As stated in the state meeting the 2021 Rules Modifications are subject to adjustment at any time prior to or during the season.

- Our first adjustment is the elimination of the modification concerning baseballs. This modification has been eliminated in its entirety.
  - What does this mean?
  - We will return to the standard rule and related procedures for handling game balls.
  - The home team will provide the game balls.

- As a reminder, the following items are not officially approved by the ODH, but we anticipate these being approved once the guidelines are provided:

**Infractions by the Pitcher**

- If the pitcher puts his/her hands to their mouth and touches the ball, “Times” is called, a new ball is inserted, and the pitcher must sanitize their hands before throwing the next pitch.

- A pitcher using a rosin bag shall take the item to the dugout with them at the end of each half inning.

- The plate umpire calling balls and strikes shall allow adequate distance behind the catcher while still being able to perform his or her duty.

- Umpire cloth facial coverings are recommended but not required while on the field during play. If worn they shall be of one color, not distracting and have no designs.

- Prior to and after the game umpires shall wear a face covering.

- Umpires may wear disposable gloves and masks.

- Facial coverings are generally not required between innings – a properly positioned umpire will not be near anyone else.
• Umpires should put on their facial covering if having a conversation with any person.

• The catcher and batter shall be at a six-foot distance when the umpire is dusting the plate.

• Base umpires shall maintain six feet from any player when in a starting/initial position.

• **Examples of Items That Are NOT Umpire Responsibilities**

  • Sanitizing Equipment or supervising this activity
  
  • Face Coverings in Dugout
  
  • Distancing in Charged Conferences or other player activity
  
  • Enforcing the “No Touch Rule”
  
  • We don’t call a runner out for a high five or a coach being too close.
  
  • Coaches and schools are responsible to ensure these safety regulations are followed.
  
  • Work Together – coaches and schools are responsible to ensure regulations are followed.
  
  • Our goal is to not attach penalties for what has been changed – remind players and coaches of new requirements.
  
  • If an issue persists, use the special report to notify the school administration and OHSAA.

• **Other Questions**

• When does the umpire have to wear a mask?

  • To and from the field plus during any situation where you must have a conversation with any person at any close distance.

• Can players cover their mouth with their glove while talking to others?

  • Yes, we can’t cover and police every possible situation. A coach could deal with this.

• Can a player wearing a gaiter lower it and wear around her neck?

  • Yes, there is no rule to prohibit this and we want to make it as easy as possible for a player to both put on a face covering and remove it as needed.

I will keep you posted on any changes to the COVID protocols. We need to do everything in our power to make sure that we have a baseball season. All I can ask is that we do our part to make sure we have a safe season and hope we can get back to pre-Covid baseball in the near future.