



Baseball Bulletin 2026-7

April 13, 2026

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

- This bulletin has a lot of information and reminders, so please review thoroughly! For previously issued bulletins, please visit the Directors of Officiating page on the OHSAA website (<https://www.ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD>).

There are several documents that I want to share in this bulletin. Instead of linking them individually, they are available in a folder in my OneDrive account. You can access those documents at this link: [4-13-2026 Bulletin Documents](#)

Any video shared is for educational purposes and not meant to embarrass or demean any umpire in the video. We can all learn from watching videos of complicated play scenarios.

- **Online SRI Meeting** – If you did not attend an in-person State rules interpretation (SRI) meeting or complete the online SRI meeting through dragonfly prior to March 24th, you will still need to complete the online SRI meeting by paying the late fee (\$50) prior to April 14th. For instructions on how to access the online SRI, please reference the email sent on 3/25 from Michael Cornathan.

Additionally, you probably received that email even if you already have credit for the SRI meeting. You do not need to do anything unless you have not completed the SRI meeting requirement. You can check your status in DragonFly, under the OHSAA section in your profile, if under the “Pay OHSAA...,” the Baseball-SRI Late fee – Baseball (Optional) is marked paid, you have completed your requirements.

- **Local on-line meetings** – The second on-line local meeting will be posted around April 14th. Information on accessing the local online meeting will be sent via Dragonfly.
- **3 and 4 Umpire Clinic** – The annual 3 and 4 umpire clinic will be held May 23rd at Grove City from 10:00 – 2:30. This is primarily for tournament umpires who are working Districts and beyond, but all are welcome! The first two hours will be classroom review of the mechanics We will move to the field to practice scenarios from 12:30-2:30. To register for this (free) clinic visit the google form here: <https://forms.gle/LpcsDyHhg8FpSzct9>

- **NFHS interpretations** – There are two new NFHS interpretations to share with you this week. Please view them in the Bulletin Documents folder. One is when a ball hits the top of the wall and either goes out or comes back in. The other deals with a player making a catch near an out-of-play line. Both are good to review!
- **Sportsmanship/Ejection/Facility reports** – All reports must be filed in the web version of Dragonfly. To file a report, login to Dragonfly, go to the game assignment, scroll to the bottom of the page of the assignment and click “Add New Document.” This will open up prompts to fill out the appropriate information. DO NOT USE THE MOBILE APP. You will also need to contact the school’s AD to let them know, this can be done via email or phone call.
- **Bat Certifications** – If a coach questions the legality of the bat, and it is missing the BBCOR certification stamp, regardless of if it may have worn off, the bat is illegal. All non-wood bats must have the BBCOR stamp on the bat. A sticker does not make it legal. Please review Rule 1-3-2 and casebook plays 1.3.2 Situations A-D.
- **Player Equipment** – Please be aware of illegal player equipment and take care of it consistently throughout the season. Gloves with white or gray, player cards worn on the belt instead of the wrist, pants not covering the knees, etc. Arm sleeves worn by the pitcher that are not a solid dark color, etc. Please review the equipment requirements in Rule 1. Let’s take care of these issues now before we get to the tournament!
- **Malicious contact** – We must remember what is and is not malicious contact. The NFHS rule book does not do a great job of defining maliciousness, but we have guidance from them to be able to judge malicious contact when it occurs. 2-21-1b states simply that interference occurs when the runner creates malicious contact with the fielder with or without the ball. So what is malicious? We need to key on few factors as a starting point: a. Contact is the result of intentional excessive force and/or b. There was an intent to injure the opponent. Absent of these two factors, we need to question if it was malicious. We can also have interference by a runner or obstruction by a fielder if there is contact (even if it’s hard) without maliciousness. Think of a situation where a runner is coming home, does not slide legally and contacts the catcher attempting to field a throw. Yes, it could be malicious if you read intent. We have a good example of this in the bulletin documents folder labeled Malicious contact-yes-no #1. We will be discussing this in the 2nd online meeting that will be posted this week. Also, take a look at the Malicious contact #2 play in this folder. This was not called on the field (FPSR interference was) but probably should have been.
- **Slash bunt/”butcher boy”** – I think this play has other names as well, it is a tactic used by the batter where he shows bunt to draw in the defense, then pulls the bat back and potentially takes a full swing at the pitch. This is **LEGAL** under NFHS rules. Other rules sets may have rules against it, especially at lower levels, but we do not have anything to prohibit it under the NFHS rules.
- **Pitcher taking signs** - A couple of things here, I am shocked at the number of times I’ve heard that umpires did not know pitchers are permitted to wear coach to player communication

devices for this year. Again, this is an experimental rule which allows both the pitcher and catcher to wear electronic communication devices to receive one-way communications from a coach in the dugout. The pitcher can receive this communication at any time. However, when the pitcher contacts the pitcher's plate, he must either take a sign from the catcher or simulate taking a sign. This is to prevent the pitcher from quick pitching to the batter. We don't need to over-officiate this, just make sure the pitcher pauses briefly when making contact with the pitcher's plate before going into his pitching motion either from the set or windup. See rule 6-1-1.

- **Video** – I am always on the lookout for usable video of high school baseball. If you have video that may be of interest for training purposes (mechanics, difficult plays, etc.), please send me those clips or links to those clips to fgrubb@ohsaa.org.