

Instructions to Umpires/Game Management

If you are assigned to umpire a CIAC Tournament game please follow these procedures to ensure that all the bases are covered.

- Call your partners for travel and planning purposes.
- Per CSBABU, default uniform color is black shirt and charcoal gray pants. Additionally, the Belta Blue shirt with black trim may be worn as an alternative shirt provided all members of the crew are dressed the same.
- Arrive at least 45 minutes before game time. Allow extra travel time.
- Ground rules approximately 5 to 10 minutes before the game. Although the site director is responsible for coordinating the pregame warm ups, you should know that infield/outfield practice is limited to 12 min per team. There is no batting practice permitted on the game field.
- Weather concerns check www.ciacsports.com. For preliminary round games also check with your commissioner and the school. Starting with the quarterfinals check the website and with the site director or tournament directors.
- Site Director's Decision to start game. Umpires take control when line-ups exchanged.
- Umpires in charge on rain, thunder, lightning delays – Follow NFHS guidelines. Call my cell (203-641-9829) if you are in a rain delay.

GAME MANAGEMENT

TOURNAMENT BASEBALL – Spalding TF Pro is the baseball that must be used for all tournament games.

COMPLETE 7 INNING GAMES – In the CIAC tournament all games must be played to completion (7 innings), regardless of the score. It is considered a suspended game from the first pitch, and if play is stopped for the day, the game must be resumed from the point of interruption the next day. Please do everything possible to complete the game; Wait as long as feasible. Although the final decision to end play for the day is in the hands of the umpires, from the quarterfinals and beyond, umpires must consult with the Site Director before play is ended for the day. The Plate Ump must mark the book and save line-up cards. The Site Director must call Fred Balsamo (203-265-3053) before the teams leave the site, so contingency plans can be finalized.

TEAM PERSONNEL -- Only coaches, players, other team members, statisticians, managers and trainers will be allowed in the dugout or bench area.

IMPORTANT – Emphasize that team members must be in the dugout at all times, especially when there is a play at the plate. Give reminders when necessary. Give a team warning only when absolutely necessary. All equipment must be kept in the dugout and no players will be permitted to sit outside the dugout. No one is allowed on the playing field. This ban includes photographers.

KEEP GAMES MOVING - Umpires should set the tone by hustling at all times and encouraging the teams to hustle in and out. Umpires should not talk to each other or anyone else between innings, unless there is an important reason for a brief conference.

EJECTION - This should be your last resort. If a situation involves a player, try to give the coach an opportunity to handle the situation, if appropriate. When a confrontation with a coach occurs, other members of the crew should assist when necessary. The goal is to diffuse and handle the problem in a calm and professional manner, and if possible, keep everyone in the game. CIAC will support all ejections and there is no appeal that will be considered after the umpires have left the game site. If there was a problem in this regard, call me immediately after the game to give me a “Heads Up”.

Umpires must file a written incident report no later than 9:00 am the day after the game, if any of the following situations occur:

A) An ejection of a player, coach or spectator. The Ejection Report for a player or coach can be accessed at www.ciacofficialsassociation.org.

Email the report to your commissioner who will send it in to the appropriate email address. Also, send a copy to jtonelli@casciac.org.

B) Spectator behavior that disrupts the game or threatens the safety of the participants;

C) A serious injury requiring immediate medical attention;

D) Unacceptable behavior by school personnel associated with either school;

E) A controversial play or a rule interpretation which I will likely hear about;

F) Any other incident of a serious nature which you deem worthy of reporting.

SOME FINAL TIPS

- Do not over officiate...The game is about the players so keep the focus on them.

- Be 100% certain on calls like the slide rules, malicious contact at home plate, balks, missed bases etc.
- Review protocol on fair and foul balls before and after the base
- Review protocol when making the call on the infield fly rule.
- Talk to the site director regarding security during the game and your departure after the game. Exit the field immediately after the game. Do not engage in conversations with the coaches, players, or fans. Do not inflame any situation...Avoid any confrontation by getting out of the firing line...Avoid post game ejections, if possible.
- At no time should you comment to the media. Refer persistent reporters to the tournament director or to me.
- Site directors and teams will call in the scores – Umpires should NOT call in the scores.

PROTESTS - No protests are allowed in CIAC Tournament games, regardless if it involves a judgment call or a rule interpretation. If there is a challenge on a rule interpretation, it must be decided before the next pitch. Therefore, if you are uncertain about a rule, you should take the time to research it. Umpires should have a Rule Book with them in case it is needed. Right or wrong, umpires decisions are final, so I am certain that you would agree that the most important thing is to “Get it right”!

We continue to receive many positive comments about the CIAC Baseball Tournament. I am confident that the umpires will once again do their part to enhance the quality of the event by providing the highest caliber of officiating and professionalism in all games.

GOOD LUCK!!

Joe Tonelli