



**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**

## 2022-23 Rules Presentation

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# SCHSL Reminders

Bat Flips – Excessive and intentional bat flips must not be a part of high school baseball.

Props, non- baseball equipment outside the dugout are not allowed.

Use of electronics to communicate with players on the field is against the rules.





# RULE CHANGES



## 1-5-4

# PLAYER EQUIPMENT- CATCHER'S HELMET AND MASK

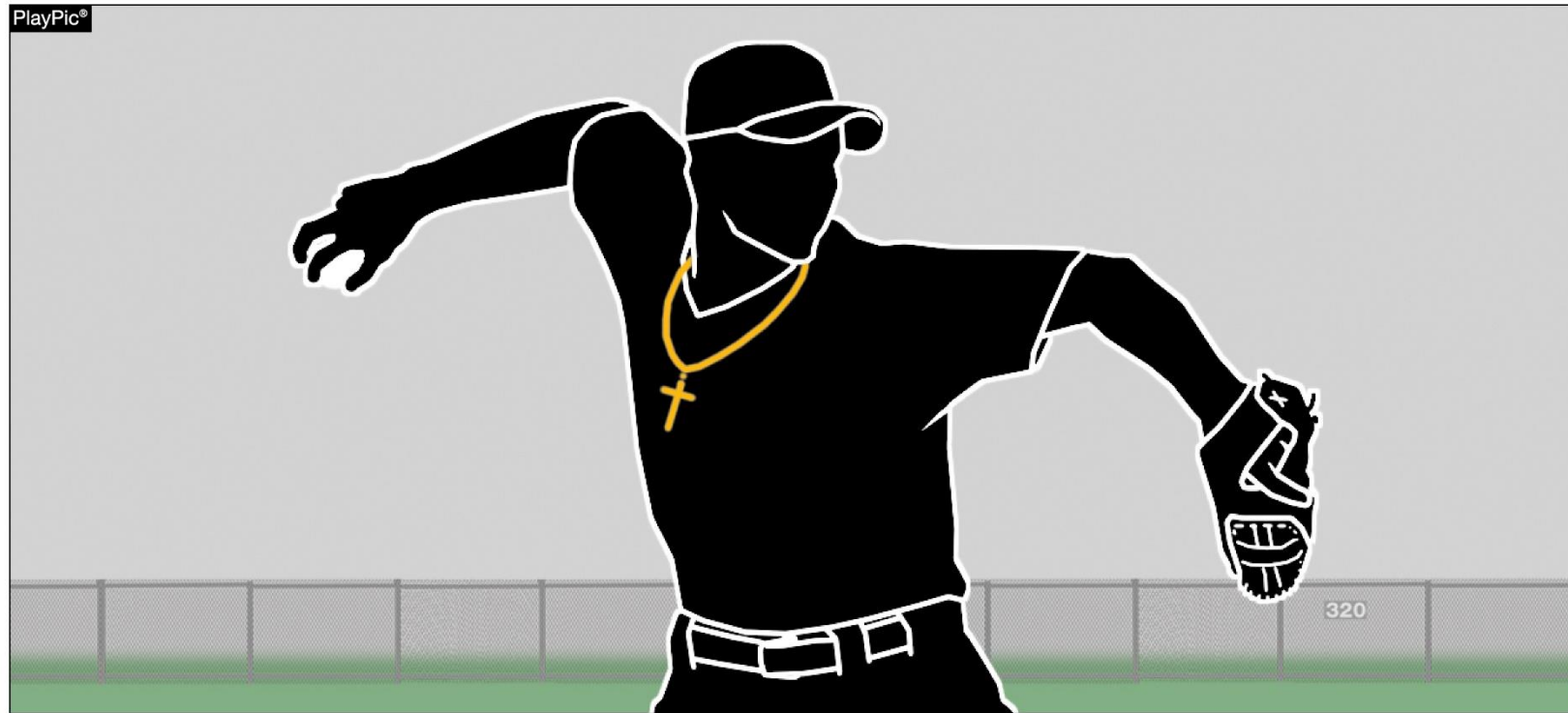
- **ART. 4 . . .** The catcher's helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture. Eye shields shall not be attached to the catcher's mask after manufacture. Eye shields that are attached to the catcher's mask at the time of manufacture will be constructed of a molded rigid material and be clear without the presence of any tint. Tinted eyewear worn on the face and under the face mask is permitted. Any helmet or helmet and mask combination...and a protective cup (male only). (1-5-9)





