the set (also known as the stretch) position. The starting position of the non-pivot foot determines whether the pitcher is going to pitch from the windup or set position.

Pitchers in the windup position are required to have their non-pivot foot in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate. If a pitcher’s non-pivot foot is in front of that line and he attempts to pitch from the windup, he has made an illegal pitch or committed a balk.

In the set position, he shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of the pitcher’s plate. He shall go to the set position without delay and in one continuous motion; he shall come to a complete and discernible stop, which does not include a change of direction with both hands in front of his body and his glove at or below his chin.

Going to the mouth while in contact with the pitcher’s plate is a balk, not because the pitcher goes to his mouth, but because the action simulates the start of the pitching motion.

Umpires must be aware of the position of the non-pivot foot. Practice the skills to determine if the pitch is legal or illegal. It is imperative that the pitching positions and movement are completely understood. These requirements provide guidance that the batter and base runner(s) know when they can swing and run and when the pitcher is in a position to deliver the ball, creating a level playing field for all involved with the game.
## 2018 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2018 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
- 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 (the whole day).

**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 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.
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!!!
### 2018 PIAA BASEBALL DISTRICT INTERPRETERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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### PIAA 2018 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

- **First Practice Date**: Monday, March 5
- **First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date**: Saturday, March 10
- **First Regular Season Play Date**: Friday, March 23
- **Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Championship Deadline**: Saturday, June 2
- **PIAA Baseball Championships**:
  - **First Round**: Monday, June 4
  - **Quarterfinals**: Thursday, June 7
  - **Semi-Finals**: Monday, June 11
- **PIAA Baseball Championship Finals**
  - **Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University**: Thursday, June 14
  - **Championship Schedule**:
    - AA Championship: 11:00 am
    - AAAAA Championship: 1:30 pm
    - AAAAAA Championship: 4:00 pm
  - **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
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.
**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, teams, 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 contest official(s) that your contestants 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' 2017-2018 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.

PIAA OFFICIALS INSURANCE

For the 2017-18 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

24th ANNUAL OFFICIALS’ CONVENTION
AUGUST 3-4, 2018
HILTON HARRISBURG
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.

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**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 2018 Baseball Rules Book.*
**BASEBALL, COACH, OR TEAM PERSONNEL DISQUALIFICATION FORM**

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>
</tbody>
</table>

| Name of Referee Who Issued Disqualification | Level of Competition |

**REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

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**DATE OF REPORT**

**OFFICIAL’S NAME** (person issuing DQ)

**PIAA DISTRICT**