

Memorandum

DATE: January 31, 2011
TO: CIF-SS Baseball Coaches
CBUA Umpires
Rob Wigod
Phil Jenks, Bob McQueen
FROM : Ken Allan, CIF-SS Umpire Instructional Chairman; California State Baseball Rules
Interpreter
RE: 2011 Rule Interpretations

The following information is provided to commissioners, coaches and umpires in an effort to provide consistency in rule enforcement and game management. Any questions should be directed to Ken Allan at: kensport101@earthlink.net.

These are the significant rule changes and interpretations for the 2011 season. Please be sure your lower division coaches have a copy.

3-3-1-a

3-3-1-j

While there are no changes to the dugout rule for 2011 I want to thank the overwhelming majority of coaches for their cooperation in keeping both themselves and their players in the dugouts as provided by rule. It was quite a departure from the past where coaches were permitted outside the dugout and players routinely left the dugout to congratulate scoring runners while the ball was live and in play. Please continue your positive efforts. On behalf of all umpires, thank you again for your cooperation. The following play situations answer a couple of questions which did come up often last year.

- 1) PLAY: Is a coach permitted outside the dugout to position fielders? RULING: Yes, a coach may step out of the dugout to position players. However, he is expected to return to the dugout immediately.
- 2) PLAY: Can a coach sit on a bucket at the entrance of the dugout to call pitches? RULING: Yes, but both the coach and the bucket must be within the confines of the dugout.

1-1-2

The umpire shall not accept a lineup card until all substitutes are listed. There is no penalty assessed.

Coaches are now expected to list all substitutes on the lineup card before presenting the card to the umpire at the home plate meeting. Although there is no penalty, umpires have been instructed not to accept a lineup card unless substitutes have been listed. The listing of all known substitutes will speed up substitution and player changes.

PLAY: With one out in the top of the fifth inning, the visiting coach wants to insert a pinch hitter. However, it is discovered that the coach failed to list the player on the lineup card. RULING: The coach may insert the player in the game without penalty.

1-3-2-5

Please read below for an explanation re: the NFHS rule change and the CIF rule change with respect to baseball bats:

Effective with the 2010-11 school year, both the NFHS and CIF have banned the use of any composite bat unless it meets the BBCOR standards that include the Accelerated Break In (ABI) procedure. These bats will be affixed with some type of decal/stamp/silkscreen mark that indicates the bat is BBCOR compliant.

The NFHS has granted some manufacturers a waiver for current BESR bats that also pass the ABI procedure. This allows for the use of certain *composite* bats in 2010-2011. The CIF will allow bats on this waiver list. Below is the link to that list:

<http://www.nfhs.org/content.aspx?id=4155>

Effective with the 2010-11 school year, the CIF has taken the additional step of banning the use of any aluminum BESR bat.

The CIF has posted a list of BBCOR certified bats and a brief Q&A which may be found at:

<http://cifstate.org/sports/other/baseball.html>

CIF member schools have been informed that their coach should carry the waiver list with them at all times. The bats on the BBCOR list may be identified as BBCOR through the marking on the actual bat.

As referenced in the Q&A, out of state schools must comply with CIF bat rules.

1-5-8

A foul tip is a batted ball which goes directly to the catcher's hands and is caught by the catcher. Previously, a foul tip which bounced from the catcher's hand or glove to another fielder and was caught in flight would be considered a live ball. Beginning in 2011, any such play will be considered a foul ball.

3-1-5

Concussions

The state of California and the CIF defines a health-care professional as a medical doctor (MD) or a doctor of Osteopathy (DO)

PLAY: R1 slides into second base and his head makes contact with F4's knee. R1 appears dizzy and confused. RULING: Each state determines what constitutes a health-care professional. If a state recognized health-care professional is present, he or she shall determine whether or not the player suffered a concussion. Should it be determined that a player suffered a concussion, by CIF rule, the player will not be eligible to play for the remainder of the day.

PLAY: In the above situation, there is no health-care professional at the game site. RULING: If the umpire-in-chief determines that the R1 exhibits symptoms consistent with a concussion, (Appendix A page 72 NFHS Rule Book) the player shall be removed from the lineup and will not be eligible to play for the remainder of the day.

