2020 NFHS BASEBALL RULE CHANGE

3-1-4: Modified the role of the defensive player and the designated hitter.

2020 COMMENT ON THE RULE CHANGE

Modified the Role of the Defensive Player and the Designated Hitter (3-1-4) - Modifying the role of the defensive player and the designated hitter will assist coaches to strategize how to keep their better players in the game to contribute to the offensive output of the team and give another player a chance to participate on defense. In addition, considering the pitch-count rules, this change will help pitchers (who are typically some of the better hitters) contribute offensively in the game, but still allow them to come out of the game to protect their arms from overuse.

Although the new addition to the DH rule has some advantages, there are also a few disadvantages:

1. Since the DH part of the DP/DH role is eliminated when another player bats or runs for him, the only player who can ever be the DH is the starting DP/DH.

2. If a P/DH or a C/DH ever reach base, they are not entitled to have a courtesy runner. When the P/DH bats he is the DH and when the C/DH bats he is the DH. There can be no courtesy runner for a DH.

2020 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 2020 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: Game Ending Procedures, Player/Designated Hitter Role, Proper Pitching Positions, Force Play Slide Rule, Enforcement of NFHS Jewelry Rule, Compliance of Player’s Equipment. 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.
2020 POINTS OF EMPHASIS CONTINUED

Game Ending Procedures

Per rule, by state association adoption, a baseball game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4½ innings or after the fifth inning. However, if a state association does not adopt a game-ending procedure or by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief, any remaining play may be shortened, or the game terminated. Lopsided scores provide no educational value, increase the risk of unsportsmanlike behavior, and put undue pressure on the pitcher’s arm that would impact his/her pitch count.

Player/Designated Hitter Role

With the adoption of the changes to the designated hitter rule, teams now have three choices with respect to the use of a designated hitter in a specific game. First, a team may elect to not use a designated hitter. Such a team would have a “traditional” nine player line-up for that game. Second, a team may elect to use the same designated hitter rule that has existed for the last several decades. This option is selected when the team’s lineup card presented at the plate meeting has 10 players listed, one of whom is a designated hitter not playing defensively at the start of the game. Third, under the new change to the DH rule, a team may elect to have one player start the game as both a defensive player and designated hitter. This option is selected when the team’s lineup card presented at the plate meeting has nine players listed, one of whom has both a defensive position and “DH” written next to his name on the lineup card. If the third option is selected, a player can be substituted for the DH on defense and the starter will remain as the DH. However, if the third option is selected, the DH role is terminated if the starter is substituted for on offense. In either case, the starting defensive player/DH can re-enter if he has a re-entry remaining.

Proper Pitching Positions

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee continues to be concerned with pitchers whose feet are not in a proper position prior to starting their delivery. Specifically, certain pitchers across the country continue to place their feet in an illegal “hybrid” stance. This appears to be a result of both coaches who continue to teach improper pitcher positions, and umpires who refuse to enforce the rules as written and apply the proper penalty. Pitchers are required to use one of two positions; the wind-up or the set. In the wind-up position, the pitcher’s non-pivot foot must be in a position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate. If the heel of the pitcher’s non-pivot foot is closer to home plate than the front edge of the pitcher’s plate, then the pitcher is in an illegal “hybrid” stance, unless he is using a proper set position. In the set position, the pitcher’s pivot foot must be on or in front of and touching the pitcher’s plate. The pivot foot must also be parallel to the pitcher’s plate. The non-pivot foot must be entirely in front of the front edge of the pitcher’s plate. If the non-pivot foot is touching (or next to) the front edge of the pitcher’s plate, the pitcher is in an illegal “hybrid” stance, unless he is using a proper wind-up position.

Force Play Slide Rule

Simply stated, the runner never has to slide. However, on a force play when he does slide, it must be legal and in a direct line between the two bases. A runner may slide or run in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder. The force play slide rule is in effect at second, third and home plate.
Enforcement of NFHS Jewelry Rule

Items that are attached except medical appliances/devices are considered to be jewelry. The restriction of jewelry is primarily 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 has been 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.
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. 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.

3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
   a. 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.
   b. 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.
   c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
   d. 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.

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

5. 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.
2020 PIAA ADOPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

- Adopt the 2020 NFHS Baseball Rules Book
- Adopt suggested speed-up rule Courtesy Runners
- Adopt Rule 1-2-9 NOTE, permitting the optional use of the Double First Base, and adopting the suggested Double First Base Rules, as set forth in the NFHS Baseball Rules Book
- Adopt Rule 4-2-2, 10-runs after 5 innings
- Modify Rule 4-2-2, to include 15-runs after 3 innings
- Modify Rule 4-2-2 to permit a time limit for those Contests played in community/public parks that prohibits a new inning from starting after a predetermined time, at all levels (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition
- Modify Rule 4-2-2b, two five-inning games shall constitute a doubleheader only at the sub-varsity levels (junior varsity and junior high/middle school) of competition
- Adopt Rule 4-2-4, relative to suspended games,
- Pursuant to Rule 6-1-6, adopt a PIAA Baseball Pitching Restriction that uses pitch counts as a part of pitching restrictions.

