CLARIFICATION ON WRISTBANDS

Situation: A pitcher wears a wristband on her pitching arm, the umpire allows the pitcher to wear the wristband.

RULE 3-2-9.6-2-2: A pitcher shall not wear any item on the pitching hand, wrist, arm or thighs which may, in the umpire’s judgement, may be distracting to the batter.

WRISTBAND/PLAYCARD

Any wristband with a playbook/playcard attached shall be considered equipment. It is a wristband, it is NOT to be worn on the belt.
PIAA SOFTBALL
Varsity, Junior Varsity, Junior High or Middle School

All games as noted above are to be played under the NFHS Rules that has been approved by the PIAA. Please note:

- Line-up cards are required.
- Sportsmanship Message must be read before each game.
- No Free Substitution.
- No Extra or Additional (AH) is permitted.

The only exception to the above is if it a scrimmage contest. But understand there is a limit to the number of scrimmages a team is permitted to play. Scrimmage guidelines are an Administrative policy and not for the umpires knowledge.

There is no exception, a district or league cannot supersede any NFHS/PIAA rules, modifications or policies.

PREPARING FOR POST SEASON DISTRICT & INTER-DISTRICT PLAY

As we move to district and PIAA Inter-District play we start preparing by reviewing 3 and 4 person umpiring system. As the regular season meetings draw to an end, districts are encouraged to hold a joint session of all chapters in the district to review NFHS approved 3 and 4 person mechanics for upcoming post season district play.

THREE AND FOUR PERSON UMPIRE SYSTEM

Some districts use the three-umpire system, some districts use the four-umpire system for post-season district advance play games. You are encouraged to review the three-umpire system as covered in the National Federation Softball Umpires’ Manual. Also, there is a three-person and four–person PowerPoint on the PIAA web site, click on SOFTBALL and scroll down to the link. The link to the presentation is below:


All inter-district play will be 4 person umpired contest.
REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, splints, etc.) must be padded with:
   
   A. A closed-cell, slow-recovery foam.
   B. One-inch-thick padding.
   C. Athletic tape.
   D. A gauze pad.
   E. A rubberized material.

2. Umpire jurisdiction begins:
   
   A. Upon the arrival of one umpire within the confines of the field.
   B. Upon the arrival of two umpires within the confines of the field.
   C. When the pregame conference begins.
   D. Upon the conclusion of the pregame conference.
   E. Upon the arrival of one umpire to the facility/park/school.

3. All the following are legal apparel except:
   
   A. All players are wearing a white arm sleeve.
   B. All players are wearing a black knee sleeve.
   C. Some players are wearing camouflage arm sleeves in the school colors.
   D. Some players are wearing gray tights.

4. In the first inning, the umpire notices that the pitcher has a glove with an optic marking on the inside of the glove that gives the appearance of a softball.
   
   A. The pitcher shall be restricted to the bench for using illegal equipment.
   B. The pitcher will be allowed to finish the inning before replacing the glove.
   C. The pitcher can switch the glove with a teammate already playing defense.
   D. The glove shall be replaced immediately or she may use the glove if the optic marking is modified to no longer give the appearance of the ball.

5. At the pregame conference, the home team coach informs the umpires that the fence in left field is only 180 feet and all balls hit over the fence will be a two-base award.
   
   A. This must be agreed to by the opposing coach.
   B. This shall be a ground rule for the game since the home team coach provides the ground rules for his/her field.
   C. The umpires will have no choice but to enforce the ground rule as the coach has instructed.
   D. The umpires shall not permit a ground rule to supersede a rules book rule.
REVIEW QUESTIONS CONT’D

6. B1 enters the batter’s box on the right side while the pitcher is in position ready to pitch. B1 disconcerts the pitcher by moving to the left-hand batter’s box. The correct ruling is:
   A. Allow the pitcher to reset and continue to play.
   B. Allow the pitcher to reset and warn the head coach the next infraction would result in an out on the batter.
   C. The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out.
   D. An illegal pitch is called on the pitcher.

7. With R1 on second base, B2 is at bat with a 2-1 count. The next pitch is completely in the batter’s box and barely grazes the jersey of B2 while R1 breaks to steal third base. The catcher throws to third base and R1 is tagged out. What is the correct ruling?
   A. The ball is live, R1 is out and B2 has a 3 ball-1 strike count.
   B. The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. The play at third base stands, R1 is out.
   C. The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. R1 returns to second base.
   D. The ball is dead, B2 remains at bat since the umpire judged B2 did not make an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.

8. With R1 on first base, she attempts to steal second base. In the catcher’s attempt to throw out R1, her throwing arm contacts the plate umpire. The throw is late and R1 reaches second base safely. The correct call is:
   A. This is a delayed dead ball. Since R1 reached second base safely, she is permitted to stay at second base.
   B. This is an immediate dead ball. Because there was umpire interference, R1 must return to first base.
   C. This is a delayed dead ball. Because there was umpire interference and R1 reached second base safely, R1 must return to first base.
   D. There is no such thing as umpire interference. Therefore, R1 stays at second base.

9. With R1 on third base and R2 on first base, there is one out. B4 hits a ground ball, which contacts R2 after it has passed F3 and no other fielder has a chance to make an out. The correct ruling is:
   A. Immediate dead ball. R1, the runner closest to home is out. R2 goes to second base, B4 goes to first base.
   B. The ball remains live, unless it is determined that R2 intentionally contacted the ball, then the ball is dead, R2 is out, and R1 is returned to third base and B4 is awarded first base.
   C. Immediate dead ball. R2 is out and R1 returns to third base. B4 is awarded first base.
   D. Delayed dead ball is signaled. When the play is over and the ball gets back to the circle, R2 is declared out for obstruction.

