

# Memorandum

DATE: January 2012  
TO: CIF-SS Coaches  
CIF-SS Umpires  
FROM : Ken Allan, CIF-SS Umpire Instructional Chairman; California State Baseball Rules Interpreter  
RE: 2012 Rule Interpretations

The following information is provided to commissioners, coaches and umpires in an effort to provide consistency in rule enforcement and game management. Any questions should be directed to Ken Allan at: [kensport101@earthlink.net](mailto:kensport101@earthlink.net).

These are the significant rule changes and interpretations for the 2012 season. **Please be sure your lower division coaches have a copy.**

## **1-3-2-d**

Beginning January 1, 2012, all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. No post-production BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. There is no list of approved NFHS bats. If a bat has a BBCOR certification mark, the bat is legal. Some bats may have both the BBCOR and BESR certification mark. These bats are legal.

**Comment:** Bamboo bats are not considered to be made of a single piece of wood, thus are required to have BBCOR certification.

## **1-3-5**

Bats that are altered from the manufacturer's original design and production or that do not meet the rule specifications are illegal. No artificial or intentional means shall be used to control the temperature of the bat.

**Comment:** The NFHS is still working on a visual tamper evident process. Thus, bats are not required to have tamper evident labels or devices for 2012. Some teams have been known to use bat warmers.

## **1-5-10**

Any questions regarding legality of a player's equipment shall be resolved by the umpire-in-chief.

**Comment:** Pregame bat and helmet checks are no longer the responsibility of the umpires. (See 10-2-3a) This change makes the coach responsible for ALL equipment to be used during the game. Coach still must verify the legality of equipment at the pre-game meeting.

## **1-5-6**

Defective equipment, including helmets, must be repaired or replaced immediately. There is no penalty.

## **3-1-6**

If there is any amount of blood on the uniform or equipment, it shall be changed or cleaned before the individual participates or the equipment is allowed back in the game.

**Comment:** Changing the word from *excessive* to *any*, removes the subjectivity of how much blood is an excessive amount.

### 3-3-1-g-7

Confront or direct unsportsmanlike conduct to the umpires after the game has concluded and until the umpires have departed the game site.

Penalty: In 3-3-1-g7, the State Association shall determine appropriate action.

The penalty for a post-game ejection is usually the same as for an ejection that occurs during the game.

**Comment:** To its credit, the CIF-SS has had this rule in effect for the past several years. It is now an official NFHS rule.

### 3-3-1-q

Leave their positions or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation, ~~for the purpose of fighting.~~

**Comment:** When a fight or altercation breaks out, umpires should not have to judge the intent of players leaving their position or bench area. It is important that coaches make their players aware of this rule as there have been cases where double forfeits have been declared as the result of numerous players being ejected for leaving their positions or bench area during a fight or altercation.

### 4-1-3-a-b

a. The umpires still emphasize that the participants are expected to exhibit good sporting behavior.

b. Prior to the start of the game, each head coach shall verify to the umpire-in-chief that his participants are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules. In addition, each coach shall verify that his participants are using only legal equipment including bats that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design and production and that meet the provisions of 1-3-2 and helmets that meet the provision of 1-5-1 and are free of cracks and damage.

PENALTY: For the first violation of 4-1-3b for the use of an illegal bat, the penalty is applied and the head coach shall be restricted to the bench. He shall be ejected for a second violation. For subsequent violations, the designated head coach shall be ejected. For violations detected of 4-1-3b for the use of a damaged helmet, the helmet shall be immediately removed from play. There is no penalty.

**Comment:** The NFHS is placing the responsibility of legal equipment directly with the head coach.

### 10-2-3-a

Modify: a. ~~Inspect equipment and~~ inspect the condition of the field.

**Comment:** Umpires are no longer required to perform pregame dugout bat and helmet checks. The responsibility for legal equipment rests with the coach. Coaches can still ask umpires at the pregame conference to confirm that equipment is compliant. The last item is intended for one or two questionable items, not as a means for the coach to evade their responsibility for equipment. (See 4-1-3-b above)

## GAME MANAGEMENT

### 3-3-1-a

### 3-3-1-j

LEAVING THE BENCH AREA—On behalf of all CIF-SS umpires I want to thank the coaches and their assistants for continued cooperation in keeping players in the dugout during scoring plays while the ball is still in play. There has been a considerable improvement in this area thanks to the efforts of the coaches and the courage of umpires to enforce the rule. Please continue to stress the importance of your players staying in the dugout while the ball is in play.

Also, coaches are doing a much better job staying within the confines of the dugout/bench area. A reminder that coaches are allowed outside the dugout to move defensive players, but are then expected to immediately return. Coaches may sit on buckets to call pitches provided the coach and the bucket are entirely within the confines of the dugout/bench area. Thanks, also, to the coaches for their continued conscientious effort to abide by this rule.

**LINEUP CARDS**—Please provide umpires with a large enough lineup card so changes can be readily made. The small, tear-out cards provided in some scorebooks are not acceptable. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Also, please allow the plate umpire to separate multiple copies of the lineups. Prior to the game, it is permissible for a coach to provide the opposing team a copy of the lineup for the purpose of entering the information in the opposing team's scorebook.