1-5-12, 3-3-1d

# PLAYER EQUIPMENT – WEARING OF JEWELRY



Legal



## 1-5-12, 3-3-1d

# PLAYER EQUIPMENT – WEARING OF JEWELRY

~~ART. 12 . . . Jewelry shall not be worn be permitted (3-3-1d) except for including religious and medical medals. Any jewelry that poses harm or injury to the wearer or the opponent shall be immediately removed. (1-5-9) A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.~~

**ART. 1 . . .** A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not:

Sub-articles a-e remain the same.

d. ~~wear jewelry (players participating in the game)~~ or wear bandannas;





## 1-5-12, 3-3-1d

# PLAYER EQUIPMENT – WEARING OF JEWELRY

### RATIONALE:

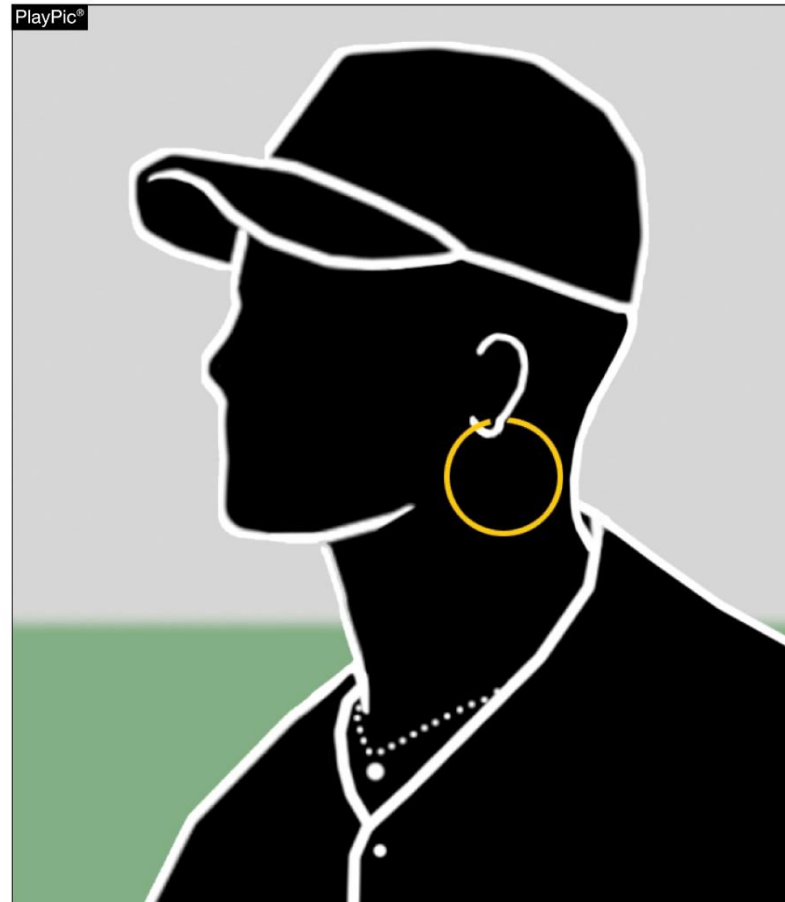
- Any jewelry worn that poses harm or injury to the player or their opponent is covered in existing rules.
- Rule 3 is a companion rule change with the deletion of Rule 1-5-12.
- If jewelry is worn that poses harm to the player, teammate or their opponent, there are existing rules support to handle the situation.
- Bandannas are still prohibited.





