

Carolina's Umpire Association

Local Annual Meeting-February 8,
2026

CAROLINAS UMPIRE



ASSOCIATION

Carolina's Umpire Association

- Supervisor of Officials
 - Gary Swanson
 - (980) 621-1003
 - gary_swanson@hotmail.com
- Associate Supervisor of Officials/Treasurer
 - Frank DiCesare
 - (980) 581-7069
 - fjdicesare@hotmail.com

Mailing Address:

Carolina Umpires Inc
PO Box 185
Mount Pleasant, NC 28124

Board of Directors

- Jim Pendola-President
- Jay Kobylarz-Vice President & Grievance Chair
- Ismael Carrasquillo-Secretary
- Sean Weiner-Rules Interpreter
- Britton Kennerly-Training
- Chuck Henson-Training
- Roger Boyington-Communications
- Director-Michael Grande
- Director-James (Jim) Warfield

CAROLINAS UMPIRE



ASSOCIATION

Committees

- **Grievance Committee**

- Jay Kobylarz-Chair
- Sean Weiner
- Justin Wallace
- Terrell Martin

Evaluation Committee (2 man)

- Jim Pendola
- Terry Adams
- Eddie Holland

Evaluation Committee (4 Man)

- Chuck Henson
- Dalton James
- Britt Kennerly

Awards



- **Dick Knox Meritorious Service Award**
- **Jeter McKinley Award**
- **Jamie Carothers and Barry Lentz Memorial Award**



2026 Important Dates

- NFHS Rules Test January 20th – April 17th
 - CUA Booking fee (\$80) January 24th
 - Scrimmages February 16th – February 23rd
 - Regular Season February 25th – May 2nd
 - Playoffs (Rounds 1-4) May 5th – May 15th
 - Regional Championships May 19th – 23rd
 - State Championships May 27th – May 30th
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2026 Game Fees

• Public School Varsity/JV	\$82/\$71	
• Playoffs-Rounds 1-2 (incl conference tournaments)	\$88	
• Rounds-Rounds 3-5	\$99	
• State Finals	\$104	
• Private School Varsity/JV	\$95/\$90	
• Kingsman Academy	\$164	
• Playoffs	\$105	
• State Finals	\$110	
• Middle School		
• CMS (2 man/solo)	\$80/\$120	
• Union County (2 man/solo)	\$90/\$125	
• Cabarrus County	\$87.50	
• Charlotte Private (2 man/solo)	\$90/\$130	
• UNCC Club (9 inn/7 inn DH)	\$130/\$250	
• Suspended/Cancelled Games		
Notified after arrival at the game site (no earlier than 1 hr.)		\$ ½ fee
Game delayed > 1 hour or suspended after start		\$ full fee



Game Time Limits-Varsity/JV

- Varsity-No time limits. NCHSAA mercy, NFHS extra inning, and game ending rules apply. (rule 4-2-1 through 4-2-4)
 - Mercy rule is 10 runs after 4-1/2 or 5 innings. NCHSAA-4.2.1 (j).
 - May be ended by mutual agreement of the coaches.
 - Umpires **WILL NOT** initiate this.
 - Junior Varsity
 - No new inning will start after 2 hours-NCHSAA-4.2.1 (k).
 - A game may end by mutual agreement (rule 4-2-4)
 - Stand alone JV games (including Easter Week Tournament games) do not have a time limit
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Game Time Limits- Middle School

- Cabarrus County-No time limit
- Charlotte Mecklenburg-2 hours, finish the at bat
- Union County-2:15 hours, finish the inning (a new inning cannot start after 2:05)
- Private Schools-2:00 hours, (cannot start a new inning after 1:50)

Mercy Rules still apply and are different for each County.

Game Acceptance

- Maintain your blocks current on DragonFly.
- Games will start to be assigned February 8th.
- Assigned games need to be accepted ASAP. No later than 72 hours of the assignment being published.
- If a game is assigned and cannot be accepted, call (text message or email is not acceptable) Gary (not Frank or Jim) before declining the assignment.
 - If an assigned start time conflicts with your ability to accept the game, call Gary. Do not decline it. The game time can be adjusted.
- Umpires will not change assigned positions with out permission from the Supervisor.

Game Payments

- All games will be paid via DragonFly for the 2026 season.
- If you have not been paid for a game and it is beyond two weeks, contact Gary. You will then contact the AD via email and cc Gary.
- CMS pays on a two-week schedule. Payment are made on the 15th and 30th of each month.

