



Informational Webinar: Umpires

June 1, 2020

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

Q. How many baseballs do you want the home team to supply to each dugout?

A. Six in each dugout.

Q. If 'illegal' personnel come onto the field and do not leave, what should the protocol be for handling those folks? If they are clearly associated with a team and refuse to leave, what should umpires do?

A. I'd say start with the team's head coach and find out if they are essential personnel. If not, the coach can have that person go to another area. If essential, they stay and practice the social distancing as best as they can. If the head coach is uncooperative, you could seek assistance from the administrator on duty, if necessary.

Q. NFHS rules says captains shall be at pregame conference.

A. Captains will not be attending the pregame conference

Q. What if the mask is white and the player wearing the mask is pitching?

A. It is permissible for the pitcher to wear a white mask. Some teams have white baseball caps and the advisory committee was not concerned about a white mask.

Q. If the pitcher repeatedly brings his hand to his mouth, are there repercussions for him?

A. No

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. 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 occurring?

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. What about fist-bumps in lieu of handshakes with coaches?

A. We would recommend not to have any physical contact with coaches and players.

Q. If a bat is in the area of home plate do we pick up bat to keep players safe?

A. If need be, first preference is to kick out of way. If need to use hands, grab barrel of the bat, then use hand sanitizer right away

Q. Who is responsible for retrieving a passed ball that is not live?

A. Defensive team

Q. If possible, catcher retrieve foul ball from screen and continue with it?

A. Yes; ball only needs to leave play if someone goes to their mouth

Q. If we develop a cough or slight fever the day of the game, what's protocol to call off? Do we need to find a replacement? Can a contest continue with one official? Will schools hold it against umpires for this?

A. Just like if you are sick any time. Know what your assignor wants you to do, if an assignor gave you the contest. If contracted directly with the school, contact the A.D. Help find a replacement if that is proper protocol.

Q. Can a pitcher use hand sanitizer in lieu of going to mouth? What if they touch, or itch their nose?

A. if in doubt, throw the ball out

Q. Still a balk if he goes to mouth on rubber?

A. Yes, this would still be a balk. yes; then during the dead ball, have the pitcher sanitize his hands

Q. what about a pitcher that goes to the hand sanitizer bottle then directly to the glove or ball? Shouldn't they need to wipe hand?

A. Yes; the hand sanitizer should be treated the same as if the pitcher went to his mouth

Q. Will the kids be instructed to stay in dugout after a home run?

A. Coaches have been told to find a new way to celebrate home runs

Q. Rosin bag or tool to clean cleats ok behind the mound?

A. Still OK.

Q. What about the extended dugout towards outfield, where players are behind the existing foul fence

A. That is fine

Q. Can I work with a school to see some live pitches during their preseason practices?

A. Yes, this is permissible.

Q. Media box still must be established before start of game?

A. That is correct.

Q. So if we have 2 umps then 1 must go behind the plate.

A. Yes.

Q. Extended dugouts, is that considered a dead ball area?

A. That would be correct. It should be painted or chalked off. Ball goes in, it is dead.

Q. It is required that umpires change their pants and shirts between games?

A. It is recommended, but not required to change pants and shirts between games. **NOTE: UPDATED INFORMATION AS OF 6/4/20**