



IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Baseball Memo #6

May 26, 2023

Good afternoon, Head Baseball Coaches & AD's –

I did not intend to send a memo out already as we almost complete our second week of baseball, but we have had too many sportsmanship issues already to wait on addressing these.

1. Sportsmanship

As mentioned in a previous memo, sportsmanship is a point of emphasis this year and it has NOT been for many. We are about to wrap up our second week of games and we already have 11 student-athlete ejections. I think we can all agree that this is completely unacceptable to have this many this early in the season. Most have been inappropriate language or behavior including but not limited to swearing at umpires (including one calling an umpire a “F” word “R” word), bat flipping, harassment from dugout, etc. We all have a responsibility in these educational based activities to bring this to the forefront as a point of emphasis. Many schools have reached out in desperate need of umpires and can tell you firsthand that this unacceptable behavior is not helping the situation. Three officials have already returned their umpire schedule for the season because of this type of behavior. One coach even referred to this verbal abuse as their “common language”. What we allow, we promote so we all need to do a better job of supporting all parties involved in our contests if we want them to be able to continue as they have been. I can tell you by the numerous calls I have received from umpires, they are fed up and I do not blame them.

2. Pace of Play

Certain things happen in a baseball contest that are unavoidable when it comes to the length of a contest. However, there are also things we can do to help the pace of play as well and efficiency within a contest. Just something to consider as we progress into the heart of the season to all do what we can to keep a reasonable pace of play going. A lot of ground to be gained in this department in between innings, pitching changes, time between double headers, etc.

Thanks, and do not hesitate to reach out with any questions as we progress into the heart of the regular season.



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