

For Instructions to Umpires/Game Management/ Tournament Rules go to this link.

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

After receiving the assignment, call your partners for travel and planning purposes, and to make sure that you are on the same page regarding the time and the site of the game, directions, arrival time, uniform etc. Umpires should wear NAVY BLUE SHIRTS FOR ALL CIAC TOURNAMENT GAMES. Three (3) umpires will work the quarterfinal and semi-final games; four (4) umpires will work the finals. The plate umpire is responsible for reviewing the system being used with his crew.

Plan to arrive at least 45 minutes before game time. Be ready to begin the ground rules 10 minutes before the game and make every effort to start on time.

If the weather on the day of the game is questionable, check the www.ciacsports.com website for updated information. The latest game information will be at the top of the page. You can also call the site director, Fred Balsamo or me before leaving for the game.

The decision to start a game rests with the site director. Once the line-ups are exchanged, the game is in the hands of the umpires and rain delays are under your control. However, a decision to stop play for the day can only be made with the approval of the site director. I am sure you realize that suspended games are a nightmare for all concerned. Therefore, it is important to do everything in your power to get the game completed, including waiting as long as possible. Please call my cell phone if you are in a rain delay. Do not call the game off or let the teams leave without speaking to me or tournament director, Fred Balsamo. In the CIAC Tournament, ALL GAMES MUST BE PLAYED TO COMPLETION (7 INNINGS). IF A GAME IN PROGRESS MUST BE SUSPENDED, IT WILL BE CONTINUED FROM THE POINT OF PLAY, REGARDLESS OF THE INNING AND SCORE. If you are the plate umpire in a suspended game, you should save the line-up cards and mark the official scorebook. Also, you should call me as soon as possible to let me know the particulars.

Game Management

Team Personnel -- Only coaches, players, other team members, statisticians, managers and trainers will be allowed in the dugout or bench area. Conduct -- The above identified personnel shall not be outside the designated dugout (bench) or bull pen area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the nine players on defense.

IMPORTANT – Emphasize that team members must remain 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. Ask the team at bat to retrieve foul balls behind home plate to keep the game moving.

Keep the 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. Everyone involved in high school baseball would agree that it is a much better game when the hitters are up there swinging. Most coaches appreciate the plate umpire with a good strike zone, provided you are consistent.

Ejection for unsportsmanlike behavior should 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. **DO NOT INFLAME THE SITUATION!** CIAC will support all ejections and there is no appeal that will be considered after the umpires have left the game. Just be positive that tossing the player or the coach was warranted because the penalty is severe.

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 e-mailed 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 involving a rule interpretation which I will likely hear about from the coaches; and
- f) Any other incident of a serious nature which you deem worthy of reporting.

At the conclusion of all quarter-final and semi-final games, the plate umpire should call in the score to me @ (203) 641-9829. **PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GAME.**

SOME FINAL TIPS

Do not over officiate...The game is about the players so let them play and do everything possible to keep the focus on them.

Be 100% certain before making a call on the sliding rule, contact at home plate, balks, and other similar situations.

With 3 and 4 man crews we should be in a better position to make calls on traps, fair and foul balls, pick off plays etc. Please review the protocol on making the call on fair and foul balls before and after the base and the infield fly rule.

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!!