

Class 1A & 2A District Baseball Assignments will be posted by Friday June 14.

Baseball has been off to a bit of a rocky start due to the weather. Some of you have played more games than others, but hopefully we can get this turned around and everyone can get back on the fields on a regular basis.

In this second baseball memo I've tried to highlight baseball concerns and questions from coaches and umpires that I feel are pertinent to all involved.

How to enter a game in QuikStats:

Scroll down on your schedule until to find a blank line. Select Home/Away/Neutral from the first dropdown box. Click on the next box and a calendar should appear to select the date. Type in the location of the game. Select your opponent from the dropdown menu on the right hand side of the page. Hit Save Schedule.

How to delete a game in QuikStats:

Click on the date and press delete when highlighted. Delete any manual typing boxes and select the blank option under opponent and Home/Away/Neutral.

Don't forget to enter your score on the member school link each night you play: If you received an email generated from our office, your score from the previous night has not been entered. This is a reminder email.

Ejections: To date we have had 10 players ejected (7 for malicious contact) and 9 of the 10 ejections were at the varsity level. We have had 4 coaches ejected and all have been at the varsity level. **Coaches please take some time each week to emphasize to your staff and players the importance of Good Sportsmanship and your expectations as a coach.**

Coaches and Umpires; Designated Hitter: The designated hitter rule has caused some confusion this year. **Use of the designated hitter must be selected prior to the start of the game and may be designated for any starting player.** If you are using a DH, you now have 10 players (starters) who have one reentry. If you elect **NOT** to use a DH you only have 9 players who are entitled to leave the game once and come back in the game in the same batting slot they started the game. If a Pinch hitter or pinch runner is used for the DH, that player becomes the DH. The original DH may reenter as the DH, under the reentry rule. The DH and the player for whom the DH is batting for, are locked into the batting order. The role of the DH is **terminated** for the remainder of the game if: The defensive player or any previous player for whom the DH batted for, subsequently bats, pinch hits, or pinch runs for the DH, the DH role is terminated. This does not take away the opportunity for the former DH to

reenter the game in the same slot he was originally in the line-up., because he was one of the original 10 starters and has one reentry.

The **second way** the DH role is terminated is if the DH or any previous DH assumes a defensive position, the role of the DH is terminated. Please understand, the DH and the player for whom the DH is batting for can never be moved to another position in the batting order and could never be in the batting lineup at the same time.

Play Example: DH Jones is batting in the third position in the batting order for right fielder Roger Barr.

DH Jones gets a base hit in the 5th inning and the offensive coach substitutes Roger Barr to run for Jones the player for whom the DH was batting for. The DH role is now terminated for the remainder of that game. In the 7th inning former DH Jones, pinch hits for Roger Barr (remember Jones still has one reentry and so does Roger Barr at this point), Jones gets a single and the coach wants to reenter Roger Barr to run for Jones, this would be legal and Jones is done playing for that game. Any further substitution for Roger Barr in the game would require Roger Barr to leave the game for the duration of that contest as well.

PITCHING LIMITATION RULE:

A. **Sixteen innings will be the maximum total number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a given week.** (For purpose of reference, Sunday through Saturday is a week.)

B. **A pitcher may not pitch more than a total of nine innings in any one day or on two consecutive calendar days.** The ninth inning must be followed by two calendar days of rest. A game started on one calendar day, but is not completed until the next day, and is not a suspended game is to be considered played on the original calendar date the game started.

C. If a pitcher pitches on any two consecutive days with the combined total greater than four innings, he will follow with two calendar days off for rest.

The penalty for violation of the pitching limitation rule will be forfeiture of the contest. The pitching limitation rule and the penalty for violation is a recommendation of your Baseball Coaches Advisory Committee.

Coaches, **it is your responsibility** for making certain that your pitchers are complying with the pitching limitation rule that follows. Obviously, umpires are aware of the rule in that the rule is outlined on your line-up cards, however, you are the responsible party to make certain that a young man does not violate the pitching limitation rule as it pertains to the number of innings he may pitch in a given week. Keep good records. Keeping good records of number of innings pitched is certainly the key to alleviate any difficulties with reference to violating the pitching limitation rule. It is not a difficult rule as outlined in a, b, c, and, of course, your line-up cards provide space for probable pitchers, uniform number, number of eligible innings remaining in the weeks, etc. Most of you have individuals who keep your book for you anyway so it would not be difficult to have your official scorer or yourself maintain those records as you move through the week as it pertains to the pitching limitation rule. There are a number of examples that follow and your review of those examples would be advantageous to your thorough knowledge of the pitching limitation rule.

