PIAA BASEBALL CHAPTER
MEETING GUIDE

JANUARY 2019

“BASE HITS”

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INTRODUCTION

In competitive athletic contests, the game official represents the ultimate in integrity for any competition. By their very nature, officials are neutral and are responsible to keep the contests played on equal terms. Through actions on and off the field, officials must earn the respect and confidence of players, coaches, and spectators. This confidence and respect is not earned by words, but by unquestioned honesty, demonstrated ability, obvious devotion to, and full understanding of the game.

The rules of competitive athletics are, for the most part, complex. They are difficult to read, understand, and interpret. Mere book knowledge of the rules does not make an official. To an official, knowledge of the rules is basic. To achieve excellence, an official must combine knowledge with good officiating techniques. To assist in this goal, we have provided the following meeting guides. Hopefully, these guides will assist in having each play considered with consistent judgment, intelligence, understanding, courage, and without intimidation.

Athletic officiating is a vigorous avocation and it demands that an official be in excellent physical condition, able to give the very best, on every play, in every contest. To that end, the American Medical Association has stated that before one attempts any vigorous physical activity they should first visit their family physician for a check-up. It is part of good personal health maintenance to have an annual physical exam and participate in an exercise program. This type of exercise program should be minimally three days per week and include cardiovascular conditioning, strength training, flexibility, and muscle endurance. These components, along with proper nutrition, will assist in developing one's optimum body composition.

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (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.
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MEETING 1:


RULE 6-1-3 Pivot Foot Requirement:

Starting with the 2019 season, pitchers, while in the set position, are no longer required to have their entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. This change recognizes that many mounds are in the type of condition that it is problematic for the pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. No advantage is gained when this option is available to both teams.

The 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 pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate.

6-1- ART. 3 . . . For the set position, the pitcher shall have the ball in either his gloved hand or his pitching hand. His pitching hand shall be down at his side or behind his back. Before starting his delivery, 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 and parallel to the pitcher’s plate.
Editorial Change. Baseballs Rule 1-3-1:

The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs effective January 1, 2020, which is an extension of the original implementation date of January 1, 2019. Balls that only have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 season.

Effective January 1, 2020 the SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all baseballs that meet the NOCSAE standard that will be used in high school competition. Baseballs shall have the SEI/NOCSAE mark along with the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Baseballs that have both marks (SEI/NOCSAE and NFHS Authenticating Mark) or just the single NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 high school baseball season.

The deadline extension was granted to accommodate those schools that had a robust surplus of baseballs and allow them to be used and not be wasted or destroyed.

RULE 1-5-3:

Per a rule change approved in 2017, the catcher’s body/chest protector shall meet the NOCSAE standard effective January 1, 2020.
2019 POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

1. Sportsmanship

**Actions of Players During the National Anthem**– The standing and playing of the National Anthem is a valued and long standing tradition that is held before sporting events. Staring down an opponent, trying to intimidate them, or refusing to leave the baseline before the other team is not consistent with the mission of education based athletics. Any actions not representative of high school sports and what they stand for should not be tolerated.

National anthem standoffs do not reflect 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 juvenile and disrespectful.

PIAA Statement:

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.
2. Bench Decorum –

Coaches, players, and other team personnel shall not be outside of the dugout for any unauthorized purpose. Coaches or team personnel **MAY NOT SIT OUTSIDE THE DUGOUT** on buckets or stools.

3. Bench Jockeying:

Actions meant to demean opposing contestants, teams, spectators, and officials are not in the highest ideals of interscholastic education and **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**.

Orchestrated Chants, intentional distractions and loud noises directed at the opponent’s pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play do not represent good sportsmanship and are **NOT PERMITTED**!

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.**
4. Equipment – Helmets

Helmets must meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-2, including that all face mask/guards attached after manufacture are approved by the manufacturer and meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

A face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, provided that procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

While the phenomena of cheek/jaw protectors are prominent at the higher levels of baseball, those third party “add-ons” do not subscribe to any performance standard. However, in regards to protection, there are a small handful of manufacturers that do offer cheek/jaw protectors that meet the NOCSAE performance standard in conjunction with a NOCSAE approved helmet.

5. Equipment – Bats. Bats shall be unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design and production and must meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2.
6. Base-Runner’s Responsibilities

Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, it must be legal. A legal slide can either be feet first or head first. If a runner slides feet first, at least one leg and buttock shall be on the ground.

Runners may not pop-up into the fielder. Except at home plate, runners may not slide through or beyond the base.

Runners may not slide away from a base in the direction of the fielder. But a runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.

Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground.
Diving over a fielder is ALWAYS illegal. Diving supersedes obstruction.


To assist in providing pertinent information between partners, a new umpire signal — “information available” — was approved. The umpire indicates he or she has relevant information for their partner by tapping two times over the left chest (heart).

In three- and four-umpire mechanics, umpires can signal to partners which direction they will be rotating to a specific base for coverage of an anticipated play. The new “correct rotation” signal involves umpires pointing with both hands in the direction of the base that they are moving toward.

2019 Case Book ERRORS.

2.9.1 SITUATION D: B1 hits a two hopper back to the pitcher. F1 gloves the batted ball, but cannot get the ball out of his glove. He quickly removes his glove with the ball securely stuck inside the webbing of the glove and shovels the glove to the first baseman who is in contact with first base. The first baseman catches the glove with the ball in it just before B1 touches first base. RULING: B1 is out because F3 had secure possession of the glove and ball.

