2019 NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGES

1-3-1  Modified the effective date that baseballs shall meet a NOCSAE performance standard. (Effective January 1, 2020)

6-1-3  Modified an element of the pivot foot requirement

Officials Signals  Created a signal for a 3 or 4 person mechanic to indicate the direction of rotation to the umpiring crew.

Officials Signals  Created a signal for a game umpire to alert his or her partner of relevant information.

2019 COMMENTS ON THE RULES

Modified That Baseballs Meet a NOCSAE Standard by January 1, 2020 (1-3-1)
To maintain a consistent and uniformed standard for high school competition, every baseball manufactured should meet the same level of quality and playability. However, due to the number of baseballs that some high schools have in their inventory, the implementation date was moved back to accommodate that surplus. The effective date is January 1, 2020.

Removing an Element of the Pivot Foot Requirement (6-1-3)
This rule change eliminates the requirement for the entire pivot foot to be in contact with the pitcher’s plate. Many pitching mounds are constructed such that it is problematic for a pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. No advantage is gained by having some of his pivot foot not in contact with the pitcher’s plate.

Umpire Signal – Correct Rotation
When using a 3- or 4-person mechanics, the umpires indicate to their partner(s) where they are rotating to a specific base for coverage of an anticipated play. The umpire(s) points with both hands in the direction of the base that he/she is moving toward.

Umpire Signal – Information Available
The game umpire indicates to his/her partner that he/she has some information that is relevant by tapping two times over his/her left chest (heart).
**2019 POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

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 2019 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: Sportsmanship, Compliance of Player’s Equipment and Baserunner’s Responsibilities. 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.
COMPLIANCE OF PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT
In preparation of the new equipment that will have the NOCSAE stamp being introduced into high school baseball, it is appropriate to begin to have those discussions with players, coaches, umpires and parents. The NOCSAE stamped baseball will be available for use during the 2019 high school baseball season. The transition will be easier when all the baseballs have both the NFHS Authenticating Mark and NOCSAE seal effective January 1, 2020, but in the interim, balls that have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for use this season.

It is critical that coaches understand their responsibility regarding being knowledgeable about the equipment that their players possess and use for game competition. The NOCSAE standard for body/chest protectors is an important piece of equipment that is designed to protect the heart and cardiac cavity and reduce the risk of commotio cordis. All high school catchers will have to have new body/chest protectors beginning January 1, 2020. When a coach is asked to verify that his players are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules, he/she shall also verify that the participants are using only legal equipment, including bats that are unaltered from the manufacturer’s original design, production and meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2 and helmets that meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-1 and are free of cracks and damage.

BASERUNNERS' RESPONSIBILITIES
The baserunner is arguably one of the most important roles in baseball. Without him/her there can be no scoring. However, the baserunner has tremendous responsibilities. Beside Definitions, Baserunning is the second largest rule in the NFHS Rule book. The Baseball Rules Committee wants to emphasize that the advancing baserunner has to touch the bases in the correct order (including awarded bases), he/she should not miss any base or leave a base too early, but if that occurs, he/she must return to touch the base in accordance with Rule 8-4-2. In addition, the committee wants to point out that if the baserunner runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to avoid a tag or to hinder the defensive player he/she will be declared out. They must slide in a direct line between the bases. When he/she elects to slide (by rule he/she does not have to slide) it must be legal. The baserunner cannot cause illegal contact and/or illegally alter the actions of the defensive player in the immediate act of making a play or on a force play. Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid the fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal. Attention to the intricacies of base running will enhance better rule knowledge and compliance, elevate fair play and promote risk minimization.
GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING OR THUNDER 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 safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:

   a. A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.

   b. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

   c. When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.

   d. 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.

   e. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

   f. When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

* – At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

   g. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.

   h. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.

Revised and Approved March 2018
Memorandum

To: NFHS Member State Association Baseball Liaisons

From: B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA, Baseball Rules Editor

Subject: Compliance of Cheek and Jaw Protectors

Date: September 27, 2018

Good Evening,

We have received numerous inquiries regarding cheek and jaw protectors that are prominent at higher levels of baseball competition. NFHS Rule 1-5-2 allows a face mask/guard to be attached to a batting helmet at the time of manufacture and shall meet the NOCSAE performance standard at the time of manufacture. It is extremely difficult for a third-party cheek/jaw protector to meet that criteria with another manufacturer’s batting helmet without violating the batting helmet’s warranty and protection elements.

