



2022 NFHS BASEBALL RULES POWERPOINT

National Federation of State
High School Associations



B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA
NFHS Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Provide updates from NYSPHSAA and NYSBUA
- Discuss 2022 Rule Change (new)
- Discuss the 2022 Points of Emphasis (new)
- Review the NYS Adopted Rules and Items
- Q&A Session





UPDATES FROM NYSPHSAA MEETING – JAN 5

- From Dr. Zayas
 - Baseball is NOT currently impacted by masking
 - Local Chapters will submit a weekly list to the assignor of members who are fully vaccinated or have tested for COVID-19 during the week.
 - Only officials who are fully vaccinated or participate in an approved testing program will keep their assignments.





UPDATES FROM NYSPHSAA MEETING – JAN 5

- From Dr. Zayas
 - NYSPHSAA member schools will attempt to provide testing for unvaccinated officials at no cost to the officials.
 - Officials assigned for post season games, events and contests will be fully vaccinated or provide a negative COVID-19 test 3 days prior to the scheduled post season event.





UPDATES FROM NYSPHSAA MEETING – JAN 5

- Binghamton will host 2022 and 2023 State Tournament
- Fields to be used:
 - BU, Mirabito Stadium (10am and 1pm Saturday), Maine-Endwell, Conlon, Union-Endicott, Broome?
- Possible 6th Classification Recommendation (Feb 2 vote)
 - If approved by Executive Committee, this would mean more games and more assignments for us in playoffs
- Modified players CAN wear metal spikes
- Be considerate/aware of possible bus issues in your area





UPDATES FROM NYSBUA

- Election Results and Updated Website Information
- Umpires who are under 18 years old?
- State Committee Membership Openings
 - Umpire1154@aol.com
- State Tournament Uniform Change Approved
- Exam Part 1 Dates
 - January 6, 2022 through March 19, 2022



UPDATES FROM NYSBUA

- RefReps – Training App with Videos



Regular Season

Pack 1

Grady Smith





UPDATES FROM NYSBUA

- RefReps
 - Interactive component and on-screen explanations
 - **\$60** cost to access a total of 75 video plays
 - Two devices allowed – Android or Apple
 - NYSBUA will offer to pay **half** the cost per chapter
 - Possible future plans for 3-man videos for State Tournament Umpires





NFHS INFORMATION



NFHS CORPORATE PARTNER

Exclusive Baseball/Softball App of the NFHS



Features

- Scorekeeping, Stats & Pitch Counts
- Animated Live Game & Recap Story
- Live Video Streaming & Highlight Clipping
- Team Management Tools
- Team Communication

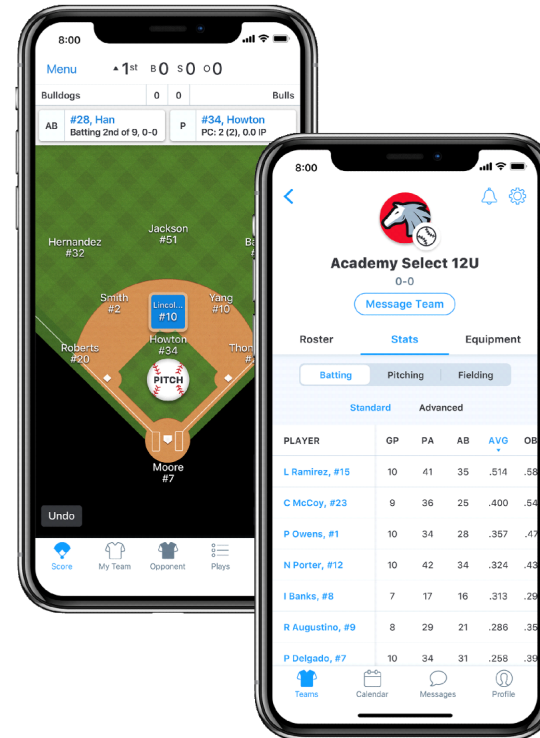
State Association Benefits

- Pitch Count Tracking & Reporting
- Consolidated Stat Tools
- State Tournament Stats

Stay Tuned! – Upcoming Webinar and Q&A Session

- What's New?
- Updates to League/Pitch Count Tools
- Hear from Current State Association Partners

Contact - Kyleigh Meisler | Kyleigh@gc.com



GAMECHANGER BY DICK'S SPORTING GOODS



IMPORTANT FACTS AND DATES

- In-person Interpretation Meeting Date
 - January 19-20, 2022

- Mid-Season Webinar Date
 - April 22, 2022

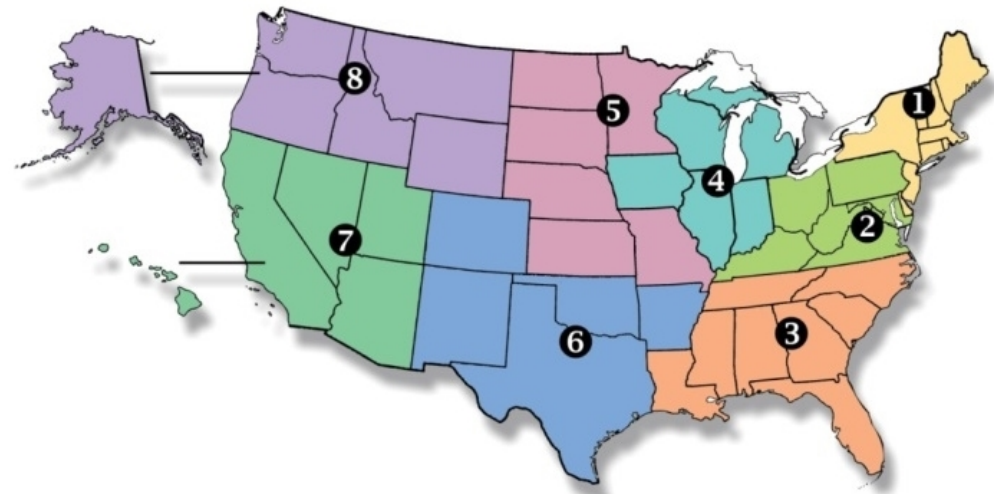
- Rule Change Proposal Submission Dates
 - September 1, 2021 to May 1, 2022

- Rules Committee Date
 - June 5-7, 2022



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

- NFHS (located in Indianapolis, IN – Est. 1920):
 - National leader and advocate for high school athletics and performing arts programs.
 - Serves 51 state associations, 19,500 high schools and 12 million student participants.
 - Writes playing rules for 17 high school sports for boys and girls.
 - Offers online education courses for high school coaches, officials, parents, students and others.
 - Ensures that students have opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement and good sportsmanship in education-based athletics.