OFFICIALS MANUAL

All officials could become aware of the contents of the Officials' Manual which can be found under the Officials heading at www.piaa.org.

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.

August 7 & 8, 2020

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
RECOMENDATIONS

The PIAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that each registered sports official have an annual physical examination and practice good health habits. Being physically fit and conveying an appropriate, positive image through proper health and nutrition habits will greatly assist all officials in keeping up with the game. After all, the game, the schools, players, coaches, spectators and fellow officials deserve no less. As importantly, officials owe good health habits to themselves and their families if for nothing more, than the health of it. If officials have any chronic health condition, officials are requested to share this information with on site medical personnel at their contest(s).

PIAA WEBSITE OFFICIALS’ INFORMATION

The officials’ section of the PIAA website may be accessed by registered PIAA sports’ official using their individual officials’ code. This code is secured individually by utilizing the first four (4) letters of your last name and the last four (4) digits of your ID number. Items listed in the secured area include: Officials’ directory, on-line disqualification forms and on-line injury forms. Other information in the officials’ area on our website include: Applications for Becoming an Official; Sportsmanship Message; Rules Interpretation Meetings; Bulletins (Sports Specific); Athletic Officials’ Manual; Various Forms; Evaluation Information; Officials' Merchandise; Officials Recognition and Power Point Presentations; along other important officials’ information. Please utilize this area for assistance and information in preparing for your games as well as hosting quality chapter meetings. Officials can also view the dates that their clearances will expire at this site.
1. The PIAA Official's Emblem must be worn on the upper left sleeve of the official's standard shirt when officiating in all PIAA sponsored games.

2. All PIAA-registered officials must wear identical uniforms during a contest.

3. Required uniform for Baseball umpires:

   Shirt: One of the following shirts is to be worn: (1) Navy blue pullover with red and white stripe trim on sleeves and collar. (2) Light blue pullover with navy blue and white stripe trim on the sleeves and collar with the standard buttons (No zipper style shirts permitted.) (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.
   Socks: Black - Footies are NOT permitted.
   Shoes: Solid Black or Black with white accents with black laces. White soles around the shoe are not considered an accent mark.
   Belt: Black, if worn - Large metal buckles NOT permitted.
   Cap: Navy Blue - Caps are to be fitted type only, not adjustable style. Both male and female umpires must wear caps properly in all positions. Cap with Gold 1½” high “PIAA” letters are REQUIRED for all regular season, district and inter-district advanced play.
   Jewelry: Umpires are NOT permitted to wear jewelry, with the exception of your wedding band and a Medical Alert Bracelet or Necklace while umpiring. The restrictions that pertain to a player for a Medical Alert Bracelet of Necklace also pertain to umpires.

   NOTE: ALL UNIFORM ITEMS MUST BE IDENTICAL TO PARTNER(S), DRESS ALIKE!!!
Shoes - Solid Black or Black with white accents with black laces. White soles around the shoe are not considered an accent mark.
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@mercerc12.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 2
First Inter-School/Scrimmage Date...............................................................................................Saturday, March 7
First Regular Season Play Date ...................................................................................................Friday, March 20
Last Regular Season Contest Date and District Championship Deadline........................................Saturday, May 30
PIAA Baseball Championships:
  First Round .................................................................................................................................Monday, June 1
  Quarterfinals .................................................................................................................................Thursday, June 4
  Semi-Finals .................................................................................................................................Monday, June 8

PIAA Baseball Championship Finals
  Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University...............................................................Thursday, June 11
  Championship Schedule:
    2A Championship.....................................................................................................................10:30 am
    4A Championship.....................................................................................................................1:30 pm
    6A Championship.....................................................................................................................4:30 pm
  Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Penn State University...............................................................Friday, June 12
  Championship Schedule:
    1A Championship.....................................................................................................................10:30 am
    3A Championship.....................................................................................................................1:30 pm
    5A Championship.....................................................................................................................4:30 pm
### TEAM WARNINGS

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 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

### 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.
PIAA BY-LAWS—ARTICLE XV SECTION 5
RECOMMENDATION OF A WRITTEN CONTRACT

PIAA member schools should enter into written (paper or electronic) contracts with the officials retained by the schools or assigned by an assignor to officiate regular season contests. The terms of such contracts must not violate the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws, Policies and Procedures and Rules and Regulations. Registered sports officials are independent contractors and therefore, are NOT employees of PIAA, the school, or the assignor.

