

# SRI Bulletin # 1 Feb 2019

## Pre season notes:

UMPIRES!!! Are you getting prepared? The 2019 season is less than a month away. Registration has been open for a while, have you gotten the process started? Let's look at a few preseason reminders and rules changes in this first bulletin of the upcoming season.

- **Nfhs** Rule change targets pitchers pivot foot.....

The National Federation Rules Committee approved a modification of rules concerning the pitchers pivot foot. Please review the new rule, and how to enforce non-compliance.

From the set position it will no longer be an illegal pitch or (a balk with runners on base) if the entire foot is not in contact with the pitching plate. 6-1-3

The condition of many pitching mounds makes it problematic many times for a pitcher to have his entire foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. Its clear that no advantage is gained by a pitcher who has some of his pivot foot not in contact with the pitching plate.

- **HELMETS**

Helmets must meet the provisions or Rule 1-5-2. We are seeing the "Cheek protector" product made popular in the MLB and they may be attached, requiring they meet NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture, and approved for attachment to their helmet.

- **POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

Please review the points of emphasis the are in the 2019 OBUM update in your registration packet.

Bench Decorum/ Bench jockeying.... Behavior of bench personnel continues to be an issue in high school baseball. Ignoring unacceptable behavior is to be dealt with immediately.

National Anthem Protocol. ... Regardless of personal feelings, It is important umpires display proper respect for the flag. Please review the "Stand off" directive concerning warnings and penalty.

Obstruction ... The state committee is asking umpires to be more diligent about calling obstruction this year, particularly at home plate. Catchers are not allowed to block access to the plate without clearly having possession of the ball. Association trainers please make this a topic in 2019 training.

Weather.... Umpires above all, are ask to focus on student athlete safety at all times. Review and understand the thunder and lightning rules, darkness, lighting, ect... that relate to playing conditions that potentially continuing play are unsafe. Use common sense and err on the side of safety.

- **ROTATION SIGNALS**

The NFHS implemented a new umpire signal for rotating. Please review page 57 of the OBUM for proper signal. We ask Umpires to use the signal we have used for several years.

- **PRE- SEASON PREPARATION**

Uniform and gear need to be gone through before the day of your first assignment. Cold weather gear needs to be looked over, spring ball in Oregon is really “winter ball” for a big part of the season. Being uncomfortable on the diamond can take away from focus and enjoyment of the contest. Layer up. Dress for the conditions.

Pre- season conditioning is vital, especially the plate umpire. Strengthening your core muscles is in an umpire’s best interest. Practicing your plate stance to alleviate early season soreness.

- **CONCUSSION**

We have all taken a shot to the mask or head area that “rung our bell”... This is serious. We have concentrated on student concussion protocol heavily in the last few years. What about the game officials? Being tough and sticking it out is not a healthy option. Partners must be diligent in assisting each other and recognizing the possible symptoms exhibited by our partners after a blow to the head. Getting in a rush to get back in behind the catcher and continue the game can be dangerous. **Take your time and make sure you can continue without symptoms associated with getting hit, or possibly being concussed.** Other symptoms can show up hours later, even days after the injury. If you have had a concussion, your brain needs time to heal. Take time to recover. Get it checked out if you have any doubts, the sooner the better.

- **CLOSING**

LET’S GET READY. Baseball is almost here again. Get mentally prepared, and a willingness to learn every game will make the game better for everyone involved. Are you ready?

See you at the yard!

Tad Cockerill

Baseball SRI