

NJSIAA Position on Baseball Players Wearing Eye Black

NJSIAA continues to be concerned with the inappropriate wearing of eye black by baseball players. Players are often seen in photographs with eye black exceeding the NJSIAA policy of being one straight line under each eye.

Sportsmanship again is an NFHS Points of Emphasis. High School players model after professional baseball players with smeared eye black and all kinds of designs under the eye. This may be appropriate for that level as professional players are not only ball players, but entertainers.

Instances of players wearing chains, medals and props after a game winning hit or home run are increasingly prevalent. This is not permitted and should not be allowed on the high school playing field as baseball is an extension of the classroom.

High School coaches must not allow players to wear eye black in a manner that taunts or threatens the opponent. Smeared eye black all over the cheeks is not consistent with the sportsmanship aspect of high school sports.

For the 2022 baseball season, NJSIAA will monitor and collect information on the wearing of eye black. Umpires are directed to leave the enforcement of eye black wearing to the team's head coach. Umpires are only to involve themselves when it involves racial, sexual, religious and other offensive areas.