Media Policy

- Umpires shall refer all inquiries from any media (radio, television, internet or print) to the Supervisor.
- No Umpire may not alter this policy without prior authorization from the Supervisor.
- Umpires shall not post anything regarding any assignment on ANY social media website. This includes the teams, coaches, players, fans, game management or any details involved with the assignment.
- Violation may result in disciplinary action, at the discretion of the Supervisor, up to suspension or termination.
- “SILENCE CAN NEVER BE MISQUOTED” -Calvin Coolidge

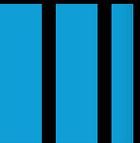
Pre-game Communication

- The plate umpire will be the crew chief on all assignments unless otherwise specified by the Supervisor of Officials. The crew chief shall be responsible for contacting all members of the crew.
 - Confirm parking location, vehicle model/color and shirt color.
 - Park away from the field and the spectators.
 - It is preferable to make this contact on Sunday the week before the games.
 - If you are unable to contact your crew members within 36 hours of the scheduled assignment, you must contact the Supervisor of Officials office.
 - Any crew member who has not been contacted by his crew chief within 36 hours of the assignment date must contact the Supervisor of Officials.
- All Umpires should arrive at the game site 1 hour (sub-varsity minimum of 30 mins) prior to the scheduled start time
 - If any umpire is delayed, they should call their crew member to let them know of their delay and tell them their expected arrival time. If a member of your crew has not arrived, or contacted you, at your game site within 30 minutes of the scheduled game time you must contact the Supervisor of Officials



Supervisor's Points of Emphasis- My Expectations

- You have new yearly goals.
 - You know NC and NFHS rules.
 - You follow NC and NFHS manuals and mechanics.
 - To represent our association with character, passion, teamwork, professionalism, enthusiasm, hustle and game management.
 - I expect communication by phone from each of you about anything that might warrant a phone call, text or email to me.
 - If you have an issue at a game, call Gary. If he doesn't answer, leave a message and call Frank.
 - I don't want to be blindsided.
 - If something happens...call me.
 - If I call you, call me back.
 - Be honest.
 - Again, allow me to be able to support you.
 - I expect communication between partners 48 hours before a game.
 - I expect you to be engaged every pitch, every inning, 7 innings every game that you work.
 - I expect for you to have fun and enjoy being part of the best umpire association in the state of North Carolina.
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Supervisor's Points of Emphasis- What You Can Expect From Me

- I will support you to the fullest extent possible.
 - Don't put me in a situation where I can't support you.
 - I don't want any surprises.
 - I will hold you accountable to your duties as a CUA umpires.
 - I will always be honest with you.
 - If you truly don't want to know the answer to something...then don't ask.
 - I will counsel you with regards to an ejection/DQ.
 - I or the state will NOT overturn either.
 - If you reach out to me by phone, which is always my preference, I will get back with you as soon as I can.
 - If you call me and I do not answer, leave a message.
 - If I see a need for improvement, I will share with you and then work with you on an improvement plan.
 - I will be out on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays this spring observing games.
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Supervisor's Points of Emphasis

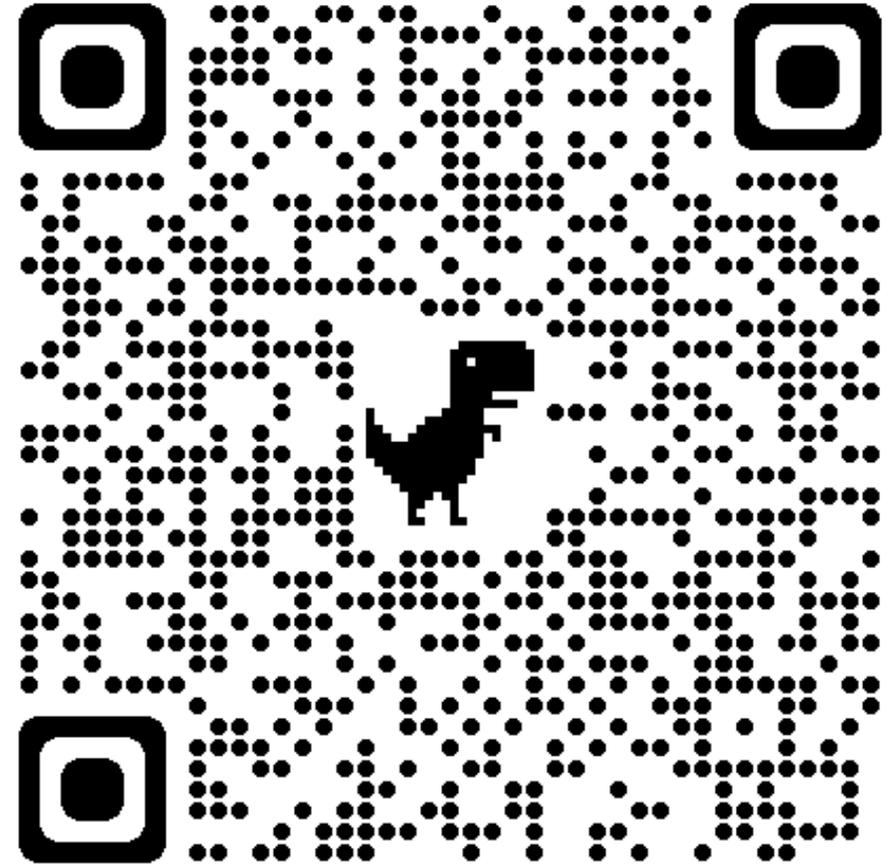
- Team Reach-Check Team Reach daily. This is going to be very important to communicate with the entire association.



