



Baseball Bulletin 2026-9

May 19, 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: [5-19-2026 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.

- **3 and 4 Umpire Clinic** – Those who registered for the 3 & 4 umpire clinic, I will be sending a confirmation email this week with additional information. Please look for an email from me soon. We have almost 100 registered for this clinic so I have closed registration.
- **NFHS interpretations** – There is only one NFHS interpretation since the last bulletin. It talks about foul tips. You can reference this interpretation PDF in the Documents folder linked at the top of this email.
- **Tournament is here!** - It's tournament time! If you've been assigned to this year's tournament at any level, congratulations! Be proud and do your best to represent yourself, your local association, and the OHSAA in officiating the games you are assigned. This is absolutely my favorite time of year as an umpire. We start working for the tournament in January, if not before. The last 5 months we've spent training on rules, mechanics, handling situations, and everything else in between to prepare ourselves to be at our absolute best for this time of year.

A few things I want to remind everyone of working tournament games over the next three weeks that I reminded the clinic participants:

- Communicate with your partners a minimum of a week from your assignment, make sure you all have the same understanding of when and where your game will be.
- District and Regional assignments – be on-site a minimum of 1 hour before the expected start time.

- Crew Chiefs – reach out to the site coordinator to confirm dressing facilities. Dress inside if possible. Site coordinators can be found on the OHSAA website under the tournament information.
- Conduct a thorough pre-game utilizing the 3 and 4 umpire mechanics manuals.
- Dress professionally (business casual is fine; dressy shorts and a polo shirt are also fine) showing up to games.
- Remember, we are providing a service for the student athletes! The assignment is not about us but about celebrating the student athletes.
- Crew Chiefs – something to think about and I’ve done this for crews I’ve worked on in both football and baseball. Assign everyone on the crew a rule or two to be an expert in. Have them study that rule again along with the casebook. When there is an issue on a rule that needs to be discussed, everyone gets together to discuss it. Everyone on the crew should be an expert on rules 1 and 2.
- Remember, players’ and coaches’ emotions will be high! We are there to diffuse yet enforce the rules of the game. Our emotions CANNOT match that of the player or coach.
 - Stay calm, breathe, listen, respond calmly regardless of the emotions of the coach.
 - Penalize unsportsmanlike behavior just as you have in the regular season.
- At this point, every game ends someone’s playing career.
- **Mechanics manuals** - The three and four umpire mechanics manuals can be downloaded on the Director of Officiating (DOD) webpage linked at the top of this email. Under the sport of baseball, you will find all this year’s Bulletins as well as links to all the various mechanics manuals. The versions posted are the 2023-2024 versions which are what we are continuing to use for 3 and 4 umpire mechanics. It’s a good idea to have someone print a copy out and have with you for your pre-game.
- **Additional Umpire resources:** I’ve created a resource document that will be housed in the folder link above with some links to various resources available to our umpires. It includes the following:
 - 3 & 4 Umpire Online Flash cards created by Central Ohio umpire, Tyler Monk
 - Umpire IQ – website to test your knowledge of 2, 3, & 4 umpire systems created by central Ohio Umpire, Dave Severson
 - Link to PowerPoint and PDF Bluebook documents.
- **Umpire Decorum** – This is a reminder that our role as umpires is to officiate the game fairly, consistently, and without emotional involvement. Fans, coaches, and players will naturally view plays through the lens of their own rooting interests, and at times their reactions may lack civility. We must remain neutral, calm, and composed at all times.

Ignore comments from outside the playing field. Address individuals inside the playing field only when appropriate under the rules, and always with professionalism. If spectators outside the field create a disturbance that interferes with the game beyond reasonable limits, halt play and request that a game administrator handle the situation. Do not engage directly unless there is an immediate safety concern.

When interacting with coaches, we must not use inappropriate language, even if they choose to do so. If a coach's language or behavior crosses the line, it must be addressed through the appropriate progression: warning, restriction, or ejection, depending on the severity and the rules.

- **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.