



Tri-Cities Baseball & Softball Umpires Association

ASSOCIATION MEETING



REVIEW STATE SB MEETING

STATE MATERIAL

- Award (FP), Flyers, NFHS Guide, TSSAA Packet
- Recruitment (umpire #'s / 32-12)
- Uniforms
- [Officially Dalco](#)
- High School / Middle School
- Tinted face shields
- Play cards – NFHS, p3



STATE MATERIAL

- Health / Safety Policies
- [Sports Calendar-SB](#)
- Spring sports start 1 week earlier
- State tournament umpires
- State championship games @MTSU



STATE MATERIAL

- New softballs, smaller coefficient, “dirty ball”
- Unacceptable conditions, NFHS, p6
- Electronic devices in live ball territory, coaching purposes
- Visors, bandanas illegal. Removed color restrictions on headbands and ribbons
- Pitcher may leap, cannot replant, NFHS, p2 (also p7, Pitching Mechanics: Replant)



STATE / REVIEW

- Pregame
- *Unsportsmanlike / Reporting
- **Restrict
- ***Asst Coach / Head Coach
- Report
- Social Media



STATE / REVIEW

- Courtesy Runner
- International Tie Breaker
- Unreported v Illegal Subs, NFHS, p6, and Rules 3-4-2 and 3-4-3
- DP/Flex, NFHS p9-10



ADMINISTRATIVE

PLAY DATES

Observation & Feedback

- 2/23 Ridgeview, 3 rounds on 3 fields
- 2/24 Ridgeview, 10 rounds-4 fields
- 3/2 Science Hill, 10 rounds, 2 field
- 3/2 Elizabethton, 6 games (90 min)
- 3/2 Cherokee (HS)
- 3/9 DCHS / Grandview, 6 rounds, 3 f
- 3/9 Cherokee (MS?)
- Scrimmages



IN-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

- ET Classic, March 21-23
- Eastman, April 4-7
- Nuclear Fuels, April 12-13
- Tiny Day, April 18-21
- District / Region, May 3-16
- Sectionals, May 18
- State, May 20-25
- MS and JV tourneys, Lamar, Unicoi ...



EXPECTATIONS

- Meeting Attendance/Clinic Participation
- Two local trainings by March 1st – priority scheduling
- Not attending two local trainings after the final scheduled meeting shall be removed from the schedule for the remainder of the season
- Postseason Eligibility
- An umpire who have not attended three trainings will not be eligible for postseason assignments
- Umpires who have not made themselves available to their assigner for pre-season scrimmages or play-dates shall not be eligible for postseason assignments

ARBITER

- Dashboard-Info and announcements, Link to available gear / uniform, tutorial explaining blocking dates, and the Unusual Situation Form
- Schedule-Accept / decline assignments, filter to see past, future games
- Pay (MM, John and Don)
- Blocks-Set blocks, clear blocks
- Lists-Partners and contact info
- Profile-Update personal info, emergency contact, profile picture



INTERFERENCE & OBSTRUCTION

INTERFERENCE

- Is an act (physical / verbal) by a member of the team at bat who illegally impedes, hinders, or confuses any fielder
- Or when a runner creates malicious contact with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline
- No offensive team member, other than another runner, may physically assist a runner
- If a runner is struck with a fair untouched batted ball while not on base and before it passes an infielder, the ball is dead and the runner is out
- All other runners are returned to the last base touched at the time of the interference
- The batter is credited with a base hit and is awarded first base
- If the umpire judged the interference as an obvious attempt to break up a DP, the succeeding runner shall also be out
- If a runner is struck by a batted ball while not on base and the ball has passed a fielder other than the pitcher, the umpires must determine if another fielder had an opportunity to make an out

INTERFERENCE

- After a dropped third strike, the batter may not interfere with the catcher's ability to make a play
 - A batter may be called out if she intentionally interferes with a thrown ball while out of the batter's box
- [Example 1](#)
- A batter-runner by rule (8-2-6) has to run the last half of the distance from home to first within the 3-ft lane, providing a play is made on the B-R
 - B-R is out if she runs outside the 3-ft lane and, in the umpire's judgement, interferes with the fielder taking the throw at first base
 - There must be a throw made in order to have interference
 - B-R may run outside the 3-ft lane if she is avoiding a fielder attempting to field a batted ball
 - B-R is considered outside the 3-ft lane if either foot is completely outside the lane and in contact with the ground

INTERFERENCE BATTER

- The batter is out if the batter interferes with the catcher's fielding / throwing by making any movement which hinders action at home after the pitch reaches the catcher.
- A batter interferes, and is out, if they fail to make a reasonable effort to vacate congested area when there is a throw to home and there is time for the batter to move away.
- When you call it, be prepared to explain your ruling to coaches

[Example 2](#)

INTERFERENCE

- A baserunner can be protected from interference by being on a base
- A ground ball down the third-base line with a runner at third; R3 is trying to return and F5 is approaching the base to field the ball
- A fly ball coming down near a base
- Umpires must be sure if/when any contact by the runner occurred
- A strong safe signal by the nearest umpire will help to sell the call and let everyone know the umpire saw the play and ruled the action legal
- If the contact by the runner happened before the runner got back to the bag, it is interference
- The runner is required to do what she can to avoid the fielder without leaving the base
- If runner does anything intentional to interfere, intent supersedes the fact that she is on base, and it is interference

INTERFERENCE

- Infield fly
- Incidental contact
- Rundowns
- Coach assist
- Umpire interference
- Spectator interference



OBSTRUCTION

- An act of the defense that hinders or impedes a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitched ball or that impedes, the progress of a runner or B-R who is legally running bases, unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball
- The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal
- When obstruction occurs, it is a delayed dead-ball and the umpire should verbalize "obstruction" and signal with a left arm extended
- Depending on what happens with the play, the umpire may need to grant time and award bases
- There are several different types of obstruction and each are handled differently

[Catcher obstruction](#)

[What to look for](#)

OBSTRUCTION

- A fielder may not block the base and deny a runner access to the base without possession of the ball
- If the fielder has possession of the ball, she may block the base or place her body between the runner and the base
- If the obstructed runner is put out after passing the base she would have reached had there been no obstruction, the obstructed runner will be called out
- An obstructed runner is only obstructed between the two bases



OBSTRUCTION

- There is generally no violation if the catcher and the B-R contact each other when the catcher is fielding the ball
- If they are both where they're supposed to be and doing what they're supposed to be doing, contact is considered incidental
- Frequently obstruction occurs on a runner while no play is in progress; a B-R rounding first on a base hit while the ball is in the outfield, and runners rounding 2nd or 3rd on a hit to the outfield
- It is commonly stated catcher's interference, but technically obstruction when the defensive player involved is the catcher
- Obstruction can be verbal
- Faking a tag is obstruction
- Obstruction is always committed by the defense, interference by the offensive team
- If an act of interference occurs following any obstruction, enforcement of the interference takes precedence