• Congratulations on those receiving tournament games this year. I would ask that you review the new three and four-person mechanics with your crew prior to the games. This year the state crews will be working a regional final together. This will be the first year all four will work the regionals and the state together. It is our hope that by having another game together we can work out any bugs!

• The state tournament is June 1, 2 and 3 at Huntington Park. As in the past two years, there is going to be an umpire suite that will be open to welcome all OHSAA-registered baseball umpires. Simply present a current OHSAA baseball registration card at the suite entrance and your umpires can enter the suite free of charge. Food and drinks will be available courtesy of the participating umpires’ associations. The menu will consist of hot dogs, chips, assorted veggies and dip, cookies, and drinks. The suite overlooks the ballpark and is a great spot for umpires to mingle and meet. Admission into the park is not included.

• One special note on the AMP program which was 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.

• We have had numerous calls about the Suspended game vs a complete game. Here is what is in the handbook for Suspended Game Procedures.
  o No game is ever ‘called’ and ‘started over’ at a later date. When a regular season game is interrupted, or suspended for ANY reason and the game cannot be resumed that date, the game will be SUSPENDED if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning. When a game HAS gone beyond the fifth inning, it is a complete game, subject to these TWO EXCEPTIONS:
    o 1. THE GAME IS TIED. The OHSAA does not permit any baseball game to end in a tie. All games are considered as “won”, “lost”, or “suspended”. Therefore, a tied game is a “Suspended” game.
    o 2. THE GAME HAS GONE FIVE INNINGS AND THE VISITING TEAM HAS SCORED ONE OR MORE RUNS TO TIE THE SCORE OR TAKE THE LEAD AND THE HOME TEAM HAS NOT RE-
TAKEN THE LEAD AND THE GAME IS CALLED WHILE AN INNING IS IN PROGRESS BUT BEFORE IT IS COMPLETED.

- When a suspended game is completed, it shall be continued from the point of suspension with batting orders and lineups the same. Substitutions may be made. Any player that may have been suspended from the original contest is suspended and not able to play in the resumed game. Suspended games that are never completed simply go down as a “No Contest”.

**End of Game (Suspended/Complete Game) Procedures**

- Examples of Completed/Suspended Games

  - **In a regular season game, the home team is ahead 2-0 after FIVE innings and:**
    - The game is called prior to the start of the sixth inning due to darkness: Ruling: COMPLETE GAME –
    - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count on the batter and the game cannot be completed: Ruling: COMPLETE GAME –
    - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning reaches base and the game is called: Ruling: COMPLETE GAME –
    - The visiting team scores one run in the top of the sixth inning and the game is called at any time during the sixth inning: Ruling: COMPLETE GAME –
    - The visiting team scores two runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not complete, nor does the home team re-take the lead in the bottom half of the sixth inning: Ruling: SUSPENDED GAME –
    - The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not completed nor does the home team retake the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning: Ruling: SUSPENDED GAME –
    - The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the home team retakes the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game is called later in the bottom half of the sixth inning or after six complete innings: Ruling: COMPLETE GAME

- The OHSAA will be holding its annual clinic for baseball postseason umpires on Saturday, 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

• If you tell your partner that you will be doing the plate, make sure that you bring your gear. See Frank, I didn’t tell on you. (no last name Grubb)

• I have notice numerous umpires wearing the short sleeve OHSAA shirt with other long sleeve shirts underneath. Either get a long sleeve OHSAA shirt or jacket if the temperature dictates.

• Hybrid pitching position. It is either a ball or a balk. Need to call it.

• When there is an infield hit, there is no rotation. Plate stays home and watches the play. If there is a play at first you have a good angle to help on pulled foot or swipe tag. Do not go down to third, the base umpire has all calls on the bases.

• 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. We have had numerous calls from parents and coaches about this issue and we need to be aware that it is our responsibility to stop the game.

• Bases loaded, 1 out. Pop up in the infield. Infield Fly Rule called. Runners on 1st and 3rd went back to their bases. Runner on 2nd took off. Ball is caught by the infielder. In an effort to double the runner on 2nd out for leaving too early, he threw the ball into right field. Meanwhile, the runner who had begun to retreat back to 2nd, changed direction (without touching 2nd base) and continued on to score behind the runner on 3rd who had tagged up. After the play was over, the defensive team properly (verbally) appealed the runner leaving 2nd too early. 3rd out. The question is, is this a timing play - meaning the run scores (from 3rd) because the appeal was after the run scored or does the verbal appeal negate the run from that runner from 3rd? (Obviously, the runner from 2nd's run does not count either way) Rule 8-2-h Tag-ups- if runner leaves a base too soon on a caught fly ball and returns in attempt to retag, this is considered a time play.

• Third base coach goes through a long string of signals very methodically after EVERY pitch to every batter. This causes long delays of course. Is there anything an umpire can do to speed this up or stop it? I couldn’t find anything in the rules to hang my hat on. I would go with rule 7-3-1 start counting to 20 and then give a strike to the batter. I would first tell the coach that the batter has 20 seconds to take his position, if he still doesn’t move on, have the pitcher throw a few strikes. It is the 20 second rule. I am seeing way too much time with coaches calling out numbers, the players looking at his arm band and then taking their position. Talk about slowing a game down

• 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.

• Had a coach say that twice this season his pitcher has been wearing a black compression sleeve on only his pitching arm and was told that he need to have the same on the other arm. The compression sleeve is legal as long as not white, gray, camo and distracting. It can be worn on only one arm.