

2023 Umpire Classroom: Quiz 1-Rules Changes

1. B1 comes to the plate wearing a necklace that is hanging outside of his uniform. He is also wearing earrings and a wristband from the Nickelback concert that he attended the previous night. Is this player legally equipped? **Yes**
2. Is a position-player wearing sunglasses on top of his hat legally equipped? **Yes**
3. B1 comes to the plate wearing a silicone bracelet that has a racist/sexist/intimidating remark on it. **This is not legal.** Rule 3.3.1f2 prohibits any items that use profanity, intimidation tactics, remarks reflecting unfavorably upon any other person, or taunting or baiting.
4. A coach/player/bench personnel while on the field and/or in the dugout is wearing a bandana. This is allowed. **False**
5. A right-handed pitcher engages the pitching plate with his pivot foot parallel to the pitcher's plate. His shoulders are squared to the plate, and his free foot is breaking the plane of the front edge of the pitcher's plate. Is this pitcher in the set or wind? **Set**
6. A right-handed pitcher with no runners on base engages the pitching plate with his pivot foot parallel to the pitcher's plate. His shoulders are squared to the plate, and his free foot is breaking the plane of the front edge of the pitcher's plate. He picks up and lowers his free foot twice in his delivery. **This is an illegal pitch, and a ball will be added to the count.**
7. The 2023 rules change adds the "Hybrid stance" as an alternative to the wind-up and stretch. It specifically addresses that it be considered a wind-up. **False-The 2023 change only altered how umpires determine if the stance is a windup or set position. The change does not introduce the term "hybrid" and umpires are discouraged from using that term in explaining their calls.**
8. Umpires shall use the location and angle of the pitcher's pivot foot when determining if the pitcher is in the stretch or windup. **True**
9. Umpires shall use the location and angle of the pitcher's free foot when determining if the pitcher is in the stretch or windup. **False.**
10. The catcher is wearing a legal hockey-style helmet. The player is also wearing sunglasses. This is legal. **True**
11. The catcher is wearing a legal hockey-style helmet that was manufactured with a tinted eye shield. The eye shield is NOCSAE-certified. This is legal. **False-A tinted eye shield is never allowed to be attached to the helmet. At this time, it does not appear any are made with NOCSAE-certification either.**

12. A pitched ball is uncaught by the catcher and gets stuck in/on the backstop padding. Prior to the catcher getting to the backstop, the ball falls to the ground. This is a lodged ball. Case Play 2.4.4 A: When the ball becomes stuck or stops and does not fall or roll, immediately it becomes a lodged ball.

2023 Umpire Classroom: Quiz 2-Points of Emphasis

1. Does a written or verbal warning have to be issued before a coach or player is ejected? **NO**
2. Can a player be restricted to the dugout for sportsmanship related infractions? **YES**. *Rule 3-1-1: Players can only be restricted to the dugout for illegal substitutions.*
3. A remark from a fan of the home team is unsportsmanlike and directed towards a coach or player of the visiting team. The response gets a reaction from the player or coach it was directed at. How should the umpire address this in a high school game? The umpire should stop the game until game administrators have addressed the situation. *Egregious crowd comments are intended to intimidate, humiliate and/or ridicule an opponent. While we may try to ignore the situation at first, if it is enough to draw an emotional response from the coach or player it is directed at, then we must make sure it is addressed so it does not affect on field play any further.*
4. R1. 1 out. B1 hits an infield pop-up. F6 and F5 are both getting into position to catch the ball, when a member of the offensive team yells "I got it!" As a result, neither F5 or F6 catches the ball, thinking that another defensive player had called it. Is this interference? **Yes**
5. While B1 is moving toward second base on a hit to right-center field, F6, who does not have the ball in his possession, fakes a tag on B1 coming into second. The fake tag causes B1 to slide into the bag. This is the first time a fake tag has been made in the game. This is illegal and it is obstruction. The umpire should issue an official warning to the defensive head coach that the next fake tag will result in an ejection of the offender. *Even though this is a first offense and gets a warning for an ejection, it is still obstruction and should be enforced accordingly. Because this is before the Batter-Runner reaches second, the fake tag is obstruction and B1 is awarded second, and potentially more bases if the umpire thinks he would have made those bases had the obstruction not occurred. Failing to enforce penalties associated with fake tags can lead teams to look for retribution. By issuing a warning to the defensive head coach, you are enforcing the rules book and managing the game accordingly. This helps to keep the offense from feeling a need for retribution.*
6. Is this player legally equipped for NFHS Baseball? Picture is of player wearing pearl necklace. **Yes**
7. Is this application of eye black legal for NFHS Baseball? Player's eye black looks like war paint and not just a streak under the eye. **Yes**. *So long as it is not unsportsmanlike or intimidating.*
8. Is this application of eye black legal for NFHS Baseball? Eye black has word inside of it-"Tu Ere Maricon" that translates to a homophobic slur. **NO**
9. Is this application of eye black legal for NFHS Baseball? Eye black has slogan: EPH and 2:8-10. **Yes** *A bible verse is not considered unsportsmanlike or intimidating. The act of writing on eye black is not prohibited by rule, unless the message itself is unsportsmanlike or intimidating.*

