



IHSAA Baseball



Informational Webinar: Coaches

May 29, 2020

Below is a consolidated transcript of questions and answers from the IHSAA Informational Webinar for Baseball Coaches.

Q. Does a foul ball have to be sanitized if it goes over the fence and touched by a fan or someone outside of the field?

A. You are required to sanitize the ball in this situation. **NOTE: UPDATED REQUIREMENT AS OF 6/4/20**

Q. Have the official yellow lineup cards been sent out yet to schools?

A. They will be sent out to schools.

Q. With not wanting to share equipment as much as possible is there a change in having to have the new catchers NOSCAE stamp on the chest protector?

A. No, the NFHS is not recommending to us to waive that requirement for 2020

Q. How are we to transport our players to away contests?

A. The Department of Education has [created procedures and protocols regarding transportation](#).

Q. With seeds not allowed, is gum?

A. Gum will be permissible, recommended not to have the players blowing bubbles as the water droplets would be in the air. You would need to have a procedure to have the gum properly disposed and not just spit on the ground.

Q. Say an ump is at 100.5 at game time. That's a fever and he needs to leave. We now have one umpire for the game. What do you suggest occur?

A. You have three options at this time:

- 1) You can play the contest with just one umpire.
- 2) You can try and find a second certified umpire
- 3) You can postpone the contest to another date.

Q. Will pregame be the same? (Show up an hour before a game, run, stretch, throw, infield and outfield)

A. It should look very similar. More attention will be required to social distancing during warm-ups and infield

Q. Can the team use a water spout at the field to refill water bottles?

A. No, that is not permitted.

Q. What do you want us to do if a player/coach was in contact with a person who later tested positive for COVID? Are they allowed at practice if showing no symptoms? If they are not allowed at practice and are having to quarantine - what are coaches supposed to say to the kids asking where Player A is at?

A. Contact your local county health department regarding positive cases

Q. If we stock our cooler in concession stand with drinks, can the coach be allowed to be the only one to open and hand out the drinks to the players if they forget to bring their water to practice or if they need more water? That way there's only one person getting in the cooler.

A. No, players are mandated to bring their own beverages and food.

Q. Do players and coaches need to be 6 feet apart when in the dugout or extended dugout down the foul line?

A. DE guidance states that players spread out as much as possible within the dugout. As we shared with the ADs yesterday, dugouts can be extended towards the foul pole and we will allow the dugout to be extended towards home plate only if behind a fence

Q. If a player has a 100.4 temperature on Monday - are they okay to practice Tuesday if the temperature is below is there a specific protocol to get back to practice?

A. No, they are to be fever free for 72 hours before returning to practice.

Q. With the strong emphasis in recent years on arm care/health and injury prevention, was there any conversation on modification of pitch count rules? Why or why not? Thank you.

A. We discussed the pitch count internally and with the baseball advisory. Given some kids have continued to throw during the last 2.5 months, ultimately the decision was made not to modify the count

Q. How do we go about with washing hands with water and soap at practice if we can't share things?

A. Restrooms can be used during practices and you determine based on your restroom how many can be in there at a time based on social distancing protocols.

Q. If practice gets rained out, are we able to use indoor facilities that are located in the school?

A. Yes

Q. Media. They can be in the media painted box like normal?

A. Yes, one media person is allowed in the media area.

Q. Is the extended dugout in or out of the field of play?

A. It can be in the field of play, just not closer to the home plate area. If it is in the field of play, it should be marked as dead ball territory with paint or some material. Additionally, players in this area are required to wear helmets if the area is not protected by a fence.

Q. Lets say I make a mound visit and I can't have the players come to the mound. Can my assistant meet with them around third or first base?

A. We are not preventing others from coming to the mound conference. We are only stressing that if a player doesn't need to be involved in the conversation between you and your pitcher, they stay out of the conference. If you out to discuss a defensive situation, then it would be appropriate to have more players in that conference

Q. What if your fields don't have public restrooms and you use porter potties, no running water unless we use a water spicket?

A. Porta potties are permissible to be used. A general water spicket or hose is not permitted.

Q. So every time a pitcher goes to his mouth, we stop the game and sanitize his hands?

A. Correct, additionally the umpire will need to throw out the ball to be sanitized.

Q. Are players going to be allowed to have a small hand sanitizer in their back pockets? Especially the pitcher?

A. Yes, a one to two ounce bottle of sanitizer will be permitted to be carried in the baseball pants.

Q. Will it be permissible to have a shared bottle of sanitizer located behind the pitcher's mound?

A. Yes, a one to two ounce bottle of sanitizer will be permitted behind the pitchers' mound.

Q. If the pitcher goes to his mouth, and the umpire catches it before he touches the ball, does the ball automatically get thrown out?

A. If the ball isn't touched after going to the mouth, no need to throw out if killed beforehand.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for products for us to use to sanitize baseball during game?

A. The NFHS has advised [reviewing a list of EPA approved products](#) to use to sanitize baseballs and other equipment.

Q. So as a home team I should give game balls to the visiting team before the games start? Then if a foul ball is hit the defensive team will throw the replacement ball to their own pitcher on the mound? The umpire will not throw a ball to the pitcher?

A. That is the correct protocol.

Q. Can you have an umpire come in to work intrasquad scrimmage?

A. That would be permissible.

Q. Player wear armor when hitting, gets a hit and takes off the armor. What is the proper sanitizing protocol?

A. Proper sanitization protocols of before and after practice cleaning are to be followed.

Q. Have umpires been instructed to bring their own water/drinks? Our school has typically provided them in the past.

A. Yes, when we have our Zoom meeting with them on Monday night, we will emphasize to them to bring their own water/drinks and that the home school will not be providing anything to them.

Q. What is the reasoning behind the ball going to the defensive dugout as opposed to the home team always being responsible for game baseballs?

A. We thought it would be more efficient for the defensive team to throw the ball in as the offensive coaches are coaching from the coaching boxes, while the defensive coaches are in their dugout.

Q. With all the restrictions on what a pitcher can "wear"...why are we allowing a white face mask..

A. A player can wear a white baseball cap and the advisory committee saw no difference between the two.