2018 PIAA POWERPOINT PRESENTATION OF THE NFHS BASEBALL RULES

Pat Gebhart – Assistant Director of the PIAA

Andy Keteles – State Wide Baseball Rules Interpreter
TODAYS AGENDA

- NFHS Baseball Rule Changes.
- Editorial Changes
- NFHS Points of Emphasis
- PIAA Rule Changes
- PIAA Points of Emphasis
- Important Dates and Events
The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs (effective Jan. 1, 2019). A performance standard that measures the ball’s circumference, mass, coefficient of restitution and compression deflection.
Art. 1 . . . The ball shall be a sphere formed by yarn...shall not exceed .555. The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs at the time of manufacture and is required on all balls that will be used in high school competition (Effective January 1, 2019). A minimum of three umpire-approved baseballs shall...used in high school competition.
BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES
RULE 1-3-1

- Rationale:
  To maintain a consistent and uniform standard for high school competition. To ensure that every baseball manufactured meets the same level of quality and playability.
BATS
RULE 1-3-2a2

Bats shall not have exposed rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener or attachments that would present a potential hazard.
BATS, BALLS AND GLOVES
RULE 1-3-2A2

- **Rationale:**
  Further clarification concerning attachments that would present a potential hazard are not permitted.
CATCHER’S CHEST PROTECTOR RULE 1-5-3

The catcher’s chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard (effective Jan. 1, 2020). A performance standard based on the pertinent requirements of projectile testing.
PLAYER EQUIPMENT
RULE 1-5-3

- ART. 3 . . . The catcher shall wear, in addition to a head protector, a mask with a throat protector, body/chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard (Effective January 1, 2020), protective cup (male only), and baseball protective shin guards.

- Rationale:
  A NOCSAE standard has been developed to protect the heart and the cardiac silhouette from commotio cordis. The effective date is January 1, 2020.
A batter-runner who reached first base safety and then overruns or over slides may immediately return without liability of being put out provided he does not attempt or feint an advance to second. This now applies to a player who is awarded first base on a base on balls as well as who has a base hit.
Rule Change

TOUCHING, OCCUPYING AND RETURNING TO A BASE
RULE 8-2-7

- Rationale:
This change is easy to coach, officiate and execute as a player. All batter-runners are treated equally and consistently.
EDITORIAL CHANGES
The barrel is the area intended for contact with a pitched ball. The rulebook language was updated for editorial clarity.
Rule language was updated to better reflect the 2017 rule change regarding a coach physically assisting a runner during playing action. If a runner is physically assisted by a coach, the runner is called out immediately and the ball remains live.
POINTS OF EMPHASIS
National anthem standoffs do not reflect the mission of education-based athletics. Staring down opponents after the national anthem to try to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is poor sporting behavior.
Points of Emphasis

SPORTSMANSHIP — BENCH JOCKEYING AND CELEBRATIONS

Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purposes.
BENCH JOCKEYING

Coaches, players, and other team personnel shall not be outside the dugout for any unauthorized purpose. Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout on buckets or stools.

**Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and will not be tolerated.**

Any orchestrated activities by bench personnel designed to distract, intimidate, or disconcert the opposing team should not be tolerated.

With this being said, let’s remember one of the reasons we play baseball is to encourage enthusiasm for the sport.

Loud enthusiasm is not always an unsportsmanlike action
Players are not allowed to stand outside their dugout/bench area and make “cat-calls” or other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice.
Jewelry — including necklaces, bracelets and earrings — shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.
The rules of high school baseball are designed for the age and skill level of high school players and best serve education-based athletics. Use of non-approved interpretations or rulings that are contradictory to NFHS rules as written can confuse students, coaches, umpires and fans.
The set is one of two legal pitching positions. For the set position, a pitcher 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 and parallel to the pitcher’s plate.
The windup is the second of two legal pitching positions. For the windup, the pitcher’s non-pivot foot shall be in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate.
The so-called hybrid stance is illegal as it does not meet the requirements of either the windup or set positions.
Points of Emphasis

REPLANTING THE PIVOT FOOT

Pitching regulations do not permit a leap/hop and replanting of the pivot foot before delivery of a pitch from either the wind-up or set position (NFHS 6-1-2, 6-1-3).
2018 PIAA
Rule Changes
The PIAA pitching restriction rule has been amended to permit a pitcher reaching the maximum pitch count for any level of rest during an at bat, to continue to pitch to that batter, or any substitute for that batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first base, or until a third out has been made prior to the end of that at bat. The pitcher will be credited with the maximum number of pitches for that level.

