

NFHS introduces new high school baseball rules

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — High school baseball rules will now require a pitching restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown in a game.

The revised pitching policy in Rule 6-2-6 was one of six rules changes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules Committee at its June 5-7 meeting in Indianapolis.

The rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Each NFHS member state association will be required to develop its own pitching restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown during a game to afford pitchers a required rest period between pitching appearances.

“We’re pleased that the rules committee worked in conjunction with the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to find an acceptable and reasonable modification to this rule in order to emphasize the risk that occurs when pitchers overuse their throwing arm,”

said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and student services and staff liaison for baseball.

The Baseball Rules Committee also revised Rule 2-32-2 regarding sliding into home plate.

The revised language states: “At home plate, it is permissible for the slider’s momentum to carry him through the plate in the baseline extended.”

The committee altered this rule since the physical design of home plate makes it difficult for a runner to break momen-

tum on a slide, as opposed to the other three bases, which are elevated.

The committee also revised Rule 3-3-1, which states the umpire has the ability to give three warnings to a coach or player before he or she is removed from the game.

“Officials now have the opportunity to provide a tiered warning system for coaches or players,” Hopkins said. “It provides the coaches or players with a teachable moment to change their unsportsmanlike behavior in order to stay in the

game.”

A new article 6 was added to Rule 8-3 to provide a rules reference for an existing ruling in the Baseball Case Book. The new article reads: “When a plate umpire hinders, impedes or prevents a catcher’s throw attempting to prevent a stolen base or retire a runner on a pickoff play, if an out is not made at the end of the catcher’s initial throw, the ball shall be dead and all runners shall return to the bases occupied at the time of the interference.”

The rules committee also

approved an addition to Rule 8-4-2, which states that any runner is out when he is physically assisted by a coach.

This rule change supports a revision in Rule 3-2-2 Penalty, which states that the runner shall be called out immediately when he is physically assisted by a coach.

A complete listing of the baseball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

Click on “Activities & Sports” at the top of the home page, and select “Baseball.”

EUGENE EMERALDS MID-WEEK SERIES TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

EUGENE — The Eugene Emeralds are back in town starting Monday, July 18, for a rematch against the Hillsboro Hops.

After suffering their first series loss of the season against the Hops earlier this week, the Emeralds are hoping to win the series and cement their lead in

the South Division of the Northwest League.

To help with the “Good Karma” surrounding the Ems’ hot streak, the series will start with the third “Good Karma Monday” of the season.

This name-your-ticket-price promotion allows fans to select the price they pay for the ticket,

with 50 percent of the ticket price being donated to Special Olympics.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children, youth and adults living with intellectual disabilities.

Good Karma Mondays are presented by Northwest Community Credit Union.

Fans can come to PK Park the following day for the first Hoppy Tuesday of the summer.

During the game, fans age 21 and older can enjoy discounted craft beers from local favorite, Ninkasi, while enjoying the

game.

Kids will definitely want to be at PK Park on Wednesday, July 20, to help celebrate the birthday of the Ems’ green-bear mascot, Sluggo.

Come join Sluggo and his mascot friends as they celebrate his seventh birthday and watch the final game of the series

against the Hillsboro Hops.

Mascots from the Hops, the Trailblazers, the Medford Rogues and Winterhawks will all be attending.

Fans will get a rare chance to see all of their favorite Oregon-based mascots in one place for a night of baseball.

Sign up for matsutake mushroom permits to begin Aug. 16

CORVALLIS — Annual permits for matsutake mushrooms go on sale from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area office, 855 Highway 101, in Reedsport.

Anyone gathering matsutake mushrooms within the Siuslaw National Forest for the purpose

of selling must carry a commercial-use permit while picking.

One hundred permits will be available for sale at \$250 a permit. There will be one permit issued per person and permits will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

To purchase a permit, the following information must be

provided:

- Valid identification card issued by a state or U.S. federal government
- Vehicle make, model and license plate number

Permits can be purchased using cash, check or credit card.

After Aug. 16, unsold per-

mits can be purchased out of the Siuslaw National Forest headquarters in Corvallis, the Central Coast Ranger Station in Waldport and the ODNRA office in Reedsport.

No permits are needed if gathering matsutakes for personal use. Personal use restrictions are six matsutakes per

person a day, and the mushroom must be cut in half length-wise immediately upon harvesting to remove its commercial value.

Be aware that similarly looking poisonous mushrooms exist in the same area as matsutakes. Do not disturb topsoil when searching for matsutakes by

digging or raking.

Upon harvesting a matsutake, return soil or debris attached to the stem back into the cavity created by the removed mushroom and cover the hole.

For more information, contact the Oregon Dunes NRA office at 541-271-6000.

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