NFHS RULES REVIEW COMMITTEE

- The NFHS Rules Review Committee is chaired by the chief operating officer and composed of all rules editors. After each committee concludes its deliberations and has adopted its recommended changes for the subsequent year, such revisions will be evaluated by the Rules Review Committee.



Davis Whitfield
Chief Operating
Officer



Lindsey Atkinson
Basketball, Girls
Lacrosse and
Volleyball



Bob Colgate
Football and Sports
Medicine



Sandy Searcy
Softball, Swimming &
Diving and Water Polo



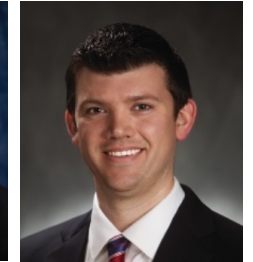
Elliot Hopkins
Baseball and
Wrestling



Julie Cochran
Cross Country, Gymnastics,
Field Hockey, Soccer and
Track & Field



James Weaver
Boys Lacrosse
and Spirit



Dan Schuster
Ice Hockey



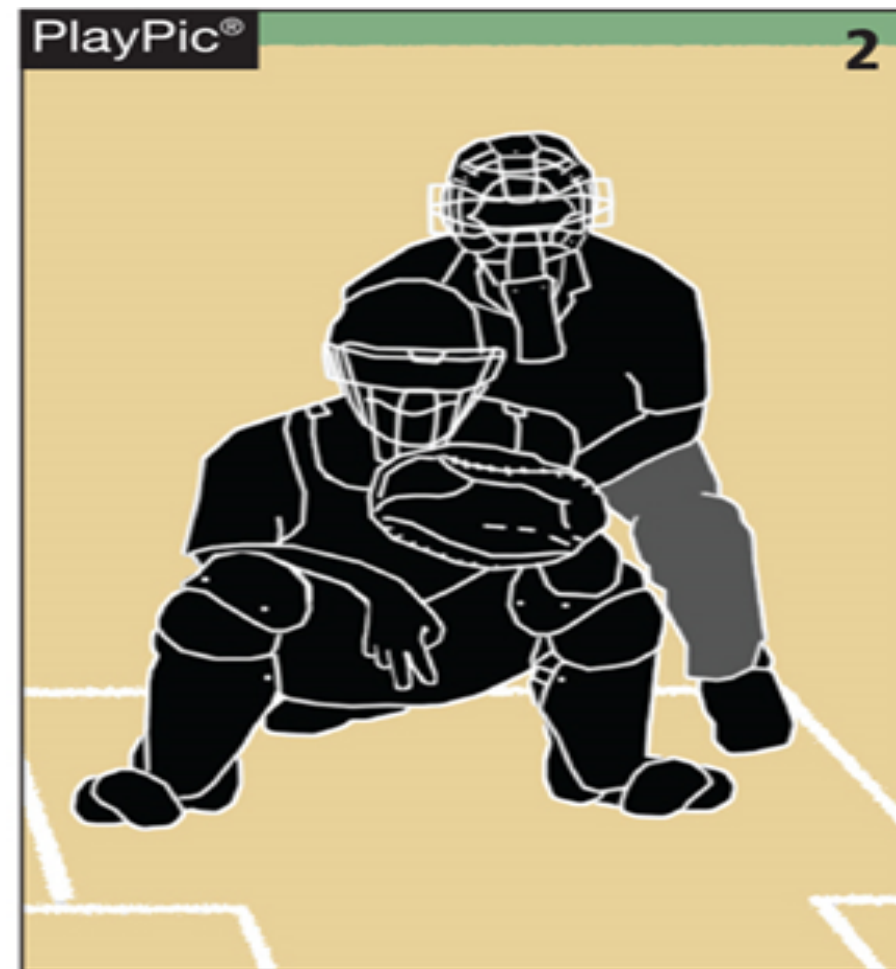
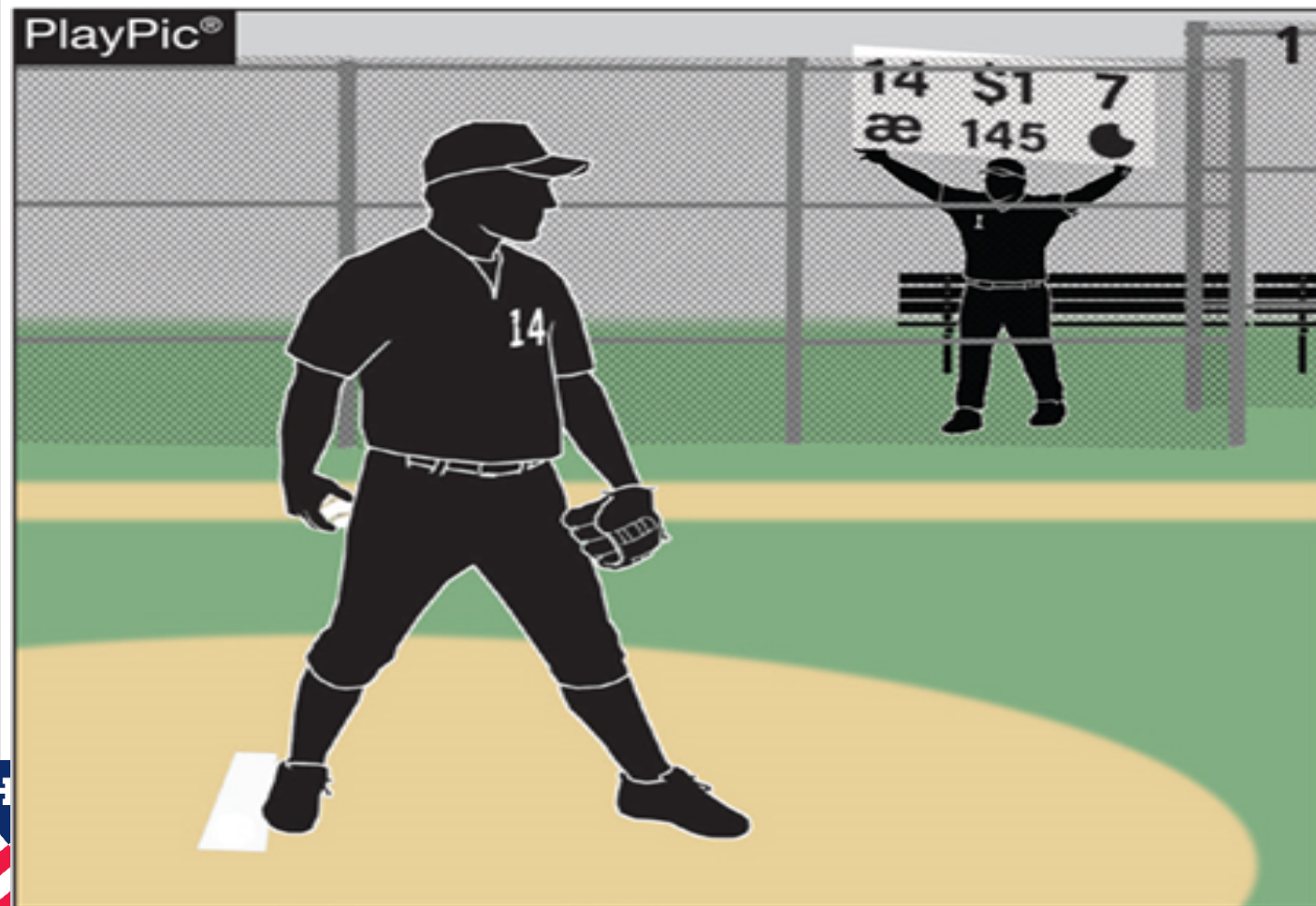