It was decided at the CBUA executive council meeting that whenever an umpire or a health care professional has a player removed from a game with symptoms of a concussion, that the umpire is required to send a report to the designated person at each unit. Each unit is expected to designate that individual and the method of reporting such incidents.

8-2-6-1

If a runner correctly touches a base that was missed (either in advancing or returning) the last time he was by the base, that last touch corrects any base running infraction.

1) PLAY: With a runner on first going with the pitch, the batter hits a long fly ball to left center field. The runner misses second base while advancing. He then realizes the left fielder made a catch. He touches second base on his way back to first. RULING: By touching second base while returning to first, he has corrected his infraction.

1) PLAY: Same situation, except he touches the base while advancing, but misses the base returning to first. RULING: The runner is subject to being called out on appeal for missing second base.

CIF PITCHING LIMITATION RULE

A reminder concerning Blue Book Article 150 1500 (d) regarding an appearance by the pitcher.

This is the rule: *An appearance is defined as a pitcher pitching at least one pitch.*

The interpretation is that a pitcher who delivers one pitch and is later removed from the mound, then returns to pitch later in the same game, shall be charged with two appearances.

PLAY: The starting pitcher is removed from the game as a pitcher in the 3rd inning and either a) moves to another defensive position, or b) goes to the dugout. In the 5th inning, the same pitcher returns to the mound. RULING: The pitcher is charged with two appearances.

CIF POINTS OF EMPHASIS

GAME MANAGEMENT: Teams are doing a much better job of correctly lining the field. The most notable problems are the lack of markings for the three-foot running lane and the coaching boxes.

PREGAME EQUIPMENT/BAT INSPECTION: Coaches continue to do a good job in making sure bats and helmets are out of the equipment bags for pre game inspection by the umpires. Please continue doing this as it makes it much easier for umpires not to have to go on a “treasure hunt” to find bats and helmets for inspection. Coaches sometimes need to be reminded that equipment is checked on a game-by-game basis. A bat or helmet that may have been legal in a previous game or games, may not be considered legal for a current game.

COACH’S UNIFORMS: As per rule 3-2-1, coaches must be in the uniform of their team. As a guideline, the following is acceptable: Baseball shoes, baseball pants, a jersey top similar to what the team is wearing, either a tee shirt with a team logo, wind shirt with a team logo, a jacket and a baseball cap. The following is NOT acceptable at ANY level: Coaches who are wearing shorts, or other non-baseball attire such as, but not limited to, sweatpants, jeans, tennis shoes or sandals. These items are not permissible. This rule has been in effect for the past few years and it appears most uniform issues occur at lower level games. The penalty for non-compliance is that the coach is restricted to the dugout. If the team’s only coach is in non-compliance, he will be allowed on the field to participate in the pre-game meeting with the umpires. He will also be allowed on the field to attend to an injured player.

POST GAME BEHAVIOR: NFHS rules only cover the conduct of players and coaches during a game. There is no coverage of a penalty for coach or player conduct after a game. As a result, there have been instances of coaches and/or players, knowing there is no penalty, acting with non-sporting behavior toward umpires after a game.

In the event of post-game behavior by a coach or player that would result in an ejection during a game, the coach or player will be informed by the umpires that his behavior will be reported to the area liaison as an ejection. This policy is in effect until the umpires leave the game site.

Please note that the above has the full support of the CIF-SS.

CREW CONFERENCE

In order to eliminate further delay by a coach after a crew conference, the following continues to be in effect. It began with the 2008 season and it has been well received by both coaches and umpires.

Umpires are not required to hold a conference if the calling umpire is sure he got the play right. However, if, at the request of a **defensive** coach, the crew gathers to discuss a call, the coach must return to the dugout before the crew discusses the call. The coach must also remain in the dugout if the decision has been upheld .

If the conference is made at the request of the **offensive** coach, he must return either to the coaching box or the dugout as provided above.

A requesting coach returning to the field to continue the discussion after a decision has been upheld is subject to being remanded to the dugout for delaying the game, or if behavior warrants, ejection from the game.

If the call is changed, the opposing coach is permitted on the field only for the purpose of getting an explanation of the reversed call.