This ruling is incorrect because:
1. It cannot be supported by any statement in the 2019 NFHS Baseball Rules Book.

2. It contradicts the definition of a catch as stated in Rule 2-9-1.

3. It contradicts DEAD BALL TABLE Ruling and Penalty 12.

4. It contradicts Rule 5-1-1-f-5.

4. It contradicts other Case Book plays such as:

2.9.1 SITUATION B
5.1.1 SITUATION Q
5.1.1 SITUATION R

Rule 1
1.3.2   pg. 7    Typo error. Second line down in play. The word (for) should be (from)

Rule 5
5.2.2A   pg. 47   Add to ruling. (except a Dead-Ball Appeal).

Rule 6
6.1.1D   pg. 48   To play on R3, NOT R1
6.1.3G   pg. 51   R2 awarded third, NOT R1
6.1.5 Situation   pg. 52   Pick-off R1, NOT R2
6.2.4E   pg. 55   R2 is the runner, NOT R1
6.2.4H   pg. 56   Shouldn’t R3 be at third, NOT R1

Rule 7
7.3.5I   pg. 63   In ruling (b) part - R3, NOT R1
7.4.1G   pg. 64   Tags R2, NOT R1

Rule 8
8.2.2I   pg. 70   In play, defensive coach cannot appeal (still a “Live ball”) Part (a) Give reason why appeal is not honored! (invalid appeal)
8.2.6E   pg. 72   (and no “Force Play” is in effect)
8.4.1D   pg. 80   Add to end of ruling. (and no “Force Play” is in effect)
8.4.2H   pg. 82   R2 is hit by batted ball, NOT R1
8.4.2K   pg. 83   R1 is thrown out, NOT R3
PIAA Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis

2019 PITCH COUNT ADOPTIONS:

1. An OFFICIAL PITCH COUNTER will be required for District and Inter-District Play-Off Games.

2. For District and Inter-District PLAY- OFF games only:

   The top pitch count threshold, per game, has been amended to 105 pitches and the weekly limit to 210 pitches.

PACE OF PLAY

Tips to assist with pace of play

1. 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.

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

3. Enforce the batter’s 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.

4. Speed up the conferences.

5. 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.

6. Call every inch of the strike zone. Umpires may view the Strike Zone slide in the Power Point Presentation “Working the Plate” on the PIAA CD or PIAA web page.
PIAA UMPIRES MANUAL

The PIAA Umpires Manual not to be confused with the PIAA Chapter Meeting Guide was discontinued in 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 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
- The 4-Man System
- Handling Special Situations
MEETING 2: 2019 PIAA RULINGS and ADOPTIONS


Pursuant to NFHS Rule 6-1-6, the PIAA has adopted the following Baseball Pitching Restriction Procedure:

0 - 25 pitches - no rest.
26 to 50 - 1 day rest.
51 to 75 - 2 days rest.
76 to 100 - 3 days rest.

1. 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.

2. 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’s 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.

3. A pitcher cannot pitch on more than 2 consecutive days.
4. A pitcher is limited to 200 pitches in a calendar week.
5. A pitch is defined as a live ball delivered to the batter that results in a strike, ball, or batted ball fair or foul.
6. 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.

7. **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.**
8. 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.

9. **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 cannot enter the game or they will forfeit.

   **Ruling:** Umpire Smith’s actions are incorrect. He should say nothing and accept the substitution.

10. **2019 PITCH COUNT ADOPTIONS:**
   1. An **OFFICIAL PITCH COUNTER** will be required for District and Inter-District Play-Off Games.
   2. For District and Inter-District Play-Off games only:

      The top pitch count threshold, per game, has been amended to **105** pitches and the weekly limit to **210** pitches.

      **Adopt suggested speed-up rule Courtesy Runner only.**
      **Adopt Rule 1-2-9 NOTE,** permitting the optional use of the Double First Base.
      **Adopt 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. TEN RUN RULE. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 ½ innings. If the visiting team goes ahead by 10 or more in the top half of the 5th inning, or any inning after the 5th, the home team is entitled to its time at bat in the bottom half of that inning.

Modify Rule 4-2-2. FIFTEEN RUN RULE. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 or more runs after 2 ½ innings. If the visiting team goes ahead by 15 or more in the top half of the 5th inning, the home team is entitled to its time at bat in the bottom half of that inning.

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, Sub-varsity level (junior varsity, junior high, and middle school) participating member schools, by mutual agreement prior to the start of a doubleheader, may limit the number of innings played, in each game of that doubleheader, to five (5).

Adopt Rule 4-2-4, relative to suspended games:

The PIAA has adopted this game ending procedure:
Once the game has started (PLAY BALL), if play is halted because of weather, darkness, or light failure, and the game cannot continue. We have a suspended game to be continued from the point of interruption at a later date.

Exception: If at least 4 1/2 innings have been completed and a winner can be determined, the game is over.

SITUATION A: The game is halted before the 5th inning and: (a) the game is tied. (b) the visitors are ahead. (c) the home team is ahead.

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RULING: In (a), (b), and (c) the game is suspended and is to be continued from the point of interruption at a later date.

SITUATION B: During the top of the 5th inning (a) the visitors are ahead or (b) the home team is ahead, and the game is halted.
A.
B.

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RULING: In (A) and (B) the game is suspended to be completed at a later date.

SITUATION C: At the end of 5 innings of play the home team leads 4 - 3. In the top of the 6th inning the visitors go ahead 8 – 4 and the game is halted.

