

To All NCUA Baseball Umpires February 4, 2008  
From Ben Legere, Baseball-VP  
Re State CIF Baseball Interpreter's Meeting  
For Your Use and Information

Ken Allan issued the following interpretations of NFHS 2008 Baseball Rules changes:

NFHS 1-1-2 & 4-1-3

The team captain does not have to be at the pregame meeting.

NFHS 1-3-6

Any white/gray on the pitcher's glove and the glove is illegal for the pitcher while he is pitching.

NFHS 2-23-3 & 8-3-2

Obstruction is 100% umpire judgment. A "train wreck" could be a no call (he will seek NFHS clarification on this). If a runner doesn't slide and is prevented from touching the base by a fielder without the ball, this is obstruction even if the runner could have reached the base by sliding. Obstruction, if declared, is always a minimum 1-base award to the runner. The statement in 8-3-2 that implies this might not be true is misleading. REFEREE Oct. '05 Play 4-R1 is on first with none out and is running on the pitch. R1 realizes F2's throw will beat him to second base so he retreats. F4 obstructs R1, then F6 throws to F3. R1 is (a) tagged out by F3, or (b) R1 is safe at first. Ruling 4-In (a) and (b), R1 is awarded second base. When obstruction occurs, a runner is awarded a minimum of one base. In this case, that is second base.

NFHS 6-2-1e & PEN

It is confirmed that when F1 goes to his mouth while on his plate, it is an illegal pitch/balk. F1 has made a motion to pitch and then stopped.

If F1, while off his plate, goes to his mouth and touches the ball before wiping off (a) F1 can request a new ball; (b) F2 can be granted time to get F1 to request a new ball; (c) UIC should NOT call time to get a new ball for F1; (d) if F1, still off his plate, attempts a play-immediate dead ball and penalize (ball on batter); (e) If F1 touches his plate-immediate dead ball and penalize (ball on batter).

NFHS 8-1-1d

If the velocity of the pitch "freezes" the batter, and the batter is hit by the pitch (not in the strike zone), award the batter first base.

ALEX ANDRUS  
xc. ExBd Members (2/11/08)

Throughout the season I will be posting memos to address issues that have come to my attention. Please be sure your unit members are aware of these situations either by email (preferable since you members will have a hard copy) or discussion at your meetings.

TO: CIF Baseball Instructional Chairmen  
FROM: Ken Allan, State Interpreter  
RE: In Season Memo #1  
DATE: March 26, 2007

#### HEAD COACH RESPONSIBILITY #1

By rule, if the head coach is at a game site, he is required to attend the pregame meeting with the opposing coach and the umpires at home plate. If you are unfamiliar with a team's coaching staff, ask the coach if he is, indeed, the head coach. I have been asked what is the procedure if the head coach is in the bullpen, etc. My answer is simple. Tell the assistant coach that the head coach is required to be at the home plate meeting. Hopefully, that will resolve the issue. However, if a team refuses or delays, I would suggest that the head coach be ejected and removed from the facility for delaying the game. Although remanding a coach to the dugout is an option, I believe the harsher penalty would be in order in this circumstance.

#### HEAD COACH RESPONSIBILITY #2

There have been reports that pitching coaches or assistant coaches have come onto the field to argue balk or other calls. Remember, by rule, the head coach is the only official spokesman for the team. In the event an assistant engages an umpire, he should be told that the umpires will only talk with the head coach.

#### COURTESY RUNNERS

Courtesy runners are often used in tournament games. However, it is up to each individual league and/or section as to whether courtesy runners are used.

#### PROTESTS

Please advise your umpires that ALL umpires must get together and discuss a protested play. There have been instances where a protest was lodged and the other umpire was not aware of it until after the game. In another situation, the protest was accepted even though it was not lodged in a timely manner as specified by rule. Had the other umpire been consulted, hopefully, the protest would have been denied because it was not correctly lodged.

Please have your umpires review protest procedure on page 62 of the handbook. The protest procedure for one man games is outlined on page 57 of the handbook.