We have not been provided any documentation by a batting helmet manufacturer approving a third-party device to be attached to their product yet. We welcome that correspondence and data. Currently, there are several batting helmet manufacturers that have a cheek/jaw protector that when attached to their batting helmet, meets the NOCSAE face mask/guard performance standard. It is our understanding that the list of batting helmet manufacturers will grow exponentially with their own cheek/jaw protector/ helmet product offering this upcoming baseball season. We are available to assist you as new and updated information is made available. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with interpretations questions regarding this rule. Thank you for your time and support. Have a great fall.
## 2019 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- 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.

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.

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August 9 & 10, 2019

Hilton Harrisburg
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.
OFFICIAL’S UNIFORM

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 1 ½” 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!!!
2019 PIAA BASEBALL DISTRICT INTERPRETERS

District 1 ..................... Michael R. Mentzer ................................ michael.mentzer@perkinelmer.com
District 2 ..................... Charles R. Coslett ................................ coslettlaw@verizon.net
District 3 ..................... William E. Meyers, Sr. ................................ billmeyers@embarqmail.com
District 4 ..................... Robert S. Hansen ....................................... hansen.robert7@gmail.com
District 5 ..................... John Roswell Shinew ................................ rshinew@yahoo.com
District 6 ..................... John T. Garritano .................................... gman212@atlanticbb.net
District 7 ..................... Leonard Leiper ........................................ lenny.leiper@gmail.com
District 8 ..................... Andrew J. White ....................................... andywhite45@gmail.com
District 9 ..................... Samuel P. Bevak ....................................... ssbevak@comcast.net
District 10 .................... Stephen Hoover ..................................... shoover@mercer.k12.pa.us
District 11 ................... Michael Applegate ................................... appleump41@aol.com
District 12 ................... Michael D. Finney ...................................... finney8@comcast.net

2019 PIAA BASEBALL SCHEDULE

First Practice Date ........................................................................ Monday, March 4
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date ................................................ Saturday, March 9
First Regular Season Play Date ..................................................... Friday, March 22
Last Regular Season Contest Date and
District Championship Deadline ................................................ Saturday, June 1
PIAA Baseball Championships:
First Round .................................................................................. Monday, June 3
Quarterfinals ................................................................................ Thursday, June 6
Semi-Finals ................................................................................... Monday, June 10
PIAA Baseball Championship Finals
Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University ....................... Thursday, June 13
Championship Schedule:
  1A Championship ....................................................................... 10:30 am
  3A Championship ....................................................................... 1:30 pm
  5A Championship ....................................................................... 4:30 pm

Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University ....................... Friday, June 14
Championship Schedule:
  2A Championship ....................................................................... 10:30 am
  4A Championship ....................................................................... 1:30 pm
  6A Championship ....................................................................... 4:30 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.

TEAM WARNINGS

The PIAA has adopted a new 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 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 Case Book Plays listed pertaining to Team Warnings are as follows:

- Using a heating device on bats (natural or artificial)
- Deliberately removing helmet (live ball)
- Catcher’s equipment
- Jewelry
- Leaving dugout/bench area (live ball)
- Unauthorized items in coaches box
- Carelessly throwing equipment
- Carelessly throwing bat
- Video replay (dugout/coaches box)
- Player’s Wearing bandana
- On-Deck Circle violation
- Fake Tags
### OUTDOOR EVENTS: SPECTATOR DECORUM

The presence and/or the use of balloons, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are PROHIBITED! The Principal and Athletic Director of each school will be requested to confiscate these items from their cheerleaders and/or the spectators from their school and community. The use of pom-poms by cheerleaders and small portable listening devices with earphones is permitted. Spectators are prohibited from removing their shirts and/or using body paint while in attendance at District and Inter-District Championship Contests. Principals and Athletic Directors of competing schools shall announce and publicize these regulations.

*As copied from the PIAA Policies and Procedures Manual.*

### 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.

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.

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**PIAA BY-LAWS—ARTICLE XV SECTION 3 REQUISITE OF WRITTEN CONTRACT**

All PIAA member schools shall enter into either paper or electronic contracts on the official contract form entitled “Contract for Officials Under PIAA Rules” with all registered sports officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor. Disputes arising from oral agreements will not be considered by PIAA.
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 2018-19 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
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 INFECTIONOUS 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.
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>
<tr>
<td>Name of Referee Who Issued Disqualification</td>
<td>Level of Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

DATE OF REPORT OFFICIAL’S NAME (person issuing DQ) PIAA DISTRICT