C.

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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RULING: The game reverts back to the 5th inning. The home team wins 4-3. Weather – Error on the side of caution when dealing with inclement weather conditions. If you see lightening or hear thunder, get the teams off the field into safe shelter and wait the prescribed amount of time before resuming (30 minutes from the last bolt).

We do have suspended game rules in effect, therefore there is no need to rush trying to complete a game.

If you are in the 4th inning of a close game and it is raining, it is probably best to get the teams off of the field until the weather improves. You might agree, after reading situation “C” above.

If a Lightning Detection System indicates bad weather in the area, get the teams off of the field.

If a Lightning Detection Phone Application or Radar System indicates bad weather in the area, get the teams off of the field.

Once the teams are off of the field, for any of the reasons listed above, begin the 30 minute lightning/thunder procedure:

1. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last boom is heard, flash is seen, or bad weather is indicated by a warning system.

2. Any subsequent thunder, lightning, or warning sounds will reset the clock and another 30 minute count should begin.

SITUATION: In the 3rd inning, a lightning warning siren is heard and the teams are removed from the field. After 15 minutes, the Warning System indicates it is safe to resume play.
RULING: The NFHS and PIAA have not yet determined a procedure to be followed when using a Weather Warning System. Keep the teams off of the field for 30 minutes after the last boom, flash, or warning signal.

When dealing with inclement weather conditions, error on the side of caution and safety!

DISQUALIFICATION RULE

Any coach ejected from baseball contest by any state association registered official for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall leave the vicinity of the playing area (out of sight and sound) immediately and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with the team for the remainder of the day and for the next contest or next play day at the same level (Rule 3-3-2). He may return when requested to attend to an ill or injured player.

Any player ejected from baseball contest by any state association registered official for unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant misconduct shall be disqualified from participating in the remainder of the day on all levels and in the next contest, after the day of the incident, at the same level.

Other than filing a report with the PIAA office ON-LINE WITHIN 24 HOURS, officials ARE NOT to get involved in the enforcement of the disqualification rule.

The PIAA has adopted a 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 or a coach a one game suspension, this provision has been adopted:

Second time team offenders shall be restricted to the bench, without ejection, for the remainder of the game. There will be no ejection report filed and no additional disqualification penalties.

These are some examples of situations that require restriction to the bench (after a warning) without an ejection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Using a heating device on bats (natural or artificial)</th>
<th>Carelessly throwing bat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deliberately removing helmet (live ball)</td>
<td>Player’s wearing bandana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal catcher’s equipment</td>
<td>On-Deck circle violation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewelry</td>
<td>Fake tags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving dugout/bench area during a live ball</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unauthorized items in coach’s box</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PIAA APPROVED UMPIRES’ UNIFORM.

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 pullover style shirt shall only be of a micromesh material. (The silk/shiny dazzle type material is not approved.)

**Long-sleeve shirt is now approved.**

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 seam. 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:** The State Championship patch that is given to each umpire that officiates a state championship game it is to be 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 and not on the shirt once the State Championship Game is completed.

Undershirt

Navy blue - All umpires must wear the same color undershirt during the game.

**Slacks**  Charcoal Gray only - **SHORTS** are **NOT** permitted.

**Ball Bag**  Navy blue only.

**Socks**  Black – “footies” are **NOT** permitted.
Shoes  Solid black - with NO WHITE MARKINGS of any kind.

Belt  Black - 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. A cap with Gold 1½" high "PIAA" letters is 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 or Necklace also pertain to umpires.

NOTE: ALL UNIFORM ITEMS MUST BE IDENTICAL TO PARTNER(S), DRESS ALIKE!!!

OFFICIALS' UNIFORM - AMERICAN FLAG DISPLAY
Registered PIAA sports' officials may display the American flag (maximum size 2 inches by 3 inches) on the right sleeve of their uniform shirt approximately three inches down from the shoulder seam. This will be the same position the PIAA official patch is displayed on the left sleeve. This policy is effective immediately. Thank you for your patriotism, support of interscholastic education, and the recognition and remembrance of our fellow Americans. An American flag may be displayed on umpires' jacket.

Player's Uniforms Sleeves

Rule 1-4. ART. 2 . . . Compression sleeves that are solid black or solid dark-colored shall be the only colors allowed to be worn by the pitcher below his elbow.

Comments:

Compression sleeves can be worn, by the pitcher, on either arm, both arms, or by itself.

Compression sleeves cannot be distracting to the batter.

Pitchers can wear a white or gray exposed t-shirt, dri-fit style or compression style shirts, as long as the sleeves do not extend below the elbow.

Compression sleeves, worn by the PITCHER, that extend below the elbow cannot be white or gray.
“All compression sleeves must be solid black or solid dark, IF THE PLAYER IS PITCHING!”

**Field players** can wear COMPRESSION, not to be considered uniform sleeves, on one or both arms, with no restrictions on color or length.

**PROPER CATCHER’S EQUIPMENT.**

The catcher’s helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard, which includes having full ear protection with dual ear flaps.

The skull cap and mask combination **does not meet** the NOCSAE standard nor does it provide full ear protection with dual ear flaps and **is not permitted** for high school baseball.

Comment: There have been reports that umpires are allowing catchers to wear a skull cap and mask. The vast majority of catchers have the legal equipment, but a small percentage of them try to wear the more comfortable skull cap until forced to change.