RULES CHANGES





RULE 6-1-1 PITCHING





RULE 6-1-1

ART. 1 . . . The pitcher shall pitch while facing the batter from either a windup position (Art.2) or set position (Art.3). The position of his feet determine whether he will pitch from the windup or the set position. He shall take or simulate taking his sign from the catcher with his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitching regulations begin when he intentionally contacts the pitcher's plate. Turning the shoulders after bringing the hands together during or after the stretch is a balk. He shall not make a quick-return pitch in an attempt to catch a batter off balance. The catcher shall have both feet in the catcher's box at the time of the pitch. If a pitcher is ambidextrous, the umpire shall require the pitcher to face a batter as either a left-handed or right-handed pitcher, but not both.





RULE 6-1-1

Rationale:

The pitcher acquiring the sign from the catcher is one of the fundamental rules of baseball. It not only signals the defensive team that action is about to be initiated, but it also establishes when an offensive base runner(s) can take a lead-off from his/her base. That simple act has evolved over the last decade but was not supported by an accompanying rule. **This change validates the pitcher taking the sign from the dugout/bench via “call” signs, numbers, colors, or an arm wristband/placard that contains printed cards where the defensive set up/pitching repertoire is located.** This aspect of the game has become more sophisticated to match the skill level and ability of today’s high school baseball player.





EXAMPLE 1 – THE PLAY

- While off the pitching plate, the pitcher looks into the dugout and receives a signal for the next pitch. The pitcher next legally steps on the pitching plate, looks at the catcher, and then delivers a legal pitch. The opposing coach insists that a balk should be called because the pitcher did not take his “sign” from the catcher.

What is the ruling?





EXAMPLE 1 – THE ANSWER

- There is NO balk.
- A pitcher is required, once on the pitching plate, to take or simulate taking his sign from the catcher.
- **Case Play 6.1.1 Situation K page 50**



