

# CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF APPROVED BASEBALL UMPIRES

2020

## NFHS Rules Changes and Points of Emphasis

### Rule Changes

**Rule 1-3-1....*The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture. The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required (Effective January 1, 2020) on all balls used in high school competition.***

**Rule 1-5-3....*The catcher shall wear(a)...a body/chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard(Effective January 1, 2020) at the time of manufacture... the SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all body/chest protectors that will be used in high school competition.***

**Rule 3-1-4.... Modified the role of the defensive player and the designated hitter.**

### Points of Emphasis

- **Game Ending Procedures**
- **Player/Designated Hitter Rule**
- **Proper Pitching positions**
- **Force Play Slide Rule**
- **Enforcement of NFHS Jewelry**
- **Compliance of Player's Equipment**

### CSBABU Point(s) of Emphasis for the 2020 Baseball Season

The following CSBABU point(s) of emphasis are intended to clarify the language and expectation(s) of the manner in which the umpire(s) will apply NFHS Rules 1-3-1 & 1-5-3 during the 2020 NFHS/CIAC Scholastic Baseball Season. These Rules and Interpretations will apply to ALL CIAC; Varsity; Junior Varsity and Freshman contests that occur from the beginning of the first scheduled (or unscheduled) game of the regular season; through and including the final game of the CIAC State Tournament. These Rules and Interpretations will also apply to ALL scrimmage games that are played during that same time period.

*\*RULE 1-3-1...The ball shall meet the current NOCSAE (SEI) standard for baseballs at the time of manufacture and is required on balls that will be used in high school competition. The NFHS Authenticating Mark is required on all balls that will be used in high school competition.*

*\*RULE 1-5-3...The catcher shall wear...a body chest protector that meets the NOCSA/ (SEI) standard at the time of manufacture that will be used in high school competition.*

*\*Please Note: In lieu of an NFHS NOCSAE/ (SEI) certified chest protector (and as per NFHS Interpretation); a catcher may wear a “Protective Chest Guard & Shirt” under their jersey that meets the NOCSAE/ (SEI) standard for Commotio Cordis. (EvoShield or similar)*

\*Prior to the beginning of each game the Head Coach of each team will verify that their team is “Legally and Properly Equipped”. If the Head Coach is unwilling and/or unable to comply with the statement of verification; the game will NOT be allowed to start.

- If a Head Coach informs the Umpire-In-Chief that there are NOT enough (minimum of three) NOCSAE/ (SEI) certified baseballs to start and/or continue the game; the Umpire-In-Chief will STOP the contest until enough NOCSAE (SEI) certified baseballs are available (from either team.)
- If a Head Coach informs the Umpire-In-Chief that a catcher (actively involved in the game) is NOT in compliance with the NFHS NOCSAE/(SEI) body chest protector rule; the Umpire-In-Chief will STOP the contest until such time as that the catcher is compliant with the RULE.
- If an UMPIRE “discovers” that a catcher is NOT in compliance with the NFHS NOCSAE/ (SEI) chest protector rule; the game will be STOPPED until such time as that catcher is compliant with the RULE.

\*Please Note: Any contest that is STOPPED (and that cannot be continued) due to a shortage of “certified “baseballs and/or a catcher who is NOT compliant in regard to a “certified” body chest protector; shall remain STOPPED and the outcome of such a game will be determined by the CIAC. As to whether a game is subsequently declared “NO GAME”; A “SUSPENDED GAME” and/or; where a “WINNER” can/can not be determined is solely the responsibility of the CIAC. Under no circumstances should an umpire make this determination at the game site.

\*Please note: Before leaving the field, the Umpire-In-Chief should ensure that both the home and visitor scorebook agree regarding the point at which play was stopped. This should include; (at a minimum), the inning, number of outs, batter at bat, pitchers, runners on base and score. And; both teams (in addition to the Umpire-in-chief) should also retain their line-up cards. \*Please Note: Umpires are NOT responsible for “pitch counts”. The “pitch counts” (by CIAC rule) must be exchanged; verified; confirmed and recorded through the CIAC “Pitch Count Site” by both Head Coaches.

## 2020 CIAC Points of Emphasis

- Proper lining of Fields:
  1. Fields need to be legally lined prior to the start of each game. This includes: foul lines (before and after 1<sup>st</sup>& 3<sup>rd</sup> base; batter's boxes; catcher's box; 3 ft. running lane (45 ft.) and all out of play lines.
  2. If a field is not lined properly, the game will proceed (without protest) and the local umpire's board will report the issue to the CIAC.
- Use of Line-up cards:
  1. Line-up cards are required for games at all levels of play; V, JV, Freshman. The game will not be started until the UIC receives a fully completed line-up cards from both teams.
  2. Line-up cards will be submitted to the UIC; in triplicate PRIOR TO the first pitch of each game.
- Baseballs: During the regular season; baseballs shall have (January 1, 2020) the NOCSAE/SEI certified stamp. The Official CIAC Tournament Baseball is the-Spalding TF – NOCSAE/SEI certified stamp.
- Catcher's Body Chest Protector: Shall meet the current (January 1, 2020) NOCSAE standards.
- Batter's Helmets: Must meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-1 and display the NOCSAE stamp. This includes facemasks/guards attached after manufacture approved by the manufacturer and meet NACSAE standards at the time of manufacture.
- Ejections: All ejections need to be verified and recorded (following a meeting of the umpiring crew) and include the participant's; name, number and reason for ejection. In addition; the offending team must be notified of the ejection before the umpires leave the confines of the field. No ejection(s) may occur once the umpires leave the field but any incident that might occur later shall be reported to the CIAC through the assigning Board. An Ejection may be "modified"