



Baseball Bulletin 2024-3

Date: April 1, 2024

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

Topics

- **Local Online Meetings:** The first online local meeting is available through April 7, 2024. The second local online meeting will be available beginning April 15, 2024 via the special presentations section of officials.myohsaa.org.
- **Bat Sensors:** There has been an increase in the availability of aftermarket sensors that team members can attach to the knob of a bat to get various pieces of data for review on the batter. Rule 1-3-2a.2 states the bat shall...not have exposed attachments, rivets, pins, rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a potential hazard. I've reached out to the NFHS to clarify if the sensors attached to the end of the bat are illegal and they have indicated they are illegal for game use.
- **Runner's three-foot running lane:** I've received several questions regarding runner's lane interference and how to interpret the NFHS rule. 8-4-1g states, "the batter-runner is out when:...the batter-runner runs outside the three-foot running lane (last half of the distance from home plate to first base), while the ball is being fielded or thrown to first base; or
 1. The infraction is ignored if it is to avoid a fielder who is attempting to field the batted ball or if the act does not interfere with a fielder or a throw
 2. The batter runner is considered outside the running lane lines if either foot is outside either line.

I want to highlight #1 and the statement that the infraction is ignored ...if the act does not interfere with a fielder or a throw. In order to have an interference infraction, we have to have interference. However, if an out is recorded at first base, it does not mean that we ignore the interference if the interference has occurred. Here is a play that interference could have been called because the runner's actions outside of the lane prevented a clean throw from the catcher to the first baseman. [View the video here.](#) The runner clearly moves in a direction of the throw and potentially shielding the first baseman's attempt to field the throw. We do not have to judge the quality of the throw in High school.

- **Bullpen protection:** If players are warming up in a bullpen area that is in live-ball territory, they must have a protector. The protector does not have to wear a helmet as the protector must have a glove and be alert to the batter.
- **Bat compliance Memo's from NFHS:** The NFHS has released two memo's related to the Warstic Bonesaber -3 bat. For clarity, the bat is legal for use! Please review the two memo's linked below related to the handle wrap on these bats. The wrap from the manufacture is legal for use.

- [Memo 1](#)
 - [Memo 2](#) – review the pictures of the compliant and non-compliant handles at the bottom of this memo
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- Save the date: 3 and 4 umpire clinic is scheduled for May 18, 2024 from 9-3 at Grove City High School, Grove City, OH 43123. Registration for this clinic will be sent soon.