

Oregon School Activities Association

Baseball SRI Bulletin – #1

2017 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

For the 2017 season, the national rules committee has adopted four points of emphasis. They include location of team personnel, legal slide, umpire asking for assistance, and ball markings. Let's take a look.

1. LOCATION OF TEAM PERSONNEL

Coaches, players and bench personnel shall not leave, or sit outside the dugout/bench on buckets or stools during live ball for any unauthorized reason. Players are also prohibited from standing or kneeling outside their dugout/bench area and/or making unsportsmanlike comments while the other team is taking infield practice. This behavior will not be tolerated. This is both a sportsmanship **and** a safety issue. Umpires and coaches are asked to work together for the benefit of the student athlete.

2. LEGAL SLIDE

Remember under NFHS rules runners are never required to slide. However, if a runner chooses to slide, the slide must be legal. A slide is illegal under the following circumstances: 1) A rolling, cross-body or pop-up slide into the fielder, 2) The runner's raised leg is higher than the fielder's knee (while the fielder is in a standing position), 3) The runner goes beyond the base and makes contact with or alters the play of the fielder, 4) The runner slashes or kicks the fielder, 5) The runner intentionally tries to injure the fielder and, 6) During FORCE PLAY SLIDE RULE situation, the runner does not slide on the ground and in a DIRECT LINE BETWEEN THE TWO BASES. When a runner slides in a non-force situation, he must slide within reach of the base with either hand or foot. On an illegal slide, the runner is called out and, depending on the severity of his actions, there could be malicious contact and an ejection.

3. UMPIRES ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE.

Simply because a coach asks for help, an umpire is not required to seek help. Umpires are not advised to seek help on plays on which they are 100% confident in their judgment and their view of the entire play is completely unimpeded. Do not use "asking for help" as a means to pacify a coach. However, umpires should not come off as arrogant by refusing a reasonable request for assistance. During the course of the game, the head coach may request that the calling umpire ask for help from his or her partner. If the umpire feels his or her view does not give all the necessary information, or positioning for the call wasn't ideal, he or she should get the crew together. A coach must return to his position before the umpires get together. After conferring, the calling umpire will make the final call. The challenging coach is not permitted to question the call further after the decision is made. If the call is reversed, the other coach is entitled to an explanation, but excessive arguing is not permitted.

4. BALL MARKINGS

All baseballs are required to display the NFHS Authenticating Mark. Using non-certified baseballs puts players, coaches and umpires at risk of injury. The Authenticating Mark Program was designed to ensure the baseballs used in high school play are manufactured consistently and to certain physical requirements. As an umpire, if you see a ball in play that does not have proper NFHS markings, remove the ball from the game and ask for one that does. If a team does not have baseballs with proper markings, umpires should play the game and contact their assigning commissioner to file a report.

>>> In closing, the OSAA, OAOA, and State baseball committee continues to value good sportsmanship on the baseball field. We ask that you model the field, relative to personal interactions, like a classroom. Treat others as you wish to be treated. Be firm but fair, and never curse. Have a great season, and I will see you at the yard.