



2016 NFHS/GHSA BASEBALL RULES CLINIC

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GHSA Points of Emphasis

- By-Law 2.71 (c) (1) It shall be the responsibility of the host school Game Manager to insure crowd and spectator control. This includes the removal of any and all spectators whom the Game Officials feel are conducting themselves in an unacceptable manner. NOTE: In addition to the assigned Game Manager any staff member from either competing school in attendance should be proactive in this matter, prior to the necessity for Game Officials to get involved.
- SPORTING BEHAVIOR – The contest officials have the authority to have any spectator(s) removed from the premises whose behavior has become a detriment to the fair administration of the contest. Any verbal and/or visual gesture that is profane, racial, ethnic, or gender that is derogatory in nature is grounds for dismissal.
- SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT – The GHSA Sportsmanship State must be read prior to each contest.

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GHSA POLICIES

- ALL GHSA sanctioned officiating associations shall use the Arbiter program for member registration and must comply with the state legislature mandated E-Verify by July 1 each year, and a current background check, programs.
- EJECTIONS – When an ejection is assessed, it cannot be reversed. Make sure the ejection is warranted. If possible, use the “Restricted to the Dugout” option to control a volatile situation, but do NOT tolerate inappropriate behavior by participants.
- INDICATORS – The field umpire/base umpire shall use a ball/strike/out indicator for ALL GHSA baseball games.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Date for 1st official practice is January 18, 2016
- Date for 1st official game is February 15, 2016
- (1) official scrimmage at any time after January 18, 2016 and prior to the 1st official game of the competing schools.
- Ump[ire] Registration Deadline: January 15, 2016
- On-Line Rules Clinic: January 18 – February 8, 2016
- On-Line Umpire’s Rules Exam: January 25 – February 8, 2016
- Cancer Awareness – The month of April, 2016

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General Information (C)

- The number of games allowed (including region tournament games) shall not exceed a total of (26) games, in any combination of single games and invitational tournament games.
- "Play-in" games are considered part of the regular season, but not one of the 26, and shall be officiated by the host school's assigned umpiring association.
- Each Class A school, and ALL schools competing against Class A schools, are responsible to submit the results of EACH game within (48) hours of the completion of EVERY game to MaxPreps. (kmclarty@maxpreps.com)
- Failure to provide the required information within the allowed time will result in a \$200.00 fine.



STATE TOURNAMENT

Last Date to complete regular season – April 23

Region Seeds submitted to GHS Office (erv@ghsa.net) No later than 9:00 AM April 25

- April 29 & 30 – Round 1 (All Classes)
- May 4 & 5 – Round 2 (All Classes)
- May 9 & 10 – Semifinals (Class A)
- May 10 & 11 – Round 3 (AA-AAAAA)
- May 14 & 16 – Championship Finals (Class A)
- May 16 & 17 – Semifinals (AA-AAAAA)
- May 21 & 23 – Championship Finals (AA-AAAAA)

NOTE: Per Person Admission For post-season games is: \$10.00 on Day 1 (Dbl. Header) \$7.00 on Day 2 (Single Game).

NOTE: The 2017 Championship Finals will be played in Columbus.

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GHS Baseball Contracts

Effective immediately, contracts are mandatory for ALL regular season and state playoff games. Contracts CANNOT be canceled for any reason other than weather/playing conditions without approval from the GHS Office.

GHS/GISA Crossover Games

Baseball is a Class A Power Ranking sport. As such, games against GISA schools are not allowed at any level. Also, GISA Coach/Administrator passes shall NOT be honored at GHS baseball games.

Terminated/Suspended Games

During the State Tournament should a game be terminated or suspended prior to becoming a "legal game", it shall be rescheduled for the next available date. If that date cannot be agreed upon by the competing schools, The GHS Executive Director will set the game date.

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National Federation of State High School Associations



2016 NFHS Baseball Rule Changes

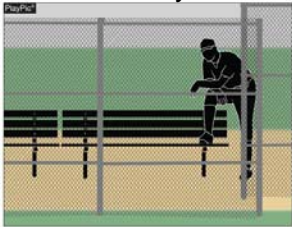
B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA
Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services



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RULE CHANGE

Restricted to the Bench/Dugout Rule 3-3-1 Penalty



For any minor violation of Rule 3-3-1f, 1-5, (g-k), the offending coach will receive a written warning and will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

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Rule 3-3-1 Penalty

- **PENALTY:** The umpire shall warn the offender unless the offense is judged to be major. In which case an ejection shall occur. If the offender has a subsequent minor violation, the offender shall be ejected. The warning or ejection shall be made at the end of playing action.
- Coaches who receive a written warning (10-2-3i) shall also be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. For coaches who violate... determine appropriate action.
- **Rationale:** To assist the game official in preventative officiating and to respond with the appropriate penalty when dealing with the behavior of the coach

REFEREE

RULE CHANGE

Ejection RULE 3-3-1 Penalty




After the written warning and the coach is restricted to the bench/dugout, if the coach commits another offense, the umpire shall eject the coach from the game.