**1-5-12, 3-3-1d**

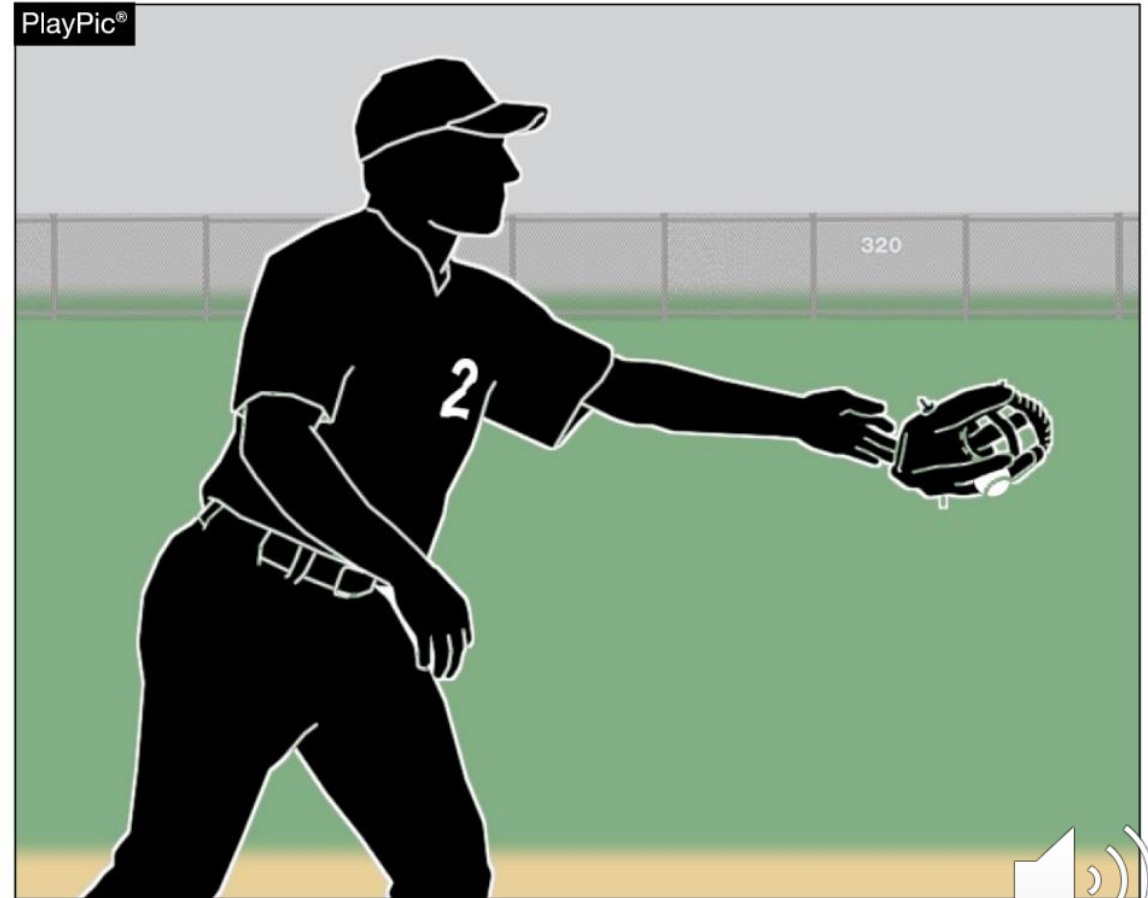
# **PLAYER EQUIPMENT – WEARING OF JEWELRY**







# 2-4-4 LODGED BALL DEFINITION





## 2-4-4 LODGED BALL DEFINITION

**ART. 4 . . .** A baseball that remains on the playing field but has become wedged, stuck, lost, or unreachable, is defined to be a lodged ball. If the ball impacts any object in the course of play, stops abruptly, and does not fall or roll immediately, it is considered lodged. It is a dead ball (5-1-1f-3,4; 5-1-1g-4).

