

Dear Coaches and Umpires,

June 6, 2008

**First and foremost, we all need to keep all our communities in mind that have been effected by tornadoes, storms, flooding or a combination of all of these unfortunate situations. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers.**

Baseball is off to a good start and we have had some very competitive games up to this point. According to what I have calculated as of June 3, we have had 31 games that have come under our new 15 run rule.

**Items that need attention by coaches and Umpires:**

**Jewelry, 1-5-12;** jewelry shall not be worn (see 3-3-1d) except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible. Key; if a player wasn't born with it, then it's jewelry.

**Courtesy Runner:** Rule book reference, page 66 or case book page 88 & 89 and Situation 3.1.1 Situation N; we have had a number of situations when a coach wants to project a defensive substitution for the next half inning, which is not permissible. Please reference the rule book and case book situations if you have any questions.

**Eye Black:** Please keep in mind that eye black is to protect against glare. To be worn directly under the eye, no designs or emblems.

**Blowing in the fist on a cool night:** Umpires use common sense when ruling on this type of situation. Make sure to address this at the pre-game if conditions warrant, otherwise if the weather conditions change throughout the contest, notify both teams of this opportunity if conditions warrant. If a player elects to blow in his fist, he does so while not in contact with the pitchers plate.

**Appeal Plays:** A runner who misses any base (including home plate) or leaves a base too early, desires to return to touch the base, he must do so immediately. If the ball becomes dead and the runner is on or beyond a succeeding base, he cannot return to the missed base and, therefore, is subject to being declared out upon proper and successful appeal.

Penalty: For failure to touch a base(advancing or returning), or failure to tag up as soon as the ball is **touched** on a caught fly ball, the runner may be called out if an appeal is made by the defensive team. The defense may appeal during a live ball immediately following the play and before a pitch (legal or illegal), granting an intentional base on balls, or before the next play or attempted play. If the offensive team initiates a play before the next pitch, the defensive team does not lose the right to appeal. A live-ball appeal may be made by a defensive player with the ball in his possession by tagging the runner or touching the base that was missed or left too early. A dead-ball appeal may be made by a coach or any defensive player with or without the ball by verbally stating that the runner missed the base or left the base too early. Appeals must be made (1) before the next legal or illegal pitch; (2) at the end of an inning, before the pitcher and all infielders have left fair territory; (3) before an intentional base on balls is granted; or (4) on the last play of the game, an appeal can be made until the umpires leave the field of play. Note: When a play by its very nature is imminent and is obvious to the offense, defensive or umpire(s), no verbal appeal is necessary, e.g. runner attempting to retouch a base that was missed, or failure to tag up and a throw has been made to that base or plate while a play is in progress.

**EJECTIONS:** To date we have had 11 players and 3 coaches ejected from contests. Nine of the player ejections pertained to malicious contact. Coach/A.D., do two things for me (1) make sure this letter gets to every baseball coach in your system 9-12. (2) Coach make sure to take about 5-10 minutes each week to visit with your players about good sportsmanship and your expectations of your players and you as a coach. Remind your players they are a direct reflection of your program, school and community.

**Umpires:** Remember “**GAME MANAGEMENT**” skills are vital to being a successful umpire. I like the quote of Michael Josephson best, “if we want others to care about what we say, we need to care about what they say. We teach respect best by demonstrating it.”

**Umpires:** Tournament assignments will start coming out shortly be sure to check your emails daily. Any changes will come in this same format as well as additional assignments. Please keep in mind Class 4A assignments and sites will be determined after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, so some assignments will be made after the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Umpires:** Please note if you should have an ejection (player or coach), go to your personal IHSAA account and fill the ejection form out on the website.

**Sportsmanship Ratings (Umpires):** Don't forget to do your sportsmanship ratings on your own individual officials account (reminder, varsity games only).

In closing,

**Integrity is not a conditional word. It doesn't blow in the wind or change with the weather. It is your inner image of yourself, and if you look in there and see a man who won't cheat, then you know he never will.**

**-John D. MacDonald, novelist (1916-1986)**

**Thanks for your time, until the next time, its been my time!!**

On behalf of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Board of Control, we appreciate what you do for the game of baseball and our youth.

Sincerely,  
Roger Barr  
IHSAA