



Rules Reference	NFHS 2016 Baseball Rules Changes, Rationale, Comments
3-3-1 PENALTY	<p>PENALTY: <i>The umpire shall warn the offender unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case an ejection shall occur. If the offender has a subsequent minor violation, the offender shall be ejected.</i> The warning or ejection shall be made at the end of playing action. <i>Coaches who received a written warning (10-2-3j) shall also be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.</i></p> <p>Rationale: Clarified the sequence of administering penalties to the members of the coaching staff and offending players.</p> <p>Comments: Coaches and officials are equally responsible to provide an ideal learning environment for the students who play baseball. That learning environment is severely disrupted if the adults show a lack of respect for each other's position and role in the contest. The coach has the responsibility to coach and teach his players about basic and complicated skills of baseball and important life lessons. The game official has the obligation to administer the rules of the game and to judiciously address any coach's or player's behavior that is not consistent with those rules. As he administers any penalty resulting in a warning, restriction to the bench/dugout or ejection, his decision should be in response to the actions by the offending coach and player. The coach needs to understand that his behavior will dictate which level of discipline is applied. Officials are encouraged to clearly communicate their warnings and restrictions when possible to the coaches prior to the ejection. The coaches also need to recognize when those warnings and restrictions are being issued so they can modify their behavior and continue to teach their players. When the adults are acting in a professional and respectful manner, the young people will be the ultimate winners regardless of the score of the game.</p>



3-3-1q

ART. 1 . . . A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not:

q. have physical contact, spit, kick dirt or engage in any other physical action directed toward an umpire.

Rationale: Added additional inappropriate acts by the offender that would require an immediate ejection.

Comments: Unfortunately, there has been an increase of inappropriate behavior that imitates the game of baseball at different levels. These examples are not appropriate for our game and ultimately send the wrong message to the players, parents, administrators and fans. Education-based athletics is one of the most useful tools to teach life lessons and assist a young person with self-reflection hard work, and perspective. If these acts are displayed, the offender(s) should be immediately ejected from the contest.