Exception: if a ball becomes stuck in the webbing of the fielder's glove, it remains in play. The glove/ball combination is treated as a live ball.

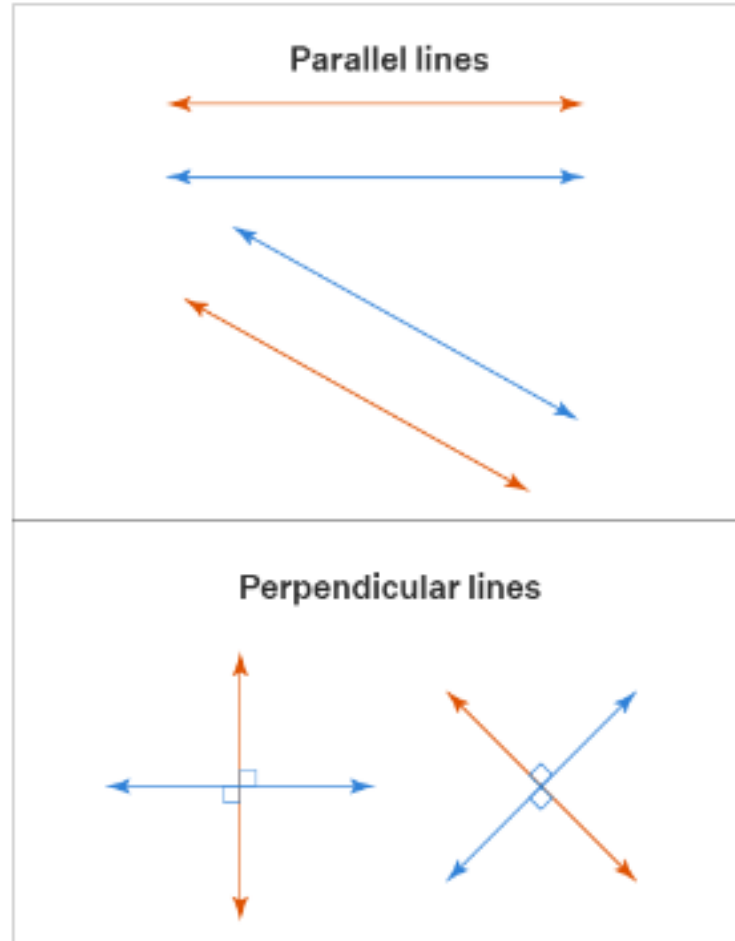


## 2-4-4 LODGED BALL DEFINITION

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### RATIONALE:

A definition of a lodged ball was necessary and appropriate to differentiate when it is stuck on the field or in an apparatus, compared to when it is stuck in a glove.