LOWER LEVEL COACHES

1) Please remember that many of the umpires assigned to lower level games are fairly new and that mistakes will be made both in the application of rules and game management. Tolerance toward umpires in this respect will be greatly appreciated. However, umpires regardless of their level of experience, are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. CIF-SS umpires are held accountable for their actions. If you have, or hear of any problems regarding umpire professionalism, please advise your local liaison or assigner.

2) Please review the item above concerning coaches' uniforms. Most of the violations seem to occur in lower level games.

For your information, I have included the *The Top 40 Rules Myths*. It is an interesting review of some of the most misinterpreted rules in high school baseball.

Finally, I would like to thank all coaches for their cooperation and good luck for the 2011 season.

The Top 40 Baseball Rule Myths (As they apply to NFHS Rules)

- ▶ [1.](#) The hands are considered part of the bat.
- ▶ [2.](#) The batter-runner must turn to his right after over-running first base.
- ▶ [3.](#) If the batter breaks his wrists when swinging, it's a strike.
- ▶ [4.](#) If a batted ball hits the plate first it's a foul ball.
- ▶ [5.](#) The batter cannot be called out for interference if he is in the batter's box.
- ▶ [6.](#) The ball is dead on a foul-tip.
- ▶ [7.](#) The batter may not switch batter's boxes after two strikes.
- ▶ [8.](#) The batter who batted out of order is the person declared out.
- ▶ [9.](#) The batter may overrun first base when he gets a pitched base-on-balls.
- ▶ [10.](#) The batter is out if he starts for the dugout before going to first after a dropped third strike.
- ▶ [11.](#) If the batter does not pull the bat out of the strike zone while in the bunting position, it's an automatic strike.
- ▶ [12.](#) The batter is out if a bunted ball hits the ground and bounces back up and hits the bat while the batter is holding the bat.
- ▶ [13.](#) The batter is automatically out if his foot touches the plate while swinging at a pitch.
- ▶ [14.](#) The batter-runner is always out if he runs outside the running lane after bunting the ball.
- ▶ [15.](#) A runner is out if he slaps hands or high-fives other players, or a base coach, after a home run is hit over the fence.
- ▶ [16.](#) Tie goes to the runner.
- ▶ [17.](#) The runner gets the base he's going to, plus one on a ball thrown out-of-play.
- ▶ [18.](#) Anytime a coach touches a runner, the runner is out.

- ▶[19.](#) Runners may never run the bases in reverse order.
- ▶[20.](#) The runner must always slide when the play is close.
- ▶[21.](#) The runner is always safe when hit by a batted ball while touching a base.
- ▶[22.](#) A runner may not steal on a foul-tip.
- ▶[23.](#) It is a force out when a runner is called out for not tagging up on a fly ball.
- ▶[24.](#) An appeal on a runner who missed a base cannot be a force out.
- ▶[25.](#) A runner is out if he runs out of the baseline to avoid a fielder who is fielding a batted ball.
- ▶[26.](#) Runners may not advance when an infield fly is called.
- ▶[27.](#) No run can score when a runner is called out for the third out for not tagging up.
- ▶[28.](#) A pitch that bounces to the plate cannot be hit.
- ▶[29.](#) The batter does not get first base if hit by a pitch after it bounces.
- ▶[30.](#) If a fielder holds a fly ball for 2 seconds it's a catch.
- ▶[31.](#) A fielder must tag the base with his foot on a force out or appeal.
- ▶[32.](#) The ball is not immediately dead on a balk.
- ▶[33.](#) If a player's feet are in fair territory when the ball is touched, it is a fair ball.
- ▶[34.](#) The ball must always be returned to the pitcher before an appeal can be made.
- ▶[35.](#) With no runners on base, it is a ball if the pitcher starts his windup and then stops.
- ▶[36.](#) The pitcher must come to a set position before a pick-off throw.
- ▶[37.](#) The pitcher must step off the rubber before a pick-off throw.
- ▶[38.](#) If a fielder catches a fly ball and then falls over the fence it is a homerun.
- ▶[39.](#) The ball is dead anytime an umpire is hit by a thrown or batted ball.
- ▶[40.](#) The home plate umpire has the authority to overrule the other umpires at anytime.