TeamReach®

Emergency Form

- Umpires shall complete and have in their possession, the CUA Emergency Healthcare Information Form at every game.
 - Available on the website or the QR code.
 - The location of this should be a topic covered in the pre-game conference.
 - If an umpire is unable to finish the game for health reasons, call Gary immediately after the game.



NCHSAA Hats

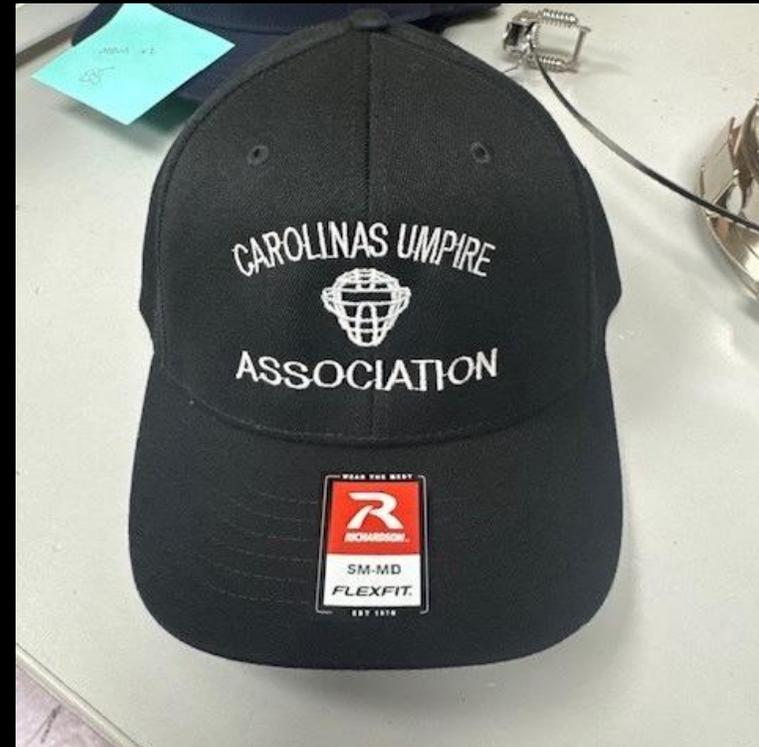
- The current NCHSAA logo hat is **mandatory** for all CUA assigned games.
- Prior versions are not permitted.
- The only approved color is black.
- The supplier is [LB Officials Apparel](#)
- Chuck Markland 336-995-7540

LB OFFICIALS
APPAREL



CUA Items

- CUA has partnered with Purchase Officials to offer logo apparel.
- The website is <https://purchaseofficials.com/collections/casual-wear>
- The CUA logo is being uploaded to the website. In the meantime, if you wish to order call-Andy Glenn (865) 924-6398.
- CUA hats are allowed for UNCC Club, MS Games and private school games. Both partners need to match.