## 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3

# PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION

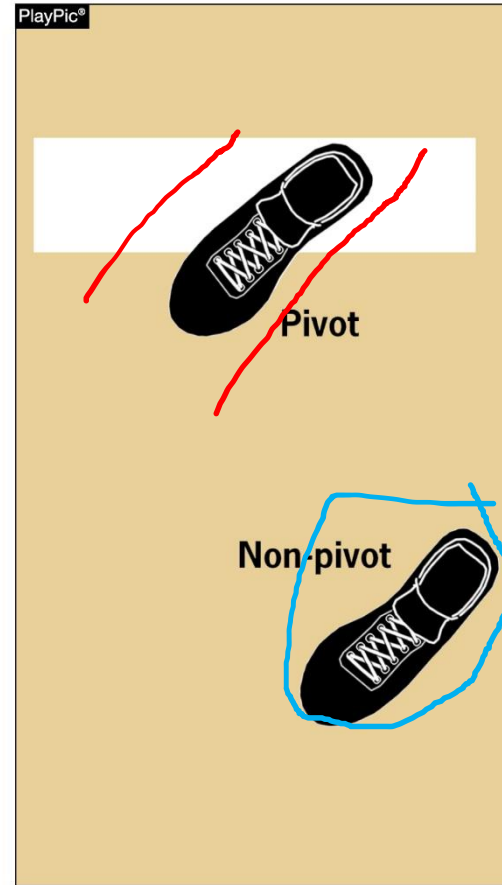
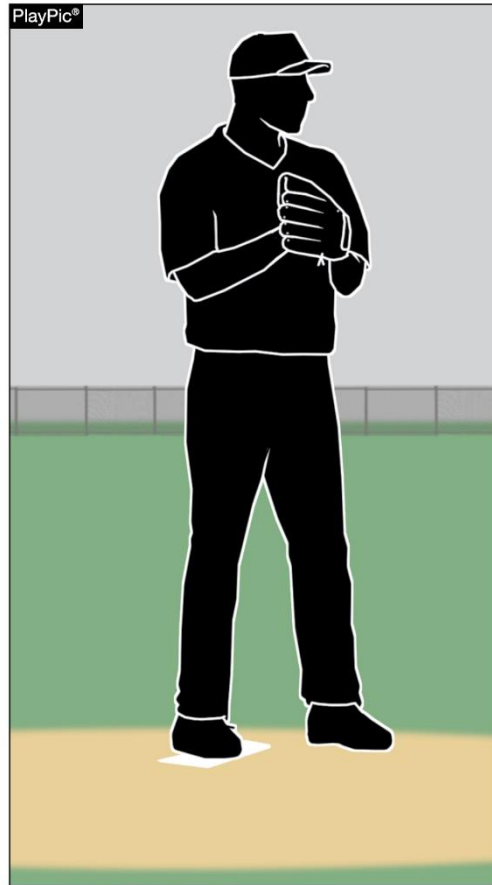
**ART. 1 . . .** The pitcher shall pitch while facing the batter from either a windup (Art.2) or a set position (Art. 3). The position of the pitcher's feet determine whether the pitcher will pitch from the windup or the set position. The pitcher shall take or simulate taking the sign from the catcher with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitcher will be considered to be in the set position when the pivot foot is in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate. The pitcher will be considered to be in the windup position when the pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate and is not parallel to it. The pitching regulations...but not both.



# 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3



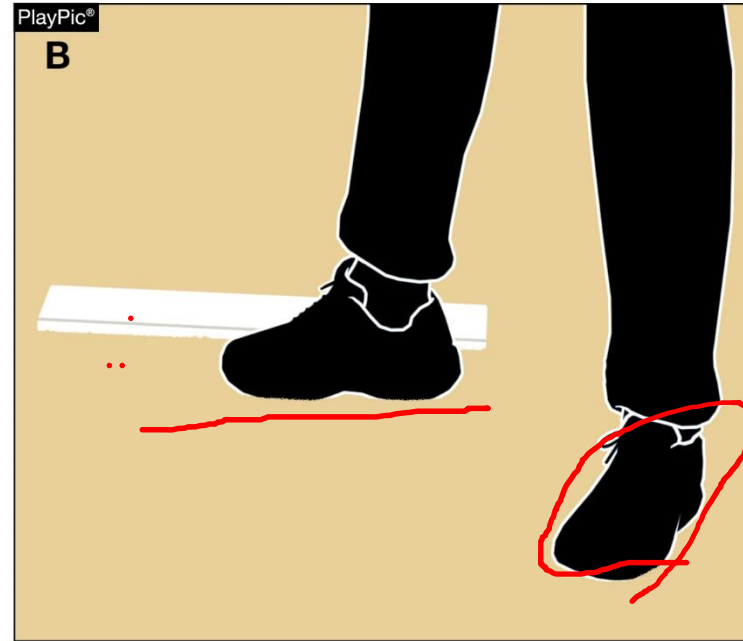
## PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION



