

# Volume 1: (Week 3/2 – 3/7/20) Case Plays

## Week 1 Case Plays deal with our new NFHS DH Rule

- **Case Play 1:** The home team coach is using Jones as his Player/DH in the starting pitcher position, batting 5th in the 9 player lineup. In the 2nd inning, Jones comes to bat and hits a clean double. The home team coach approaches the plate umpire and requests a courtesy runner for his pitcher, Jones. ... **Make Your Ruling -**

**RULING 1:** A Courtesy Runner for Jones as pitcher/DH is Not allowed. The reason is that when his team is on defense Jones is considered to be a position player, the pitcher. But, when Jones is at bat he is batting as the DH, not as the pitcher. A Courtesy Runner is not allowed for the DH. (Rule 3-1-4b; Suggested Speed-Up Rules-Courtesy Runners 1). The use of a runner in this case would actually be a “pinch runner”, which would eliminate the DH role for the rest of the game.

- **Case Play 2:** The home team coach is using Jones as his Player/DH in the starting pitcher position, batting 5th in the 9 player lineup. Jones comes to bat in the 4th inning and hits a double, but, while sliding into 2nd base he sprains his ankle and is removed from the game. The coach puts legal substitute Williams in the game to run for Jones. Jones comes back into pitch in the 5th inning. ... **Make Your Ruling -**

**RULING 2:** This is legal. However, the impact of Williams running for Jones is that the role of the DH is now ended for the game. Since Jones is no longer the DH, and he and Williams cannot occupy a spot in the lineup at the same time, Jones is considered to have been removed from the game for his first time. Jones can re-enter the game, once, because he is a “Starter”. But he re-enters as only a position player, not a Player/DH. (Rule 3-1-3, 3-1-4b)

- **Case Play 3:** The home team coach is using Jones as his Player/DH in the starting pitcher position, batting 5th in the 9 player lineup. Jones as the pitcher grows tired in the 5th inning and is replaced as the pitcher by Coleman. The coach keeps Jones as the DH, and he bats in the 6th inning, getting hit in the helmet by a pitch. He is examined by the trainer who says Jones is not allowed to continue. The coach a) puts Smith in to run for Jones at first base, or, b) has Coleman run for Jones. ... **Make Your Ruling for a) and b) –**

**RULING 3:** Both a) and b) are legal actions. In a), the role of the DH will be ended for the game as Smith is an offensive substitute for Jones, the DH. Additionally, Coleman will be out of the game since Smith now occupies that spot in the batting order. In b) the role of the DH is also ended. Coleman does remain in the game as the pitcher, and he will bat for himself in later at-bats. (Rule 3-1-3, 3-1-4b)

# Volume 2: (Week 3/9 – 3/14/20) Case Plays

## Week 2 Case Plays deal with “Hit By Pitch”

- **Case Play 1:** Batter B1’s shirt has the top two buttons undone causing the top part of his shirt to loosely hang. As the plate umpire you hadn’t noticed it in time before F1 throws a fastball down

the middle of the batter's box. B1 is caught flat-footed and the ball strikes him in the middle of his upper torso. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 1:** B1 is a hit batsman since he did not swing at the pitch, and his loose, unbuttoned shirt had no bearing on where/how the pitch hit him. He is awarded first.

- **Case Play 2:** Batter B1 takes a legal stance in the batter's box, but he is leaning over the plate. F1's off-speed pitch is high over the inside edge of the plate, but out of the strike zone on the high side. B1 freezes, turns his shoulder slightly and allows the pitch to hit the top of his shoulder that is leaning out of the batter's box near the inside edge of the plate. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 2:** The ball is dead and is called a Ball. B1 is not awarded first because he permitted the ball to hit him without making a bona fide effort to avoid being hit. This is a classic example of where you need to apply your judgement as to whether the batter's reaction was a bona fide effort to avoid, or did he just make a feeble attempt to move and allow the ball to hit him because it was a slow pitch.

