



Baseball Bulletin 2024-4

Date: May 14, 2024

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

### Topics

- **Post Season:** The post season is here! We have just under 4 weeks of the high school season. Congratulations to all those umpires who have been selected to work the post season. Thank you for continuing to work hard and prove that Ohio has the best baseball umpires in the country! From here on out, one team is going to continue, and one team ends their season. Only four teams get to end their seasons on a winning note! This means the pressure is on the coaches and players. We need to continue to officiate at the same high level that we do for every regular season game. Slow down, focus on every pitch, breath, don't over officiate, and when we do have a situation, be the calming voice to the coach or player. Diffuse instead of incite. Obviously, there are situations where we must impose penalties such as bench restrictions or ejections, but make the coach or player eject themselves. Be the professional on the field!
- **Charged conferences:** Please review rule 3-4 on Charged Conferences. This was a topic in the last bulletin issued and I've received a few reports that the baseball rule regarding charge conferences continues to be managed incorrectly. **Situation:** In the third inning, the pitcher issues a walk to the first batter of the inning. The HC goes to the mound for the first defensive conference of the game. The second batter has a 3-0 count on him and the HC again asks for a defensive conference and visits the mound. Does the coach have to change pitchers because this is his second visit to the mound in the same inning and the same batter? NO. The defense is allowed three charged conferences during a seven inning game that can be taken without restriction. All three "free" conferences can be taken in the same inning during the same batter. Once all three conferences are taken, any subsequent defensive conference requires the removal of the pitcher.
- **Team personnel out of the dugout:** I observed a game this week where the dugouts did not have any barriers around them and nearly every player and coach was on the grass area just outside of the dugout including a coach who was at least five feet in live ball territory. Now, the umpire did address it and got them back in. How could this have been prevented? We must address this early and often. I hate doing it as well, however, we need to address when coaches and players are not where they are supposed to be so that we don't get to the point where everyone is out of place. It can and will create additional problems if we don't.
- **Game ending procedures in the post-season:** As weather is inevitable during this time of year as we've already seen this week during the first week of the post-season, it is imperative that we know the game ending procedures for the post-season. Our game ending procedures are

different in the post-season than they are in the regular season. For the postseason games can end via the following scenarios:

- All games must be played to 7 innings or extra innings if the game is tied at the end of 7 innings.
  - Exception 1: A team is ahead by 10 or more runs at the conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> or later (4-1/2 inning if the home team is ahead by 10 or more runs
  - Exception 2: Both head coaches mutually agree to the end the game at any point.
  - If a game is suspended at any point, the game must be resumed at the point of interruption and played to completion.
- **Flexibility, availability, and conflicts in the post-season:** For those who are continuing to be scheduled in the postseason, please continue to be flexible and available as games get cancelled for weather or moved because of site availability. If you haven't heard from the site manager listed on the brackets on OHSAA.org, please confirm where you should be parking, where you will be dressing, and what time you and the rest of the crew plan to arrive. If games are cancelled early in the day or prior to your departure for the game site, the game will be updated to reflect the new date/time/location. If the game is cancelled or suspended, the game will have to have a new assignment issued. If those games are reissued, please accept them (or decline if you absolutely have to) as soon as possible to help the district assigners for the sectional and district games, and myself for the regional and state assignments.

Additionally, if you know of a conflict with a school and yourself for any reason, please let those assigners know as soon as possible that a conflict may occur further down the tournament. I've already had a couple of umpires let me know of a possible conflict at the regional and state levels. By planning ahead, it allows the assigners ample time to plan ahead and shift people around if necessary. What we don't want is the day before the final, someone coming to me to say they have a conflict. At that point, they will have to be replaced with someone else.

Good luck and continue to work hard!

Thanks,  
Frank