

Zebra Memo

Post Date & Time	District	Posted By	Memo Recipient(s)	Subject
2/15/2022 5:22:43 PM	All District(s)	Craig Yetman	All Users	2022 NFHS Baseball Rules Interpretations Part 1

Memo

Please review the following situations as you prepare for the 2022 Baseball Season.

1. Having sustained a concussion earlier in the season, the shortstop is released to play provided the player wears a protective helmet. The helmet is composed of a single, dark color that is non-reflective and has no earflaps. It does not have a NOCSAE seal or stamp on it. The base umpire tells the coach that the player may not use the helmet as it is not NOCSAE certified and does not have dual ear flaps.

RULING: This is a legal helmet for a defensive player to wear. Helmets for defensive players do not have to have a NOCSAE certification.

2. The home team coach, at the plate conference, hands the plate umpire three baseballs for the game. The home plate umpire notices that while the baseballs have the NFHS authenticating mark, they do not have the SEI/NOCSAE certification mark. The home team coach says these are the only baseballs the team has and the visiting team only has practice baseballs.

RULING: Both the NFHS Authenticating Mark and the SEI/NOCSAE mark are required to be on all baseballs used in high school competition. The game should be played and reported to NJSIAA through your chapter secretary.

3. The plate umpire notices that several infielders on the visiting team are wearing their signal sweatbands on their belt. The visiting team's head coach says the umpires, at the last game, ruled the equipment legal.

RULING: Equipment must be worn as intended by the manufacturer. Sweatbands were not made to be worn on a belt. This equipment is not legal if worn on a belt.

4. During infield before the game, the base umpire notices that the first baseman has a piercing and informs the coach that it is not legal and must be removed before the game begins. The coach shows the umpire an approval letter from the respective state association.

RULING: A player, with a doctor's permit, may request the school and state association for approval to wear the piercing. If the school and the state association both approve, the piercing may be worn provided it is covered.

5. With the home team behind by one run in the bottom of the seventh, there are two outs and a runner on third base. The batter-runner hits a home run for an apparent walk off win. The runner from third touches home, and the batter-runner touches first base and celebrates with teammates before going to the dugout. Before the umpires leave the field, the defensive team appeals the batter-runner not touching second base. The home team coach argues that all that is needed in a walk-off win situation is for the runner from third to touch home and the batter-runner to touch first base.

RULING: Upon a valid and legal appeal, the batter-runner will be declared out and the game will continue tied in the eighth inning. All bases, including awarded bases, must be touched.