In summary, the pitching limitation rule is nine innings on any given day, followed with two calendar days rest. If a pitcher pitches more than four innings, up to a maximum of nine innings, on any two consecutive calendar days, he will follow with two calendar days rest. The maximum number of innings a pitcher may pitch in a week is 16.

NOTE: As part of the pitching limitation rule, one pitch constitutes an inning having been pitched.

EXAMPLES:

a) A pitcher pitches nine innings on Monday. How many days rest are required? Two calendar days rest, meaning Tuesday and Wednesday; he may next pitch on Thursday.

b) A pitcher pitches four innings Monday. How many innings can he pitch on Tuesday? He may pitch the maximum of five innings on Tuesday followed by two calendar days rest, meaning Wednesday and Thursday. He may next pitch on Friday.

c) A pitcher pitches three innings Tuesday, two innings Wednesday. He must now follow with two calendar days rest (Thursday and Friday). He can next pitch on Saturday.

d) A pitcher pitches nine innings on Saturday. He must now follow with two calendar days rest (Sunday and Monday). He can next pitch on Tuesday.

e) A pitcher pitches seven innings on Tuesday. When can he pitch again? He can pitch on Wednesday for the maximum of two innings. He must then follow with two calendar days rest, meaning Thursday and Friday. He may next pitch on Saturday.

f) A pitcher pitches two innings Thursday and five innings on Friday. He will now follow with two calendar days of rest (Saturday and Sunday). He can next pitch on Monday. Remember, pitching in any combination of innings greater than four innings up to the maximum of nine innings on any two consecutive days will result in two calendar days rest; OR pitching the maximum of nine innings in any one day requires two calendar days rest.

g) A pitcher pitches two innings Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Legal: He has pitched 12 of his allowable 16 innings for that week.

h) A pitcher pitches one inning Tuesday and eight innings Wednesday. Legal, and he will follow with two calendar days of rest, meaning Thursday and Friday. He can next pitch on Saturday.

i) A pitcher pitches eight innings on Monday; does not pitch on Tuesday, however, does pitch on Wednesday. How many can he pitch on Wednesday? He can pitch the maximum of eight innings on Wednesday because those eight innings, added to the eight innings he pitched Monday, give him his maximum of 16 innings for the week. Had he only pitched seven innings on Monday, he could have pitched the maximum nine innings on Wednesday and reached his maximum 16 for the week.

j) A pitcher pitches six innings Wednesday; does not pitch Thursday, but does pitch on Friday. How many can he pitch on Friday? Maximum of nine innings, which would give him a total of 15 innings for the week.

k) A game begins Tuesday, July 25, at 10:45 p.m. and is completed at 12:35 a.m. the following morning. The starting pitcher pitches: (a) 7 innings; (b) 9 innings. Under the IHSAA pitching rule, the game would be considered played July 25th, even though the game did not end until early the following morning. In (a) the pitcher would be able to pitch 2 innings on Wednesday, those 2 innings combined with the 7 innings pitched on Tuesday make 9 innings pitched on two consecutive days. The pitcher would now have to take two consecutive calendar days off - Thursday and Friday. He may pitch again on Saturday. In (b), the pitcher would have to take two consecutive calendar days off, meaning Wednesday and Thursday. He could pitch Friday. This is all providing he does not exceed 16 innings in a week and stays within the prescribed guidelines (Sunday through Saturday).

l) Example: If a pitcher pitches 7 innings on Friday and 2 innings on Saturday, the pitcher must follow with two calendar days of rest, meaning Sunday and Monday. He may next pitch on Tuesday. The confusion with a few coaches was that Saturday ended the week by reference, and with that in mind the coach thought this individual could pitch again on Monday. The rule is for the safety of the individual and when two calendar days of rest are required, the pitcher is unable to pitch again until day three when category B of the pitching rule applies.