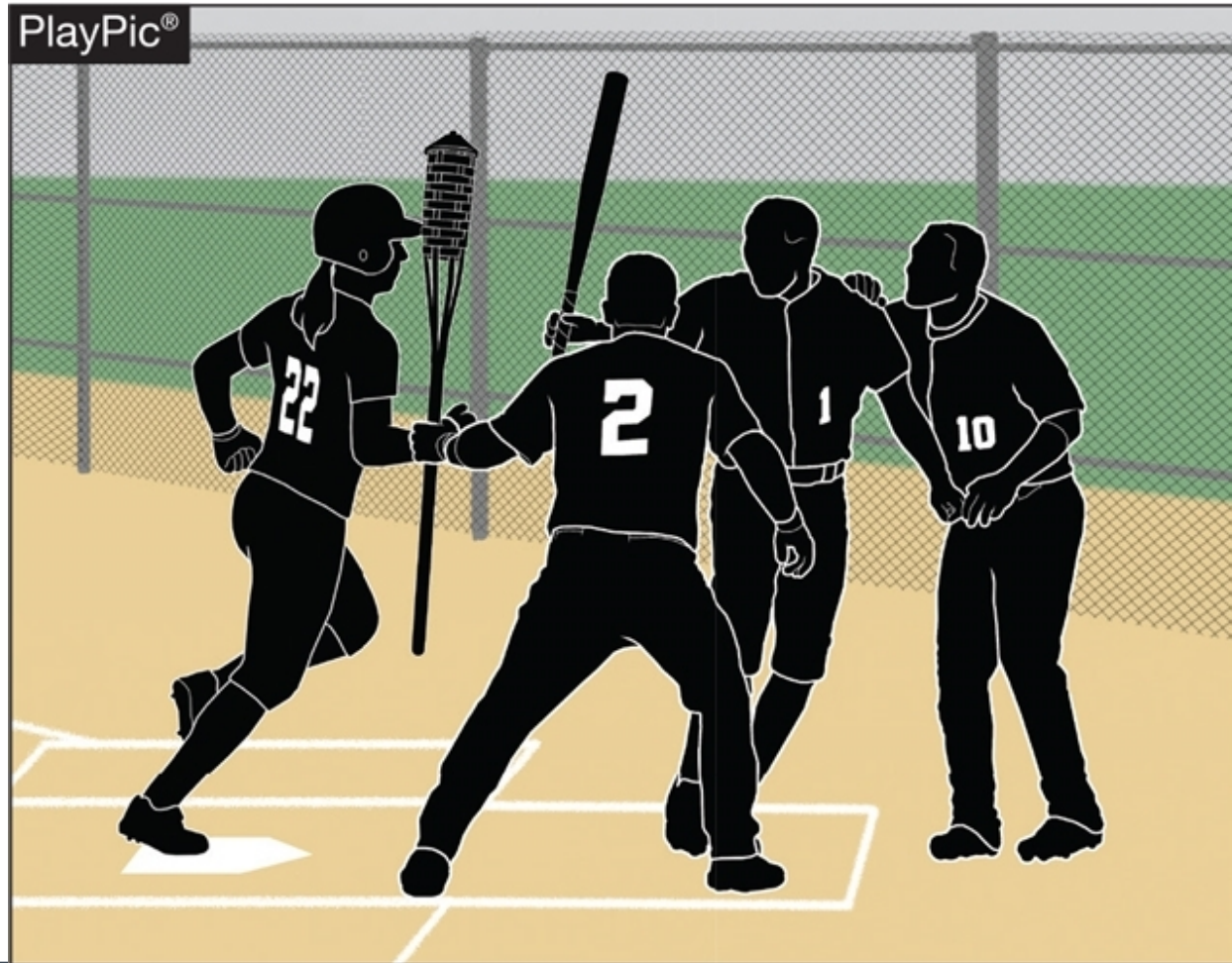


NFHS BASEBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS





EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION



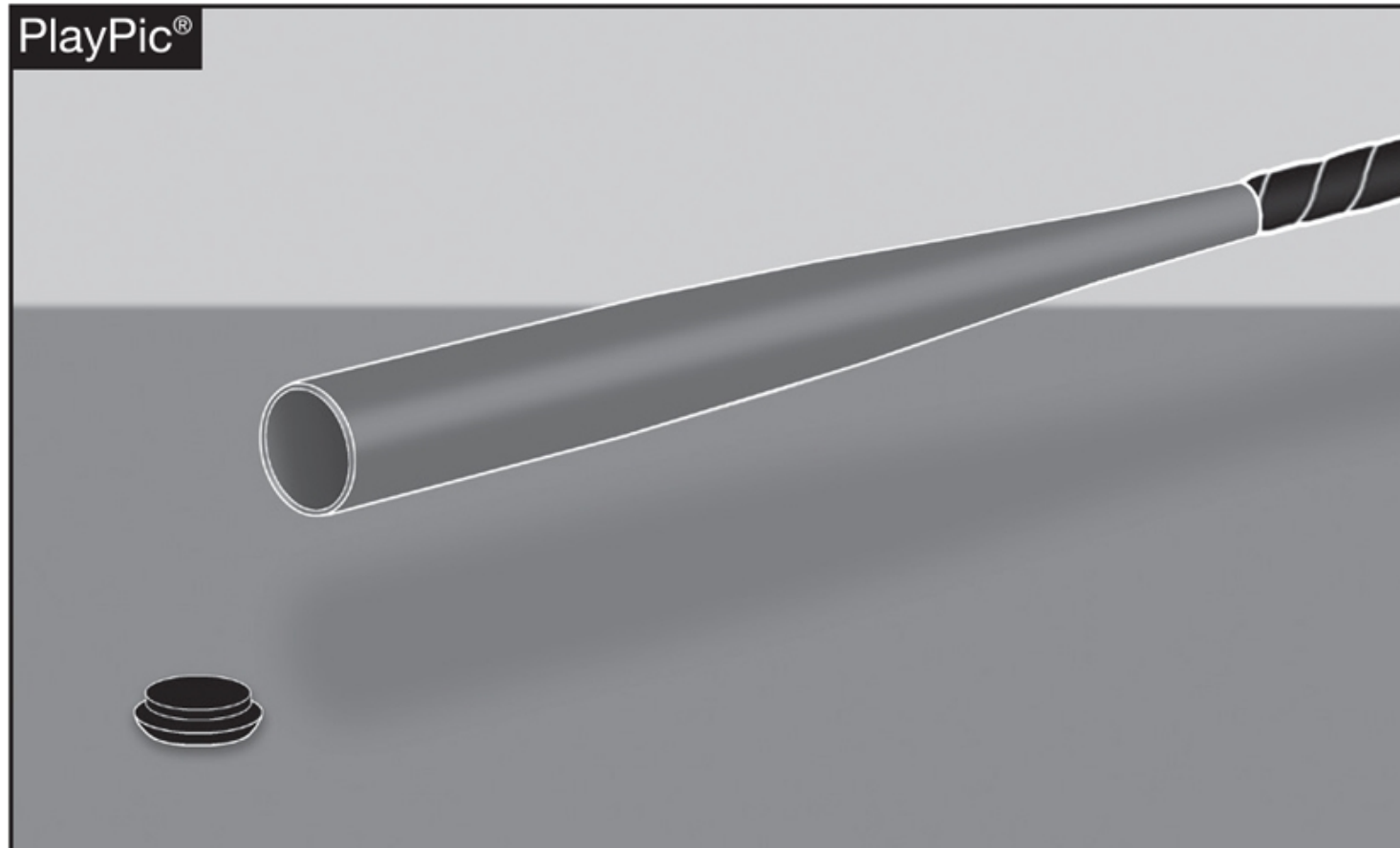
EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION

- The game has evolved from celebratory high-fives and cheers to choreographed celebrations that include props and players being assigned specific roles.
- If coaches are unable to manage the emotions of their players or the theatrics of celebration, then the game umpires have existing rules that provide warnings, possible restrictions and ultimately ejections from the contest.





PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT





PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT

- Equipment manufacturers spend millions of dollars to ensure that their products are held to high industry standards.
- Most products are tested as to how they are supposed to be worn or used.
- When someone alters that product, it violates the equipment's warranty and leaves the end-user uncertain that the product will perform...or protect the wearer from injury or harm.



PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT

- Bats, helmets, chest protectors and chin protectors should not be modified or used in a way that it was not designed by the manufacturer.
- Doing so violates the equipment's warrant and creates a product that may not perform as intended nor protect the user from injury or harm.





