



## September 2023 Recruits Newsletter

### **What's Happening!**

In August, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) athletics held its kickoff meeting for assigners and commissioners. Joe Holonich, as the CASO Commissioner/Assigner/Rules Interpreter and Al Palmer, as the Secretary/Treasurer, attended the meeting. Some salient points from the meeting were:

- Getting athletic trainers in all high schools has been a priority. Now that this is accomplished, advocating for officials is the next priority.
- This is the last year in the three-year contract cycle. For the next round of contracts, Dr. Jeff Sullivan, the head of MCPS athletics, is looking to: 1) increase game fees as substantially as he can, 2) see if MCPS will pay assigner fees separately so officials pay less commission on game fees; and 3) continue to provide a small amount of funds for recruiting and training.
- MCPS athletics is focused on helping with recruitment and Dr. Sullivan emphasized that MCPS athletics was willing to work with officials to use the information MCPS athletics has available to it to inform parents and students about officiating opportunities.
- Dr. Sullivan has asked coaches and players to demonstrate professionalism and respect towards officials and is asking us to reciprocate in a professional and respectful manner.

### **Prospective New Recruits**

If you have coached or umpired in the past and might be interested in working some fall league games, please contact Joe Holonich. His email address is at the end of this newsletter. We can always use help with youth games in the fall. Games are usually played on weekends but could also be during the week on some lighted fields. A short training session on Zoom and another short training session on the field for mechanics may be needed. You'll also have to have the uniform and equipment. You can see what is needed on the [uniform page](#) of our website.

### **From the Case Book**

#### **Situation 1:**

With bases loaded and one out the batter hit a grand slam. After all runners have touched home the defense a) appeals the runner on first missed second base and the runner on second base missed third base or b) the runner on second base missed third base and the runner on first base missed second base. In both scenarios, all runners touched home.

#### **Ruling:**

For a), when the runner going from first base to second base is declared out first, the runner going from second base to third base is no longer forced to run. That means that the last out of the inning made at third base was a timing out. One run of the four counts because the runner originally on third base had scored before the final, timing out was made on the runner advancing from second base to third base.

In b), the runner going from second to third base was put out first so that is a force out. Then, the runner advancing from first base to second base was also put out on a force out which was

the third out of the inning. In this scenario, no runs are scored, even though the runner originally on third base scored before the appeals. The reason is a run cannot score on a third, force out at any base.

In both scenarios, the batter reaching home on her homerun would not score because a preceding runner had been declared the third out.

**Rule 2, “Definitions,” 63, TIMING PLAY:** A timing play is a play when the last out of an inning is not the result of a force out and the exact time of the out may or may not allow a run to score. If a runner should touch home plate an instant before the last out (which is not a force out) is made, then the run would be scored.

**Rule 2, 24, “FORCE PLAY, Article 1:** A force play is a play in which a runner loses the right to the base occupied and is forced to advance.

**Rule 9, “Scoring and Record Keeping,” Section 1, “HOW A TEAM SCORES,”**

**Exception:** A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made as follows:

b. by another runner being forced out.

f. when a runner crosses home plate after a preceding runner is declared the third out.

**Situation 2:**

The Flex player a) comes to bat for the DP in the top of the third inning without reporting to the umpire or b) comes to bat for a player other than the DP in the top of the third inning without reporting to the umpire. In both scenarios the ball is made live.

**Ruling:** In scenario a), the DP has left the game and the FLEX player is an unreported substitute. The coach is given an unsportsmanlike conduct warning. If a second unreported substitute enters the game, the coach is restricted to the bench.

For scenario b), the FLEX has entered the lineup in a position other than the DP. This is an illegal substitute. The player is out and restricted to the bench for the remainder of the game.

**Rule 2, “Definitions,” Section 57, “Substitute, Unreported, Illegal”**

**ART 2...Unreported Substitute** An unreported substitute is a substitute who has a legal right to participate in the game but has not reported to the umpire to participate. (3-3-4, 3-6-7).

**Rule 3, “Players, Substitutes, and Coaches,” Section 3, “Substituting”**

**ART 4...**A substitute or courtesy runner shall not enter the contest unreported (3-6-7 PENALTY 8-9-7)

**Rule 3, Section 6, “Bench and Field Conduct,”**

**ART 7...**Players and substitutes shall not enter the contest unreported.

**PENALTY: [...]** (ART 7) **The head coach is also restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game for a second violation.**

**Rule 3, Section 4, “Illegal Substitute,”**

**ART 2...**Illegal offensive players may be discovered:

...when in the batter’s box, THE BALL IS LIVE (*emphasis added*) and/or before the batter-runner reaches first base, or is put out and before a pitch is delivered to the next batter on either team.

**PENALTY: (ART 2) The illegal substitute is restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. (Art 2a, b) The player is called out.**

**Situation 3:**

With R1 on third base and no outs, B2 is at bat. After a wild pitch that gets past F2, R1 is more than halfway home when F2 retrieves the ball and throws it to F1 who is covering home. F1 stares down R1 who starts slowly walking back toward third base. As F1 walks towards the pitcher's circle, she continues to watch R1 walking back toward third base. Once F1 enters the pitcher's circle she looks away, and R1, who is 3-4 feet from third base, stops and immediately attempts to advance to home where she is safe. The defensive coach objects saying this is a violation of the look back rule.

**Ruling:**

The runner is safe at home. The look-back rule was not in effect as the runner walked to third base the pitcher was not in the pitcher's circle. Once the pitcher enters the pitcher's circle, the runner can stop once, which she did, and return to third base or attempt to go home.

**Rule 8, "Batter-Runner and Runner," Section 7, "Lookback Rule,"**

**ART 1...**The look-back rule will be in effect when the ball is live, ...and the pitcher has possession of the ball within the pitcher's circle.

**ART 2...**The runner(s) may stop once, but then must immediately return to the base or attempt to advance to the next base.

**Today's Question**

**Question:** What assignments will I get during the season?

**Answer:** For new recruits doing high-school games, initially you will be assigned to the bases in scrimmages and early JV regular season games. This provides you with the opportunity to watch the experienced umpire manage the game. The plate umpire is responsible for good game management. As the season progresses, you will be assigned plate duties for regular season, JV games. Later, you may get assigned varsity games.

Also, once you have gained some experience on the field, depending on your availability, you will be assigned youth games, which are one umpire.

Student umpires are assigned early games with experienced umpires. Initially the student umpires are assigned bases to observe the game management of an experienced umpire. After a few games they will be assigned the plate with an experienced umpire. These four to six games are not paid but the student can get SSL hours. In the past, some experienced umpires have split the game fee.

[Visit our webpage](#) on becoming and umpire and our [FAQs page](#) to get more information.

Look for our next newsletter in December 2023.

If you have recruiting questions, feel free to email [Jim Morton, Second Vice President](#)

If you have any other questions, feel free to [email our assigner, Joe Holonich](#).

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