

May 5, 2025

Umpires AND Coaches AND Players

We have got to think we are playing this game together rather than being against each other. Obviously, there is a winner and a loser but the mentality of some umpires, coaches and players that show up to the field with this “against mentality” has got to change. There are reports that umpires are warning coaches and players at the plate meeting about sportsmanship issues that haven’t even happened yet. How about, “I look forward to working with you today, coach. Let’s have a great game for the students.” As stated for the last three years of rules meetings, the tone the coach and umpire set during the plate meeting puts the game in the right direction. Umpires do not assume it is going to be a bad game. Coaches do not assume the umpire is out to get calls wrong for your team. Coaches, own your program. If your team is inappropriate towards the umpire or the other team, it is likely learned behavior. Baseball has got to get better.

Music at the Ballpark

What was thought just to be a softball concern – we will now address it for baseball. Only the host should be providing music. The visiting team shall not bring their own music at any time.

Seeding Dates

3A and 2-1A teams will seed their regional bracket on May 10th at 10:00 am. Any games played on May 9th will count towards regional seeding.

6A, 5A and 4A will seed on May 17th. Any games played on May 16th will count towards regional seeding. The top 16 make the bracket.

SITUATION: B1 hits (a) a fair ball, (b) a foul ball, (c) a foul tip while either foot or knee is touching the ground completely outside the lines of the batter's box or touches home plate. **RULING:** Illegal in (a), (b) and (c). The batter is out for making contact with the pitched ball while being out of the batter's box or touching home plate.

SITUATION: With R1 on first, B2 has two strikes. B2 swings at the next pitch, which touches B2. R1 steals second. **RULING:** B2 is out. The ball becomes dead and R1 must return to first.

SITUATION: With R1 on first base and R2 on second base, one out and two strikes on B4, R1 and R2 attempt a double steal. B4 swings and misses the pitch and interferes with F2's attempt to throw out either R1 or R2. **RULING:** If in the umpire's judgment F2 could have made a putout on the runner(s) but cannot determine where the play was going to be made because of the nature of the interference, the umpire will then call out the runner nearest home plate, which is R2.