

# Oregon School Activities Association

## Baseball SRI Bulletin – #2

April 7, 2014

This bulletin will focus on using all the tools we have as umpires to keep coaches and players in the game when things get heated. Listen, Acknowledge, Restrict, and Eject...**TOOLS**.

Keeping coaches and players in the game is our job. Whether you like it or not, managers, coaches and players will complain. Expect it. Your job is to decide how far to let it go. Strive to listen to head coaches if discussions are reasonable and non-emotional. Umpires must use all tools at their disposal before restricting or ejecting a coach. Situations often get out of hand because coaches and umpires get caught up in the emotion of the moment. Our job is to be a calming influence. Give coaches credit for trying to get an edge; right or wrong it's part of the game, so accept it.

- **Listen and Acknowledge**

Coaches want to be heard. Listen to them. One of the most frustrating things for a coach is to be cut off before stating their case. Be a good listener. When it's coming from the dugout or coaches box, know when to ignore and or acknowledge. If the coach keeps repeating himself, let him know you're aware of his concerns, and address it.

- **Warnings**

Warnings must be given whenever possible. Verbal and or written warnings should always precede a coach being restricted or ejected, and coaches **should always be restricted to their dugouts prior to being ejected under less than egregious actions.** This is a NFHS rule (3-3-1).

- **Restrictions**

Here are things you must know when restricting a coach. A restricted coach may leave the bench/dugout area to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured. A restricted coach who continues to verbally abuse an umpire from the dugout can be ejected for further misconduct. Head coaches are responsible for their coaching staff. 3-3-1g prohibits any member of the coaching staff who is not the head coach from leaving "the vicinity of the dugout or coaching box to dispute a judgment call by an umpire" The penalty for that infraction is that both the head coach and offending coach will be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the game. The message is clear here, RESTRICT, not eject whenever possible.

- **Ejections**

They happen. "A good umpire never ejects a coach; the coach ejects himself." Follow the procedures outlined in this bulletin and the above statement will always be true. A coach who has been ejected shall leave the "vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from further contact with the team for the rest of the game ("out of sight and sound").

- **Summary**

If an umpire thinks back to some of the big arguments in which he has been involved, chances are he has helped cause it to get out of control by the way he handled himself. Watch out how you say things. An antagonistic tone of voice, sarcasm and poor body language are unacceptable. Never use

profanity when discussing anything with a coach or player. Umpires cannot be perceived as confrontational, hot headed or short tempered. Umpires must never be perceived as having escalated a situation. Although every situation is unique, the guidelines listed above provide the proper instruction in handling warnings, restrictions and ejections. **USE YOUR TOOLS.**

### **TAD'S TIP**

Good umpires can distinguish between stupid comments made by unknowledgeable sources and comments that have legitimate value. Consider the coach who offers you "sage" advice on umpiring at the end of a game his team lost by a narrow margin. Chances are the comments may be colored by emotions and could be regarded as unreliable. On the other hand, if a coach approaches you and calmly questions a specific rule interpretation, hear the request out.

See you at the yard.

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