

**March 31, 2025**

### **Early Observations**

#### **Bench Decorum**

Many of our programs are doing a great job leading students on the field. Realizing that the baseball field is an extension of the classroom. Many coaches have took it upon themselves to be good examples and uphold integrity within their program. They don't allow useless chatter that is against the other team, keep eye black looking professional, wear their uniform properly and communicate professionally with the umpires and other team. Good job to those coaches and programs. For those that are not...Why aren't you?

#### **Official Pitch Count Sheets**

Reminder that each host should retain the official pitch count sheets that are signed off by the coaches. You may have someone keeping track as you go or you may use the Game Changer count and then fill out the sheet. Either way, the sheet is important. There have been too many instances already this year where "technology" didn't work so we need to have the official sheets for reference.

### **Suspended Game**

It is severe weather season. Please be mindful of how we handle suspended games.

1. Must complete 5 innings for an official completed game. Obviously run rules could occur prior.
2. Schools will work together to find a common date to resume the game from point of interruption.
3. If the spread at interruption is such that both schools could both agree to make the game official giving one team the win and one with the loss.

When deciding if the game should be suspended, the conversation should be between the umpires and host administration.

### **Covering the Rules of Baseball**

**SITUATION:** The left fielder, tracking the high fly ball, goes into dead-ball territory with both feet. The left fielder leaps from dead-ball ground, catches the ball while in the air, and lands with both feet in live-ball territory. **RULING:** This is not a catch as the left fielder has not re-established himself in live ball territory before making the catch. The ball is dead, runners return and the batter goes back to bat with a strike added to the count. (2-9-1; 5-1-1i)

**SITUATION:** At the pregame conference, the home coach points to the field tarp sitting against a fence in foul ground and states that the tarp is dead-ball ground. F5 brushes against the tarp while catching a foul ball. **RULING:** This is a catch and the batter-runner is out. The ball stays in play as falling into dead-ball ground does not include merely running against or brushing such object. (2-9-1)

**SITUATION:** Bottom of the sixth inning and the coach brings in the starting left fielder, No. 12, to pitch. In the top of the seventh, the coach pinch hits for No. 12 and then, in the bottom of the seventh, wants to re-enter No. 12 in the game to pitch again. The opposing coach argues that, while No. 12 may re-enter defensively, No. 12 cannot re-enter as a pitcher since No. 12 was not the starter. **RULING:** No. 12 being a starter, may re-enter the game and No. 12 may do so as a pitcher. No. 12 was not replaced while No. 12's team was on defense nor due to excessive charged conferences. (3-1-2, 3-1-3)