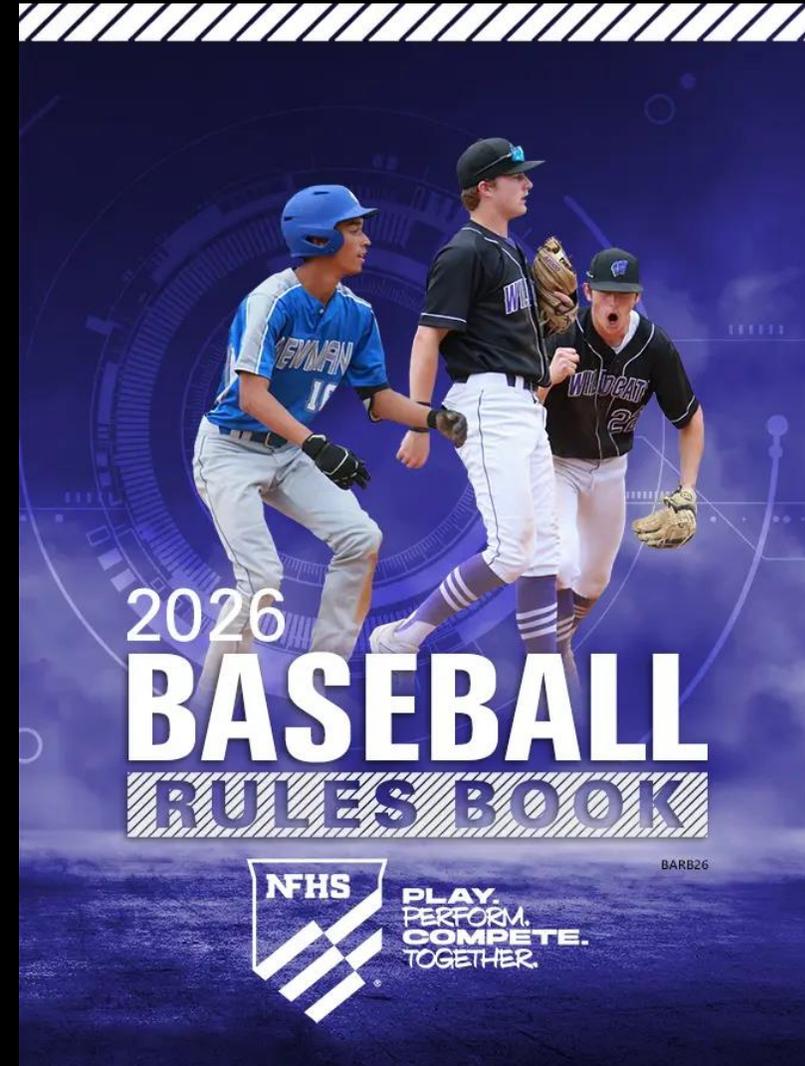
Private School Insurance

- Required to be eligible to umpire private high school games.
- \$20 for the school year covers all sports.
- It is a 2-part process:
 1. Register
 2. Payment
- Links are on the [website](#)



Game Day

- Umpires are required to have a current rule book and a case book at the game site.
 - Rule books should be available but, not brought on to the field.
- Rule books and case books are available online by downloading the NFHS AllAccess app for your mobile device



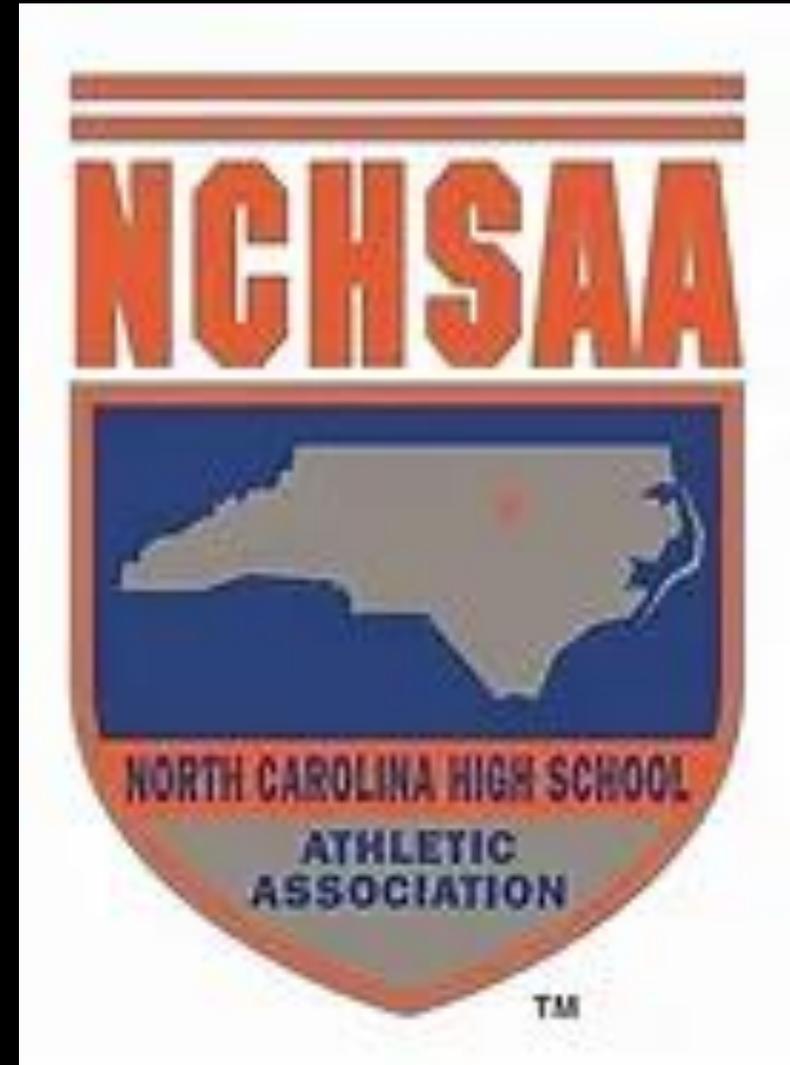
NFHS Rules Test

- The test is accessed through your DragonFly Assignments page.
- Available on January 20th
- Must be completed by February 5th to be assigned.
- Allowed 3 attempts to pass
- Must have a score >75 to umpire varsity, >65 to umpire junior varsity, <65 middle school.



NCHSAA Rules Clinic

- This online presentation fulfills the requirement to attend a rules clinic.
- Available starting January 20th
- Complete by Feb 5th
- This is required to be eligible to be assigned
- The course is accessed through your DragonFly Assignments page.



Complete all requirements by Feb 5th

- Scrimmages will be assigned starting on Feb 1st. **You cannot be assigned if you have not completed ALL the requirements.**
- This includes:
 - State Registration
 - Demographic Info
 - Sport confirmation
 - NCHSAA Questions
 - Background Check
 - NCHSAA Fee & insurance
 - State Rules Clinic
 - Concussion Test (due every 2 years)
 - NFHS Rules Test
 - Local Meeting
 - CUA Booking Fee

Registration Status for Roger at NCHSAA | North Carolina High School Athletic Association : 2025- 26

100% Completed

My Information

Complete your Registration

Playoff Eligibility

- To be eligible to be assigned playoffs contests, the following requirements must be met:
 1. Be in good standing with the NCHSAA and CUA
 2. State clinic completion
 3. NFHS rules test score >80%
 4. Local and annual business meeting attendance*
 5. Attendance at 6 clinics*
 6. Scrimmage attendance-minimum of 3 scrimmages*
 7. Umpire a minimum of 10 regular season games

* Alternative requirements may be substituted per the discretion of the Supervisor of Officials.