Weather for the most part has not been kind to baseball and staying on schedule this spring. We know a number of games have been started and the rain or lightning have kept us from finishing the game(s). Please keep our suspended game rule in mind when weather causes us issues and reference the suspended game material below. Please also understand when lightning or thunder is seen or heard the game should be stopped immediately for 30 minutes. If no thunder or lightning is heard or seen, the game may resume if conditions permit. If lightning or thunder is heard during the 30 minute delay the 30 minute count starts over. Lightning kills, play it safe!

IMPORTANT!

**** SUSPENDED GAMES****

A. If a game is called prior to the completion of a full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game in the following situation. "The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead."

B. A game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) where a winner cannot be determined, will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension with:

- Lineup and batting order the same as at the moment of suspension subject to rules of game.
- If team, while on defense, has been charged two conferences, it is allowed only one more charged conference when suspended game is continued.
- Pitcher is restricted as per pitcher limitation rule.
- If a player entered as a substitute and has been removed from the game, he cannot re-enter when the game is continued - - even though played on two different days.
- All playing regulations apply as if the game was continuous and being played during the day.

EXAMPLES:

1. End of the 6th inning, Home – 6, Visitors – 4. Visitor scores three runs in the top of the 7th inning, to take the lead 7-6, when rain comes. **RULING:** Suspended game rather than reverting back to the last completed inning.

2. End of the 5th inning, Home – 7, Visitors – 2. Visitor scores four runs in the top of the 6th inning to make the score 7-6, bases loaded, when rain comes. **RULING:** Score reverts back to the 5th inning, Home – 7, Visitors – 2.

3. Game is called (ended) in the 3rd inning due to rain, darkness, lighting or a combination of any.

RULING: It shall be continued from that point to a later time agreed upon by both schools involved.

4. Game is called (ended) in the top of the 7th inning due to a malfunction of lights or the watering system with the score, Home – 5, Visitors – 2. The visitors score two runs in the top of the 7th inning to make the score, Home – 5, Visitors – 4, prior to calling the game. **RULING:** Revert back to the 6th inning, Home – 5, Visitors – 2.

5. It's in the middle of the 5th inning, Home – 6, Visitors – 4, when rain causes for a called game.

RULING: Completed game. Home team wins. The required number of innings have been played to meet completed game requirement.

Coaches: We need your help in making sure when the game is in progress all coaches and players are in their prescribed places. Coaches or players when on defense need to be in the dugout, not standing or walking out in front of the dugout when the game is in progress. Just please understand you are the umpires liability due to the fact if you are struck by a ball, the umpire is liable, because by rule you are not to be outside the dugout while the game is in progress. **Also understand, no coaches are to be in bullpens that are inside the confines of the field when the game is in progress. We appreciate your cooperation, the rule is for your safety.**

Coaches: I know safe bases have been a part of Iowa High School baseball for quite some time. Occasionally the orange bases need a little attention once in a while just like the other bases, home plates and pitchers rubbers. I've noticed a number of these needing some paint or replacement. Please make sure you address these bases and take the proper steps to have them look the part so they are visible to coaches, participants as well as umpires. **THANK YOU!**

Items A Coach Can Have In The Coaches Box:

Stopwatch, hard copy of the NFHS Baseball Rules Book, hard copy of a scorebook, cellular phone (on silent in pocket for emergencies only).

Fake Tag: A fake tag is an act by a defensive player without the ball that simulates a tag. A fake tag is considered obstruction.

Case Book play 8.3.2 Situation B: While (a) B1 is moving toward second base on a hit to right-center field, F6, who does not have the ball in his possession, fakes a tag on B1 or (b) B1 is

returning to first base , and F3, who does not have the ball, fakes a tag on B1. **RULING:** In both cases it is ruled obstruction, and B1 is awarded second base or if, in the umpires judgment, the runner could have advanced farther had obstruction not occurred, the umpire could award additional bases.

Fielder Intentionally Drops Ball: Case Book Play 8.4.1 Situation F:

With R1 on first and no outs, B2 bunts the ball in the air and it is intentionally dropped by F5.

RULING: The ball becomes dead immediately and B2 is declared out. R1 remains at first.

Best in Baseball,
Roger Barr