**DO NOT TO PERMIT IT!**

**BE CONSISTENT IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE RULE!**

**ARM BANDS**

Players are permitted to wear the armband signal placards, as they were designed to be worn - **ON THE ARM WHILE PLAYING DEFENSE.** Pitchers are not permitted to wear them. They are a distraction. **Hitters are not permitted to wear them. They are a distraction and often delay the game.**

You can find a reference to these devices and where they are to be worn in **The 2016 High School Baseball RULES BY TOPIC Publication** on page 31, **Play 8.1.1 SITUATION Q.**
POLICY ON EYE SHADE
The use of eye shade must be worn as a single, solid stroke under the eye. There shall be no numbers, words, logos, symbols or other detail located in the eye shade. The eye shade shall not extend below the cheek bone and extend no further than the width of the eye socket. Players having eye shade that does not meet the standard are to remove it or comply with the PIAA interpretation before participation in the game. If the players do not comply, the officials may impose unsportsmanlike conduct type penalties as determined by their respective rules code.

COACHES UNIFORM
PIAA policy is that all coaches of PIAA member schools must be in full school baseball uniform when on the field or in the dugout.

Note: Although Rule 1-1-5 mentions that all team members SHOULD be of the same color and style, PIAA’s policy is that all players and field coaches MUST be dressed in uniforms of identical color and style.

Coaches may wear a team wind shirt, jersey or jacket.
Examples:

Don’t make a major issue of it on the JV and Middle School level. There are many reasons why coaches under the varsity level do not wear the proper attire. Just make sure those not able to wear the proper uniform, ON THE SUB-VARSITY LEVEL, ARE NEAT AND PRESENTABLE (preferably in school colors) TO COACH BASEBALL. This means NO JEANS AND T SHIRTS! If an umpire runs into a sub varsity coach that abuses the PRIVILEGE, don’t make a major issue of it. Report the violation to the PIAA Chapter President and have the Chapter President report the inadequate attire to the school’s AD. The AD will take care of the problem.
MEDIA AREA

PIAA policy places the media area outside the confines of the field of play.

SPORTSMANSHIP MESSAGE

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 officials’ that your players are legally equipped and uniformed according to NFHS rules and PIAA adoptions. Good luck in today’s contest.

For distribution purposes, this message is printed on the back of all PIAA registered sports officials’ identification cards. Chapter interpreters are requested to remind all officials to READ this message at each contest they officiate.

Protest Procedure – PIAA does not allow any forms of protests.

If there is a question about a rule that was possibly misapplied, the team’s coach or captain shall inform the umpire at the time of the play and before a pitch to the next batter of either team, or before the umpires leave the field, if the play in question was the last play of the game (10-2-3i #1). The umpires will then meet and arrive at a proper ruling. Umpires are to use whatever means necessary to reach a correct final decision.

Exception: Video replay may not be used to correct a call.
MEETING 3: Major Rules Differences.

The rules shown below are the NFHS Rules that are different from the Official Baseball Rules. There are over 70 differences, but only the major differences are considered in this comparison. These differences account for over 80 percent of baseball rules problems in the State of Pennsylvania.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rule 2-22-1. <strong>Obstruction</strong> of a runner is always a delayed dead ball. OBSTRUCTION as well as INTERFERENCE may be VERBAL as well as physical.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rule 3-1-3. Starting players, including the Pitcher and Designated Hitter, may be pulled out of the game (substituted for) and then re-enter the game later, but only ONE TIME. The re-entered player must remain in the same spot in the batting order.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Rule 3-1-4. <strong>A Designated Hitter may hit for any player in the lineup.</strong> The role of DH is terminated when: a. A player who has played defense, replaces the DH. b. The DH or any previous DH assumes a defensive position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Rule 3-3-1 Penalty. An umpire may issue a written warning and restrict a coach to the bench.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Rule 3-3-1m. Malicious Contact by a runner or by a fielder results in the ejection of the player causing the contact.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Rule 3 – 4 – 1. A coach is allowed 3 “charged” conferences during a regular 7- inning game. There is no restriction as to when these conferences can be used. They could, if a coach desired, be used all in one inning or all during one batter’s at-bat. After three “charged” defensive conferences, the coach must replace the pitcher on each subsequent visit. The pitcher forced to be removed by the 3 conferences rule may remain in the game and play another position, but may not return as pitcher. For extra-inning games, each team is allowed one “charged” defensive conference in each extra inning(s). Same as OBR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Rule 4 – 4 – 1 f. NFHS requires a team to start a game with nine (9) players, <strong>but allows</strong> them to finish the game with (8) players. Once they have gone to eight players, they can return to nine players, if additional eligible substitutes show up for the game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Rule 5-1-1-k. A balk is an <strong>IMMEDIATE DEAD BALL</strong>. All playing action after the balk is automatically negated (steals, home runs, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9.   | Rule 6-1-2. No pickoff move can occur from the windup position. The pitcher can only:  

1. Pitch to the batter.  
2. Step off the rubber legally. |
| 10.  | Rule 6-1-2. For the wind up position 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 “hybrid position” is not acceptable. |
| 11.  | Rule 6-1-3. While in the set position:  

