

Dear Baseball Coaches and Umpires

June 5, 2009

Ejections: We are still dealing with ejections pertaining to **malicious contact** at home plate. To date, we have had seven players ejected and two coaches. Out of the seven player ejections, three varsity players and two lower level players were ejected because of malicious contact at home plate. Coaches please visit with all your players 9-12 and inform them that they are not to attempt to run over the catcher in order to get him to drop the ball, so he can have an opportunity to be safe at home plate. **When malicious contact occurs the runner is out, and ejected.** Understand malicious contact is always illegal anywhere on the base paths, and supersedes obstruction.

The other two player ejections involved **chewing tobacco. Tobacco is illegal regardless of the form of tobacco. This rule applies to coaches and players!!** Coaches, take a moment to talk to your players about these items and being a good role model.

QUIKSTATS REQUIRED THIS SEASON

Teams are required to enter their **team scores and individual statistics** for each game played this summer on Quikstats.iowa.com. This was mandated last August by the Board of Control for all varsity football, basketball, track and baseball teams. There are three check points to make sure teams are in compliance. **The check points are Monday, June 8 (to include all game played thru June 6); Monday, June 22 (for all games played thru June 20), and Monday, July 6 (for all games played thru July 4).** In addition, **schools have until 11 a.m. the day following each District or Substate game to update their statistics.** Information from Quikstats will be used by the IHSAA for program and releases as well as on-going research.

Teams that are not in compliance will receive a letter giving them a specified number of days to update their stats. On the first offense, the letter goes to the coach. A second offense the letter goes to the coach and school administrator, notifying that if a third violation occurs, the school's reimbursement money for tournament play will be withheld. No school during football, basketball or track lost their reimbursed monies.

The IHSAA and IGHSAA own all the rights of Quikstats which they had developed four years ago. When less than 55% of the football, basketball and baseball teams used the site, the Board of Control mandated the use by all school effective 2008-09, thus placing all schools on the same level of information. The two associations agreed on the content of the statistics, which follows an NCAA model. It is seen as a great way to promote the school's programs as well as get players deserved recommendation. It helps the media and means less time to ask coaches to secure information they need for stories. It is also a source the IHSAA can use to verify All-Time Best performances. The Iowa lists in baseball, football track and football are among the most comprehensive of any state.

To access Quikstats, **a school needs their login**, which Bud Legg of the IHSAA can assist them. **They need to enter their varsity roster, and then each game as it is played.** Once the roster is in it will take a coach or his representative 10-15 minutes to enter each game's statistics. Coaches are also asked to contribute to the score list page which is posted daily by E-mailing their scores to blegg@iahsaa.org.

Medical Sleeves are legal: Medical sleeves may be worn on either arm, **for medical reasons only**. If the sleeve is gray, white or a distracting color in the umpires view, it cannot extend below the pitchers elbow on the pitching arm. Medical sleeves need to be worn for an injury. Coach this is an integrity issue between you and the individual desiring to wear a medical sleeve, make sure if one of your players desires to wear a sleeve, it is for the right reason. **No paper work is necessary** for coaches to provide umpires in order for this medical sleeve to be worn. If a medical sleeve is worn on the **non-throwing arm (medical reasons only)**, it may be of any length and may be white or gray as long as the medical sleeve is not distracting (umpire has final say). Coaches need to understand this could vary from game to game and umpire to umpire. This situation should arise very seldom, and in most cases should not be an issue. I would strongly encourage coaches to instruct any individuals needing to wear a medical sleeve **for medical reasons only**, purchase a dark colored medical sleeve and this should eliminate any doubt on anyone's part.

Coaches/A.D.: Make sure you have a **medical kit** at each home site and traveling teams should take a med kit with them in case one of your players skins a knee sliding or whatever the situation might be.

Most schools have a **lightning detector**. **Coach**, make sure coach you always have one at the game site to monitor any lightning that may develop. These detectors should be monitored by the administrator on hand. Umpires should not be monitoring a detector on the field during playing action. Lightning detectors may be purchased through the Iowa High School Athletic Association for \$66.00 each (includes shipping), payment must accompany any order. Schools must use a purchase order, if payment is not included with the order.

Always rule on the side of safety when weather is questionable. If you delay the game due to weather issues, umpires need to wait a minimum of 30 minutes before calling the contest. Never leave the facility until you have communicated with both coaches and the game administrator.

Coaches: Your leadership regarding good sportsmanship, integrity of the game and maintenance of the game are precisely the messages you send to your players, spectators and anyone involved with the game of baseball. Coach, you need to be a positive role model for everyone involved in the game!! Always remember, **“life isn't always fair, but it's still good!!”**

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 the 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 nature is imminent and is obvious to the offense, defense and 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 the base or plate while a play is in progress.

Coaches & Umpires: If for some reason a team has a short outfield fence in fair territory, it is not permissible by NFHS rules to make this a ground rule double if the ball goes over the fence. Case book play 4.1.2 Situation B, Rule Book 8.3.3a

Coaches & Umpires: We all need to understand game equipment (bats, helmets, etc.) change through use, therefore umpires need to inspect helmets and bats before every game. **Coaches, you need to put your bats and helmets out in front of your dugout before every game for inspection, at all levels.**

Umpires, it is your responsibility to check this equipment before each game you umpire.

Casts & Braces: A player/coach may participate with a cast provided it is properly padded with at least ½ inch of closed cell, slow recovery rubber or other material of the same minimum thickness with similar properties.

A **knee brace** that is totally covered or padded (no exposed hinges) is legal. What should an umpire do with a knee brace that has an **exposed hinge (Ruling 1.5.8)** The umpire-in-chief rules that the hinge is unreasonably dangerous due to the exposed hinge, it is illegal and may not be worn, until it is covered.

Jewelry, 1-5-12; jewelry shall not be worn (see 3-3-1d) except for religious or medical reasons. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible. If you question jewelry, ask yourself, was he born with it, if not, it's jewelry!!

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

2009 BASEBALL HIGHLIGHT FOLDER, SUSPENDED GAMES INFORMATION, IOWA HIGH SCHOOL PITCHING LIMITATION RULE & NFHS BASEBALL WINDUP PITCHING POSITIONS, ARE ALL ON OUR WEBSITE UNDER BASEBALL/2009 BASEBALL INFORMATION.

Umpires: Umpires should conduct all coin flips at tournament sites with one exception. If two games are played, the game administrator may conduct the coin flip for the second

game due to the fact umpires would be working the game and unable to conduct this procedure. If the administrator conducts this coin toss, teams will be able to be warmed up when the first game concludes and ready to take infield in order not to delay the start of the second contest.

Umpires: Make sure you are keeping up with your (varsity games only) **sportsmanship ratings** on-line.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS FOR ALL OF US

You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree

Take a deep breath, it calms the mind!!

Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'in five years, will this matter?'

Remember: "Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

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