



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Baseball 2013 Season Bulletin #4

Director of Officials' Development – Baseball

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The regular season is almost 2/3 complete and overall it has gone extremely well from an officiating standpoint. Please pass on to all your officials congratulations, thanks, and appreciation for the hard work this season.

Some items and rule issues from the past week:

1. Advanced Baseball Clinic – The 3 man Umpire Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 18th at Grove City High School, 4665 Hoover Road, Grove City, OH. For those interested, please advise them to go to the OHSAA website, the “Officiating” tab and look for the flyer under clinics.
2. Assignments and Conflicts – With post-season assignments beginning to arrive, please look at your assignment with an eye to any possible perceived conflicts of interest. Does a family member work in the school district? Do you have a child attending school there? Are you employed in the school district or do business with them? Do you or have you coached members of the team on an off-season team? I 100% believe that our officials are beyond suspicion, but those outside the community may look at some relationships differently. If there is anything that may cause some concern, please bring it up with Beau Rugg and/or myself. We are committed, if there is a possible issue, to replace you and provide you another game. Let’s do not leave ourselves open to having to explain something that didn’t need to be discussed in the first place.
3. Concussion Awareness Reminder - Please keep in mind that House Bill 143 becomes fully effective on April 26, 2013. This means that all umpires must have completed their online concussion awareness training.
This course can be accessed from your myOHSAA account. Also, effective today, there is no longer an effective provision to allow for same day return to play with the authorization of a medical professional.
4. Approved Baseball Umpire Uniforms – I have received several pictures of OHSAA umpires officiating high school games with non-approved uniform apparel. Please remind everyone that if, for some reason, an umpire is confused as to the approved uniform, it can be found in the OHSAA Official’s Handbook. Red hats, red ball bags, and black shirts are not approved as an item for an umpire’s uniform. The wearing of such apparel does not represent an OHSAA Baseball Umpire.
5. Suspended Games – We have had a large number of questions surrounding suspended games. I am thrilled that overall it appears we have suspended games when the conditions warranted. The issues appear to be how we resume the suspended game. Some items to remember if you are officiating the resumption of a suspended game:
 - a. Players not listed on the lineup card as a substitute or not present

at the original game, may be used as a substitute in the resumed game.

The player is simply to be added to the card and is held to the substitution rules in Rule 3. The resumed game is not limited to only the players listed on the original line-up card. Officials, when a game is suspended, should insure the lineup card is current as to substitutions, conferences, warnings, outs, strike count, and runner placement if applicable. The cards should be checked with both teams' scorebooks and left with the home team coach.

b. Pitching limitations are not held to what innings the pitcher had available on the day of the original game. The innings a pitcher may pitch in the resumed game is determined by what his current inning status may be. As an example, say the pitcher had pitched 0 innings on Monday, 5 innings the day prior (Tuesday), and 4 innings in the game when it was suspended on Wednesday. If the game were to be resumed on Thursday, he would only 1 inning available. If the game is resumed on Saturday, and he has not pitched since the suspended game, he has 10 innings available. Conversely, if he had pitched no innings in the two days prior to the game, and only 1 inning in the suspended game, but had pitched 8 innings the day before the suspended game is resumed, he would only have 2 innings available for him to pitch. Again, it is not the responsibility of the umpires to track a pitcher's innings, but if asked at the game, perhaps this will help.

c. If a player is ejected in the suspended game and has sat out his two penalty games before the suspended game is resumed, he is still considered to be ejected in the resumed game and may not play.

6. When a runner is called out – We had a play this week where a runner advancing to home missed home plate, and went to and entered the dugout. Upon his entering the dugout, the plate umpire immediately called him out. Please remember that for baserunning errors such as a runner not touching a base or the plate, or leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball, the defense must make a valid, legal appeal in order to obtain the out. If the defense does not appeal, then the game continues as if the player had not made an error in baserunning. A runner, not touching home plate, and subsequently entering the dugout simply means he no longer has the ability, by rule, to now return and touch home plate to undo his mistake.

7. Lineup cards – We have had several issues, which have led to some unpleasant situations in a few games with regard to the lineup card.

We have a lineup card so that both teams know who is in the game, who should be batting, and to track performance for record keeping.

Without a lineup card, a team could bat only its best 4 batters in the game and we might not know. By rule, the plate umpire is to be presented a lineup card that has the shirt number, name, position, and batting order for all nine or ten starters, and the shirt number and name for the substitutes. The key principle in this is that if the right person is at bat, with the wrong number, we make the change and move on. If the wrong person is at bat, but with the right number on the lineup card, we have a problem.

Example – Let's say Brown is listed in the lineup as No. 4 but is actually wearing No. 21. He reaches base and the opposing team now appeals batting out of order. While Brown is in technical violation of Rule 1-1-2 that requires a player's name, shirt number, and position be on the lineup card, there is no penalty since the batting out of order rule requires only that the name be in the proper order. We will make the change as to the number and play on. Had the number been correct, but the player batting not been Brown, then the batting out of order penalty would be imposed.

8. Ejections – Ejections are an unfortunate, but necessary part of the game. It provides educational opportunities to players and coaches that indeed in life there are consequences to certain actions. They help maintain control and provide an incentive for adherence to rules and proper behavior. Every good umpire, over a career, has had an ejection a few times. However, for coaches in particular, the rules do provide proper options prior to an ejection consisting of

a warning and/or restriction to the dugout. There are some actions that must result in an immediate ejection, but there are those others that good umpires are able to handle without ejection, and the game proceeds properly. For some reason, 2/3 of the way through the season, we have had over 54 ejections. Maybe some of those might have been handled another way. If we need to eject, do so and I will have your back.

But be responsible in using your authority. We have one umpire, who by himself has had 5 ejections this season. Makes one scratch his head.

I sometimes wonder about umpires who have never had an ejection; but I also wonder about those who have a lot.

That is it for this week. Please continue to call or email with questions, plays, or issues. Hope to see you on the field.

Yours in baseball,
Kyle McNeely