SITTING ON BUCKETS (COACHES)



SITTING ON BUCKETS (COACHES)

- Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel **shall not** leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose.
- Coaches or team personnel **may not** sit outside the dugout/bench on buckets or stools.

SITTING ON BUCKETS (COACHES)

- We have an obligation to protect and set a good example for the students we coach and care about; not to entice them to break the rules.
- High school sports have always been about teaching skill and work ethic while modeling appropriate behavior.
- Staying in the dugout/bench area is another example of showing our students the “right” way to do things.





LODGED BALL PROCEDURE





LODGED BALL PROCEDURE

- A baseball that remains on the playing field but has become wedged, stuck, lost, unreachable, is defined to be a lodged ball.
- If the ball impacts something, stops abruptly, and does not fall or roll immediately, it is considered lodged.
- **However**, if a ball becomes stuck in the webbing of a fielder's glove, it remains in play and the glove/ball combination is treated as a live ball.





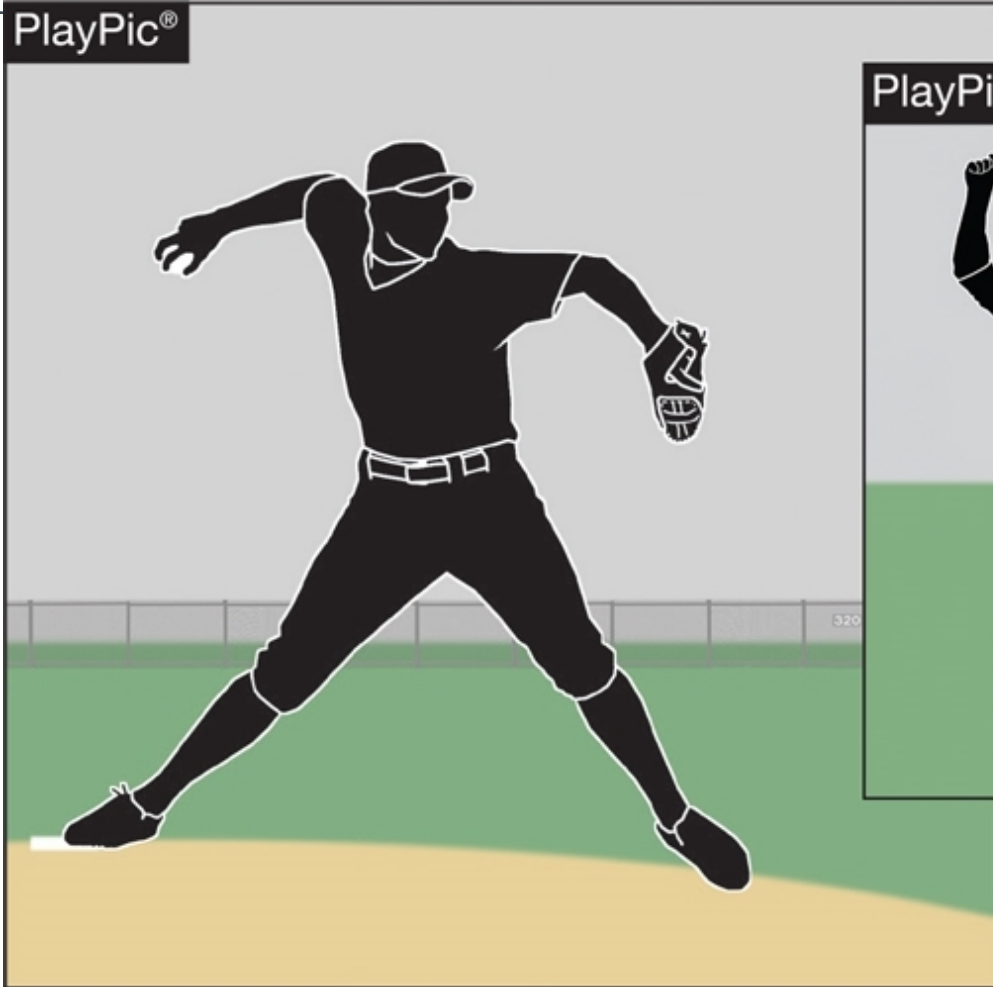
LODGED BALL PROCEDURE

- When a lodged ball situation occurs, there is always a lot of energy behind if the ball is truly lodged or is the defensive player practicing gamesmanship.
- We have seen at different levels that when a ball gets lodged in a glove, the quick-thinking fielder removes his glove and throws it to the respective base to register the force out.
- While it is an exciting play that takes skill and a little bit of luck to accomplish, we do not have that many lodged balls in high school baseball.





SPORTSMANSHIP





SPORTSMANSHIP

- Chants/intentional distractions/loud noises (natural or artificial) directed at the opponent's pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter preparing to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play is not good sportsmanship and **should not be accepted.**





SPORTSMANSHIP

- Players are not allowed to stand or kneel outside their dugout/bench and make “cat-calls” or any other disparaging remarks to the other team.
- Rooting for your team is an integral part of high school baseball.
- Supporting your teammates is extremely important and encouraged, however, making disparaging remarks toward your opponent is not part of the game, in fact it detracts from the contest.
- The purpose of interscholastic sports is educational.





RULES REMINDERS



NFHS RULES BOOK AS E-BOOKS



National Federation of State High School Associations

GET NFHS RULES ON YOUR MOBILE DEVICE

Have you been without your printed rules book and needed to find an obscure rule quickly, make a note or highlight a rule?