2023 Umpire Classroom: Quiz 3- Pre-Pitch Signals

1. Which verbal mechanic(s) is/are used for putting the ball in play to start the game? "Play"
2. Which umpire(s) can call "Play" to start the game? The Umpire-in-Chief Only
3. Which umpire(s) can call "Play" to resume the game? The Umpire-in-Chief Only
4. Which umpire(s) can call "time" for the purposes of a dead ball?
The Umpire-in-Chief and Base Umpire(s)
5. The pitcher is on the rubber and set to begin his delivery to the plate. The ball is currently in play. The batter is stepping into the box and has not reasonably come set. The umpire-in-chief, seeing the pitcher ready to deliver, wants to ensure the pitcher allows the batter to become set in the box and does not deliver a quick pitch. The umpire holds his right hand in a stop motion towards the pitcher. Is this an official mechanic? Yes
6. R1. 1 out. 0-0 count. The pitcher is on the rubber and set to begin his delivery to the plate. The ball is currently in play. The batter is stepping into the box and has not reasonably come set. The umpire-in-chief, seeing the pitcher ready to deliver, wants to ensure the pitcher allows the batter to become set in the box and does not deliver a quick pitch. The umpire holds his right hand in a stop motion towards the pitcher. The pitcher disobeys the stop sign and delivers the pitch.
This ball is already dead. A quick pitch cannot be penalized as a ball or a balk.
The stop mechanic with one hand from the plate umpire is an official mechanic. We give this signal to the pitcher instead of the two handed "time" mechanic, as the stop sign signals the pitcher that while we are not ready for the pitch, we do not need or want him to disengage the rubber.
7. R1. 1 out. 0-0 count. The pitcher is on the rubber and set to begin his delivery to the plate. The ball is currently in play. The batter is stepping into the box and has not reasonably come set. The umpire-in-chief, seeing the pitcher ready to deliver, wants to ensure the pitcher allows the batter to become set in the box and does not deliver a quick pitch. The umpire holds his right hand in a stop motion towards the pitcher. The pitcher, while waiting for the umpire, drops the ball and the ball stays in the dirt circle of the pitcher's mound.
The ball is already dead and this is not a balk.
8. R1. 1 out. 0-0 count. The pitcher is on the rubber and set to begin his delivery to the plate. The ball is currently in play. The batter is stepping into the box and has not reasonably come set. The umpire-in-chief, seeing the pitcher ready to deliver, wants to ensure the pitcher allows the batter to become set in the box and does not deliver a quick pitch. The umpire holds his right hand in a stop motion towards the pitcher. The pitcher attempts a pick-off at first base.
The ball is dead. *The Do Not Pitch mechanic means the ball is dead. Thus, a pick-off attempt can not occur.*
9. The count is full at 3 balls and 2 strikes. Which signal(s) are correct?
Left hand holds three fingers up. Right hand holds two fingers up.
The only proper mechanic is to hold up 3 fingers on your left hand and 2 on your right hand. Umpires should never give a count with one hand only.

2023 Umpire Classroom: Quiz 4- Mound Visits

1. The visiting team is in the first base dugout. In the bottom of the third inning, with a runner on 2nd base, the visiting team head coach uses a mound visit. **On the third base line** *We want to stand on the opposite side of the coaches dugout. This allows us to watch them all the way from the dugout to the mound and back to the dugout. It also positions us to most likely come up to end the conference opposite the head coach.*
2. The visiting team is in the first base dugout. In the bottom of the third inning, with a runner on 2nd base, the visiting team head coach uses a mound visit. Where should the field umpire stand during the visit? **In the shallow outfield**
3. Which umpire is responsible for counting mound visits/defensive conferences? **Plate Umpire**
4. Which umpire is responsible for ending the conference if the coach is not doing so in a timely manner? **Plate Umpire**
5. By rule, how long is a defensive conference? **Undefined**
6. Must all defensive conferences in a game be given the same amount of time? **NO**