1. The pivot foot must be on or in front of and **ENTIRELY** in contact with and parallel to the rubber.  
2. With no runners on base, the pitcher must still display a discernable stop. |
| 12.  | Rule 6-2-4-b. From the set position a pitcher may step and feint towards a runner at third base, then turn and throw to first base. When making this move, the pitcher may also fake to first if his pivot foot is removed from the rubber on the feint to third. |
| 13.  | Rule 8-2 Penalty. A **dead ball appeal** may be made by a coach or any defensive player, **with or without the ball**, by verbally stating the runner missed the base or left too soon tagging on a caught fly ball. |
| 14.  | Rule 8-4-2 (b) The runner is out, if on a force play, he does not slide on the ground, and in a **direct line between the two bases**, UNLESS the runner is sliding or running away from the fielder to avoid contact or altering the play of the fielder. |
| 15.  | Courtesy Runner Rule. A team may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or catcher. |
MEETING 4: PITCHING REGULATIONS

The Wind-Up Position
In a wind up position the pitcher’s pivot foot must be somewhere on the pitching rubber and the NON-PIVOT FOOT MUST BE TOUCHING OR BEHIND A LINE EXTENDING THROUGH THE FRONT EDGE OF THE RUBBER. When in this position the TOES WILL BE POINTED TOWARDS HOME PLATE OR SLIGHTLY SLANTED. Under no conditions is the non pivot foot to be entirely in front of the front edge line.

In these diagrams the non-pivot foot could also be on the rubber

When in the wind-up position the pitcher can only do two things (NFHS RULES):

1. Begin the pitching motion with his non-pivot foot or
2. Step backwards (not to the side) off of the rubber with his pivot foot.

WHEN IN CONTACT WITH THE RUBBER IN THE WIND-UP POSITION THE PITCHER CAN NOT THROW TO A BASE.

PENALTY: ILLEGAL PITCH

THE HYBRID PITCHING POSITION

The pitching stance shown in the diagram is called the Hybrid Position and is illegal in High School Baseball.
THE SET POSITION:

In the set position the pitcher must have his ENTIRE pivot foot on or ENTIRELY in contact with and PARALLEL TO the rubber.

The non-pivot foot must be ENTIRELY anywhere in front of the line (extended in both directions) that determines the front edge of the pitching rubber.

BALKS:

Tips on calling balks:

Here are some things to remember when calling balks:

a. When a balk occurs, the ball is dead immediately.

b. At the time of the balk, the calling umpire should say “TIME, THAT’S A BALK”

c. The call of “balk” should be made VERY loudly and emphatically.

d. At the proper moment, other members of the crew should loudly and emphatically call “TIME.”

e. If the balk is followed by a pitch, notify the pitch counters that the pitch does not count.

f. Remember to give the proper ball/strike count before resuming play.

f. Put the ball back in play when play is ready to resume. (5-1-4)
COMMON TYPES OF BALKS:

1. Takes sign while not on the rubber.
2. Makes an illegal pitch from any position.
3. Attempts a pick-off move, from the rubber, in the windup position.
4. Assumes the set position without keeping his pitching hand at side or behind back.
5. Comes to his stop with the glove above his chin.
6. Brings pitching hand to mouth and then delivers without wiping off that hand.
7. Interrupts pitching motion.
8. Pitches from the set position with pivot foot outside the end of the rubber or not parallel to the rubber.
9. Steps forward off the rubber from the set position.
10. Pitches from the set position without coming to a complete stop.
11. Drops the ball while on the rubber when the ball does not cross the foul line.
12. Feints toward home.
13. Feints toward first.
14. Fails to step with the non-pivot foot toward any base before making a throw.
15. Feints or throws to an unoccupied base except when making a play.
16. Fails to pitch after making any motion habitually connected with delivery.
17. Stands astride or within five feet of the rubber, without the ball, during a hidden ball trick.
18. After bringing the hands together in the set position, feints with any part of the upper body, except the head.
19. Steps and feints toward occupied third and then turns and FEINTS to first WITHOUT DISENGAGING the rubber before the feint to first.
20. Commits any act, which in the umpire’s judgment, is an illegal attempt to deceive the runners.

SPECIAL BALK REGULATIONS:

The pitcher shall not be charged with a balk if he attempts a pick-off at first base and throws to the first baseman who is either in front of (coming into cover a bunt) or behind first base and obviously not an attempt at retiring the runner. As long as the fielder attached to that base is in the “proximity” (umpire judgment) of the base.

Note: There is no violation if the pitcher attempts a pick-off at second or third and throws to an infielder who is in front of or behind or to the side of either of those bases; i.e., this violation is only in reference to pick-offs at first base.

There is no violation if a pitcher attempts a pick-off at second base and seeing no fielder covering the bag, throws to the short stop or second baseman, neither of whom is in the vicinity of the bag nor is making an actual attempt to retire the runner.

Rationale: He does not have to throw to second.

THROWING TO AN UNOCCUPIED BASE:

NFHS Rules provide that the pitcher be charged with a balk if, while in contact with the rubber, he throws to an unoccupied base except for the purpose of making a play.

Play: Runners on first and second pitcher in a set position, runner breaks for third and pitcher throws to third base.

Ruling: Legal play – runner attempted to steal.

THIRD TO FIRST MOVE:

From the set position, a pitcher may step and feint towards a runner at third base, then turn and throw to first base. When making this move, the pitcher may fake to first only if his pivot foot is removed from the rubber on the feint to third.

PITCHER’S GLOVE/MITT:

Multi-colored gloves are permitted except, a glove/mitt worn by the pitcher that includes the colors white and/or gray shall be removed from the game upon discovery by either team and/or umpire.

