NFHS Baseball Umpire Mechanics

Changes for 2013

1. When the base umpire has to go for help, he will make the call first and then go to his partner for help. This is now in the manual, (Page 6).

2. Any game business between coaches and umpires must take place on the field. (Page 8)

3. Umpires shall hold a pregame discussion with each other using a printed form. Conducting a pregame discussion from memory can lead to a breakdown of coverage. (Page 8)

4. Giving a count of two balls and or two strikes, use the index and middle fingers. If you must correct the score board do this by signals before the next pitch. (Page 12)

5. Base umpire shall use “Hands on Knees” set. This position indicates you are ready for the pitch and subsequent play, if any. (Page 25)

6. Make Safe (safe call may be repeated on a close play) or Out call, the less said the better. (Page 27)

7. At the end of the game, unless there is an appeal, get off the field together. Don’t linger, ignore all fan remarks. Stay together until you get to the locker room or your cars. (Page 28)

8. Awarding Bases: Plate umpires normally in best position to see where runner(s) were at the time of pitch or throw. Bases should be awarded, starting with the lead runner. (Page 31)

9. Protest: There are no protests in New Jersey. Please cross this out of your book. (Page 35)

10. There is no delayed dead ball signal. We do not give this signal anymore. However, we should still verbalize this when we see it. After play is over, call time, award bases. (Not on chart, page 36)
11. With a runner on second base and a clean base hit, the plate umpire stays at home plate. He should be ready to assist on a pulled foot or swipe tag if requested by the base umpire. (Page 41)

12. With a single runner at first base or with runners at first and third, the base umpire will be in the “B” position. With a runner at second base or runners at second and third, the base umpire is in the “C” position. Note: This position stays the same regardless of the number of outs. (Page 41)

13. If the base umpire goes out to rule on a play (catch/no catch, fair/foul etc.), he should rotate home only if the Batter-Runner attempts to score on the play. (Page 42)

14. Communicate with your partner using his name. Base umpire makes all calls on ground balls, except for plays at the plate. The plate umpires top priority is watching for the pulled foot and/or swipe tag. (Pages 46 & 47)

15. With a runner on second base only, on a fly ball to the outfield and the runner tagging up after the catch, the base umpire has the catch, the tag up and the play at third base. The plate umpire no longer covers the play at third base. (Page 49)

Note: High School Umpires shall not carry a stop watch on the field. (NJ)

Note: With a runner on second base and the infield in, the base umpire is in the Modified “B” position.

JD
PRE-GAME CONFERENCE

RULE CHANGES

PRE-GAME RESPONSIBILITIES
- Examination of field conditions
- Identification of potential safety problems
- Check for illegal or unsafe equipment

PRE-GAME MEETING WITH COACHES/CAPTAINS
- Exchanging lineup cards
- Check for D.H.
- Announcement of ground rules
- Verify that players are properly equipped

FIELD COVERAGE
- Fair or foul balls
- Ground balls
- Fly balls and line drives
- Double plays
- Observation of bases
- Obstruction/interference
- Sacrifice situations

GAME SITUATIONS
- Inclement weather
- Calling “timo”
- Foul tip/foul ball
- Infield fly rule
- Awarding bases
- Check swings
- Pickoffs
- Steal plays
- Tag plays
- Rundowns
- Balks

TEAMWORK ON DIFFICULT SITUATIONS
- Verbal communication on coverage situations
- Between innings
- Dealing with coaches/players
- Disqualifications
- Notification of school, chapter secretary, and NJSSAA
- When the plate umpire moves to third

Signed