NCHSAA Playoff Assignments

- First Round-May 5th
 - Second Round-May 8th
 - Third Round-May 12th
 - Fourth Round-May 15th
 - Regionals-May 19th-23rd
 - State Championship-May 27th -30th
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- Third and higher rounds will be 4-umpire crews.

NCHSAA Baseball Playoff Assignments

<u>BASEBALL -- 3RD ROUND</u>	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
CAROLINAS	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<u>BASEBALL -- 4TH ROUND</u>	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
CAROLINAS	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<u>BASEBALL -- STATE CHAMPIONSHIP</u>	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
CAROLINAS		1	1	1	1		1	1	1

Thunder & Lightning

Discuss the potential of disruptive weather conditions occurring during the contest at the pre-game umpire conference.

Umpires will **NOT** remain on the field or in the bench/dugout area during the weather-related delay.

IF THE UMPIRE IN CHIEF IS NOTIFIED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL (HEAD COACH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OR TRAINING STAFF) THAT THERE IS A LIGHTNING OR THUNDER CONCERN, STOP THE CONTEST AND CLEAR THE FIELD IMMEDIATELY.

IN THE ABSENCE OF DIRECTION FROM SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, THIS DECISION BECOMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UMPIRE IN CHIEF.

Criteria for suspension and resumption of play (NFHS Appendix E, NCHSAA 2.3.10):

- (1) When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
- (2) (2) 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
- (3) (3) Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
- (4) (4) When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning detection device.

*At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty

NFHS Rule Change- Double First Base

- This rule is **not** being adopted in North Carolina for the 2026 season.
- If a team has a double first base, they will need to replace it with a single base before the game is played.
- It will be required for the 2027 season.



NFHS Rule Change- Player Equipment

- NFHS 1-6-3
- Players cannot wear any type of recording or transmitting audio or video device during the game.



NFHS Rule Change- Player Meeting

- NFHS 2-10-3, 3-4-6
- One player to player meeting allowed per inning while on defense.
- The umpires shall deny any subsequent requests. There is no penalty.



NFHS Point of Emphasis- Discipline

- NFHS 3-3-1 thru 4 and 10-2-3
- Any unsportsmanlike conduct, arguing or disrespect to directed toward umpires will result in disciplinary action, which may include:
 - Warnings,
 - Restriction
 - Ejection



NFHS Point of Emphasis- Bench Jockeying

- Players are to cheer for and support their own team.
- Bench Jockeying:
 - Negative verbal comments
 - Taunting/Baiting
 - Attempts to distract, intimidate or embarrass an opponent or an official
- “Nip it in the bud”-B. Fife
- The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his team.
 - Warn
 - Restrict
 - Disqualify/Eject



NFHS Point of Emphasis- Celebratory Props

Celebratory props are not allowed inside or outside the dugout.

Penalty

If a prop is used in the dugout or brought on the field:

- First Offense-The player that brought the prop out is disqualified and the head coach is given a written warning.
- Second Offense-The player that brought the prop out is disqualified and the head coach is disqualified.



NFHS Point of Emphasis- Pitching Positions

- There are only two legal pitching positions in NFHS baseball
 - Wind up
 - Set
- The position of the pivot foot determines the position.



NFHS Point of Emphasis- Running Lane Awareness

- NFHS Rule 8-4-1g
- The batter-runner must use the runner's lane in foul territory when a play is made at first base.



NCHSAA Point of Emphasis-Bat Flips

Penalty

The result of the play will stand. The player is ejected at the end of the playing action.

NCHSAA-3.3.7-e.





