



MHSAA BASEBALL PRESEASON POINTS OF EMPHASIS

2022-23 Season

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.

Score Reporting-

The baseball committee is investigating the use of Michigan Power Ranking to potentially seed the district tournament in the future. This could become a proposal to the Representative Council in the future. To have good data, the MHSAA and MHSBCA are asking that all schools input their schedule on the MHSAA website and keep scores updated on this site.

Sportsmanship-

Cheering and celebrating is always permitted. However, excessive celebrations and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be permitted. Excessive celebrations include, but are not limited to:

- Choreographed celebrations
- Use of props, either on the field or in the dugout
- Chants that are intended to ridicule or taunt the opponent.

Intentional distractions, loud noises, or chants directed at opponents are prohibited. The umpire should address these. *Warnings, restrictions to the dugout and ejections are all appropriate penalties for all these types of actions, depending on the severity and/or repeated use.*

Positions During Play-

No one is permitted outside the dugout area and on the field of play during a live ball. Coaches may not have any part of their body on the field, even if using a stool or bucket on the edge of the dugout.

Strike Zone Enforcement-

Umpires should have a “strike-first” mentality. Strikes, by rule, should be called a strike. A pitch is a strike until it is proven to be a ball.



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Pitcher Taking Signs-

When a pitcher receives signs directly from the dugout or a pitch card on his person, he must simulate taking signs from the catcher before beginning his delivery. This means the pitcher engages the rubber, “looks into” the plate area, and delays before starting his delivery.

Pitcher Wristbands-

NFHS rules do not permit pitchers to wear any item on their arms that may be distracting. To maintain consistency, players will NOT be permitted to wear any wristbands on their arms while pitching. They can wear a wristband style band on their belts.

Hit By Pitch Rules-

A batter that is hit by a pitch should be awarded first base unless he deliberately makes a movement to be hit by the pitch or he holds still in order to allow the pitch to hit him. Batters can not always be expected to move their feet and will, at times, “freeze” when a pitch is thrown at them.

On-Field Disputes-

Assistant coaches are not permitted to come on the field or leave their position to dispute a call. An assistant coach will be immediately restricted to the dugout and will be ejected if he continues. Head coaches wishing to discuss a call may do so by calmly approaching the nearest foul line. Umpires are not obligated to continually meet with the head coach who is out of control or repeatedly disputing calls.

Pitch Count Reporting-

Coaches have two options to report pitch counts. They can use the Pitch Count Record Form or the GameChanger website/app. It is very important that this is done. Please see the [pitch count tracking and recording protocol](#).