# 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3



## PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION



## 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3

# PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION

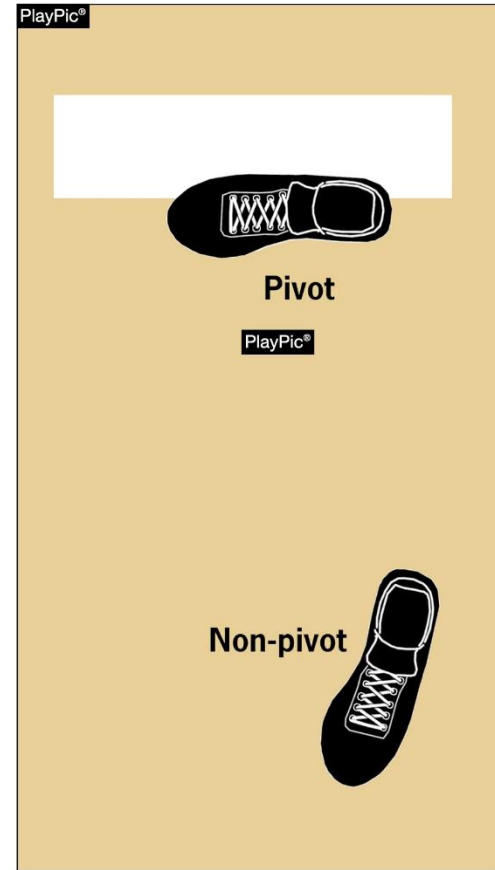
**ART. 3 . . .** For the set position, the pitcher shall have the ball in either the gloved hand or the pitching hand. The pitcher's hand shall be down at the side or behind the back. Before starting the delivery, the pitcher shall stand with the pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate. The pitcher shall go...any other fielder.



# 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3



## PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION



## 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3

# PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION

### RATIONALE:

- In reference to the high school pitching rule, the position of both the pivot and non-pivot foot was the determining factor to deem if a pitcher was pitching from the windup position or the set position.
- The game has evolved throughout high school baseball for the pitcher to pitch with the pivot foot in a windup description with the non-pivot foot in a set description.
- This "hybrid" position was previously illegal by NFHS rule.

## 6-1-1, 6-1-2, 6-1-3

# PITCHING – DETERMINATION OF PITCHING POSITION

- What is important is that umpires, coaches, and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play.
- Deleting the use of the non-pivot foot does no damage to the existing pitching position rule and having only the pivot foot determine makes it clean and easily discernible for all involved.



# POINTS OF EMPHASIS





# SPORTSMANSHIP

- Sportsmanship, or good sporting behavior, is about treating one another with respect and exhibiting appropriate behavior. It is about being fair, honest and caring. When these types of appropriate behavior occur, competitive play is more enjoyable for everyone.
- Coaches set the tone at athletic contests with their display of sportsmanship. If these individuals act in a sportsmanlike manner, their behavior sets the tone for players, spectators and others. If coaches, however, are complaining constantly about the decision of contest officials, spectators are more likely to do the same.





## SPORTSMANSHIP

- There must be a collaborative, working relationship between contest officials and game administration to promote good sportsmanship and safely conduct the contest. Everyone has their roles to play in creating a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere at contests.
- Officials should focus on the actions of players, coaches and other bench/sideline personnel. A positive, open line of communication between officials and coaches ultimately results in a better contest for everyone involved.