10. With R1 on first base and B2 at the plate with a 1-1 count, B2 moves to the front of the batter’s box. As she fakes a drag bunt, she withdraws the bat and is struck by the pitch that is in front of the plate. In the umpire’s judgment, the ball was prevented from entering the strike zone. What is the correct ruling?
    A. Umpire calls dead ball and awards B2 first base since she was hit by the pitch.
    B. Umpire calls dead ball and credits B2 with a ball.
    C. Umpire calls dead ball and charges B2 with a strike.
    D. Umpire calls dead ball and declares B2 out.
11. R1 is on third base and R2 is on first base with one out. B4 hits a fly ball in foul territory near the first-base line. R2 interferes with F3 attempting to catch the fly ball. The correct call is:
   A. If the fly ball is caught by F3, both R2 and B4 are out.
   B. B4 is out and R2 is returned to first base.
   C. The ball is dead immediately, R2 is out and B4 is charged with a foul ball.
   D. If the fly ball is caught, B4 is out and the interference by R2 is ignored.

12. A pitcher may use any windup if:
   A. No motion to pitch is made without immediately delivering the ball to the batter.
   B. She uses a rocker action after having the ball in both hands, removing one hand and taking a backward or forward swing and returning the ball to both hands.
   C. There is a stop of forward motion.
   D. She makes more than two revolutions in the pitching process.

13. A1 is Team A’s pitcher in the fourth inning. A11 is brought in as a relief pitcher in that inning. Team A’s coach wants to re-enter A1 in the fourth inning as the pitcher. The correct call is:
   A. This is a legal substitution with no warm-up pitches allowed.
   B. This is legal and she can have five warm-up pitches.
   C. This is not a legal substitution.
   D. Team A can substitute A1 as pitcher as many times as it wants in the inning.

14. An umpire should declare a “no-pitch” in which of the following occurrences?
   A. The pitcher pitches during a suspension of play.
   B. The runner is called out for leaving the base too soon.
   C. The pitcher pitches before the base runner has retouched the base after a foul ball has been declared and the ball is dead.
   D. All of the above.

15. During the act of pitching, which movement is not legal?
   A. The pitcher drags her pivot foot away from the pitcher’s plate maintaining contact with the ground.
   B. She steps back off the pitcher’s plate keeping both hands together and makes the first step back with either foot. Once completely off the pitcher’s plate she opens her hands.
   C. The pitcher crow hops or leaps.
   D. She uses the slingshot or windmill styles of pitching – as long as she has no more than 1½ revolutions of her pitching arm.
REVIEW QUESTIONS CONT’D

16. If the ball slips from F1’s hand during the forward or backswing motion, the correct call is:
   A. It is an illegal pitch and the delayed dead-ball signal is given.
   B. The ball remains in play. There is no change in count to the batter, and the runners may advance with liability to be put out.
   C. The ball remains in play. A ball is awarded to the batter, and the runners may advance with liability to be put out.
   D. It is an immediate dead ball. A ball is awarded to the batter.

17. It is an illegal pitch if:
   A. F1 is behind the pitcher's plate, takes her signal, steps on the pitcher's plate and immediately brings her hands together.
   B. F1 is on the pitcher's plate, looks to the coach for a signal and then looks to F2 and simulates taking a signal before bringing her hands together.
   C. F1 stands behind the pitcher's plate, takes a signal from the coach, steps on the pitcher's plate and simulates taking a signal from F2 before bringing her hands together.
   D. F1’s shoulders are in line with first and third base, the ball is in her glove or hand and the hands are separated.

18. A strike is charged to the batter when:
   A. A pitch is swung at and missed.
   B. A pitch contacts the batter while swinging at the ball or the batter is hit by the pitch that is in the strike zone. (dead-ball strike)
   C. A member of the offensive team intentionally removes a line.
   D. All of the above.

19. B1 hits a ground ball that goes past F3, no other fielder had a chance to make an out but the ball strikes the umpire. The correct call is:
   A. The umpire will watch and judge if the defense was disadvantaged before calling dead ball.
   B. The ball is dead and the batter is awarded one base only.
   C. The ball remains live and B1 can advance as many bases as possible with the liability to be put out.
   D. The ball remains live. Even if F3 grabs the ball and touches first base before B1, B1 is safe because of umpire interference.

20. As F1 starts her pitch, B1 requests time by stepping out of the box. The pitcher legally delivers the ball. What is the correct ruling?
   A. The umpire declares no pitch.
   B. The batter is granted time and awaits the next pitch.
   C. The pitch is called either a ball or strike depending upon the location of the pitch.
   D. The umpire shall call a strike on the batter regardless of the location of the pitch.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Correct Answer</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>A closed-cell, slow-recovery foam. 3-2-13</td>
</tr>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>The umpires shall not permit a ground rule to supersede a rules book rule. 4-1-3, 8-4-3f</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The ball is dead immediately and batter is called out. 7-4-3 PENALTY</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The ball is dead, B2 is awarded first base. R1 returns to second base. 5-1-1a, 8-1-2b</td>
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<td>8.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
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<td>Umpire calls dead ball and charges B2 with a strike. 7-2-1h</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>No motion to pitch is made without immediately delivering the ball to the batter. 6-1-4</td>
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<td>13.</td>
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<td>This is a legal substitution with no warm-up pitches allowed. 3-3-2 NOTE, 6-2-5, 6-4-10 NOTE</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>All of the above. 6-2-4, 6-4-9</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>The pitcher crow hops or leaps. 2-16, 2-33, 6-1-1f, 6-1-2, 6-1-4</td>
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