

Umpires;

Despite our efforts, there have been some incidents recently involving players wearing jewelry. In some cases, they are ignoring the 'preventative officiating' technique of quietly asking a coach to have the player remove the item(s).

As we all know, this is a **Point Of Emphasis** from the NFHS for the 2018 season, though the rule has been in place for years. Below is the POE statement from the 2018 Rule Book.

Enforcement of NFHS Jewelry Rule

Items that are attached except medical appliances/devices are considered to be jewelry. The primary cause for the restriction of jewelry is primary for risk minimization for the wearer and for the opponent. Earrings and various other piercings can be problematic for a player if the piercing gets caught on equipment and torn away from the body. Obviously, if a physician has provided documentation in support of a particular piercing, the local state association has the latitude (with proper justification) to make a special accommodation for the player. We need to be more vigilant to protect our players and their opponents.

The rule around this is found under 1.5.12, and reads;

ART. 12... 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.

Finally, the way to address this can be found under 3.3.1d, and reads;

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

d. wear jewelry (players participating in the game) or wear bandanas;

PENALTY: At the end of playing action, the umpire shall *issue a warning to the coach of the team involved and the next offender on that team shall be ejected.*

Examples of jewelry are: rubber/ leather/string bracelets, necklaces or chains of any type, rings, and piercings. The simplest way to define jewelry is: **If you weren't born with it, it's jewelry.**

We do not want to go around dumping coaches and players over this. What we DO want is compliance with a simple, black-and-white standard, and POE for the season. Be diligent in addressing this immediately. Mention it as you walk through the dugout. Be sure to ask again at the plate talk. We want consistent enforcement across all levels and to be professional and confident in our work.

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Special thanks to Mark Coursey for guest writing this bulletin.

Have fun and see you at the yard!