

# Tri-Cities Baseball & Softball Umpires Association

**ASSOCIATION MEETING** 



### REVIEW STATE SB MEETING

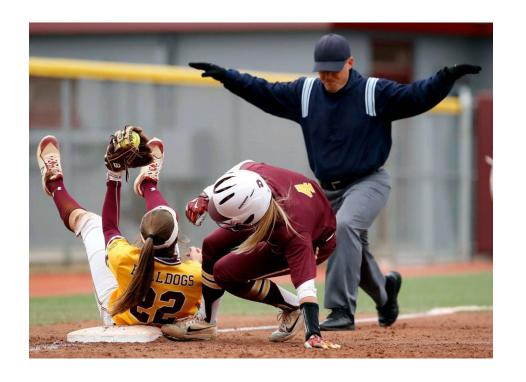
#### STATE MATERIAL

- 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



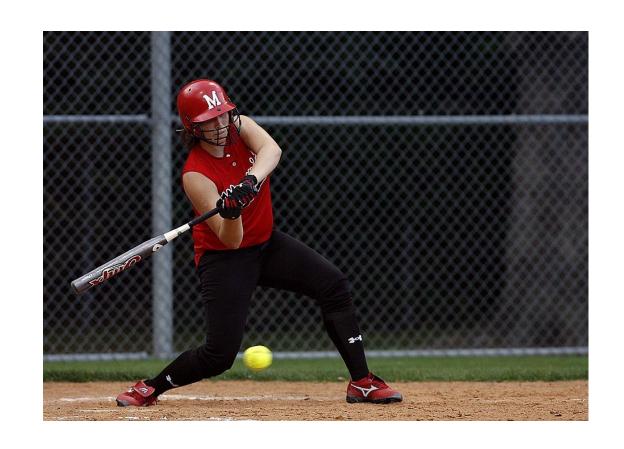
#### STATE MATERIAL

- 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)



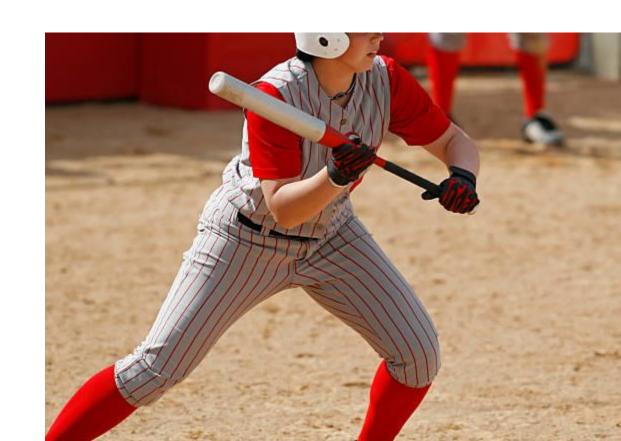
#### STATE / REVIEW

- 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

#### INTERFERENCE

- A baserunner can be protected from interference by being on a base
- A ground ball down the thirdbase 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

<u>Catcher obstruction</u> <u>What to look for</u>

#### **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 pla

the runner acc

 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

tween the two base acted

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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