Replacing the Pitcher:

A player may change to a different fielding position at any time except that a pitcher, after being listed as such on the official lineup card, cannot change until certain conditions are met.
The starting pitcher shall pitch until the first opposing batter has been put out or has advanced to first base (3-1-1). If the starting pitcher does not face one batter, he may play another position, but not return to pitch (3-1-1 penalty).

Defensive Conferences:

A team is allowed 3 “charged” conferences during a regular 7- inning game.

There is no restriction as to when these conferences can be used. They could, if a coach desired, be used all in one inning or all during one batter’s at-bat.

After three “charged” defensive conferences, the coach must replace the pitcher on each subsequent visit.

The pitcher forced to be removed by the 3 conferences rule may remain in the game and play another position, but may not return as pitcher.

For extra-inning games, each team is allowed one “charged” defensive conference in each extra inning(s). Same as OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES.

Defensive Conference Ends:

A defensive charged conference is concluded when the coach or non-playing representative crosses the foul line if the conference was in fair territory. If the conference was in foul territory, the conference concludes when the coach or non-playing representative initially starts to return to the dugout/bench area. If a coach who has been restricted to the dugout-bench area is involved in a charged conference, that conference shall end when the players involved initially start to return to their positions on the field. The coach shall be given a reasonable amount of time for the charged conference as determined by the UIC.

MEETING 5: UMPIRE MECHANICS. WORKING THE TWO MAN SYSTEM

A. REVIEW UMPIRE MECHANICS (TWO-MAN SYSTEM):

1. If possible, view the Two Man Mechanics PowerPoint “PIAA 2-Man System of Umpiring” available on the Baseball Document page of the PIAA web site or on the CD sent to your chapter by the PIAA.

2. Distribute to the members a packet of 2–man mechanics diagrams, which are available in the PIAA Umpires Manual on the PIAA web site baseball page.

3. Use blackboard or magnetic board to illustrate proper 2-man mechanics as presented in the NFHS Baseball Umpires Guide.
4. Use available video presentations.

5. If possible, utilize indoor/outdoor facilities to provide actual experience.

MEETING 6: UMPIRE MECHANICS. Working the Plate.

A. Review Plate Mechanics by presenting the PowerPoint “Working the Plate” available in the document section of the PIAA baseball page or on the CD sent to your chapter by the PIAA.

B. Use the information and diagrams available in the PIAA Baseball Umpires Manual and/or the NFHS Umpires Manual.

MEETING 7: UMPIRE MECHANICS. Working the Bases.

A. Review Base Umpire Mechanics by presenting the PowerPoint “Working the Bases” available in the document section of the PIAA baseball page or on the CD sent to your chapter by the PIAA.

B. Use the information and diagrams available in the PIAA Baseball Umpires Manual and/or the NFHS Umpires Manual.

MEETING 8: Special Situations.

A. View and discuss the PowerPoint “Special Situations” available in the document section of the PIAA baseball page or on the CD sent to your chapter by the PIAA.
MEETING 9:  BATTING

POSITION AND BATTING ORDER

Before game time, the home team and then the visiting team shall deliver their respective line up cards to the Umpire-in-Chief.

Sample Line Up Card:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mentzer</td>
<td>LF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cosslett</td>
<td>1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meyers</td>
<td>SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hansen</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shinew</td>
<td>DH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Garritano</td>
<td>RF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leiper</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bevac</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hoover</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substitutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31   Applegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19   Finney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A player’s name determines his position in the batting order, not his number.

Any of the starting players including the Designated Hitter may be substituted for and re-entered once, provided such player occupies the same batting position in the original line up.

The Designated Hitter: A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any of the starting players not just the pitcher.

The DH should have his own place on the lineup card and that space is to be immediately after the player he is designated to hit for. The DH and the player he is hitting for should be connected as shown on the example lineup card.

ERRORS IN BATTING ORDER:

Obvious errors in the batting order which are noticed by the UIC before calling “Play Ball” for the start of the game should be called to the attention of the coach of the team in error so the correction can be made before the game starts.
BATTING OUT OF ORDER (7-1 AND 2) PENALTY:
1. Only the defensive team can appeal batting out of order after the hitter has completed his time at bat.

2. If the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defensive team appeals, the umpire shall declare the proper batter out and return all runners to the base occupied at the time of pitch. Any outs made on play stand; i.e., steal; pick off; double play.

An out for batting out of order supersedes an out by the improper batter on the play.

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE
A hitter may be (not mandatory) designated for any one starting player (not just pitchers) and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mentzer</td>
<td>LF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cosslett</td>
<td>SS to 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Meyers</td>
<td>SS P SS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hansen</td>
<td>P to 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shinew</td>
<td>DH P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Garritano</td>
<td>RF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leiper</td>
<td>2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>CF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bevac</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hoover</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Substitutes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Applegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Finney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use the lineup card to follow these plays.

SITUATION I:
In the 3rd inning Team A substitutes Applegate for Meyers in the number three spot. Applegate is to become the new pitcher. The pitcher Hansen, moves to 1st base and the 1st baseman Cosslett moves to shortstop. The opposing team insists Team A must terminate the DH (Shinew) position because Hanson is no longer pitching.

RULING I:
INCORRECT. This is a legal substitution because neither part A nor part B of Rule 3-1-4 can be applied to eliminate the DH. The DH is not hitting for the pitcher, he is hitting for Hansen. Play continues with (DH) Shinew batting after Applegate and Hanson playing 1st base.

SITUATION II: Continue with the same lineup card.
Finney is entered for Applegate and plays SS. Applegate is removed for the duration of the game. Coslett is moved back to 1B. Shinew becomes the pitcher.

