

NYSBUA 2021 Interpretation Meetings

Summary Q&A Document

Q: PLAYER/DH replaced a 2nd time on defense, can remain DH?

A: No. A Player/DH can only re-enter a game one time. If they are replaced a second time, they are out of the game and the role of the player/DH is terminated.

Q: To be clear: DH/Defensive any offensive replacement of the DH rule kill the DH for the remainder of the game.

A: If a player is designated as a Player/DH on the lineup card, any offensive substitution for that player terminates the role of the DH for the remainder of the game.

Q: For incorrect baseball - specifically to whom do we report it?

A: Report any issues regarding baseballs to your Section Representative. All Section representatives are listed below along with their email addresses.

Section 1	Chris McCarthy	cmccarthy@klschools.org
Section 2	Michael Demagistris	mdemagistris@gesdk12.org
Section 3	Tom Meiss	tmeiss@oriskanycsd.org
Section 4	Chris Palmer	cpalmer@oxac.org
Section 5	Jason Bunting	Jason.bunting@greececsd.org
Section 6	Robert Parry	rparry@depewschools.org
Section 7	Jim Manchester	jmanchester@plattscsd.org
Section 8	Don Lang	langd@northshoreschools.org
Section 9	Michael Gillespie	michael.gillespie@pinebushschools.org
Section 10	David Steele	dsteele@heuvelton.k12.ny.us
Section 11	Ryan Cox	rcox@pmschools.org

Q: Are we checking for it on catchers or just covering it in ground rules when we ask if everyone is properly equipped?

A: You ask head coaches at the plate meeting if all players are legally and properly equipped. If head coaches say yes, we are to accept the coaches' verification. If it becomes obvious the verification was not correct in regards to the chest protector, we stop the game and remedy the situation before the game can and will proceed.

Q: What's the penalty for no sanitizer for baseball?

A: No penalty that I am aware of. We, as umpires, are off the hook when it comes to COVID protocols. Responsible parties are the schools in regards to COVID protocols. Schools will have to answer if there is no sanitizer for baseballs. Ask your section representative how they want your chapter to handle this.

Q: Are we using the new 3 ft social distancing rule?

A: Please check with your local DOH for guidance.

Q: Are we responsible to contact local DOH, or is it better to ask forgiveness than it is permission?

A: I would be very hesitant to say it's better to ask for forgiveness than it is permission when it comes to DOH guidance. We should follow the rules put in place by NYSPHSAA and/or your Section to the best of our ability and then Schools will have to answer for anything that does not follow protocols.

Q: Here at least with ice hockey the refs only had the masks up when within 6 ft and stopped, ie faceoffs. Are we expected to have masks up all the time?

A: From my understanding, we as umpires are expected. Again, we are not the mask police though so make sure you follow local DOH guidance on social distancing rules to the best of your abilities.

Q: Should a substitute player be removed because of a concussion protocol, then gets cleared, can he re-enter?

A: A healthcare professional needs to clear a player if the player was removed for suspected concussion symptoms. If they are a substitute player, substitute players do not have re-entry rights.

From Todd Nelson: A coach is not an appropriate health care provider. If there is no appropriate health care provider then the student should be removed from the contest/practice until they can be seen by a physician. We would hope that umpires would use extreme caution and common sense if they feel a student should be evaluated.

Q: Do all players have to wear mask on field, in dugout and coaches?

A: Yes. However, a Section can put in their own rules. We, as umpires, are not the mask police and are not the responsible parties for COVID protocols being followed.

Q: Concerning social distancing - how might this effect dugout extension?

A: If Schools extend dugouts, they must follow the book rule (dugout extensions away from home plate).

Q: Any State guidance gators versus masks?

A: Gaiters are allowed for umpires to wear this season. That said, check with the Section as they may have a different opinion since some schools are not allowing gaiters for teachers/staff.

Q: Foul balls to backstop, on deck batter still retrieving baseball?

A: I don't see why they cannot do so. Put in a new baseball and have the foul ball sent to the dugout for sanitizing.

Q: No wrist bands for pitchers on non-glove hand as they use in college?

A: I am not aware of this rule changing at all from previous years.

Q: Any new bad bats this year?

A: Yes, Louisville Slugger 33 inches Meta Blue bat was added to the decertified list.

NFHS De-certifies Louisville Slugger Meta Bat

By NFHS on March 03, 2020

baseball article

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The "2020 Blue 33" Louisville Slugger Composite Baseball Bat is decertified and no longer available for use in high school competition.

Bat list website: <https://ssl.wsu.edu/approved-bats/>

Q: When can we expect to get the results of the NFHS exam for guys that had to take the test this year?

A: Results should be provided to Mark Rothrock about a week after the test closes and then information will be sent to chapters.

Q: If we notice on the catcher he does not have the protector with the NOCSAE stamp would you check to see if he is wearing an alternate protector?

