



## Baseball Bulletin 2025-7

April 21, 2025

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

We are through the first few weeks of the season and hopefully the weather cooperates a little better than the first two weeks! I know the first few weeks have been a challenge for assigners and umpires alike. It's a good reminder to remember how hard the assigners work to get games scheduled and covered, and the flexibility it takes from umpires to adjust to a constantly evolving game schedule. I hear a consistent message from assigners across the state, the need for umpires to update their blocks in Dragonfly and to accept games timely. If you are unsure how to update your calendar or block dates you are unable to work, there is a Dragonfly training and support resource on the OHSAA website. You can open that resource here: [OHSAA Dragonfly FAQ's for officials](#). Officials and assigners must work together to ensure games are covered and the assigning process works smoothly.

- **Local on-line meetings** – The next online local meeting will be out next week. OHSAA will email out when it is ready.
- **Save the date – Pre-Tournament - 3 and 4 umpire clinic:** The Pre-tournament 3 and 4 umpire clinic will be held on May 17, 2025, at Grove City HS, 4665 Hoover Rd, Grove City, OH 43123.

This clinic is designed for those who are working the OHSAA tournament, however, all are invited to attend. The tentative plan is to do 3 and 4 umpire presentations starting at 10:30 through 12:30. Lunch from 12:30-1:15 and then an on-field scrimmage and situational work with those in attendance.

**Please register here if you plan on attending:** <https://forms.gle/rFpimCLvVXhGxRvh7>

I recognize that there are many regular season games being played on this day and this may impact attendance. With the season being pushed back a week this year, we would normally hold this clinic the weekend before the district tournament starts. That weekend happens to be Memorial Day weekend this year. I made the decision to avoid trying to have a clinic that weekend to avoid impacting those who wish to be around family and friends during the Memorial Day weekend.

- **Handling situations** – There are some great videos on YouTube on handling situations where coaches are chirping from the dugout. Here is a really good video on using your tools to handle these types of situations: [video](#). It illustrates the steps in dealing with coaches in various

situations and using the tools we have at our disposal to diffuse a situation so that we don't have to eject a coach or player. Use a progressive approach:

1. Ignore - if it's light chirping and just one time, we can ignore these comments. Sometimes by ignoring them, we've let the coach vent without having to address it
2. Acknowledge – If it continues, a simple glance to let him know he was heard often suffices as a “warning” to the coach that that is enough.
3. Verbal Warning – We can give verbal warnings, “Coach, that’s enough” or “Coach, knock it off” should send the message that the coach needs to stop the behavior.
4. Written Warning – Once we reach the point of written warnings, we can use this tool to restrict the coach to the bench. This is a unique rule in baseball for the NFHS rule code that allows us to give a written warning and restrict a coach to the bench for the remainder of the game. (We cannot restrict players to the bench).
5. Eject – After a written warning is given and a restriction has occurred, any subsequent violation of rule 3-3 results in the offender being ejected.

Obviously, if the offense is severe enough, we can move directly to written warning or ejection. Ejections are not our goal, but they are warranted when actions are severe enough that we've exhausted other attempts to address sportsmanship behaviors.

- Case play review on Coaches conduct:
  1. **3.2.4 SITUATION A:** The head coach of Team A is caught in traffic and (a) has notified Team A's assistant of a delayed arrival by 30 minutes or (b) does not notify anyone at the game site. **RULING:** In both (a) and (b), the assistant coach may represent the team at the pregame conference and must certify that the team is legally and properly equipped. The head coach is not restricted and may assume normal duties upon arrival.
  2. **3.2.4 SITUATION B:** The head coach of Team A dislikes the umpire-in-chief and refuses to leave the dugout to attend the pregame conference. In the head coach's place, the head coach sends the assistant coach and team captain to the pregame conference. **RULING:** The head coach is restricted to the dugout for the duration of the game. The assistant coach must represent the team at the pregame conference and must certify that Team A is legally and properly equipped.
  3. **3.2.4 SITUATION C:** The head coach of Team A is (a) on the bus, tending to an injured player or (b) in the bullpen, supervising Team A's pitcher's warmup or (c) finishing field preparations. In both (b) and (c) the head coach refuses the request of the umpire-in-chief to attend the pregame conference. In all cases, the head coach sends the assistant coach and team captain to the pregame conference. **RULING:** In (a), the head coach is legal, is not restricted and may assume normal duties upon the head coach's return. In (b) and (c), the head coach is restricted to the dugout for the duration of the game. The assistant coach must represent the team at the pregame conference and must certify that Team A is legally and properly equipped.
  4. **3.3.1 SITUATION S:** The defensive team's head coach, who had previously received a verbal warning and a subsequent written warning (and restriction to the dugout) now yells at the umpire from the dugout in protest of another call. **RULING:** The coach shall be ejected.

5. **3.3.1 SITUATION U:** If an umpire judges a coach's unsportsmanlike conduct to be more than "rudimentary" in nature, but not "severe" enough to warrant an ejection, may the umpire issue a written warning and restrict the coach to the dugout? **RULING:** Yes, in such a situation an umpire may issue a written warning and restrict to the dugout a coach who had not previously been verbally warned.
  6. **3.3.1 SITUATION X:** With a base runner on first and following an attempted steal, the assistant coach for Team A who is coaching first, leaves the coaching box and charges onto the field to talk to the base umpire in a two-person crew arguing that the runner was safe on the steal attempt. **RULING:** The assistant coach who was coaching first, and the head coach receive a written warning and are both restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. If the conduct of either coach were of such gravity to violate Rule 3-3-1f in other parts, the coach(es) could be ejected.
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- **Video:** Just a reminder, nearly every game is now being video taped or streamed. Professionalism is always on display. If you have a play that you can get the coach to send you that you would like reviewed or that you think would be a good video for education of other umpires, please send it my way! fgrubb@ohsaa.org.