



**Oregon School Activities Association**  
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To: Baseball Commissioners

From: Peter Weber, OSAA Assistant Executive Director  
Terry Fischer, OSAA Baseball Rules Interpreter

Subject: 2009 SRI Bulletin #2

We are creating these bulletins to address questions regarding rules and mechanics. We expect you to distribute this information to the officials in your local association. Our hope is that these bulletins will be a useful addition to your local training programs. If you, or anyone in your local association, have any suggestions for future topics, please send an email to Terry Fischer ([terrylf5@mail.com](mailto:terrylf5@mail.com)).

### **Proper Field Markings**

#### **Rule 1-2-2**

**All lines on the field shall be marked with a material which is not injurious to the eyes or skin.**

**All non-permanent lines should be white.**

**Permanent lines such as sewn in artificial turf, may be a color other than white.**

Proper field markings have always been the rule. Enforcement of this rule has been lax at times. It is a requirement for every baseball contest to have the field properly marked. That includes batters boxes, catcher's box, baselines, foul lines, runner's lane and coaches' boxes. These markings are necessary to administer the game of baseball. Some markings are there for the safety of the players and coaches as well.

Please ask the home coach to put in any missing lines or markings prior to the start of the game. If this cannot be done, please proceed with the game. Notify your assigner and have that person notify the school administration of the issue and have it resolved for future games

***\*See attached field markings diagram\****

### **Dugouts/Bench Area**

**Location of team personnel Rule 3-3-1a,3-3-1j,. (a point of emphasis)**

***Rationale: Risk minimization.***

**Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during a live ball for any unauthorized purpose.**

**Coaches and team personnel may not be outside the dugout, or on buckets or stools.**

**The dugouts can only be extended away from home plate (Oregon interpretation).**

Players are not allowed to leave the dugout/bench area during live ball. They may come out after an over the fence home run. Teammates are allowed to leave the dugout to congratulate the hitter because the ball is dead. Keep them out of the dirt circle area of home plate. Allow a coach to step out of the dugout to adjust his defensive players. He must be inside of the bench/dugout area at the time of the pitch. Do not allow personnel to stand outside the bench/dugout area during live ball.



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### **Between Innings (Dugouts and Pace of Play)**

#### **Rule 3-3-1j**

As the opposing pitcher is completing his warm up pitches only the batter, on deck hitter, coaches in the coaches box or the nine players on defense can be outside the dugout. As plate umpire, position yourself on the defensive team's side of home plate somewhere between the baseline and the area behind the batters boxes. From here monitor the number of warm up pitches and the offensive team's dugout and personnel. Do not allow others than the batter and on deck hitter to be out in front of the dugout.

#### **Pace of Play**

While positioned here as plate umpire, notify the pitcher and the waiting batter when there are two warm up pitches left, hold up two fingers. With one pitch left, hold up one finger and notify the batter to be ready. This practice will help speed up the time between innings.

### **Malicious Contact**

#### **Rules 2-21-1b, 3-3-1n, 8-3-2**

There have been incidents this season that have raised some questions regarding malicious contact. The rules book and case books do not give enough information to accurately describe this.

