



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Dan McGinnis

Baseball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Baseball

February 15, 2020

Bulletin 20-1

dan.mcginnis@hotmail.com

- Hope everyone is ready for the season! Long range forecast doesn't look to inviting for the end of March baseball.
- Just to go over a few reminders. **During the pregame we ask the coach if all his equipment is legal. Once he responds that it is, then it is now the coach's responsibility to guarantee that the helmets are legal.** We do not check to see if the proper NOCSAE stamp is on the C-flap. We assume that the coach has checked with the manufacturer of the helmet and that it meets their standards.
- Remember that prior to the start of an inning or during a pitching change, some teams are having the players on their bench to go out in front of their respective dugout and swing bats as the opposing pitcher is warming up. According to rule 3-3-1-i, the only players/personnel allowed out of the dugout are "be outside the designated dugout (bench) or bullpen area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the nine players on defense." Please make sure they stay in the dugout. Make sure that the offensive players are in the vicinity of the on-deck circle. No near the plate timing up the pitcher.
- I want to thank all those who have filed a report for sportsmanship on myOHSAA last year. We have had numerous discussions with AD about the good sportsmanship of the players, coaches and fans and also the not so good. For the most part they are very receptive to the reports and have taken some action. We need to continue this to protect our umpire family and the game.
- With the new P/DH coming into play this year there is some confusion around its use. On the **[OHSAA.org/officiating/DOD](https://www.ohsaa.org/officiating/DOD)** site, I have included a PowerPoint by Chase Hatfield and a one-page simplification document for your review. The key is if the DH is substituted for, either batting, baserunning or even courtesy running, the DH is done and that person is in the lineup and we are now using a nine-person lineup. The P does have a re-entry because he is a starter and must be in the same place on the lineup card.
- Here is a memo from the NFHS dated 2-12-20, B. Elliot Hopkins, NFHS Baseball Rules Editor and National Rules Interpreter: *"We have been receiving some calls about the compliancy of baseballs with the NOCSAE/SEI performance standard mark that do not match the image that is depicted in the NFHS Baseball Rules book or other NFHS publications. If the baseball has the words NOCSAE/SEI printed on the ball, then the balls are compliant with our playing rules. They may not all be printed inside or outside a shape on the ball."* By rule the balls need to have the NFHS and the NOCSAE/SEI printed on the balls to be legal in Ohio. In order for a game to begin, the umpire UIC must have legal baseballs. If no baseballs that are legal are presented, we do not play. If the game starts with legal baseballs and those are lost and no other legal baseballs are available, the game is over.
- The link is a Newsletter that went out to all AD's and coaches in December 2019. It specifically states about the baseball and chest protector rule. There was also one that went out in January 2020 and again in February 2020.