RULING II:
THESE ARE LEGAL CHANGES, however Hansen must leave the game because the role of the DH has been terminated RULE 3-1-4 b. Pitcher Shinew will bat after Finney.
Batter’s Box Rule:
A batter may leave the batter’s box as presented in Rule 7-3-1 on page 44 of the 2019 NFHS Baseball Rules Book.

If the batter leaves the batter’s box, and “delays” the game, which is the key word to the rule, “delays” and none of the exceptions apply, the plate umpire shall charge a strike to the batter. The pitcher need not pitch, and the ball remains live.

The lines defining the batter’s box are considered “within” the batter’s box. When the batter assumes his position in the batter’s box, he shall have both feet completely within the batter’s box; i.e., “no part” of either foot may extend beyond the lines defining the box when the batter assumes his position.

If a batter hits a ball (fair, foul, or foul tip) with one or both feet on the ground ENTIRELY outside the batter’s box, he shall be declared out.

Follow-Through Interference:

In this illustration, on his natural follow-through, the batter has made contact with the catcher.

The ball is delayed-dead on follow-through interference and, if F2 is not able to complete the play and throw out the runner attempting to steal, the runner must be returned to first base and the batter is out.

If follow through interference occurs on strike three, the batter is out and a second out may be called, if the interference prevented an out at another base.

Back-Swing Interference:

Before the time of the pitch, if the batter’s practice swing makes contact with the catcher or his equipment, the umpire shall call an immediate dead ball. There is no penalty.

BATTER INTERFERES WITH CATCHER’S THROW BACK TO PITCHER:
If the batter interferes with the catcher’s throwback to the pitcher by stepping out of the batter’s box while he is at bat (no runners attempting to advance), it shall not be considered interference.

In such cases, the umpire shall call “TIME” only (no interference).

The ball will be dead and no runner shall advance on the play.

This interpretation does not, of course, give the batter license to intentionally interfere with the catcher’s throwback to the pitcher and in such cases the batter shall be ruled out. If the batter becomes a runner on ball four and the catcher’s throw strikes him or his bat, the ball remains alive and play (provided no intentional interference by the batter-runner) continues.

If the batter interferes with the catcher’s throw to retire a runner by stepping out of the batter’s box, **Intentionally or not**, interference shall be called on the batter under the interference rule.

The hitter’s momentum is not to be taken into consideration when enforcing this rule.

If the batter is standing in the batter’s box and he or his bat is struck by the catcher’s throwback to the pitcher (or throw in attempting to retire a runner) and in the umpire’s judgment there is no intent on the part of the batter to interfere with the throw, consider the ball alive and in play.

**BATTER-RUNNER AND CATCHER COLLIDE:**

When a catcher and batter-runner going to first base have contact while the catcher is attempting to field the ball, there is generally no violation and nothing should be called. This cannot be interpreted to mean however that flagrant contact by either party would not call for either an interference call or an obstruction call. Either one should be called if the violation is flagrant in nature. A fielder has right of way to make a play.

**Throwing Equipment:**

A coach, player, substitute, attendant, or other bench personnel shall not carelessly throw a bat or deliberately throw a bat or helmet.

If the umpire judges it to be a careless throw, he shall, at the end of playing action, issue a team warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be Restricted to the bench. If deliberate, the offender is ejected from the game.

If the bat breaks and is hit by the ball or hits a runner or a fielder, no interference shall be called. If a whole bat is thrown and interferes with a defensive player attempting a play, interference will be called. The batter is out and runners return. If in the umpire’s judgment, interference prevented a possible 2nd out, two players may be ruled out.
MEETING 10: TOUGHER CALLS

ON THE BATTER-RUNNER:

1. The batter is out when an Infield Fair Fly fly (not including a line drive or an attempted bunt) can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort. The catch may be made by an outfielder if an infielder could have made the catch and provided the hit is made before two are out and at the time when first and second bases or all bases are occupied.

   If the rule is in effect and there is no announcement, the infield fly rule is still enforced.

   **Remember: It’s not the “Declaration” that counts; it is the “situation” that counts.**

2. After hitting or bunting a ball, he “intentionally” contacts the ball with the bat a second time in fair or foul territory.

   **The ball is dead, the hitter is out, and no runner(s) advance.**

   **EXCEPTION:** If the bat and ball accidentally come in contact with each other a second time while the batter is holding the bat in the batter’s box. **It is a foul ball.**

3. A third strike is not caught while a runner is on first base with fewer than two out and the hitter, even though he is out, runs to first base and draws a throw which results in the base runner(s) advancing.

   **The play stands. There are some rules and situations the players and coaches are to be aware of.**

4. After a third strike or a fair hit; if the ball held by any fielder, touches the batter before the batter touches first base; or if any fielder, while holding the ball in his grasp, touches first base, or touches first base with the ball before the batter-runner touches first base.

   **NOTE:** If a runner (including the batter runner) is forced to touch a base, and a defensive player in possession of the ball touches the base with any body part, an out shall be called.

   **NOTE:** A fielder is considered to have possession of the ball, even though the ball is on the ground and is covered by a hand or glove hand only, if the fielder can demonstrate possession by lifting the ball from the ground without assistance from the other hand.
5. The batter is out when he runs outside (at least one foot entirely outside a line) the three-foot lines (last half of the distance from home base to first base) while the ball is being fielded or thrown there. If the runner is out of the running lane (except to avoid a fielder), and a THROW IS MADE FROM BEHIND THE RUNNER and not caught by the fielder at first base, we have interference. It does not matter, if the ball slipped out of the hand, or the player making the throw had a mental block. We only have to judge whether or not the runner was in or out of the lane and if the throw originated from behind the runner.