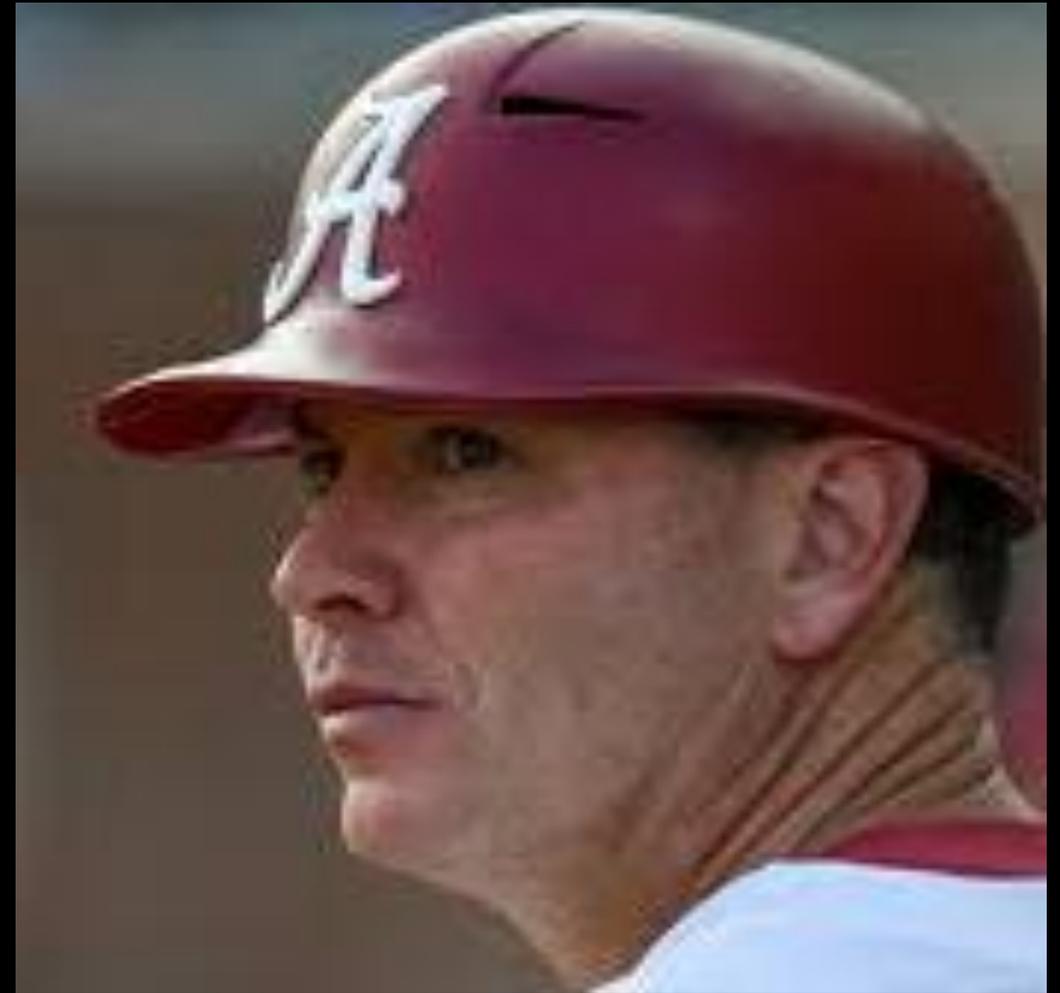
NCHSAA Point of Emphasis-Eye Black

Limited to 1 horizontal
stripe, 1 finger wide.



NCHSAA Point of Emphasis-Coaches Helmets

- Coaches must wear a helmet when coaching in the coach's box during games. The helmet may be a skull cap style helmet or a NOCSAE certified helmet. NCHSAA-4.2.1 (i) (3).
- Non adult/student base coaches, protectors in live ball territory and ball shaggers must wear a NOCSAE certified helmet. NFHS 1-5-1.



NCHSAA Point of Emphasis- Field Markings and Dugouts

- Fields-NFHS 1-2-1
 - All required field markings must be in place to start the game. This includes:
 - Fair/foul lines
 - Batter's boxes
 - Coach's boxes
 - On-deck area
- Extended dugouts-NFHS 1-2-4.
 - Temporary extension of a dugout must be made parallel to the fair/foul line and towards the outfield. Never extended towards home plate.
 - Dugouts must be extended equally for both teams.



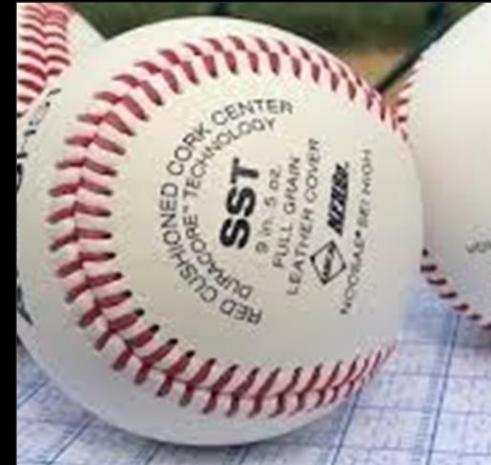
Wrist Bands/Sleeves

Worn ONLY on the wrist/forearm or kept in the pocket. They are not to be worn on the belt. NFHS 1-6-1.



Baseballs

- Baseballs
 - Baseballs must have both the NFHS ball mark and the NOCSAE standard mark at the time of manufacture. NFHS 1-3-1, NCHSAA-4.2.1(i)(1)
 - If the home team does not provide you with legal baseballs:
 1. Ask the home team if they have any legal, stamped baseballs they can find to use.
 2. If the home team states that they do not have any, have the home team ask the visiting team if they have any legal baseballs that the home team can use for the game.
 3. If no legal baseballs can be obtained, the game is suspended. **DO NOT PLAY**. This is for all levels with no exceptions.
 4. Call Gary immediately and inform him that there were no legal baseballs to play with and you have suspended the game.
 - Middle Schools **are not** required to use NFHS/NOCSAE certified baseballs. Any specific rules for each county are on the CUA website.





