We open this bulletin with an apology and a correction to Question #46 on the rules test offered for tournament officiating credit – THE CORRECT ANSWER IS C. The test was originally scored with an answer that was entered incorrectly on the key (D). The office will be making the correction and updating the scores prior to entering them into the tournament calculations. Ironically, this play was almost identical to Play #6 in our last bulletin. Those who read the bulletin and took the test were among the first to catch this error. Thanks to everyone who called it to our attention.

46. With no outs, a (2-1) count on the batter and R1 on first base, there is an illegal pitch. The batter swings and R1, who was stealing on the pitch, is thrown out at second base.

- A) The batter is awarded a ball and the runner is out.
- B) The batter is awarded a ball and the runner is awarded second base
- C) The batter is awarded a ball and the runner is returned to first base.
- D) The pitch is a strike and the runner is awarded second base.

The testing deadline has passed, the state meeting deadline (without penalty) has passed but remember that a minimum of four local meetings are required. If you have questions, contact your local secretary. Don’t delay – time is running short.

Just over a month away - we will again offer a pre-tournament clinic covering the three umpire system, as well as other topics, on Sunday, May 5 at Reynoldsburg HS Livingston Campus. This free clinic is intended for umpires working the three umpire system in postseason play but is open to all OHSAA umpires. No preregistration is needed. Registration will be at noon with the clinic running from 12:30-4PM.

BATS – We reprint play #7 from our last edition. Why? Because of what happened Thursday in a game in Northwest Ohio. A bat containing only a USSSA certification mark was used. The umpire noticed the violation (remember in our state meeting we reminded you that the rules
require you to be vigilant for illegal equipment) and enforced Rule 7-4-2. The penalty for using this non-approved bat is: **DEAD BALL, BATTER OUT, RUNNERS RETURN (UNLESS OTHERWISE PUT OUT ON THE PLAY). WHEN THE ILLEGAL BAT IS ALTERED OR NON-APPROVED THE BATTER AND HEAD COACH ARE ALSO EJECTED. OR COURSE THIS INCLUDES THE ADDITIONAL PENALTIES THAT GO ALONG WITH ANY EJECTION.** Please note the proper certification marks printed below. Here is Play #7 from the last issue - During a game a bat is brought to the umpire that does not have the 2000 or 2004 ASA certification mark but does have another organization’s marking. The offensive coach claims that since it has been approved by an organization it is acceptable to be used in NFHS play. The umpire rules this bat is a non-approved bat and penalizes accordingly. **RULING:** This is the correct ruling. For NFHS play bats must have either the 2000 or 2004 ASA certification mark (1-5-1d) Figure 1-6 shown below.

- Also, after our last edition and the above information on bats and required markings we received some questions on balls and required markings. The OHSAA has no special state adoptions relating to Rule 1-3 – Softballs. Balls must meet the requirements of this rule and as such must contain the NFHS certification mark found in 1-3-8, Page 11, Figure 4. There is no requirement that the ball be a certain brand or contain an OHSAA logo. The OHSAA does have an official state tournament ball that has a logo but there is no requirement that ball be used.

- And staying on the topic of equipment let’s go to Rule 3-2-7c EXCEPTION which allows for a **WRISTBAND** with a playbook/playcard attached as long as it is a single, solid color and not optic yellow. It does not have to match the color of the upper garment. For the pitcher, it must be worn only on the non-pitching arm (yes, only the pitcher has a non-pitching arm – we have had that question). Also, the wristband must be one color, the playcard will always be multiple colors - think about it – how could you read any document if it was only one color. The background will be one color and the print must be another color(s). Lastly, the most frequent question we get on this, is the location of the **WRISTBAND** which may **NOT** be on the belt.

- Lastly, a creative play – R1 on 1B with 3-2 count on B3. The pitcher commits an illegal pitch and then R1 leaves early on the pitch. Ruling – Since the illegal pitch came first we must enforce the penalty for both violations (Case Book Play 8.6.21). B3 is awarded Ball 4 and first base while the R1 is called out. If this out is the third out B3 has completed her turn at bat so B4 will lead off the next inning. I know that some feel that B3 is penalized by not being awarded first base but because her turn at bat was completed she can not lead off the next inning.