6. A batter runner who stops and/or retreats back towards the plate is not out until he touches or passes the plate.

TOUGH CALLS INVOLVING A RUNNER

1. A runner runs more than three feet from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged.

   **Note:** When a play is being made on a runner, he establishes his baseline as directly between his position and the base toward which he is moving.

   **Note:** As a rule of thumb - Any runner, who goes beyond a fielder's arm reach out to the side, shall be considered out of his base path.

2. If in the "Judgment" of the umpire, a runner (including the batter-runner) interferes in any way and prevents a double play (a second out) "anywhere", two shall be declared out (the interferer and the other runner involved).

   If the umpire is uncertain who would have been played on, the runner closest to home shall be called out also.

   If the batter-runner interferes, the umpire shall call him out and the runner who has advanced the nearest to home base.

   **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 for interference unless his actions are intentional.

3. A runner is out when hit by a fair batted ball before it passes a fielder other than pitcher, or when a fair ball contacts him after passing by an infielder other than the pitcher, and no other "infielder" had a chance to make a play on the ball.

   **Exception:** If a runner is touching his base when he is hit by an infield fly, he is not out, but the batter is out by the infield fly rule. **The ball is still dead in this exception.**

   In cases where a runner is in contact with a base, when hit by a fair batted ball and a fielder has a play on the ball, the runner is out.
4. A runner is out when he attempts to advance to home base when the batter interferes with a play at home base, provided two are not already out.

   Note: With two out, the batter is out.

5. A runner is out when he does not slide or attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag or if he "maliciously” runs into a fielder (Rule 3-3-1M) (malicious contact supersedes obstruction). Hurdling is prohibited (unless the fielder is lying on the ground or the runner hurdles over a fielder's outstretched arm).

   DIVING over a fielder is never permitted. Penalty: The runner is out. The ball remains live unless interference is called.

   Hurdling and diving are not necessarily grounds for calling malicious contact.

6. A runner is out when, if on a force play at any base (except first base), the runner or retired runner fails to execute a legal slide or if he does not slide, fails to avoid the fielder on the play. At home plate, it is permissible for the slider’s momentum to carry him through the plate in the baseline extended.

   Note: If such action by the runner, the batter-runner or retired runner causes illegal contact and or illegally alters the play, interference "shall be called."

**OBSTRUCTION:**

Definition: Obstruction is the act of a fielder who, while not in possession of the ball and not in the act of fielding the ball, impedes the progress of any runner.

   Note: If a fielder is about to receive a thrown ball that is near enough to the fielder that he must occupy his position to receive the ball, he may be considered "in the act of fielding a ball," but he is still considered to be a fielder without possession of the ball must give the runner "access" to the base or plate. Access is umpire judgment.

After a fielder has made an attempt to field a ball and “has missed” he can no longer be in the “action of fielding the ball.”

   Example: If an infielder misses a ground ball and he moves to retrieve it and in doing so, delays the progress of the runner, “he very likely has obstructed the runner.”
Obstruction Mechanic:

NFHS rules have only “one” type of obstruction. NFHS is always a “delayed-dead-ball.” This is “pointing” and “verbal.”

Under NFHS Rules, regardless if a runner is obstructed while “a play is being made on him” or “no play is being made on him,” we always will use “delayed-dead-ball mechanics.” The umpire points and calls “that’s obstruction” and allows for playing action to continue, call “time” identify the infraction and make his award. If an award is to be made, the ball becomes dead when time is taken to make the award.

Penalty: The obstructed runner is awarded a minimum of one base beyond his position on the base when the obstruction occurred. If any preceding runner is forced to advance by the awarding of a base or bases to an obstructed runner, the umpire shall award this preceding runner the necessary base or bases. (Remember: malicious contact “supersedes” obstruction)

RUNNER MISSES HOME PLATE

Should a runner in scoring fail to touch home plate and continue on his way to the bench, he may be put out by the fielder touching home plate and the umpire calling the runner out (end of playing action) upon proper appeal. However, this rule applies only where a runner is on his way to the bench and the catcher, would be required to chase him.

Note #1  It does not apply to the ordinary play where the runner “misses” the plate and then immediately makes an effort to touch the plate before being tagged.

Note #2  On a play at the plate, should the runner miss home plate and the fielder miss the tag on the runner, the umpire shall make “No Signal” on the play. As outlined in the previous paragraph, the runner must then be tagged if he attempts to return to the plate; if he continues on his way to the bench, the defense may make an appeal, or the umpire will call him out at the end of playing action. See NFHS Umpires Manual Page 24 #43.

RUNNER MISSES FIRST BASE MECHANICS

Should the batter-runner fail to touch first base after beating the throw, the proper procedure for the umpire is to call the runner “Safe.” See NFHS Umpires Manual Page 35 #20.
Important Dates and events:

March 4 – First Day of Baseball Practice.

March 9 – First Baseball Scrimmage Date.

March 22 – First Play Date.

June 3 – Baseball First Round.

June 6 – Baseball Quarter Finals.

June 10 – Baseball Semifinals.

June 13 – 14 Baseball Championships at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park.

August 9 – 10 PIAA Officials Convention.