Communication Devices

- For the 2026 season, The NCHSAA will allow the catcher and the pitcher to wear a 1-way (receive only) communication device.
 - Only permitted for the pitcher and the catcher while on defense.
 - The coach using the device must be in the dugout/bench area. (NFHS 3-2-5)
 - If the device fails or does not work, and the game is delayed to repair or replace the device, it is a charged conference. (NFHS 1-6-2, case book sit. D)
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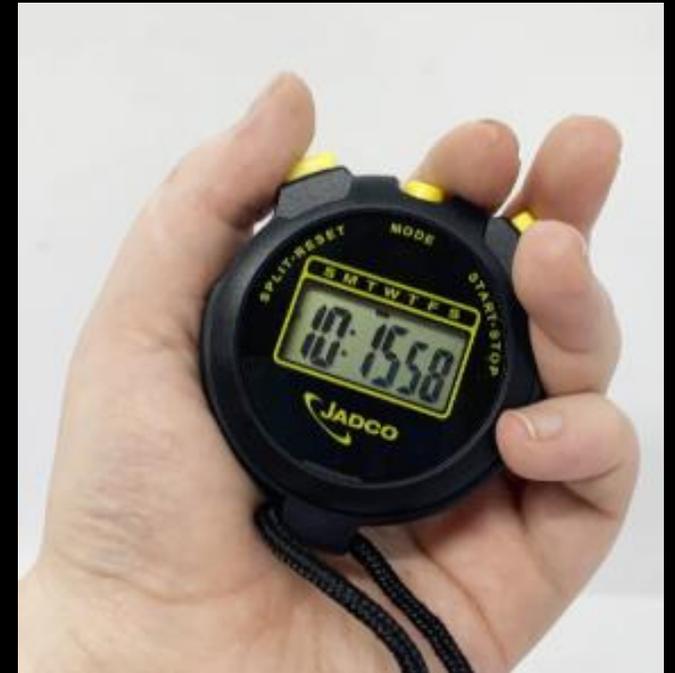
Supervisor's Points of Emphasis

- Umpires shall not throw the baseball back to the pitcher.
- Umpires will monitor players as they leave the field at the end of each inning to ensure proper sportsmanship. Any inappropriate behavior must be addressed promptly. Once all players have cleared the field, umpires will assume their designated between-inning positions.
- Umpires will leave the game site together. This is not optional or negotiable.



Pace of Play

- The base umpire will monitor the time at the end of the inning and signal the plate umpire when 30 seconds has elapsed from the final out of the inning.
- The plate umpire will inform the catcher and the on-deck batter that there are two pitches remaining.
 - Judgement shall be used if the pitcher or the catcher were the bases at the end of the inning.
 - If the plate umpire is occupied recording changes, the base umpire will engage and count the pitches and inform the catcher when two pitches remain.
- After the ball has been “thrown down” following the final warm up pitch and the ball returned to the pitcher, the pitcher has 20 seconds to deliver a pitch (rule 6-2-2.c)
- If the batter **delays the game** by not being in the batter’s box within 20 seconds or leaves the batter’s box and none of the 8 exceptions (rule 7-3-1.a-f) apply, the batter shall be charged with a strike. The pitcher need not pitch, and the ball remains live.



Dugouts and Benches

- All team personnel must be in the dugout during live ball play. NFHS 3-3-1i.
 - Exceptions:
 - Defensive team
 - Base Coaches
 - Batter, runner(s) and 1 on-deck batter



Spectator Removal

- If the behavior of a spectator/fan rises to the point of being a problem through either prolonged, profane, or personal comments, that spectator shall be removed from the game site.
 - The umpire will call time and meet with home team coach to have the game management personnel address the situation.
 - If there is no game management present, utilize the appropriate team's head coach to have the matter resolved.
 - Umpires will **NEVER** address spectators/fans directly.
 - At the conclusion of the game, call Gary.



Disqualifications and Ejections

•If the behavior of a coach becomes an issue, the umpire should follow a five-step process of **Ignore-Acknowledge-Warn-Restriction-Disqualify/Ejection**. Ejection reports look better when the process of warnings and restrictions are followed.

•**Ignore**-First, judge if the behavior is worth reacting to. Sometimes the best choice is to let minor comments go. Gauge the situation's significance before acting.

•**Acknowledge**-Confirmation to the coach that you heard what they said. The action may be a physical or a verbal recognition. Example: Using an "STOP" gesture or "That's enough"

•**Written Warning** -A written warning is a game management tool that can stop a situation from escalating. A written warning shall be recorded by the crew chief on the line up card. A warning represents a line that must be enforced.

•**Restriction**-Only head coaches are restricted to the dugout. Every attempt should be made to restrict a head coach before disqualification/ejection.

•**Disqualification/Ejection**-If, after being restricted, the behavior continues the head coach should be disqualified or ejected. For any disqualification or ejection call Gary **immediately** after the game.

