



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Dan McGinnis

Baseball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Baseball

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dan.mcginnis@hotmail.com

- 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.