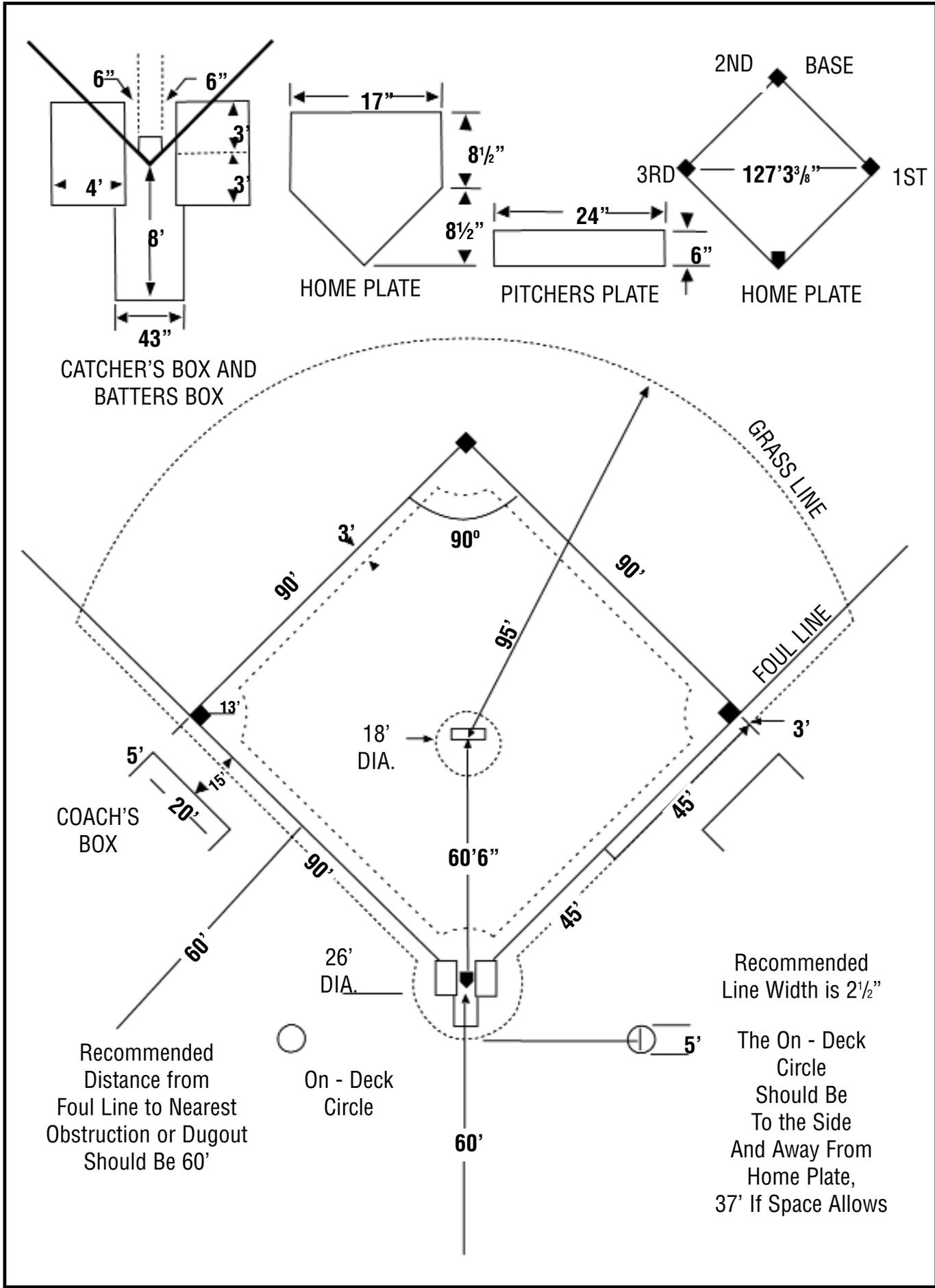
The NFHS Baseball rulebook does not have a written definition for malicious contact. Refer to rule 3-3-1. Umpires must rule on all contact. The umpires must determine if it is a violation of the rules and determine if the contact was incidental, interference or interference and malicious. Keep in mind that not all contact is malicious. Some interference calls involve contact. Some contact is malicious.

Remember, if all players are doing what they are supposed to be doing, then there is probably not going to be an interference ruling. If a player is initiating contact, then there will be an interference ruling. More must occur to result in a ruling of malicious contact.

#### **Oregon Ruling:**

*Malicious contact is any willful or reckless action(s) or behavior(s) by any player either on offense or on defense, with intent to commit an unsportsmanlike act and/or cause harm or injure a player. This usually centers on an attempt to dislodge a baseball, take the player out of the play, to inflict pain or punishment on a player or to strike an opponent.*

Please contact Terry Fischer ([terrylf5@mail.com](mailto:terrylf5@mail.com)) or Peter Weber ([peterw@osaa.org](mailto:peterw@osaa.org)) with questions.



**Diagram 2**  
**OFFICIAL MEASUREMENTS . . . for laying out baseball field**