NCHSAA Ejection Criteria

Reference: NCHSAA 3.3.7 (a)-(i)

Fighting or leaving the bench area to participate in a fight

Taunting/Baiting (including bat flipping)

Profanity, racial/ethnic slurs, sexist, or homophobic language

Obscene gestures

Disrespectfully addressing an official

Physical contact with an official

Spitting or Biting

Malicious/Fragrant contact

Use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs

Disqualifications and Ejections

- If a player or coach is disqualified or ejected and will not leave the game site, they shall be warned and made aware of the consequences. If after being warned, they remain on the field, the game will be forfeited. NFHS 4-4-1c,
- If the team does not have a replacement coach, the game is a forfeit. NCHSAA-3.3.8(b)(5)
 - A replacement coach must be certified to coach.
 - In the case of no assistant coaches, the Athletic Director or Principal still must be certified to coach
 - Confirm this and record the name of the replacement coach on the line up card.
 - Parents are not allowed to replace a coach.



Disqualifications and Ejections

•If a player or coach is ejected in a prior game, that player or coach cannot participate a subsequent game that same day. NCHSAA-3.3.8 (g).

- This applies to scrimmages, double headers and “jamboree” events.

- This applies to a Varsity Head Coach ejected from a Junior Varsity game.

- This applies to a Junior Varsity Coach that is an Assistant Coach on the Varsity team.

•Student-athletes that are disqualified or ejected will remain in the team area for supervision. NCHSAA-3.3.8 (f).

•Ejected coaches must leave the premises. Includes the press box, bleachers and adjacent fields. NCHSAA-3.3.8 (e).



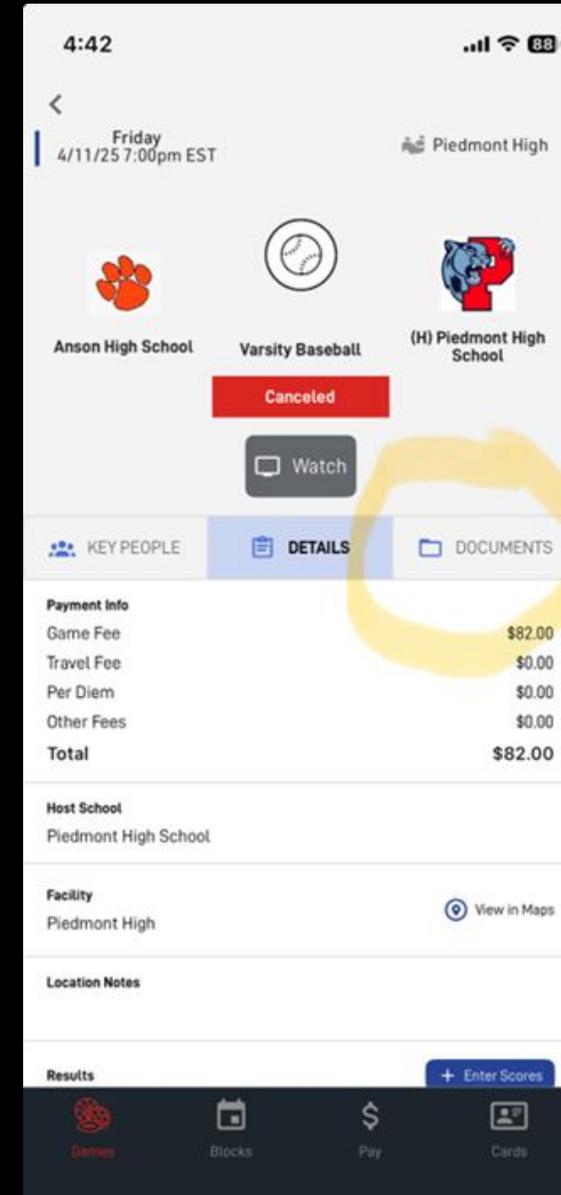


Ejection Reports

- If a player or coach is restricted, disqualified, or ejected the umpire responsible for the disciplinary action:
 - **MUST** first contact the Gary Swanson, Supervisor of Officials, by phone (text messages are NOT acceptable) immediately following the game.
 - A draft report, if required, describing the situation in full must be submitted to the Supervisor of Officials via email within 8 hours.
 - The draft report shall be submitted using the [CUA Ejection/Disqualification form](#).
 - The report should be detailed and factual.
 - For private schools and middle schools, the CUA form will be the only submission.
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Ejection Reports on Dragon Fly

- Once approved, the final report will be submitted to the NCHSAA within 12 hours of the event (public HS only) via DragonFly COS.
- Use the Documents Tab in the game assignment to submit the report.
- Ejection reports are a public record



Post-game Reports

- The crew chief is responsible for contacting the supervisor and, if necessary, filing the post game report by 12:00 PM the day following the game via the association [website](#). The items to be noted are:
 - Suspended game
 - Forfeited game
 - Lack of escort to the parking lot/dressing room
 - Lack of proper security/game management
 - Unsporting/improper behavior/verbal abuse by fans, students, parents, supporters
 - Improper playing conditions, field markings or equipment