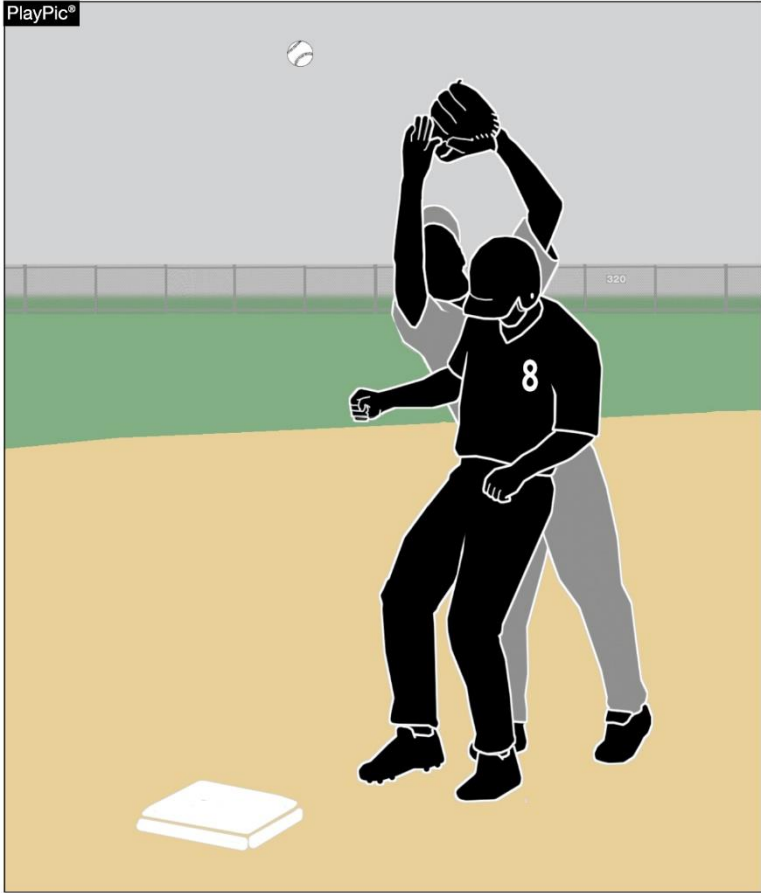
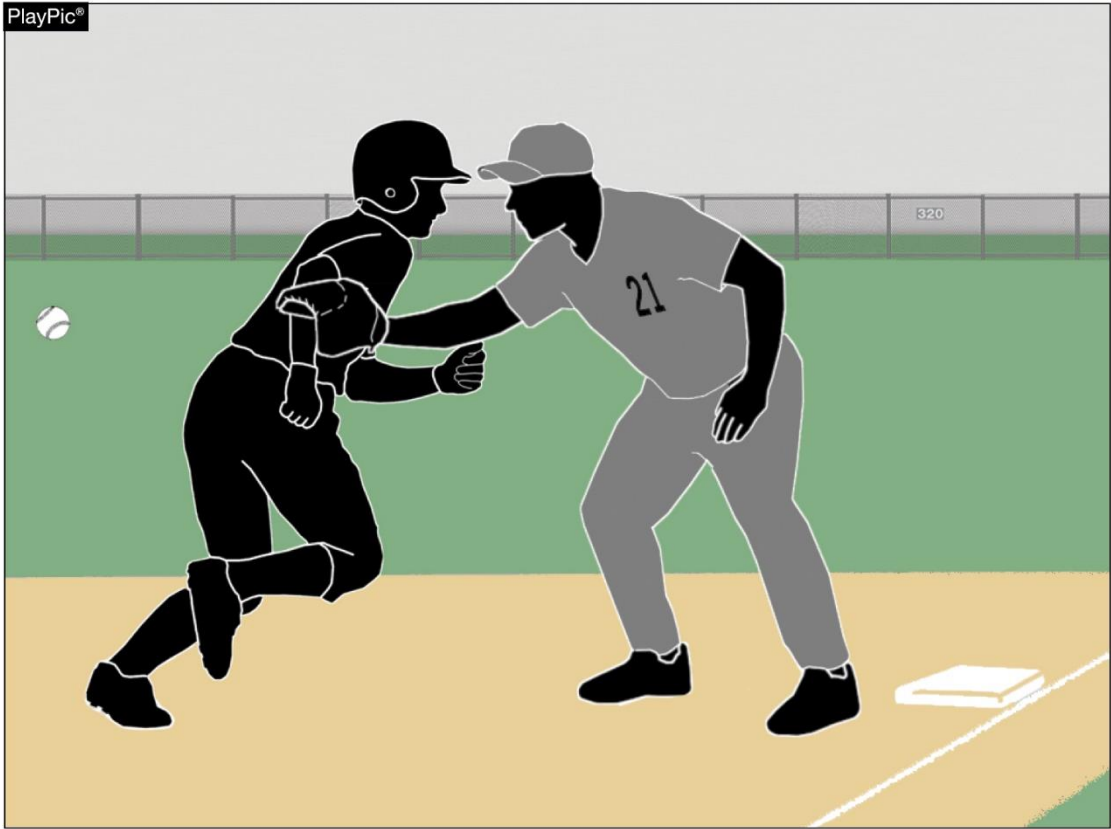
## SPORTSMANSHIP

