Ohio High School Athletic Association

Baseball Bulletin

April 4, 2017  Bulletin 17-3

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- One special note on the AMP program which is discussed in the state meeting. I need to make sure that we know that if neither team has balls with the AMP logo printed on them, the game is to go on and you need to notify the OHSAA office that the teams did not have conforming baseballs.

- The new pitching rule with regards to pitch count. It is the coach’s responsibility to monitor the pitches and to manage their pitching staff. **We do not count pitches.**

- The deadline for state meeting attendance online was March 8. Those umpires who have not completed the state meeting may do so but must first call the OHSAA office to make arrangements to pay the $50 late meeting fee. The deadline for the “late meeting” is April 7.

- Four local meetings are required for all softball umpires – you can check your meeting attendance credits on your myOHSAA profile. If you have not received credit for a meeting you attended contact the local association secretary to resolve the discrepancy. Do not call the OHSAA office for this. Umpires who work both baseball and softball are reminded that you must receive four meeting credits for each of these sports.

- The OHSAA will be holding its annual clinic for baseball postseason umpires on Sunday, May 13th. This year’s meeting will be at: **Grove City High School - 4665 HOOVER RD GROVE CITY, OH 43123-9701.** This year, we will be having the state crews who work four person crews work the regional finals as a crew. (4-person), all other regional games will be 3 person crews. The clinic will be broken down into two segments, with the 3-person presentation going first followed by the 4-person after lunch. **Registration will be at 9:30 for the 3-person clinic which will start at 10:00 AM, followed by lunch and live scrimmage from 12-3PM.** Those doing the state tournament should arrive by 11:30 for lunch, followed by a 1 hour presentation of the 4-person mechanics and then a live scrimmage. While umpires being invited to this clinic are those working the three and/or four umpire systems in our tournaments, any of our umpires are welcome to attend. There is no charge and I do ask that you email me if you are coming so we can have the correct amount of food. **Attendance at this clinic is optional.** There is no OHSAA meeting attendance credit. We look forward to our usual good turnout of tournament officials. Remember this is a working clinic and you should bring appropriate gear. We will be using two teams from central Ohio for the scrimmage.
Behind the Mask

- What do I do if my partner does not wear the proper OHSAA uniform? When an official fails to wear the proper uniform please send me an email with details - what was wrong, when, where, etc.

- Hybrid pitching position. It is either a ball or a balk.

- With potential weather coming in, make sure you enforce the lightning and thunder rule. Thirty minutes after the last lightning or thunder you can return to the field. Warm ups can start at that point. **Leave the field and go to your car or locker room.** Safety is job 1.

- There are schools that use multi-purpose fields for their jv and freshman baseball games. These fields do not have mounds on them. The school has purchased portable mounds, which measure approximately 4'x8' in size. Are these legal? Rule Book 1-2-7 page 8 and Casebook page 6, 1.2.7 Situation. As long as they meet the mound requirement of slope and height they are legal.

- If a coach from another state is ejected what do you do? Go top myOHSAA and fill out an ejection report. Ohio has agreements with other states that this information will be shared.

- A left-handed pitcher who has been practicing throwing right handed has been working from the stretch in the normal way a lefty would. He has a runner on 2nd base the pitcher while off of the rubber puts his glove on his left hand and takes the rubber in the stretch position as a left-handed pitcher he then steps towards second and tries to pick off the runner. **It is a balk. I think we may need to amend 6.1.3M as the important thing is what is the throwing arm.** That determines the pivot foot. Here he gets on the pitching plate as if his left hand is the pitching arm, yet he puts a glove on it. **Balk there.**

- In a scrimmage the other day, a player appeared on the mound with a facemask and no cap. His coach asked if this was legal. I replied that he needed a cap. The coach said the cap did not fit well with the mask. The mask was of the type girls’ softball uses. **By rule they must have a cap. I have had numerous questions about a pitcher wearing a helmet with a face mash/ guard and they are legal as long as not distracting. Rule 1-4-1 page 12.**

- Runner on first, batter pops one up to the first baseman. Runner on first bumps into first baseman as he turns to make a catch. Runner is out for interference; do we get the batter if we think a play could have been made on the ball? **Yes, if in the judgment of the umpire the catch could have been made, we get two.**

- One out runner on 2nd. Pitcher warms up in bullpen located inside fence playing area along left field fence. Ball gets by catcher and rolls to fence behind the catcher at the
backstop. Pitcher comes to set and throws a wild pitch that goes by catcher and the
catcher goes to fence and picks up wrong ball and throws a strike to the pitcher to retire
the runner. What do you have? Safe; he has to get the right ball. Only the game ball can
get an out. That is probably the only way to keep this fair. About the only way, I would
allow the out is if both balls were in about the same position and no one knew what ball
was the correct one. In that case the defense got no advantage. I would think in most
cases the balls would not be near each other and most people would know which is the
game ball.