Example: Pitcher Jones pitch count reaches 25 during Smith’s time at bat.

Ruling: Jones will be permitted to continuing pitching to Smith until the time at bat is completed or the inning ends during that time at bat. Jones will be credited with a pitch count of 25.
The pitching restriction rule has been amended to provide that the pitch counts need to be entered no later than 12:00 pm (noon) the day following a competition.
2018 PIAA
POINTS OF EMPHASIS
If players choose to kneel during the National Anthem, it is a local school matter between the player and their school. Although we believe that standing for the National Anthem is intended to honor and respect those men and women that came before us and those that continue to provide for the opportunity to play a game, it is not our purpose to legislate the actions of the players or coaches during the Anthem. That is between the participants and their school.

While officials are under the same premise, we would hope that officials would honor the flag, but no penalty will result if an official takes a different stance.
Umpires and coaches, are charged with many responsibilities.

One of the most important being “Pace of Play.”

Some people think baseball is a boring game.

Batting 3 or 4 times and making 3 or 4 plays in two and a half or three hours IS BORING!

Our 7 inning games should not take more than 2 hours to play.
Pace of Play – Tips to Assist With Pace of Play

- Have players hustle in and out between innings. The rules book allows one minute from the time of the first warm up throw, in some cases, and one minute from the third out in other cases. Teams that get it done in a minute practice it.

- Have courtesy runners ready to go when the pitcher or catcher get on base.

- Enforce the batters box rule. The batter must keep one foot in the box between pitches, unless one of the exceptions listed in Rule 7-3-1 a-h occurs.
Points of Emphasis

PACE OF PLAY – TIPS TO ASSIST WITH PACE OF PLAY

- Speed up the conferences.
- Practice good ball rotation skills by getting a new ball to the pitcher while:
  - a. On deck batters shag balls.
  - b. Each dugout chases fouls on their side of the field, instead of the left and right fielders.
  - c. Getting foul balls back to the dugout instead of to the base umpire.
Points of Emphasis

PACE OF PLAY –
TIPS TO ASSIST WITH PACE OF PLAY

CALL EVERY INCH OF THE STRIKE ZONE.

PITCHES

Entering the strike zone here

OR

Leaving the strike zone here

Are reasonable strikes
Any part of the ball touching any part of the inside or outside corner is a reasonable strike. Calling the shaded area a strike increases the number of strikes called during a game by 60% and is a reasonable strike.
The PIAA Umpires Manual not to be confused with the PIAA Chapter Meeting Guide has been discontinued for 2018.

RATIONAL: The PIAA Umpires Manual was very similar to, but not as extensive as the NFHS Umpires Manual
The PIAA purchases and provides every Chapter Interpreter with The NFHS Umpires Manual.

This NFHS Manual will replace the PIAA Umpires Manual.

This manual is published every two years.
Chapter Interpreters are encouraged to refer to the series of PowerPoint Presentations available on the PIAA Baseball Page:

**The 2-man System**

**Working the Plate**

**Working the Bases**

**Handling Special Situations**
IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS:

June 14 – 15  Baseball Championships
Medlar Field at Lubrano Park
State College

2018 PIAA OFFICIALS' CONVENTION
August 3 and 4, 2018 - Hilton Harrisburg

For the 24th consecutive year, PIAA will provide a plethora of educational sessions for officials in all sports currently sponsored by PIAA member schools. It is through these educational sessions that PIAA is better able to service our member schools and their athletes throughout the sports seasons.

Convention registration will be open in April 2018.

Hope to see you there!
Umpires interested in presenting a topic at the convention should contact:

Andy Keteles – heyump7@comcast.net

Or

Pat Gebhart, PIAA Assistant Executive Director

Hope to see you there!
THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT SEASON!