- **Case Play 3:** With a runner R1 on first, batter B1 anticipates a curve on a 1-0 count and holds his ground. R1 is stealing second base on the pitch. The pitched ball breaks, but hits B1 on the wrist in the strike zone as he tries to avoid it. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 3:** The ball is dead and B1 remains at bat with a strike called and now has a 1-1 count. R1 must go back to first. The pitch was in the strike zone, so even though the batter tried to avoid being hit he put his wrist in the strike zone. Don't penalize the pitcher for throwing a good pitch, a strike.

## Volume 3 (Week 3/16-3/21/20) Case Plays

**Volume 3 Case Plays deal with the NFHS pre-game conference (aka, "Ground Rules" conference")**

- **Case Play 1:** At the Pre-Game conference, unnoticed by either team and the home plate umpire, the visiting team turns in their lineup card with eight players listed as starters and three substitute players listed. The visiting team bats in the top of the first inning with six players coming to bat, scoring one run before three outs are made. The visiting team then takes the field in the bottom of the first inning with nine players in their defensive positions. In the top of the second inning, the home team realizes that its opponent has only eight players listed in the starting lineup. The home team coach brings this to the attention of the home plate umpire and tells the home plate umpire that for the remainder of the game an out should be called every time the missing ninth spot comes to bat. The visiting team, now aware of its omission, wants to add to the lineup the ninth defensive player in the ninth position of the batting order. However, this ninth player wasn't listed as one of the three substitutes on the lineup card, nor was he listed as one of the starters. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 1:** This is legal. The team did start the game with nine players - As noted, nine players took their defensive positions in the first inning. (NFHS 4-4-1f). The team is allowed to correct the lineup omission, and it is legal for a team to use a player not originally listed on the lineup card. There is no penalty for correcting the error (NFHS: 1-1-2).

- **Case Play 2:** The home team coach confirms at the pre-game conference that all his players are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules. In the first inning, the home plate umpire notices that the catcher is not wearing a chest protector with the NOCSAE mark. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 2:** The plate umpire shall accept the coach's original verification that all his players are properly equipped. The plate umpire shall not require the catcher to disrobe, nor unbutton his jersey to prove that he is wearing a body protector under his jersey. (NFHS: 1-5-3, 4-1-3b)

- **Case Play 3:** The home team coach confirms at the pre-game conference that all his players are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules. In the first inning, the home plate umpire notices that the catcher is not wearing a chest protector with the SEI/NOCSAE mark, but he accepts the coach's original pre-game verification. Later in the game, in the third inning the catcher says that he forgot his under-jersey body protector and is not wearing any protection under his jersey other than a plain undershirt. ... **Make your Ruling –**

**Ruling 3:** The plate umpire correctly accepted the coach's verification. However, once the plate umpire has knowledge that the verification was not totally accurate, the umpire must halt the game and have the situation rectified. The umpire will stop the game and ask the coach if there is a legal body/chest protector available that his catcher may use. The game cannot resume until the catcher is legally equipped. (NFHS: 1-5-3, 1-5-6)

## Volume 4 (Week 3/23-3/28/20) Case Plays

Volume 4 Case Play deals with the Lineup Card

### Case Plays - Only one case play this week

- **Case Play 1:** The home team's lineup card was accepted at the pre-game conference. In the second inning, the lead-off batter, # 29, T. Smith, batting in the fifth spot in the batting order, hits a single. The visiting team coach then informs the home plate umpire that # 29 has batted out of order, because # 24 is listed as the fifth batter in the batting order on the home team's lineup card. The Home Plate umpire checks his own lineup card and confirms that indeed # 24, T. Smith, is listed as the fifth batter in the order. The umpire informs the home team coach that #24 should have been the batter. The home team coach then informs the umpire, that T. Smith was listed as the fifth batter but had the wrong number listed as his number on the lineup card. The lineup card had the sixth batter in the order, J. Jones, listed as # 29. In fact, the lineup card had mixed up the two numbers, showing that Smith was # 24, and Jones was # 29, when, it should have listed Smith as # 29, and Jones as # 24. ... **Make Your Ruling -**

**Ruling 1:** T. Smith was the legal batter because it was **his name** listed as the fifth batter in the order on the lineup card, regardless of the jersey number he had listed. Both teams and the home plate umpire should make the jersey numbers corrections for Smith and Jones, but there is no penalty for doing so. The listed Name of the player takes precedent over the jersey number listed.