Ohio High School Athletic Association  

Dan McGinnis  

Baseball Bulletin  

Director of Officials Development – Baseball  

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dan.mcginnis@hotmail.com  

• Hard to believe that its baseball season. Think duck hunting may be more in line with the weather!  
• There have been numerous calls asking about temperature for playing baseball. OHSAA has NO temperature requirement. I know of only one league in Ohio that has a restriction but other than that, if the teams are both willing to play, we play ball.  
• I have received reports of improper uniforms being worn this season. The photo below illustrates a jacket that has not be approved for years but still shows up on the diamond. The old OHSAA lettered hats continue to be seen on the diamond and they also need to be replaced.  

Failure to wear the proper uniform falls under “unethical conduct.” It is one of the explicitly stated examples of unethical conduct, “failure to wear the approved uniform.” You would be subject to punishment at the discretion of Beau. “Conduct determined to be unethical may be penalized. Penalties may include, but are not be limited to, verbal or written letters of reprimand, public censure, single or multiple contest suspensions, monetary fines up to $200 per incident and suspension as an OHSAA official.” Please make sure that your OHSAA uniform meets the requirements.  
• Batting cages during the game: The question has been asked, if during the game can a team continue to use the batting cage. The answer to this was given a few years ago by the NFHS and as long as both teams have equal access to a cage, then it is acceptable.
Behind the Mask

The online test for 2018 has been closed. A total of 604 people took the test to completion. The results are in and looking over the percent that got each question incorrect was very eye opening. What I have decided to do is to during the course of the year add to this newsletter many of the questions that were missed. The question with the highest percentage of a correct answer (76%) is the first question below. Knowing that only 76% of the umpires who took this test got it right causes me concern on our knowledge of the rule book.

1. An infield fly is a fair fly that is hit before there are two outs and at a time when at least first and second bases are occupied and:

A) Can be a line drive.
B) Can be an attempted bunt.
C) Can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort.
D) Must be over the area of the infield grass.

24% missed this question. Page 20 in the rule book 2-19 Answer C

12. The base umpire declares “foul” on a fly ball that is caught by the right fielder in fair ground and thrown to second to double up the runner who left the base too soon.

A) It is a foul ball and the ball is immediately dead.
B) It is a fair ball and the catch stands, but the ball is immediately dead.
C) The ball stays live and in play, and the catch is recorded along with the out at second base.
D) The offensive team coach gets to decide which out will stand.

57% missed this question. Rule 2-16-1 and Casebook page 17, 2.16.1-comment- ball is foul when it touches the ground. Answer C: Yes, you have some explaining to do.

19. Jones, advancing from first to third, fails to touch second base and is standing on third when the throw from the outfield goes into the dugout.

A) The umpire is to immediately declare Jones out for missing second base.
B) Because Jones missed second base, he cannot be awarded home from the errant throw to the dugout.
C) If Jones attempts to return to second base, the defense cannot appeal his missing second until Jones has completed his opportunity to correct the mistake.
D) Jones cannot legally return to his missed base and is subject to being declared out upon proper and successful appeal.

33% missed- Page 47 in the rule book 8-2-5. Answer D

20. Obstruction of a batter is ignored if:

A) The batter-runner reaches first base.
B) All other runners advance at least one base.
C) Both A and B.
D) Obstruction of a batter can never be ignored.

38% Missed- Page 46&47 in rule book. 8-1-1-e. Answer C
23. At the pregame conference, the plate umpire asks both head coaches if they have listed all their substitutes on the lineup card. The visiting's team head coach states he did not have time but will provide them as the game progresses. The plate umpire will:

A) Start the game and tell the coach he may add the substitutes as he gets time during the game.
B) Inform the visiting team's head coach that there will be no substitutions allowed for his team in the game.
C) Not accept the team's lineup card until all substitutes are listed. The game cannot begin until the umpire has received lineup cards from both teams.
D) Inform the head coach that as a penalty for not having his lineup card correct, he may not occupy a coaching box for the balance of the game.

49% missed this one- Page 7 of rule book 1-1-2. Answer C

28. In the sixth inning, an eligible player arrives and the visiting coach wants to substitute him in the lineup for the injured player and return his team to nine players.

A) This is permissible.
B) A team that must play with eight players may not return to nine players.
C) A team playing with eight players may return to nine if the player coming in to substitute is listed on the lineup card as a possible substitute.
D) A team may return to nine players provided the opposing coach agrees to the substitution.

42% missed this one- Page 4 in casebook 1-1-2 situation B- Answer A

General comments about the test. I had numerous calls from umpires taking the test that the question did not have a rule that they could find. We all should understand that not everything is in the rule or casebook. We need to use the rules that we have and add common sense in order to make a ruling. That is one reason we have local rules interpreter to help in this endeavor.

One heated discussion I had ended up with me asking the umpire if he had ever called an infield fly. His answer was yes and I asked how he could do that since in the definition of infield fly there was not height requirement. The same would go for malicious contact. You know it when you see it!

As officials we need to know and study the rules continuously. There is no way all rules or rulings can be in the rule book and we need to be aware of that and continue to challenge ourselves to get better. In future newsletters there will be more from the test so that we can focus on what rules we need to stress.