E-books Features:

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- Make Notes
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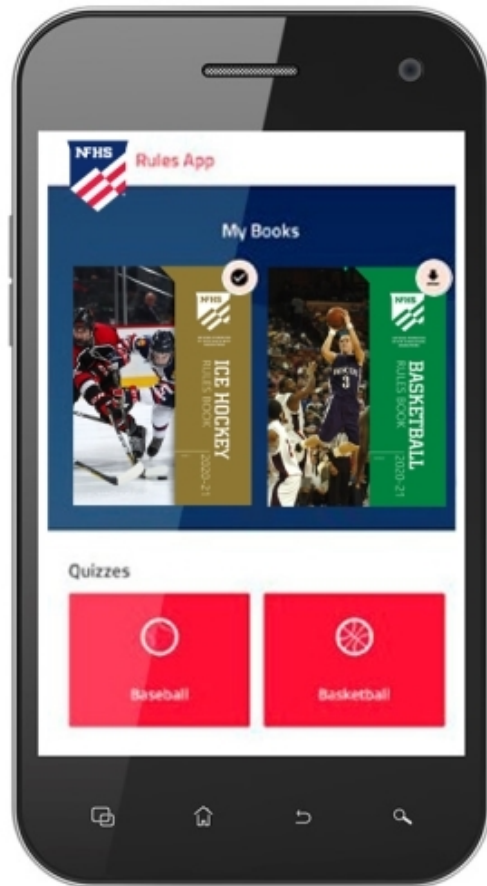
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- Rules App features:
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 - Easy navigation
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 - Free to paid members of the NFHS Coaches and Officials Associations
 - www.nfhs.org/erules for more information



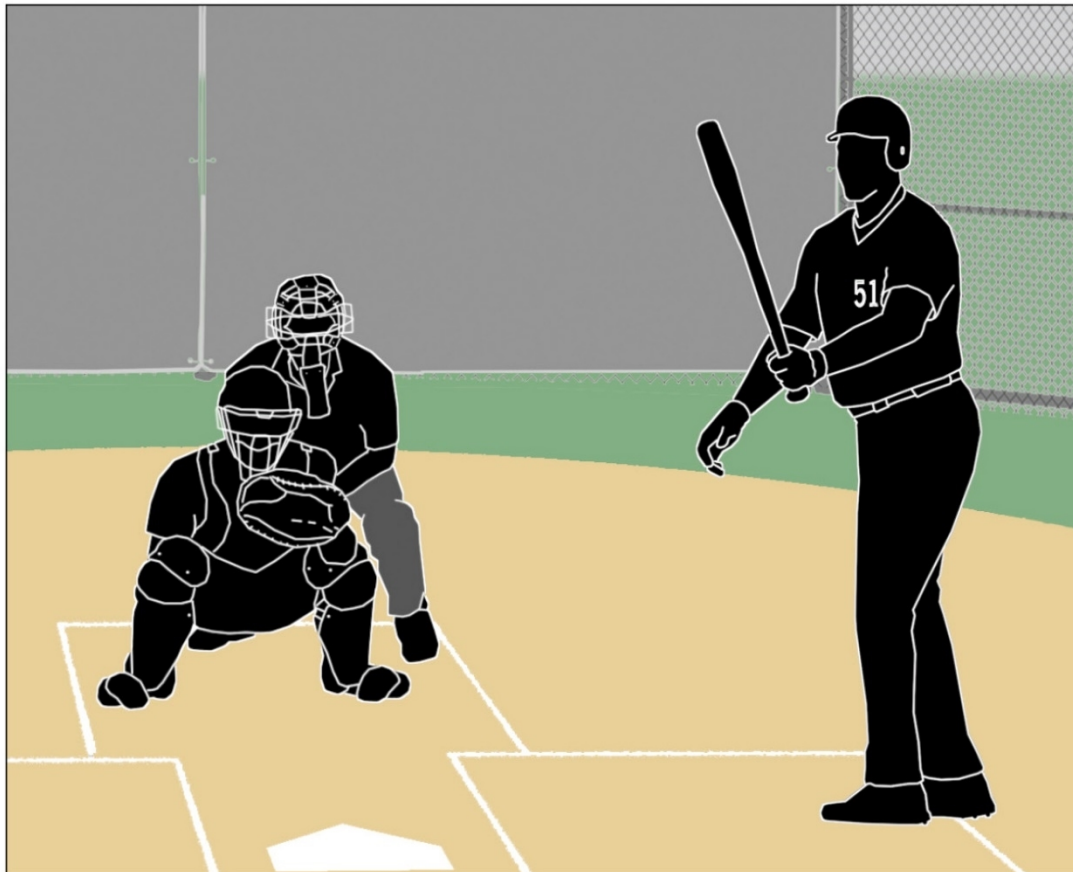


DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4a2

19	4	Daniels		8
		SUB.		
32	5	Edwards		DH 3
		SUB.		
17	6	Franklin		6
		SUB.		
24	7	George		2
		SUB.		
2	8	Hamilton		9
		SUB.		
19	9	Irwin		5
		SUB.		
6	10	Jackson		1
		SUB.		
				3
SUBSTITUTES				
NO.				POS.
11		Knutson		
28		Larson		
35		Matthewson		
1		Nelson		

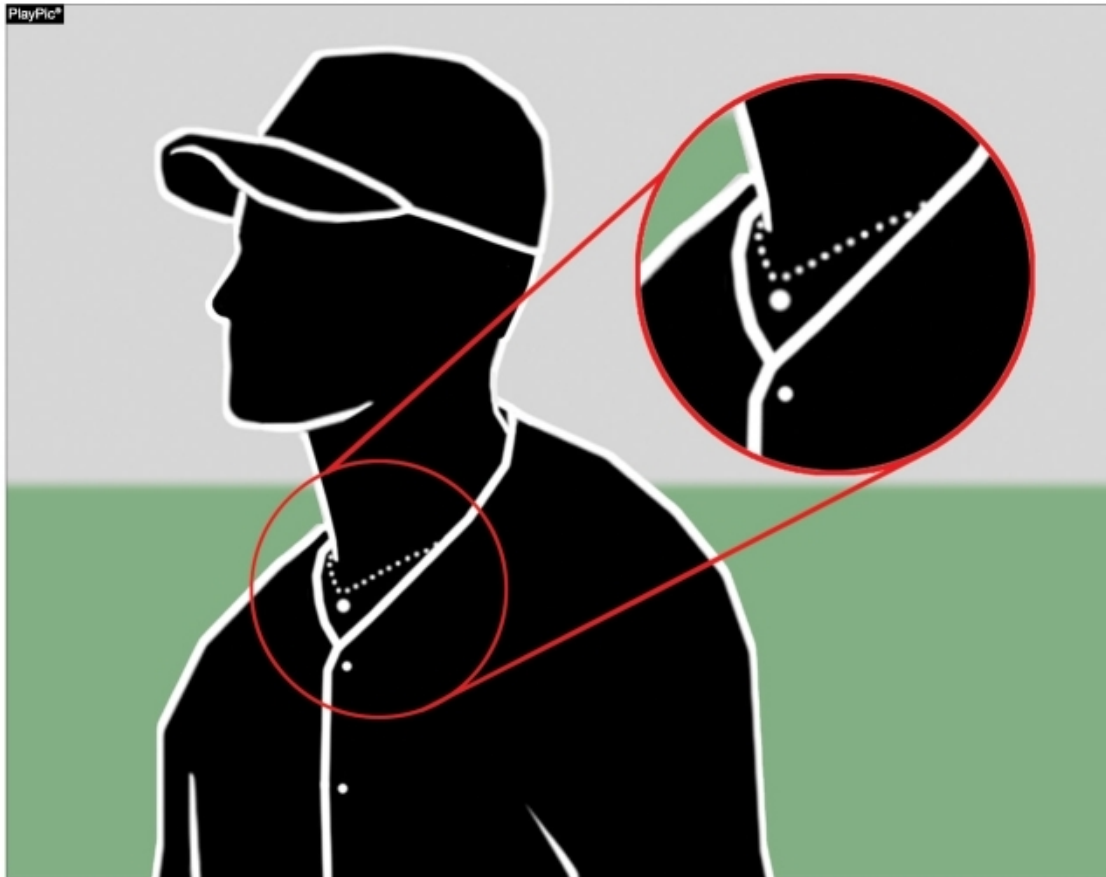
- The role of a standard DH is still terminated for the remainder of the game when the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position.

