

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.
- Navy Blue Shirts ONLY
- Arrive at least 45 minutes before game time
- Ground rules 10 minutes before the game
- Weather concerns check www.ciacsports.com. For preliminary round games also check with your commissioner, and the school. From the quarterfinals on 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 me - 203-641-9829 if in a rain delay and prior to a final decision
- Do everything possible to complete the game - Wait hours not minutes!
- Site Director's approval is necessary to stop play for the day (suspended game)
- Tournament games must go a complete 7 innings, regardless of the score.
- If suspended, Plate Ump mark book and save line-up cards – call me!

Game Management

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. Keep the pitchers pitching and the batters swinging.

EJECTION - This should only be used as a last resort. If it 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, 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 the game 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 (A DQ report must be filed) It can be accessed at www.ciacofficialsassociation.org and emailed 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.

At the conclusion of all quarterfinal and semifinal games, the plate umpire should call in the score to Fred Balsamo at 203-265-3053. Be sure you have the correct score, and if the game goes extra innings, specify the number of innings played. **PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GAME.**

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, contact at home plate, balks, etc.
- Review protocol on fair and foul balls before and after the base
- Review protocol when making the call on the infield fly rule.
- 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.
- At no time should you comment to the media. Refer persistent reporters to the tournament director or to me.

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