



Oregon School Activities Association

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To: Athletic Directors, Head Baseball Coaches and Baseball Umpires
From: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: One-Way Communication Devices

With the 2024 baseball season just completing the 3rd day of competition, it has come to our attention that we need to send this memo out to schools as a reminder. The new NFHS rule on player communication equipment seems to need some clarification. Here is what the rule states:

1-6-2 (NEW) SECTION 6 PLAYER COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

ART. 2 . . . **One-way electronic communication devices** are permissible from the dugout to the catcher while the team is on defense for the purpose of calling pitches. When using the electronic communication device, the coach cannot be outside the dugout/bench area.

PENALTY: The umpire shall issue a team warning to coach of the team involved and the next offender(s) of that team will be ejected along with the head coach.

Rationale: This rule allows for a team to utilize an electronic device for the purpose of calling pitches from the dugout. The device would only be able to be one-way, meaning the player cannot use an electronic device to respond or communicate back to the coach. Various technologies, earpiece, electronic band or a smart watch could be used giving teams several options at varying costs. **No other player would be able to wear or use this device nor would the coach be able to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.**

If teams desire to use this new rule, it needs to be a one-way communication device. We have had several games thus far where teams are using two-way communication devices and believe that as long as they are only using it as a one-way device that it would be legal. Those devices are **NOT legal** as they can be used as two-way communication devices. Umpires are not to allow those devices to be used.

In turn, if teams are also using one-way devices for players on the field other than just the catcher, the umpire will issue a team warning and if caught again in the same game, the player and coach will be ejected.

We hope this clears up any confusion on what is allowed and who can be using this equipment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org)