DESIGNATED HITTER RULE 3-1-4b-1



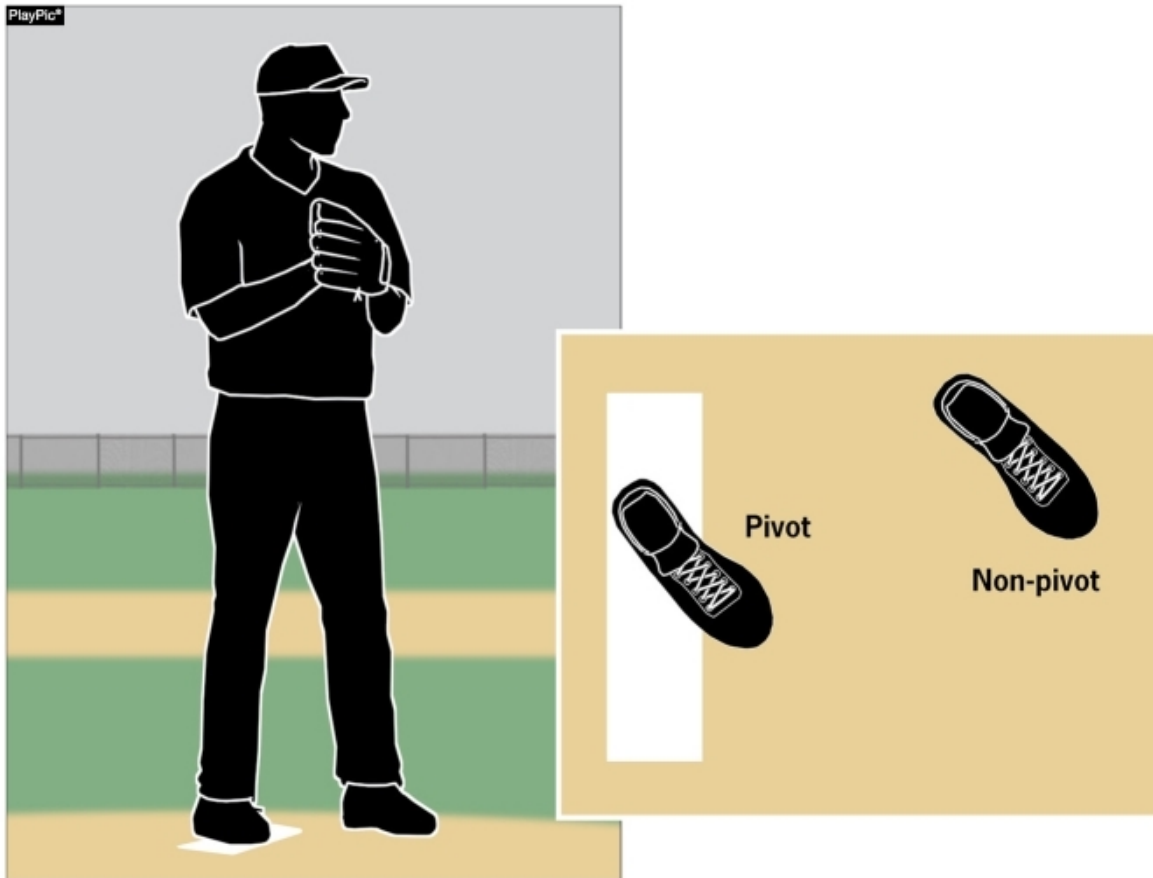
When using the Player/DH, the role of the DH is terminated for the remainder of the game when any player substitutes offensively for the DH.

ENFORCEMENT OF NFHS JEWELRY RULE



Jewelry, including necklaces, bracelets and earrings, shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

PROPER PITCHING POSITIONS



The so-called hybrid stance is still illegal as it does not meet the requirements of either the windup or set positions.

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SITUATIONS AND CASE PLAYS





SITUATION 1 – THE PLAY

With two outs and R2 on second, the batter strikes out, but the pitch gets by the catcher and is rolling toward the backstop. The catcher chases the ball down and stops it with his mask.

What is the ruling?

SITUATION 1 – THE ANSWER

- This is a delayed dead-ball situation.
- The batter and R2 are awarded 2 bases from the time of the infraction once playing action has ended.
- Casebook: **page 78 - 8.3.3 Situation L**

SITUATION 2 – THE PLAY

A pitch that is low and hard gets by the catcher and ends up in the backstop fence that is a short distance behind the plate. R2, on second base, sees the ball get by the catcher and attempts to advance to third base. The batter-runner attempts to advance to first base as the pitch was ball four. As the catcher goes to retrieve the ball, it falls from the fence where it was stuck and the catcher picks it up and throws to third in time to retire R2.

