

Softball Announcements

April 10, 2023

Add to the Lineup?

If a coach wishes to add players to the lineup after the lineup cards have been exchanged and accepted by the home plate umpire, they may do so, but a warning will be given to the head coach. Any subsequent additions would result in the coach being restricted to the bench. Page 33 of the NFHS Rules Book states: A player who is not listed as an eligible substitute on the lineup card shall not be prohibited from playing. (3-1-3 Penalty).

Also, fill out the lineup card correctly. Starters should be listed correctly and subs should be listed at the bottom of the card, leaving room for changes. When listed side by side there is no room to make changes.

'Hey Navy Blue! Or Powder Blue!'

Reminder: navy blue and powder blue are both approved to be worn on the ball field for our umpires. However, please be sure to match your partner. Communicate before traveling so you know what color you are going to wear. If working a double header, you can wear one color for the first game and the other color for the second game. It doesn't matter which is which, just make sure you look the same on the field.

Show Some Hospitality

We have had reports on both ends of the spectrum regarding sites hosting umpires this spring. Football crews for the most part get the red carpet. Why do umpires sometimes not see an administrator or a school representative at the very least? Spring is busy, no doubt, but let's try to do our very best for umpires leaving work at 2:00 p.m. (or earlier in some cases) to be at the ball field until approximately 10:00 p.m. If possible, have a spot marked off for them to park and a place for them to change. A bottle of water and a candy bar go a long way. Again, we have had reports from some sites that do a fantastic job (keep up the good work) and reports from some that are not so good. Please keep in mind how umpires are treated at your games.

Masked Warm Up

If a player takes a mask out to the field for warm up, they need to wear them properly. Umpires have reported that girls are laying the mask down on the field by their position and then warming up. Either wear them properly or do not bring them out in the field to warm up.

Situations

Situation: With R1 on first base with no outs, B2 hits a deep fly ball to centerfield. R1 concerned it might be caught is standing just a few steps off first base when B2 rounds first base as the ball clears the outfield fence in flight. B2 passes R1 as R1 is still watching the ball. The umpire rules that since B2 did not pass R1 until after the ball cleared the outfield fence that B2 is not out for passing R1 since the ball is dead once it cleared the outfield fence in flight. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. All bases must be run legally including awarded bases. Even though the ball is dead on

the home run, R1 and B2 must legally run the bases. R1 should be ruled out once they pass B2, and R1 is allowed to continue legally running the bases and score. (8-3-11, 8-6-4)

Situation: With one out, R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B4 hits a high fly ball. R1 is on second base waiting to tag and R2 is almost to second base when F9 catches the ball. As R2 is returning to first base, F9 throws the ball over F3's head and it enters dead ball territory. The umpire awards R1 home and R2 third base. R2 misses second base as they are advancing to third base. After R1 has touched home and R2 is standing on third base, F4 appeals that R2 missed second base. The umpire rules that R2 is out for missing second base for the third out of the inning, but R1's run scores since it occurred prior to the appeal of R2 missing second base.

RULING: Correct ruling. All bases must be legally touched or runners will be called out if properly appealed. This appeal is a timing play and since R1 had scored prior to the appeal for the third out their run would score. (2-1-1a, 2-1-3b, 8-3-11, 8-6-7, 9-1-1)