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RULE CHANGE


Ejection RULE 3-3-1q




If the umpire deems the offense to be major, such as, "physical contact, spitting, kicking of dirt or any other physical action directed toward an umpire," the umpire shall immediately eject the coach from the game.

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Editorial Changes

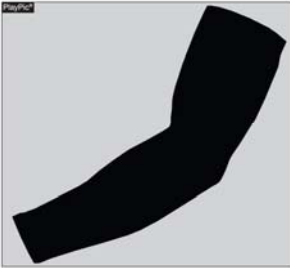


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EDITORIAL CHANGE

Compression Sleeves RULE 1-4-2





Legal





Illegal

REFEREE


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Pitcher's Uniform RULE 1-4-2






Legal



Legal



Illegal


A pitcher shall not wear a white or grey exposed undershirt with sleeves that extends below the elbow.

REFEREE

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Rule 1-4-2


- ART. 2.** . . .For individual players...white or gray. Compression sleeves that are solid black or solid dark-colored shall be the only colors allowed to be worn by the pitcher below his elbow. A pitcher shall not...type of uniform top.
- Uniforms have developed over the years in regards to style, color and manufacturing processes.
- Compression sleeves are designed to provide comfort and support to the arm(s) of a high school pitcher.
- They not only provide a useful purpose but are now designed to accentuate a school's uniform with creative and decorative style.



- Rationale:** Clarification.


Rule 1-4-2 (cont.)

- Compression sleeves are permitted for pitchers under certain circumstances:
 - Compression sleeves can be worn on either arm, both arms or by itself.
 - Compression sleeves cannot be distracting to the batter.
 - Pitchers can wear a white or gray exposed t-shirt, dri-fit style or compression style shirt as long as the sleeves do not extend below the elbow. Compression sleeves that extend below the elbow cannot be white or gray.
 - Per the illustrations, the compression sleeves that extend beyond the elbow must be solid black or a solid color.



Rule 10-2-3j

- j. Keep a written record of defensive and offensive team charged conferences for each team and notify the respective coach each time a conference is charged to his team. He shall also be responsible for keeping a lineup card and recording all substitutes, courtesy runner participation, and team warnings (1-1-5, 3-4-1, Courtesy Runner Rule #6).
- **Rationale:** Editorial.



Written Warning Rule 10-2-3j




Umpires will issue a written warning to coaches for any minor offense.




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Points of Emphasis



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POINT OF EMPHASIS

Unsportsmanlike Acts RULE 3-3-1f (1-5) Penalty



For coaches who violate these acts, the umpire will restrict the coach to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game or eject the coach from the game.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS


Unsportsmanlike Acts RULE 3-3-1l-p cont.

- l. deliberately throw a bat, helmet, etc.;
- m. initiate malicious contact on offense or defense;
- n. call "Time" or use any command or commit any act for the purpose of causing a balk; or
- o. use tobacco or tobacco-like products within the confines of the field;
- p. leave their positions or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation.

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Intermediate Penalties/Restriction to the Bench/Dugout

- The basic premise for education-based athletics is education.
- The adult coach and game official work collaboratively to teach, train, oversee, model positive behavior and arbitrate the students under their charge.
- As part of these "teachable moments" the game official is responsible to maintain order and control the contest so both teams have a fair opportunity to do their best and perform to their highest level.
- We all should promote preventative officiating.
- While not listed in the NFHS Rules book, preventative officiating is practiced by the more successful and experienced umpires.
- Verbal and non-verbal tactics are practiced to let a coach know that you are aware and understand his concern and that you are doing your best.
- The coach's behavior and actions greatly dictate the conclusion of a discussion.




Intermediate Penalties/Restriction to the Bench/Dugout


- Under NFHS Rule 3-3-1 and Rule 10, we have provided tools to issue a written warning and restriction to the bench/dugout and ultimately ejection from the game.
- Unless the situation calls for such a drastic response, ejections should not be your first reaction.
- Ejections may be avoided by listening to the coach and attempting to understand his perspective prior to responding.
- A restricted coach may continue to teach, guide and control his team while an ejected coach places this same responsibility upon someone who may not be as reliable.
- Developing preventative officiating skills and using the penalty structure that is in place should make for a healthy and safe environment for all the participants.




POINT OF EMPHASIS

Catcher's Mask





Legal




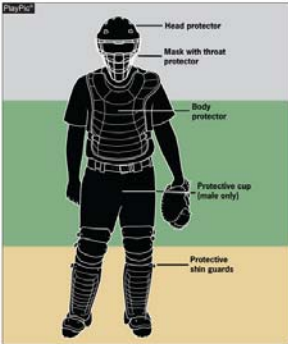
Illegal

The catcher helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard. Any helmet or helmet mask combination shall have full ear protection (dual ear flaps). A throat protector, which is either a part of or attached to the catcher's mask, is mandatory.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS

Catcher's Equipment





In addition to a head protector and a mask with a throat protector, the catcher shall wear a body protector, protective cup (male only) and baseball protective shin guards.

