

## SRI BULLETIN

We have passed the midway point in the season and league play is going strong. With six weeks under our belts, here are a few things I see and/or hear about that need to be addressed.

### **Catch-and-Carry**

There is NO SUCH THING as Catch-and-Carry in NFHS baseball! At too many plate talks, I'm hearing of coaches describing an area where this can happen. No! It cannot happen. NFHS rules say that when a player takes a caught ball out of play with both feet (Rule 5.1.1i) the ball is dead **immediately**. Award all runner(s) one base, unless the caught ball is the third out (Rule 8.3.3d).

Often coaches will say something akin to, "We've been doing it all season". Do not be bullied or coerced into allowing this to happen. Simply be firm and remind them, "We're not doing that today".

### **Out of Play Areas**

A common construction feature at many high school fields is to have a clubhouse or storage area at the end of the dugout, often with a solid concrete or block wall. When the area leading up to the wall is completely grass or cinder, it is acceptable to have a thrown ball be 'live' off the wall. However, when there is a concrete walkway or strip at the base of that wall (an out of play area) any ball passing over that concrete is out of play; dead ball.

The fascia of some dugouts can also either be in-play or out-of-play. Again, if the fascia is set-back from the dugout fence, any ball passing over this dead ball area (the dugout fence is the line going infinitely upwards) will become dead as well.

It is important to understand these areas and be clear to both coaches what areas can be live v. those which clearly are dead-ball territory.

### **Bat Boys/Girls**

While we see the occasional bat boy/girl during the season, they seem to be far more common during the playoffs. Regardless, the safety of these young aides is paramount. That means wearing a helmet at all times, staying out of the dugout doorway, not running onto the field when there is action still happening, etc. Work with the coach to ensure these guidelines are being met and these bat boys/girls can help the team and still be safe from injury.

See you at the yard...

Tad Cockerill SRI