What is the ruling?

SITUATION 2 – THE ANSWER

- This is **lodged baseball**.
- Call time once the baseball became lodged.
- R2 is awarded 3B and the Batter-Runner is awarded 1B for the base on balls.
- 8-3-3d, 8-1-1c, 5-1-1g3

SITUATION 3 – THE PLAY

The batter-runner is called out on a very close play at first base. The assistant coach for the offensive team leaves the coaches box and immediately runs towards the Base Umpire to argue the call.

What is the ruling?

SITUATION 3 – THE ANSWER

- The assistant coach who left the coaching box and the head coach receive a written warning.
- Both are restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game.
- Casebook: **page 33 – 3.3.1 Situations V and X**

SITUATION 4 – THE PLAY

There are runners at 2B and 3B with 1 out. The batter hits a fly ball down the right field line which is caught by the RF. Both runners tag and advance. The defense appeals that both runners left too early. The umpires rule the runner at 3B tagged legally but that the runner at 2B left too early.

Does the run still count?

SITUATION 4 – THE ANSWER

- This is a TIME play.
- If the appeal is the third out, all runs scored by runners in advance of the appealed runner and scored ahead of the legal appeal would count.
- Casebook: **page 70 – 8.2.2 Situation B**



NY STATE ADOPTED RULES



NY STATE ADOPTED RULES – PAGE 65

- ~~1-2-9~~: We do not allow a double-first base.
- **1-4-4**: To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.
 - If a school/coach contacts you or your chapter about this, refer them to NYSPHSAA.
 - Let NYSPHSAA make the decision.



NY STATE ADOPTED RULES – PAGE 66

- **2-33-1:** Suggested speed-up rules. (Check with your league office).
- **4-2-2:** 10 run rule. Each section has the option to approve the rule and then each league has the option to approve the rule.
- **4-2-4:** Game-ending procedures may be determined.
- ~~**4-3-1:** Cross out! We do not have this rule.~~
- **4-4-1a:** State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.
- **4-5-1:** Protests are allowed in NY.
- **10-1-9:** Visit the NYSBUA website for our uniform code.



CONCUSSIONS – PAGE 72

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of a concussion.
- Suggested Concussion Management:
 - No athlete should return to play on the same day of a concussion.
 - Any athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional as soon as possible.
 - **RULE 3-1-5 (page 28):** “Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.”



BLOOD – PAGE 74

- Student-athlete who is:
 - bleeding, has an open wound, has any amount of blood on a uniform, or has blood on their body **shall be directed to leave the game** until:
 - the bleeding is stopped, the wound is covered, the uniform and/or body is appropriately cleaned, and/or the uniform is changed before returning to the game.
- Any blood exposure or bites to the skin that break the surface **must be reported** and immediately evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.

LIGHTNING OR THUNDER – PAGE 75

- When thunder is heard or lightning is seen:
 - Vacate the field **immediately**.
 - Once play has been suspended, wait **at least** 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed.
 - Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute suspension count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.



NFHS LEARNING CENTER





NFHS OFFICIALS EDUCATION SPORT-SPECIFIC COURSES

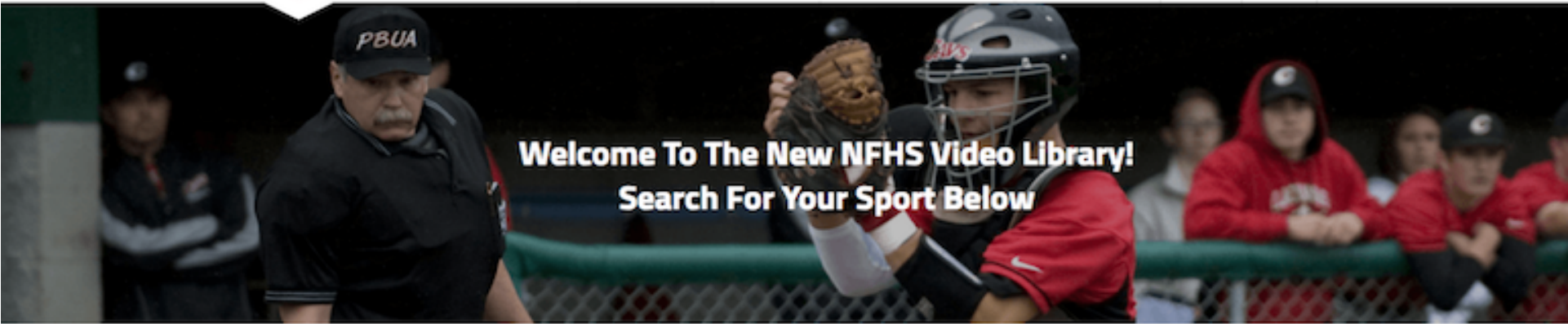
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▪ Future Courses

- **Officiating Baseball**
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Select Categories

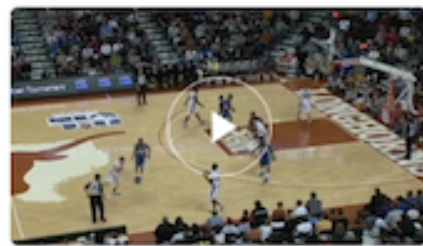
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3-Man Mechanics - Runners At ... Baseball



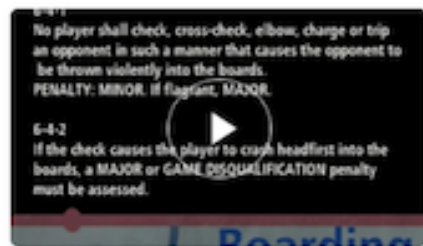
UIL Court Coverage - Trail Of... Basketball



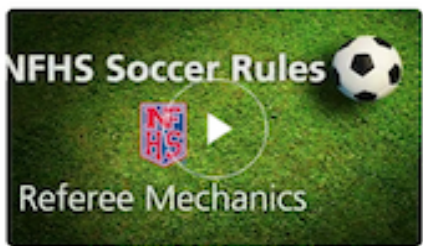
Final Run Out Before Start Cross Country



Football Mechanics: Coin Toss... Football



Ice Hockey Rules Concepts - B... Ice Hockey



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