OUTDOOR EVENTS: SPECTATOR DECORUM

The presence and/or the use of balloons, whistles, and/or portable listening devices (without earphones) are PROHIBITED! Persons using such items may be removed from the Contest. 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 InterDistrict Championship Contests and may be removed from the Contest for doing so. Principals and Athletic Directors shall inform and publicize these regulations to students. The failure of a school to so inform or publicize will not, however, prevent removal from the Contest for violations of this policy.

The Principal, Athletic Director, Coaches, team physician, team trainer, players in uniform, managers, ball holders, and statisticians are the only persons permitted in the team box.

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.

The proper procedure is head coaches and captains MUST attend the pre-game reading of the sportsmanship message. Coaches must certify to the contest officials their team is legally equipped and in compliance with NFHS Baseball Rules. The reading of this message will have the coaches verbally confirm aloud their teams' adherence to compliance with equipment and safety rules. This confirmation is not only the adherence to contest rules, but also assists in alleviating the legal liability concerns for the officials if the teams subsequently violate the proper equipment provisions of the contest rules.
CANCELLATION OF AN OFFICIAL’S CONTRACT BY A PIAA MEMBER SCHOOL
ARTICLE XV, SECTION 6

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 Gladiatorium, 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.
INFECTIONOUS SKIN DISEASES

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these infectious agents include:

- Athletes must be told to notify a parent or guardian, athletic trainer and coach of any skin lesion prior to any competition or practice. An appropriate health-care professional should evaluate any skin lesion before returning to competition.
- If an outbreak occurs on a team, especially in a contact sport, all team members should be evaluated to help prevent the potential spread of infection.
- Coaches, officials and appropriate health-care professionals must follow NFHS or state/local guidelines on “time until return to competition.” Participation with a covered lesion may be considered if in accordance with NFHS, state or lock guidelines and the lesion is no longer contagious.

BLOOD-BORNE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Strategies for reducing the potential exposure to these agents include following Universal Precautions such as:

- An athlete who is bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on his/her uniform, or has blood on his/her person, shall be directed to leave the activity (game or practice) until the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to activity.
- Athletic trainers or other caregivers need to wear gloves and take other precautions to prevent blood or body fluid-splash from contaminating themselves or others.
- In the event of a blood or body fluid-splash, immediately wash contaminated skin or mucous membranes with soap and water.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with disinfectant before returning to competition. Be sure to use gloves when cleaning.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface must be reported and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

If you are in need of updating your officiating supplies, please be reminded that Officially Sports is the official vendor of PIAA Sport Officials’ Uniforms. Please give them your consideration for any purchases regarding officials’ supplies. If interested, you may provide them with your email address to send you their catalog, seasonal specials and discounted items that may be of interest and service to your avocation of sports’ officiating.

Officially Sports may be contacted via email at sales@officiallysports.com, by calling 800-934-4555 or at www.officiallysports.com.
OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Means of reducing the potential exposure to these agents include:
- Appropriate vaccination of athletes, coaches and staff as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).
- During time of outbreaks, follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC as well as State and local Health Departments.

For more detailed information, refer to the Infectious Disease and Blood-borne Pathogens” and “Skin Disorders” sections contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

UNIVERSAL HYGIENE PROTOCOL FOR ALL SPORTS

- Shower immediately after every competition and practice.
- Wash all workout clothing after each practice.
- Wash personal gear (knee pads and braces) weekly.
- Do not share towels or personal hygiene products (razors) with others.
- Refrain from full body (chest, arms, abdomen) cosmetic shaving.
**BASEBALL, COACH, OR TEAM PERSONNEL DISQUALIFICATION FORM**

During the baseball Regular Season and Postseason, a disqualified baseball player, coach, and/or Team personnel shall not be permitted to participate for the remainder of the day and in all Contests on the next Contest day of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the player, coach, and/or Team personnel was previously disqualified. For a coach, participation in the next Contest includes any contact by the coach with members of the Team, including other coaches, between the time that the Team arrives at the Contest site and the conclusion of the last Contest of the day. The Principal shall direct the coach not to attend all of the Contest(s), in accordance with ARTICLE XIII, Section 8, of the PIAA By-Laws; and NFHS Baseball Rules 1-3-5 (coach only-2nd/3rd violation), 2-21-1b, 2-32 (malicious only), 3-1-1 (2nd violation), 3-3-1g, 3-3-1k, 3-3-1m, n, o, q, 3-3-2, 4-1-3b, 4-4-1e, 6-2-3, 7-4-1h (2nd violation), 10-1-2, and 10-2-3c. The umpire must complete this form on-line, as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following the completion of the Contest in which the disqualification took place.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Disqualified Player, Coach and/or Team Personnel</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of Game</td>
<td>Location of Game/Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Team</td>
<td>PIAA District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of Referee Who Issued Disqualification</td>
<td>Level of Competition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION**

SAMPLE

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