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Proper Catcher's Equipment



- Because of the significant amount of exposure to thrown or batted balls and thrown bats, the catcher is involved with every pitch and most of the action at or around home plate. It is imperative that they are properly equipped.
- The catcher's helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard which includes having full ear protection with dual ear flaps.
- The skull cap and mask combination does not meet the NOCSAE standard nor does it provide full ear protection with dual ear flaps and is not permitted for high school baseball
- The catcher shall wear a throat protector which is either attached or part of the catcher's mask. It shall adequately cover the throat.
- When a non-adult is in a crouch position and is warming up a pitcher at any location he shall wear face and head protection with throat protection and a protective cup (male only).



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POINT OF EMPHASIS

Celebrations





During a home run celebration, team members must remain clear of the plate, allowing the umpire to observe that all runners have legally touched the plate.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS

Celebrations



A team is permitted to be outside the bench/dugout area and celebrate during a dead-ball, such as after a home run. However, Rule 3-3-1f (1-4) does not permit unsporting behavior and can result in the ejection of players who taunt or behave in an inappropriate manner.

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Sportsmanship-Celebrations around or near home plate

- Any walk-off game winning base hit or home run generates immediate excitement for the player who hit the ball, his teammates and fans.
- Adolescent emotion is at its best when a young person does something successful.
- Everyone on the winning team wants to congratulate the successful batter as he turns the corner at third base and heads to home plate. The problem is that the umpire-in-chief has to be able to verify that the runner scores. Teammates shall remain outside the lines of the batter's boxes and baselines.
- His job becomes exponentially more difficult if his view is hampered by cheering players along the third base line and around home plate.

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POINT OF EMPHASIS

Postgame Conduct



After the umpires jurisdiction has ended, umpires cannot issue a post-game ejection. However, if confronted by a coach, player or fan, umpires are expected to report the conduct to their state association office.

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Postgame Conduct

- As a reminder, we are still receiving a large number of postgame incident notifications.
- The role of the head coach incorporates being the only coach responsible for communications with umpires, and it is not the role of anyone else to dispute, question, or challenge the authority of the umpire.
- However, additional attention is being placed on events that are occurring outside the confines of the playing field that disrupts the overall educational value that students receive from their participation.
- Inappropriate behavior outside the confines of the field can negatively affect the players, coaches and fans. If allowed it can disrupt the sole purpose of the contest...education! Education-based athletics provide numerous benefits

REFEREE

Postgame Conduct

- They cannot be realized if individuals prevent the young people from receiving valuable life lessons from interscholastic baseball.
- These confrontations can lead to suspensions, fines and create ill will between umpires and the schools they serve.
- If the situation becomes too troublesome and/or dangerous, it can also lead to involvement by local law enforcement.
- Umpires and coaches need to work together. Each contest is another opportunity for coaches and umpires to teach not only baseball, but also model good sporting behavior as well.
- The positive values that are learned will serve the players long after their baseball experience has concluded. Game situations typically provide a coach the opportunity to identify a teachable moment to reinforce good sporting behavior.



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Arm Care Concerns



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Arm Care

Coaches have an obligation to take care of their pitchers. Arm injuries continue to rise and proper care must be taken. No single win is worth unnecessary risk or injury to a player.

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Arm Care

When pitchers indicates they're injured, the coach should remove the pitcher from the game immediately. The replacement pitcher gets as many throws as reasonable to warm up.

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Arm Care





Taking care of a pitcher's arm following a game is one thing that can be done to help prevent injuries. However, no training or treatment program will prevent all injuries.

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Arm Care Concerns

- During the first NFHS Baseball Overuse Injury Symposium held on June 10, 2015, several items were discussed and some risk factors were identified.
 - A significant percentage of overuse injuries are avoidable with education.
 - A player who throws more than a 100 innings in a calendar year will have a higher risk (3x) of elbow and shoulder injuries.
 - Several states are investigating using pitch counts as their pitching restriction model.
 - Youth programs are beginning to manage young pitchers better. There will be a similar expectation at the high school level in the near future.




Arm Care Concerns

- Some of the risk factors include:
 - Pitching while fatigued
 - Not taking enough time off from baseball every year (at least 4 months, with at least 2-3 months being continuous)
 - Throwing too many pitches and not getting enough rest during the season
 - Pitching on consecutive days
 - Pitching for multiple teams at the same time
 - Throwing breaking pitches at too young of an age



2016 NFHS Baseball Rules and Case Book as E-Books

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Q & A

Have a Great Season and
Drive Home Safely.

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