**FOUL BALLS**—In order to keep games moving more smoothly, I am recommending that any ball retrieved by the on deck hitter, or a long foul ball on the visitors side of the field, be rolled to the home dugout as soon as possible. If you are the visiting team and your on deck batter retrieves a ball at the backstop, please have him roll it to the home dugout rather than taking it with him back to the on deck circle. Doing this will allow the umpires to replenish baseballs from one source. This is even more critical in high school games in that the home team is only required to provide three baseballs. This will also apply in tournament games when both teams are supplying baseballs. Let's give this a good effort as it should be a big help in keeping the game moving.

**COACH'S UNIFORMS:** As per rule 3-2-1, coaches must be in the uniform of their team. Coaches, especially at the lower level, are doing a better job of this each year. Thanks for the cooperation. As a guideline, the following is acceptable: Baseball shoes, baseball pants, a jersey top similar to what the team is wearing, either a tee shirt with a team logo, wind shirt with a team logo, a jacket and a baseball cap. The following is NOT acceptable at ANY level: Coaches who are wearing shorts, or other non-baseball attire such as, but not limited to, sweatpants, jeans, tennis shoes or sandals. These items are not permissible. The penalty for non-compliance is that the coach is restricted to the dugout. If the team's only coach is in non-compliance, he will be allowed on the field to participate in the pre-game meeting with the umpires. He will also be allowed on the field to attend to an injured player. Otherwise, he must remain in the dugout.

## **CREW CONFERENCE**

In order to eliminate further delay by a coach after a crew conference, the following continues to be in effect. It began with the 2008 season and it has been well received by both coaches and umpires.

Umpires are not required to hold a conference if the calling umpire is sure he got the play right. However, if, at the request of a **defensive** coach, the crew gathers to discuss a call, the coach must return to the dugout before the crew discusses the call. The coach must also remain in the dugout if the decision has been upheld .

If the conference is made at the request of the **offensive** coach, he must return either to the coaching box or the dugout as provided above.

A requesting coach returning to the field to continue the discussion after a decision has been upheld is subject to being remanded to the dugout for delaying the game, or if behavior warrants, ejection from the game.

If the call is changed, the opposing coach is permitted on the field only for the purpose of getting an explanation of the reversed call.

## LOWER LEVEL COACHES

1) Please remember that many of the umpires assigned to lower level games are fairly new and that mistakes will be made both in rule application and game management. Tolerance toward umpires in this respect will be greatly appreciated. However, umpires regardless of their level of experience, are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. CIF-SS umpires are held accountable for their actions. If you have, or hear of any problems regarding umpire professionalism, please advise your local liaison or assigner.

Finally, I would like to thank all coaches for their cooperation and good luck for the 2012 season.

### How to Argue With an Umpire

**The following are highlights from an article by Jim Mantle with additional comments from Ken Allan\***

1. Don't show up an umpire or grandstand. You're there to make your point, not put on a performance for the crowd.
2. Control your anger, no matter how ticked off you are. Most umpires will listen to arguments-none should have to listen to you yell at them. Also, be very careful about physical contact with an umpire. This is a **very serious** situation which could result in a suspension.
3. Recognize when it's futile. Some umpires, unfortunately, are a legend in their own mind. They don't understand they might have kicked one. When this happens, resist the urge to get in a parting shot.
4. Go to the umpire who made the call.
5. The word that may get you ejected immediately is not the dreaded F-word. It's the Y- word. You. As in "You are a terrible umpire," or "You are awful," etc. Better to direct the attention to the call not the umpire.
6. There is a chance you have the rule wrong, not the umpire. But, it could be the other way too. If you feel a **rule** is being misinterpreted you have the right to protest the game.
7. Pick your spots. You are stuck with the umpire for the rest of the game. Don't moan, bitch and gripe for the next two hours. That call is history. What you're really interested in are the calls for the rest of the game. Rattled umpires sometimes do not make good calls.
8. Set a positive role model for your players. Hustle your butt out there, make your point and leave.
9. Don't moan to your players about the umpire all game. All it does is teach the players that they can blame their lack of success on anything and/or everything external.
10. Know the rules to a reasonable level. If you've been chirping 1+1 after every overthrow, don't expect to be taken seriously when you come out to discuss a rule interpretation.
- 11.\* If you start yelling, "balk", or "he's not stopping," etc. from the dugout, or the coaching box, chances are you'll never get the call. The smart move is to discuss this with the umpire **BETWEEN** innings. Reason: Imagine the other coach is yelling about a balk on your pitcher and then, sure enough, it gets

called. Somewhere you'll have the feeling that the umpire may have been intimidated into making the call

12. Never bring a rulebook onto the field. The umpire is supposed to know the rules. If not, see item 6.

13. If you do manage to get the umpires to confer with each other, you have achieved your objective, so stay away and let them confer. They'll call you over when they have made their decision.

14.\* Please be tolerant in discussions with lower level umpires, many of whom are just learning the game and will make mistakes both in game management and the application of rules.

15. The umpire is in control of the game. Leave it that way. If the umpire cannot call a curveball, or won't give the outside corner, then his reality differs from yours. And his is the only one that counts. You and your players must deal with it. Adapt to it. If you and your players can adapt to it faster than the other coach and team, then you have an advantage.

16. \* FINALLY-When it's over, it's over. Getting into a shouting match with the umpires after the game is over only detracts from your credibility as a teacher and coach. If necessary, contact the proper people when you get home or better yet, the next day. If you encounter the official again, remember umpires are taught from day one that each game is a new contest and the slate is clean. That's also pretty good advice for coaches.