## MEDICALERT BRACELETS

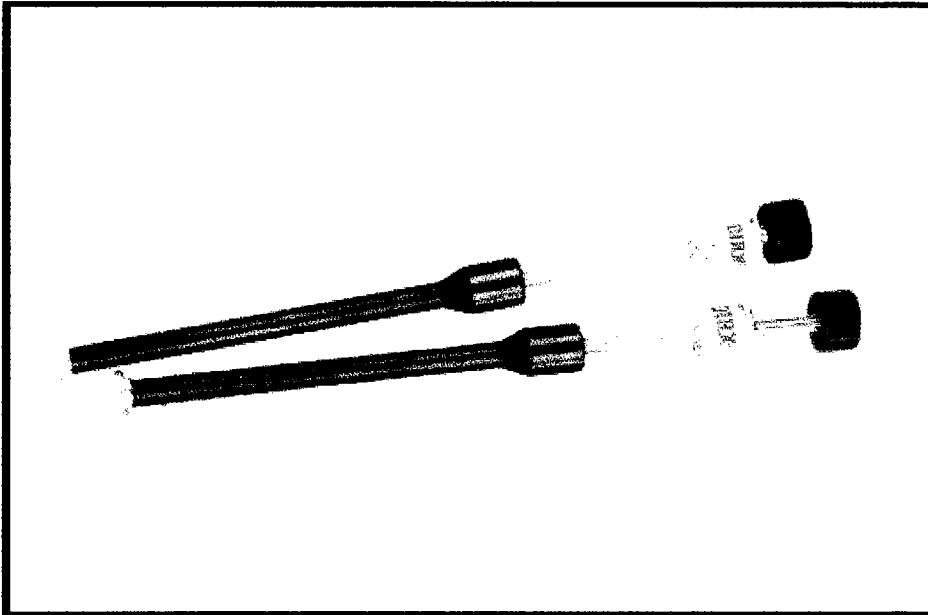
Medicalert bracelets and religious medals are not considered jewelry. Here is the rule:

1-5-12

"Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert medal or bracelet must be taped and may be visible."

## WARMUP BATS

These warmup bats are legal:



To: CIF Umpires  
From: Ken Allan  
Date: April 23, 2007  
Re: 2007 Memo #2

It appears the season is going well with no major problems. However, in the past few weeks I have noticed or had the following brought to my attention:

#### 1) BATTER'S BOX RULE

In some games, batters have walked to the edge of the home plate circle between pitches. This should be prohibited as there is no rule provision to allow it.

By rule, 7-3-1 (a-h), there are eight reasons a batter may leave the box without penalty. Please note that in the penalty section of this rule, if a batter leaves the batter's box, and DELAYS the game, a strike shall be called on the batter. The interpretation is that if a batter takes a step or two out of the box, and DOES NOT delay the game, his actions are within the framework of the rule. Please use good judgment in the enforcement of this rule.

#### 2) GROUND RULES

Remember that ground rules may not supercede playing rules. Thus, for example, there is no provision for a ground rule triple. The ball is either in play or it is to be ruled a ground rule double if it goes out of play, such as under a fence. My recommendation is that if the obstruction is so far away that a coach is considering a triple, the ball (unless for safety reasons) should remain in play. There are no ground rule triples in high school baseball.

#### 3) TIMING

Be sure the entire play is over before rendering a call. Many things can happen such as a dropped ball, a fielder missing the first tag but successfully making the second tag, etc. A good rule of thumb: No play is routine until it is over. Even if the play is called correctly, good timing will at least give the appearance you took the time to consider what you just saw.

#### 4) PROFESSIONALISM

There is no place in umpiring at any level for arrogance, or stubbornness. As umpires, we need to understand that a coach may come out to get an explanation of a call (judgment or interpretation), to protect a player, to show his team he is backing them up, or for a variety of other reasons. If a coach comes out in a professional manner, it is our duty to listen and provide an explanation of a call or ruling. Our body language and eye contact should indicate that we are listening with interest as the coach presents his side of the issue. This does not provide that a coach may come out on every close judgment call. Whether a coach is abusing this is strictly umpire judgment.

Despite some isolated incidents, it appears that CIF umpires understand their role in being a patient listener. As the season nears its end, and teams are battling for playoff positions, umpires need to be much more aware of their role as a steadying influence on the game.

#### 5) THE "GORILLA MOVE"

By NFHS rule, 6-1-3, the pitcher, while in a set position, must have his pitching hand down at his side or behind his back. A pitcher may not dangle his pitching arm in front of his body. This is a balk.