

RULE CHANGES APPROVED FOR PREP BASEBALL, SOFTBALL

Rules changes for the 2016 baseball and softball seasons were made at rules committee meetings last month in Indianapolis, Ind.

Those changes were subsequently approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Board of Directors.

For baseball, beginning with the 2016 season, umpires will be required to issue a warning to coaches before restriction to the bench/dugout or ejecting them as part of a new penalty progression to promote preventive officiating.

The revision to Rule 3-3-1 Penalty was one of two changes recommended by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee at its June 7 meeting.

Previously, issuing a warn-

ing to an offending coach was optional for umpires, who will now restrict to the dugout or eject coaches who commit a violation after previously being warned for a minor offense.

However, coaches can still be ejected on a first offense if it is deemed to be major.

Also part of the modification to Rule 3-3-1 Penalty, coaches who receive a written warning (Rule 10-2-3) will be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.

"The new rule change has initiated a penalty progression, starting with a written warning, restriction to the bench/dugout and subsequent ejection from the contest," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and student services and liaison to the Baseball Rules

Committee.

The changes to Rule 3-3-1 Penalty will help to de-escalate contentious situations and allow coaches to dictate their status in the game by their behavior, Hopkins said.

"A successful game official practices preventive officiating, and this new penalty progression will allow the official to issue penalties that give the coach the opportunity to remain in the game and teach his players."

The other change approved by the Baseball Rules Committee is an addition to Rule 3-3-1. Article "q" will state that a coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not "have any physical contact, spitting, kicking of dirt or any other physical

action directed toward an umpire."

The addition of article "q" serves to clarify other behaviors that would result in an ejection from the game, Hopkins said.

"Bad behavior that is being imitated from other levels has no place in education-based athletics and will not be tolerated," Hopkins said. "If we are to continue to use sport to teach life lessons, then we have to ensure that appropriate behavior and conduct are modeled from those adults in the role of coach or teacher."

In addition to the two rules changes, the Baseball Rules Committee approved three Points of Emphasis for the 2016 season. Points of emphasis are developed by NFHS

rules committees and should receive special focus and attention by officials, coaches, players, fans and other leaders within the high school setting.

For softball, one rule change was recommended by the NFHS Softball Rules Committee at its June 15 meeting.

In the new Article 4 of Rule 2-57, the committee provided a standard definition of a "projected" substitute.

Rule 3-3-3 prohibits the use of a projected substitute, which is now defined in the new article as "a player who does not immediately participate in the game."

"There has been some confusion among both officials and coaches about substitution procedure," said Theresia Wynns,

NFHS director of sports and officials education and liaison to the Softball Rules Committee. "Therefore, the committee felt it was necessary to clear up that process and provide coaches and officials with a standard definition of a projected substitute."

According to the NFHS Athletics Participation Survey, baseball is the fourth-most popular sport for boys at the high school level with 482,629 participants in 15,789 schools.

Fast-pitch softball is the fifth-most popular sport for girls with 364,297 participants in 15,225 schools during the 2013-14 season.

— Submitted by Brandon Jones, intern for NFHS Publications.



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High water temperatures stressful on fish

SALEM — Summer conditions have come early to Oregon, and in many places fish like trout, salmon, steelhead and sturgeon are struggling with low water levels and high water temperatures.

"Normally we see these kinds of conditions later in the summer, not in late June and early July," said Rick Hargrave, ODFW Information and Education Division Administrator.

In response, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking anglers to take precautions when fishing during these drought conditions.

"When streams get too warm, fish are stressed and as a result the fishing goes downhill fast," said Rick Hargrave, ODFW Information and Education Division Administrator. "Fish stop bit-

ing or retreat to deeper, cooler water where they are harder to catch."

On days when temperatures

elevation lakes or shaded streams near headwaters. These places are often cooler.

• Use barbless hooks so you

"If drought conditions continue, it's possible we may have to close or restrict some fisheries in order to protect fish."

— Rick Hargrave, ODFW Information and Education Division Administrator

soar, anglers can do their part to reduce the stress fish are under. Hargrave recommends the following when fishing in waters that include native fish you intend to release:

- Fish early in day when water temperatures are cooler.
- Use a thermometer to check water temperatures frequently. Stop fishing when temperatures exceed 70 degrees.
- Look for trout in deep, high

can release fish easily.

