

SRI BULLETIN #1 2020

Pre-season

Umpires;

The 2020 season is a mere couple weeks away. It's time to think about uniforms, pre- season conditioning and the gear in your bag that may need some upgrades...

- **Uniforms.**

Take pride in your appearance, out dress your partner is a good rule of thumb. Can I look better? Over time Jackets/Shirts and Slacks fade, they should be black.... Bottom line here; take as much pride in your appearance as you do in getting the call right

- **Gear.**

Check over your gear and replace or upgrade worn gear that has seen better days. Last but very important, Cold weather gear.... Spring ball in Oregon is really “ Winter Ball”.

- **Points of Emphasis**

Calling balls and strikes remains the most significant task of any umpiring crew. Be aware of the strike zone as it is defined in Rule 2(definitions) SECTION 35 of the rule book. It is imperative that all umpires remain consistent, defensible, and reasonable in calling pitches. It is the goal of the State Baseball Committee to encourage umpires to call strikes. A good rule of thumb is every pitch is a strike until you are forced to call it a ball.

- **Fly Ball Coverage**

Whether it be laziness or lack of urgency, umpires seem to be not giving the proper effort in covering fly balls. Trouble balls must meet one or a combination of, the following criterion: 1) a potential catch below the waist, 2) a ball involving converging fielders, 3) Fair or foul judgement, 4) any ball that threatens the fence. Please pre game fly ball coverage and make sure the crew is on the same page. Developing consistency in your steps, pivots, and routes of coverage. Use crisp and clear mechanics, moving quickly but deliberately making sure you are set when making the call.

- **Jewelry**

Warn, Warn, Warn. We should offer multiple informal warnings (proactive) to individual players, and generally to teams, before resorting to formal written warnings and or ejections. I want to remind all umpires that we are most concerned with student athlete safety and providing an

equal playing field for both teams. The NFHS considers jewelry enough of a problem its making it a point of emphasis..... let's clean it up.

Let's get ready, pray for a sunny spring..... Baseball is here again.