



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Baseball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Baseball

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The baseball season has finally gotten underway. The weather for the most part has been playable, but we know what happens in Ohio when our season starts. Out comes the winter gear and hope the winds die down! I hope everyone has been able to get out on the diamond and again enjoy high school baseball.

As normal, various issues come up the first few weeks of the season and I would like to address them before we get too far into league play.

- Baseball must have the NOCSAE stamp on them. Please check carefully because some of the balls have a very small, printed NOCSAE. If no balls are available with this stamp, then we do not play.
- Since the pitcher is no longer allowed to lick his fingers or blow into his hand, some coaches are trying to get creative by having a wetted towel in the pocket, wetted wristband or even spraying the pitcher's pants. By rule it is an infraction of the pitcher to apply a foreign substance on the ball. They say its only water! Do not allow this in baseball.
- If a pitcher licks his fingers, call time and have him sanitize them. We are trying to conduct a full season and if we don't enforce this ODH rule, it may end early. I have gotten some calls from coaches about this not being enforced and I have called those umpires!
- We are to wear a mask to and from out cars and anytime we are talking to a coach or player.
- It is up to the coaches and administration to police the dugouts not the umpires. You may want to mention about the masks and social distancing but in no way are we responsible of this area.

Recently a gentleman from Connecticut called and said he was listening in on a pod cast and some Ohio umpires mentioned some mechanics he was questioning. Below are the plays:

- Runners on 1st or 1st and 3rd on a base hit he said that the Ohio umpire said that the Plate has touches at home and heads to third. If there is a play at the plate, U1 has the call. Wrong, if there is going to be a play at the plate, the plate gives up third and heads home. Communicating with his partner and now U1 has all the bases.

- The second issue was no one on, long fly ball to right and U1 goes out. In Ohio we want U1 to stay with the ball until it is thrown to the infield at which point U1 breaks for home in foul territory trying to cover the plate. This is where good communication is required, as the plate umpire I am going to assume that I will have the BR all the way to home unless I hear U1 tell me he is at the plate.

Let's do our part to pull out a full baseball season this year. There are changes that we don't like or agree with, but they are allowing us to have a season. The players really need our support in pulling this off.

I appreciate all you support in this endeavor.