- Use the appropriate gear and land fish quickly. The longer the fight, the less likely the fish will survive.
- Keep the fish in the water when you unhook it and cradle the fish upright until it revives enough to swim away.
- Use your judgement. If conditions where you want to fish seems especially severe (low, hot water), consider fishing somewhere else where

water conditions are better.

Check the regulation update pages on the ODFW website at www.dfw.state.or.us to make sure temporary emergency regulations have not been put in place for the waters you want to fish before you go.

"If drought conditions continue, it's possible we may have to close or restrict some fisheries in order to protect fish," Hargrave said. "Anglers will need to be alert to these changes."

Anglers after hatchery trout will continue to find some good fishing in places where ODFW continues stocking trout.

"We're adjusting some stocking schedules to put fish in those places with the best water conditions," Hargrave said.

He recommends anglers check the weekly Recreation Report on the ODFW website at www.dfw.state.or.us/RR/index.asp for updates on stocking, water conditions and boating access.

Texas 4000 cyclists return to Florence tomorrow

On Thursday, July 9, there will be a group of bicycle riders arrive in Florence to spend the evening at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The Texas 4000 is a group of 22 men and women riding their bikes from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska to help raise awareness and money for the cure of all cancers.

The group's target this year is to exceed \$800,000.

While some of these riders are cancer survivors themselves, they all have been touched by this disease through family or close friends.

On May 29, there were three groups of riders that all started at the University of Texas.

One group went north through the Mid-West, one group went north along the east

side of the Rockies, and this group (known as the Sierra group) stayed to the west side of the Rockies.

They will all meet on Aug. 7 to ride into Anchorage together.

This is the ninth year that the Texas 4000 has visited Florence. Traditionally, the group arrives in the late afternoon and is treated to what has become known as a "Thanksgiving in July" turkey dinner. During the dinner, riders frequently give talks on their own experiences as well as others in their lives.

Following dinner, the group is taken to its host's home to do laundry and get a good night's sleep in a real bed.

While St. Andrew's has always been the host facility,

there are many friends and neighbors who pitch in to help with housing, cooking, cleaning and all the work it takes to put this together.

About 8 a.m. on Friday morning, the group will start its ride with a traditional "Hakkah" circle and ride dedication ceremony. This is in a "multi-layered, hold-hands type of circle" where everyone present is invited to participate.

This is held in the parking lot at St. Andrew's, 19th and Tamarack streets.

Everyone who wants to join in the ceremony and the safe wishes for the riders is welcome.

For more information, contact Terri Pennington at 541-999-2400.

REPLACE, RENEW BOATING CARD ONLINE

With the Marine Board's new online storefront (open 24/7), boat operators can order a replacement boater education card and print out a temporary permit and go boating right away. Boaters no longer have to call or visit the Salem office during business hours to verify they have a card, and then wait for snail mail for their replacement — which typically takes two to three weeks.

"This time every spring, boaters get their boats and gear prepped, and sometimes panic when they realize they can't find their card," says MariAnn McKenzie, Boater Education Coordinator for the Marine Board. "It's easy to go to our online registration system to order a replacement."

The cost of a replacement card is \$8 and the storefront

accepts most major credit cards.

Go to www.boatoregon.com and click on the RegLine icon from the homepage. If boaters have purchased an AIS permit, applied for a boater education card or registered a boat, the Marine Board's online storefront already has the boater's baseline data.

Simply register to create an account.

Once boaters establish a user name and password, they can login, and click on online services drop-down, and select the Boater Education Card Replacement Application link, then follow the directions.

Once payment is verified, boaters will have the option to print a temporary permit, which is valid for up to 60 days and must be carried onboard

the boat. If you need assistance with the online process, contact the Education Section at the Marine Board at 503-378-8587.

The Mandatory Education law was implemented in 2001 and requires boaters to take an approved boating safety course, apply for a boater education card and carry it with them on the water when operating a powerboat over 10 horsepower.

The card costs \$10 and is good for life.

The card costs \$10 and is good for life.

It's a Class D violation and boaters could get a \$110 fine."

To order a replacement boater education card or to set up an account with the Marine Board's online storefront, visit www.boatoregon.com.