A: No. We accept the coaches' verifications at the plate meeting. Only until it becomes obvious to us as umpires the verification was not accurate do we stop the game and remedy the situation.

Q: Regarding equipment - with COVID safety protocols, can one team borrow equipment from another team, such as chest protector or helmet?

A: Schools/Players/Coaches/Umpires are all being asked not to share equipment. With that said, we are not the responsible parties for COVID protocols, schools are. If teams share equipment, that's not up to us to enforce COVID protocols.

Q: To be compliant with the mask requirement, High School Football players have a plastic piece that is added to their facemask on the metal mask part which is similar to the face shields worn previously. Will this be an option for catchers or umpires instead of a cloth or N95 mask?
https://www.amazon.com/Schutt-Splash-Shield-Football-Facemask/dp/B08B9YDV44/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=splash+shield+for+catchers+mask&qid=1616337424&s=sporting-goods&sr=1-3

A: I do not know what will or won't be options for catchers this season in terms of masks. I would not be in favor of umpires wearing something like pictured in the website without a separate mask/gaiter being worn since our masks will be coming off during a play.

Q: Is any county requiring the covid vaccine in order to umpire?

A: I am not aware of any county requiring COVID vaccination in order to umpire. Please check with your local county for further guidance.

Q: What about Vouchers? Where do we fill out?

A: Some schools are sending vouchers to officials ahead of time via email or mail. If possible and allowed, filling out the voucher before arriving to the field would help. If this is not possible, I would find a location away from the dugouts to fill out any necessary paperwork.

Q: Without looking it up can you have a DH and a player/DH?

A: No, a team can use one of three options: no DH (straight 9), standard DH (10 player lineup), or the player/DH (9 player lineup but one player is designated as a player/DH).

Q: Can the schools dictate to us mechanics - seems like if chapter decision should be consistent.

A: Mechanics used are a chapter decision but that decision must be communicated with all schools a chapter services prior to the season. If a section puts in rules about mechanics it wants chapters to use, please work with your section representative about that.

Q: Is it necessary to carry your vaccination certificate with you or show it to the section?

A: I am not aware of any section or school requiring vaccination cards from us. With that said, it may not hurt, if you have one, to have it in your car when you work a game.

Q: After a foul ball leaves the playing field we have to wait for a new ball to be thrown in to the catcher from the home team dugout?

A: Yes unless your section puts in different rules. However, be proactive. Call for the new baseball right away and work with the team member that was assigned the duty to sanitize baseballs just as you would regularly when you need more baseballs during a game. If the person is paying attention, things can run smoothly.

Q: Will NYSBUA put out a something to the chapters about the face masks being only solid color or related to officiating.

A: I am not aware of NYSBUA putting out anything in regards to face masks. I would say be smart about the color choice since we do have uniform rules to follow.

Q: Will every player have his own helmet?

A: I'm guessing this is school-dependent and budget-dependent but I'd say most likely no.

Q: Andy - you are wearing glasses. If we cannot wear a Gator - which worked - have you found an effective mask that does not fog the glasses? It's a real concern for calling pitches.

A: I wear contacts on the field. Others have said there are liquid products you can place on the lenses of your glasses which helps keeping them from fogging up. Gaiters are allowed this year for umpires to wear which may help fogging glasses as well.

Q: Are masks still required if the official is totally vaccinated?

A: Yes...unless your Section/local DOH decides to put in a different rule which goes against NYSPHSAA and NYS DOH guidance.

Q: Can baseballs be thrown directly from dugout to pitcher?

A: Not according to NYSPHSAA guidance. With that said, a Section can decide to put in a different rule which goes against NYSPHSAA guidance but that must be communicated with officials.

Q: Cover new rule on baseballs from dugout during plate meeting?

A: I do not see any harm in a reminder at the plate meeting if you choose.

Q: The DH/P Rule once an offensive replacement occurs, the DH/P Rule is canceled for the rest of the game to be clear? But if a defensive replacement occurs, the DH/P stay in place? Please advise.

A: Yes, any offensive substitution for a Player/DH will result in the DH role being terminated for the remainder of the game. If a Player/DH is substituted for on defense, they may remain in the game in the role of DH.

Q: Home plate umpire cleaning home plate, he or she notices that the catcher is not wearing the right chest protector with the label. We step in and correct? It must have the NOSACE and SEI Certification? Please advise.

A: No, we do not step in at that moment. The player may be compliant by wearing a compression shirt with the pad sewn into the material (SEI/NOCSAE stamp on that garment) or a pad may be worn with the SEI/NOCSAE stamp on it. Catchers have 3 options to be compliant. We only step in when it becomes obvious to us as umpires that the coaches' verification of all players being legally and properly equipped from the plate meeting was not totally accurate.

Q: What if there is not a safe place on the field when thunder and lightning happen?

A: You can always use your car as your safe place if needed. We should be staying away from teams and dugouts due to social distancing guidelines.