

MIAA Baseball Rules with 2017 rule changes

SSUA

March 29, 2017

MIAA Baseball Rules

- MLB rules are used with the following MIAA modifications:
- Leagues may amend a rule, provided such an amendment is not a substantive change to MIAA rules. However, leagues may wish to change such things as the type of ball, free substitutions, or similar acts to speed the game. Your assignor should provide additional details.
- All players must wear batting helmets of the full protection type, including double ear flaps and visor, while at bat, or while coaching the bases.
- Catcher **MUST** wear full crown protective helmet. Applies to warm-ups as well.
- Jewelry may not be worn by baseball players during practice or games.

MIAA Baseball Rules

- Adult coaches *may* coach at first and third bases.
 - Adult coaches/managers may serve as base coaches as long as they are in coordinating and matching school colors with those of their uniformed players. Full uniforms are recommended.
 - An adult coach approved by the school's administration must remain on the team bench at all times.
 - On-field adult base coaches will be required to wear a protective helmet. The adult protective helmet can be a hard liner shell that fits inside the baseball cap (skull cap), a one flap, two flaps or no flap batting helmet.
 - Rule 5.03 Comment – in box or behind box until ball is in play.
- BBCOR Bats
 - **Penalty for using an illegal bat:** “A batter is out if he enters the batter's box with an illegal bat or is discovered having used an illegal bat. If the infraction is discovered before the next pitch following the turn at bat of the player who used an illegal bat, the defense may take the penalty or the result of the play.
- A designated hitter can be used for any player.

MIAA Baseball Rules

- The NFHS re-entry rule – MIAA Tournament Rule.
 - Only the 10 players listed on starting line-up are eligible to re-enter. Re-entry is allowed only once.
 - DH and position player being DH'd for are locked to that spot in the batting order.
 - Re-entry for DH allowed as long as DH position has not been terminated.
 - DH is terminated when the position player being DH'd for goes in on offense (hit or run).
Note they can only go in for the DH at the time and they must remain in the DH batting slot.
 - DH is terminated when DH goes in on defense.
 - Once the DH position is terminated, the original player being DH'd for may re-enter (only into the original slot occupied by DH).
 - Any time the pitcher is removed from game on offense (pinch hit, pinch run) they may go back and pitch provided they do so before anyone else on the team becomes the pitcher. KNOW YOUR UNANNOUNCED SUBSTITUTES RULES. 5.10 (j). They may re-enter to play any other defensive position at any time.

PENALTY FOR AN ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTE

- If there is an illegal substitute/player on offense or defense NFHS RULE 3 SECTION 1 ARTICLE 1 shall apply:
- If on offense (illegal batter, pinch runner) and discovered by a coach or an umpire before the next pitch to the FOLLOWING batter of either team: The "illegal player" is declared out, all base running advances nullified (return to bases) and the defense gets to keep any outs recorded during the play. The "illegal player" is removed and restricted to the bench.
- If there is an illegal substitute/player on defense and discovered by a coach or an umpire before the next pitch to the FOLLOWING batter of either team: the offensive team may elect to take the result of the play or have the batter bat again. The "illegal player" is removed and restricted to the bench.
- If a "restricted player" should happen to reenter the game illegally, the above penalties would apply including "ejection" from the game.
- If the question of an "illegal player" occurs during a game ending play, it must be discovered before all infielders, including the pitcher, leave fair territory (cross the foul lines).

MIAA Baseball Rules

- Coaches are responsible to present to the umpire and opposing coach at the home plate pre-game meeting a line-up card to include the starting line-up and eligible players with their number – (Tournament Rule)
- Ground rules will cover how “catch and carry” will be handled. If coaches disagree, the MLB rule will be used.
- Failure to declare a DH prior to the game precludes the use of the DH in that game.
- The NCAA Force-Play-Slide Rule and NCAA Collision Rule (bases only) will be in effect. The MLB Collision Rule will be in effect for home plate only.
- A regulation game shall be declared, if a team is leading by 15 or more runs after 5 complete innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead).

MIAA Baseball Rules

- The “Strike Two” Rule
 - A baseball umpire at any time will voice "strike one" when a warning for inappropriate comment or actions is warranted, and that "strike one" will be recorded in the scorebook. Upon the need for a "strike two" call, an ejection of the coach would occur. Exception: In the case of a flagrant unsportsmanlike infraction and/or physical assault an immediate ejection will occur.

2017 Rule changes

- Intentional walk – no pitches required.
 - Must be requested by head coach.
 - Must wait until batter reaches box - MIAA
 - Call “Time”
 - With “Time” Nothing can happen (stolen bases)
 - Intervening play circumstances. Appeals are no longer available.
- Can happen anytime during the “at bat”.
- Still can throw 4 balls to intentionally walk the hitter.
- New pitcher – intentional walk counts as facing batter

Intentional Walk protocol

- The umpire must wait until the batter has assumed his position in the batter's box before "acknowledging" the manager's request to Intentionally Walk him (by simply awarding him first base, "Time" is granted the moment the umpire "acknowledges" the manager's request).
- This protocol will insure (1) that the batter he intended to walk is, in fact, the actual batter and has not been replaced by a pinch hitter or a player reentering the game (2) that he has adequate time to consider his options, such as a visit to the mound and/or changing pitchers and (3) in the event the immediate preceding play may involve some type of appeal, he still has time to make the appeal before choosing to walk the batter (as once the decision to walk the batter has been "acknowledged" by the umpire, the team loses its right to appeal (the walking of the batter is considered a play).
- If the manager is premature in his request, the umpire should politely ask him to wait until the above criteria have been met before indicating and/or informing the umpire of his final intentions (as it is for his benefit that he waits until the proper time).

"Price Delivery" Rule Interpretation

- Price is not being asked to alter his mechanics, but because of the umpires' concerns about being properly able to identify whether he is working from a full windup or a set position, he will need to declare one way or the other. There are different rules in place for pitchers according to whether they are working from a full windup or from a set position. The rule -- which could be called the Price Rule -- is detailed in this way: If a pitcher takes the rubber and his back foot is parallel to the mound and his other foot is in front, it is assumed he is in the set position and he will stop. This does not matter with no runners on or runners on first and second. But when there is a runner on third, pitchers need to inform the umpires if they are going to stand that way and not stop -- i.e., pitch out of the full windup.

A prohibition on the use of any markers on the field that could create a tangible reference system for fielders.

- This rule appears to be a direct response to something the Los Angeles Dodgers were caught doing in 2016. When they played the New York Mets at Citi Field in May, Ken Rosenthal of Fox Sports reported that the Dodgers used an electronic laser rangefinder to mark defensive positions in the outfield. It was done before the game, and the Dodgers asked the Mets' grounds crew if they could leave markers. When the grounds crew eventually said no, the Dodgers said that their outfielders would cleat up the grass in that area if the markers were removed to indicate their positions. And that's exactly what this new rule is prohibiting. Teams can still use electronics to help with positioning before the game, but teams are no longer allowed to leave any marks of any kind on the field to help players stand where they're supposed to. - Yahoo Sports

Carter Capps rule

- An addition to Rule 5.07 stipulates that a pitcher may not take a second step toward home plate with either foot or otherwise reset his pivot foot in his delivery of the pitch. If there is at least one runner on base, such an action will be called a balk under Rule 6.02(a). If the bases are unoccupied, then it will be considered an illegal pitch under Rule 6.02(b). This adaptation would appear to be a response to Padres reliever Carter Capps' unusual and controversial hop-step delivery.