



Baseball Bulletin 2025-5

March 20, 2025

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

- **On-line State Rules Meeting** – The Online State Rules Interpretation meeting is available now in Dragonfly and will be available through March 25th. If you don't have either an online state meeting or an in-person state meeting after March 25th, you will be able to view the State meeting with a \$50 penalty until April 15th. To access the online SRI meeting:
 1. Log in to Dragonfly.
 2. Click on my information under the OHSAA section of your profile.
 3. Under OHSAA click on the Prep for 2024-25 box
 4. Next to the 2025 SRI Meeting (Baseball): OHSAA Points of Emphasis, select the "Start" option on the right-hand side.

- **Local on-line meetings** – We will once again publish two local on-line meetings during the spring. The first of these is scheduled to be published March 24, 2025. There will be a communication once it is published in Dragonfly.

- **Sub-Varsity re-entry exception** – if you've attended an SRI meeting or watched the online SRI meeting, you are aware of the exception for sub-varsity contests (JV and below) that allows for a player to reenter an unlimited number of times regardless of if the player is a starter or a substitute. Once a player has entered the lineup, they must remain in that spot of the lineup they were previously in when reentering the game.
 - I observed a coach tell an umpire in a JV scrimmage that there is a new rule that they don't have to give the umpires lineups. This is incorrect. Coaches should still provide lineups for regular season games.

- **Follow-through interference** – Do you know the difference between follow through interference and backswing interference? Rule 2-21 describes the differences between these types of interferences. Do we know how to enforce these interferences? Review rules 5-1-1n, 5-1-2a, 7-3-5, & 7-3-7. I was observing two newer umpires on a 9th grade scrimmage and the crew working the game got a follow through interference correct. They also got together to discuss it just to make sure!

- **Player Equipment** – illegal player equipment must be addressed. This creates consistency in enforcement across the state. Be preventative prior to the game and look for issues and address them prior to the start of the game so we don't have to issue penalties during the game.

- **Non-electronic play card wristbands – 1-6-1.** These must be worn on the wrist or forearm and must be a single, solid color. Pitchers, if wearing one, must have it on the non-pitching arm, and it must not be white or gray, or be distracting. Do not permit these items to be worn on the belt. They may be stuffed in the pocket of the pants by the player.
 - **Helmets – 1-5** – Review this rule, know what is illegal and who must wear a helmet and when. All non-adult bat/ball shaggers must have a helmet. Players protecting the bullpen with a glove do not require a helmet.
 - **Catcher’s helmet mask combinations** – Catcher’s helmets must cover the ears. NFHS does not permit the skull cap and mask combo as an option under any circumstances. Additionally, eye shields must be attached at the time of manufacturing and must be clear. A catcher can wear sunglasses under the mask
 - **Pitcher’s gloves** – must not contain white or gray
 - **Eye black** – baseball does not have a restriction on how eye black is applied. As long as it is not offensive, leave it alone.
- **Pitching positions** – As covered in the SRI meetings and will one of the topics for the online local meetings, there are two pitching positions, the wind-up, and the set. If the pitcher has his pivot foot parallel to the pitcher’s plate, he is in the set position. Otherwise, he is in the windup. If the foot looks parallel, it is parallel. Use preventive umpiring and address this in warm-ups if you notice something that might potentially be an infraction in live play.
- **Quiz – [Baseball Quiz 2025-2](#)** is now live!