



Oregon School Activities Association
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May 1, 2013

To: Athletic Directors and Head Baseball Coaches
From: Peter Weber, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: 2013 Baseball End of Season Reminders

Included within this memo are end of season reminders regarding OSAA policies and NFHS rules specific to baseball. Most of these reminders are cropping up in different areas of the state so please take the time to review with your staff. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

- 1. Points of Emphasis – Pitcher’s Stance** – There have been reports of coaching staffs teaching and promoting the use of a hybrid stance for their pitchers. Remember that the NFHS Baseball Rules committee has made the pitcher’s stance a point of emphasis for 2013. The pitcher may only begin in one of two positions: the windup or the set. Over recent seasons, pitchers have been moving into a hybrid stance in which their feet are at an angle and it is difficult to discern which stance the pitcher is in. Because the rules for pickoffs and pitching motions are different for each one, it is imperative that a pitcher be clearly in the windup or set at the start of each pitch. The starting position of the non-pivot foot determines whether the pitcher is going to pitch from the windup or set position. Pitchers in the windup position are required to have their non-pivot foot in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate. If a pitcher’s non-pivot foot is in front of that line and he attempts to pitch from the windup, he has made an illegal pitch or committed a balk. In the set position, he shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher’s plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of the pitcher’s plate. He shall go to the set position without delay and in one continuous motion; he shall come to a complete and discernible stop, which does not include a change of direction with both hands in front of his body and his glove at or below his chin.
- 2. Multiple Batters Warming Up During Dead Ball Time** – We’re getting reports of multiple batters warming up during dead ball time. The batter and one on-deck batter are the only players that should be in live ball territory warming up during infield warmups, the pre-game plate meeting, just prior to the first pitch of the game, in between innings or during a stoppage of play. This is first and foremost a safety issue as we’ve all seen incidents occur with overthrows, wild pitches, etc. Any other players wanting to warm up need to be in a dead ball area protected from live ball play (i.e. behind the dugout or batting cages, etc.).
- 3. Appropriate Equipment for Shaggers/Protectors** – In order to continue enjoying low incident rates, we must be ever vigilant to identify potential risk areas and address them immediately. One area that is of concern is the “shagger” or “protector” — the non-player who is allowed on the field to keep foul balls from striking players warming up in the bullpens. Remember that in Oregon, that person is required to have a glove and wear a legal batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard. It’s also important that the shagger/protector be facing the plate and paying attention to the action taking place.
- 4. Verbal Verification From Coaches** – Per last year’s rule change to Rule 4-1-3b, umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets. Instead, the umpire-in-chief shall receive verbal verification from both head coaches that all participants are properly uniformed and equipped with bats that are unaltered from the original manufacturer’s design and production and helmets that meet NFHS and NOCSAE standards are free of cracks or damage. There have been reports of coaches responding with “I hope so” or “As far as I know”. An answer along these lines is unacceptable. The appropriate answer is “Yes”.
- 5. Jewelry** – Reports have come in from across the state of an increase in players wearing jewelry, especially LIVESTRONG-type bracelets. Remember that these types of bracelets are considered jewelry and shall not be worn during games. The NFHS Baseball Rule Book is very clear in this area. *“Jewelry shall not be worn (see 3-3-1d) except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.” (Rule 1-5-12)*