- Contest officials, however, should never engage with spectators who are exhibiting unsporting behavior. Once the contest begins, school administration is responsible for dealing with unruly spectators.
- A proactive approach by school administration includes monitoring the behavior of spectators and intervening as needed.
- If spectators are using demeaning or profane language at officials – or at others in the stands – those individuals should be removed from the contest by school administration.





# OBSTRUCTION AND INTERFERENCE







## OBSTRUCTION AND INTERFERENCE

- Simply stated, obstruction is any act accidental, intentional, verbal, or physical that a fielder or any member of the defensive team (or team personnel) that hinders a runner or affects the pattern of play.
- Besides affecting scoring plays, obstruction can occur anywhere on the field resulting in some unsportsmanlike behaviors.
- That is why the penalty for obstruction is some of the sternest penalties in our rules code.





# OBSTRUCTION AND INTERFERENCE

- Interference is very similar to obstruction; it addresses the behavior of the offensive team.
- It is any act, verbal or physical by the team at bat that impedes, hinders or confuses any defensive fielder attempting to make a play.
- There are several other types of interference: umpire, spectator, follow-through, and backswing.
- Umpire interference is when the umpire-in-chief accidentally moves in the way of the catcher's attempt to throw or when a live ball or thrown ball touches them.



# 2022 NFHS Points of Emphasis

Interference vs. Obstruction:

**Interference** = Offense – Ball becomes immediately dead. Offensive player who interfered is out. Other offensive players could be out if in the umpire's judgement a second runner would have been out (double play) All other runners return to their previous base.

NOTE: Illegal Slide on force play, Batter runner will also be out

**Obstruction** = Defense – Ball remains live and is dead at the end of the play and the Umpire has authority to award which base or bases for the runner(s) – General rule of thumb is they are award the next base, unless they safely reach the next base in the course of the play and in this case, they would be at their own risk advancing further. Umpire can award runner a second based depending on their judgement and the play.

Catcher = Obstruction not interference



## ELIMINATION OF JEWELRY

- Jewelry in baseball was originally defined as any item on the body of the player that was not a natural part of their person.
- That also included medical alert bracelets and some religious, cultural or tribal adornments.
- The elimination of the jewelry rule will permit players to wear these items freely.
- Additionally, with that freedom to wear jewelry, please note that any jewelry that contains profanity, taunting, language to intimidate or baiting an opponent would not be allowed under our sportsmanship rule, bench and field conduct policies.



## USAGE OF EYE BLACK



- The high school game is now experiencing eye black that is being used as face decoration, with images and/or sayings being drawn on the faces of players to try to intimidate and/or taunt an opponent.
- Existing sportsmanship rules are available to prohibit any use of eye black in an inappropriate or unfavorable way.



# THANK YOU

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