

This Week In Baseball

April 13, 2010, Issue 2



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

This is the second of several Weekly Bulletins to keep coaches in Ohio up-to-date with current topics and issues for OHSAA baseball coaches.

- A continued reminder to coaches to RATE your umpires through the *myOHSAA* Data Management System.
- Coaches may want to mark their calendars now for the Tournament Draw date: Sunday, May 2 at assigned locations.
- Most of you remember that the 3-ft. running lane is a Point of Emphasis that was covered at Rules Interpretation meetings. Many umpires have reported that fields do not have that lane marked. You may want to check with your grounds' person (or in most cases I know YOU do that!), and mark that in. That should be marked in the last 45' of the baseline and is diagramed in the NFHS Rules Book on page 7.
- I have received a few reports of schools that inform umpires they want to extend a Saturday afternoon game to 9 innings by mutual agreement of the coaches. Please note, this is not permitted under NFHS rules. Games are 7 innings in length with no adoption that allows schools to extend or alter the length of the game.
- I also have received a few reports where schools make 'agreements' to finish games in violation of the Game Ending Procedures adopted in Ohio. Please remember that a game can only be SUSPENDED after the 5th inning if:
 - The visiting team TIES or TAKES THE LEAD in the top half of any inning after the 5th.If the visiting team is ALREADY leading *going into the top half of the inning* and the home team does not get its chance to complete its turn at bat in the bottom half of that inning.....the game is over if circumstances cause the game to be end.
- Baseball may seem 'down on the list' relative to concussions. As you know, concussions and 'return to play' protocol is receiving tremendous publicity. Though we don't track it, I have two reports of baseball concussions so far. Next year, part of the required pre-season meeting will be information on concussions and 'return to play'. The NFHS is in the process of completing a great video presentation for coaches/schools. It should be ready this summer. And yes....it is actually free! A great resource is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Concussion/>.
- Players are permitted to play 27 games during the regular season (grades 9-12). There is no inning limitation. A player that 'floats' up and down that plays in one inning (pinch hits for example) of a game must count that as one of his 27. Any pitch thrown in an inning constitutes an inning- therefore constitutes a game played.
- This time of year, we deal with many suspended games due to lightening and inclement weather. A point of emphasis AND rule change for this year indicated there is NO LONGER a "Flash to Bang". Lightning/thunder of any kind requires a 30 minute suspension of play.
- Those that have traveled out of state to a non-bordering state have probably done so over Spring Vacation since no school is permitted to be missed. Teams MAY travel out of state to **bordering states** an unlimited amount of times during the season.
- Questions or future topics that benefit ALL coaches in Ohio, can be emailed to Baseball@ohsaa.org and will be included in future Weekly Bulletins. Let's continue to work together to improve Ohio High School Baseball!

Situation of the Week: R1, on second base, rounds third and runs into F5 as he attempts to field a fly ball. This action occurred with (a) a count of 1-1; (b) a count of 1-2; or (c) two outs.

Ruling: In all three instances, R1 is out for his interference. In (a), the batter returns to bat with a count of 1-2 and in (b), the batter returns to bat with a count of 1-2 as the pitch is treated as a foul for the batter's count. In (c) B4 will lead off in his team's next offensive half-inning (Rule 7-4-1f)