



2023-2024 SEASON BASEBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

This document is intended to provide both coaches and umpires with the most up-to-date information on a variety of topics. This is not meant to cover all questions or concerns that the MHSAA baseball community might have, but it should clear up several topics for the start of the season. As always, please feel free to contact me anytime (best by email – brad@mhsaa.com) for any further questions or concerns.

BASEBALLS

A NOCSAE certification is required to be stamped on all baseballs used in MHSAA games. This stamp certifies that the ball has met certain safety standards and must be on the baseball used for competitions. The Rawlings approved baseball must be used for all state tournament games. Host sites are provided with baseballs by Rawlings for the state tournament.

LINEUPS AND WEATHER

If the game is suspended (postponed) after lineups have been exchanged at the plate meeting, but before a pitch is thrown, teams may use a new lineup when the game is ultimately started without any substitutions. Once a pitch has been thrown, the lineups are locked into place. For state tournament games, the results of the coin toss conducted remain in place.

PITCHER STEPPING TO A BASE

The only base that the rule book requires a pitcher to throw to when they step toward is first base. This means that the pitcher has met all his requirements by simply stepping to second or third base. The pitcher may though, throw to a defensive player in his position.

PLAY WRISTBANDS

Rules now clarify that these must be worn on the wrist/forearm. A pitcher can wear this on their non-throwing arm. It must be a solid color (not white or grey) and must not be distracting. Wristbands can NOT be worn on the belt.