

This is a comprehensive guideline – pick what you want to use for the level of coaching experience for the game. This should print on one page double-sided so you can take it with you to the game, review before your meeting because you get to the game early, keep in the pocket of your umpire shirt. **(you can delete this paragraph)**

Pre-game Plate Conference ABC'S 2017

A: Attitude - I expect good sportsmanship at all times – act with class and civility.

- 1) No foul language
- 2) No throwing equipment
- 3) No jewelry
- 4) No electronic devices in the coach's boxes
- 5) Recording and viewing recordings for coaching purposes - dead ball territory only.

B: 1) Bats

- a. **By rule I am required to have you verify that all equipment is legal and within the rules, and that bats are not altered from the manufactures original design.**

2) Balks

- a. What is league rule? Warnings?
- b. Strict or instructional?
- c. If I see something minor I will talk to coach between innings (I don't want to get in the pitcher's head.)

C: 1) Contact avoidance – runner must avoid contact; it is not a “must slide” rule

- a. If runner braces for contact - it is malicious and I will eject him

2) Charged Conference – get 3 per game without penalty, one each extra inning

- a. if remove pitcher a conference is not charged.
- b. After 3 charged, or second in an extra inning, must remove pitcher every time

3) Courtesy runners – NFHS – pitcher and/or catcher, not same runner for both, can't have been used in any other capacity in game, can't be courtesy runner and sub in same half inning.

D: 1) Designated Hitter – are you using a DH? Pitcher/DH? Check line-up card. Review rule

S: 1) Strike Zone – review

- a. I reward the bottom of the zone
- b. Some strikes may hit the dirt – batters knees are close to the ground, catchers are too far back

2) Situation – pick off at 3rd

- a. Runner blocks view of tag, so if ball is there and tag is applied, runner is out.

3) Strike 3 Dropped

- a. I will try to verbalize “in the dirt” or “no catch”

Points of Emphasis 2017:

- 1) Baseballs must have the NFHS Authenticating Mark.
- 2) Umpire asking assistance from a partner is not mandatory, calling umpire makes final call.
- 3) Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose. (can't sit on buckets outside of dugout)
- 4) Runners are never required to slide. However, if they choose to slide then the slide must be legal.
- 5) Coaches are responsible for keeping track of pitches and comparing numbers with their opponents after every half inning.

Rule Changes 2017:

- 1) 2-32-2c: Clarified when a base runner can slide through home plate in a straight line
- 2) 3-2-2 PEN: Clarified when a coach-assisted runner is declared out

- 3) 3-3-1 PEN: Developed a three-step process when administering disciplinary action to coach(es)
- 4) 6-2-6: Clarified that the pitching restriction is based on number of pitches thrown
- 5) 8-3-6: Clarified when an umpire hinders the actions of the catcher in a defensive attempt

Rule 3, Section 1, Art. 4. – Modify: ART. 4 . . . The Pitcher may be listed as starting Pitcher/Designated Hitter on the lineup card presented to the umpire-in-chief and official scorer prior to the start of the game. (This will appear as a nine player lineup for the game but has a tenth player listed due to the dual position listing of the starting pitcher.) A hitter may (not mandatory) be designated for any one starting player and all subsequent substitutes for that player in the game. A starting defensive player cannot be listed as the designated hitter in the starting lineup except for the pitcher. The pitcher can concurrently play pitcher and designated hitter. A designated hitter for a player shall be selected prior to the start of the game, and his name shall be included on the lineup cards presented to the umpire-in-chief and to the official scorer. Failure to declare a designated hitter prior to the game precludes the use of a designated hitter in that game. If during the course of the game the player is replaced as the pitcher; he can remain in the game in the role of the designated hitter. If during the course of the game the player is replaced as the designated hitter, he can remain in the game as the pitcher. The player (pitcher) shall be locked into his original slot on the lineup card as pitcher/designated hitter/ or both and may re-enter the game one time in either position, the same as any other starter. If a pinch hitter or pinch runner for the designated hitter is used, that player becomes the new designated hitter. The player who was the designated hitter may re-enter as the designated hitter under the re-entry rule. A designated hitter and the player for who he is batting are locked into the batting order. No multiple substitutions may be made that will alter the batting rotation. The role of the designated hitter is terminated for the remainder of the game when:

- a. the defensive player, or any previous defensive player for whom the designated hitter, batted, subsequently bats, pinch-hits or pinch runs for the designated hitter; or
- b. the designated hitter or any previous designated hitter assumes a defensive position (except the starting pitcher); or
- c. If the starting pitcher plays any defensive position other than pitcher.

Rule 8, Section 4, ART. 2 . . . Any runner is out when he:

- b. does not legally slide and causes illegal contact and/or illegally alters the actions of a fielder in the immediate act of making a play, or on a force play, does not slide in a direct line between the bases; or
 - a. A runner may slide in a direction away from the fielder to avoid making contact or altering the play of the fielder.
 - b. Runners are never required to slide, but if a runner elects to slide, the slide must be legal. (2-32-1, 2) Jumping, hurdling, and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid a fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal.

PENALTY: The runner is out, the ball is dead immediately, and interference is called. On a force-play slide with less than two outs, the runner is declared out, as well as the batter-runner. Runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the pitch. With two outs, the runner is declared out. The batter is credited with a fielder's choice.

Section 36 Substitutions

Art. 3 – An illegal substitute is:

- a. A player who enters or re-enters the game without eligibility to do so, or
- b. A player who re-enters the game in the wrong position in the batting order, or
- c. Enters the game on defense while the player for whom he is batting is on defense, or
- d. When the player for whom the DH is batting enters the game as a batter or runner in a different position in the batting order or,
- e. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule.

COURTESY RUNNERS

2. The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
4. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
5. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
7. A player who violates the courtesy-runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.