



MHSAA BASEBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

2023-2024 SEASON

This document is intended to provide both coaches and umpires with the most up-to-date information on a variety of topics. This is not meant to cover all questions or concerns that the MHSAA baseball community might have, but it should clear up several topics for the start of the season. As always, please feel free to contact me anytime (best by email – brad@mhsaa.com) for any further questions or concerns.

Coach to Catcher Communication System-

The new rule allows electronic communication from the coach in the dugout to the catcher. The communication must come from the dugout and only be to the catcher.

Malicious Contact-

Malicious contact can be initiated by either the offensive or defensive player. This would be considered malicious if it is with excessive force or intent to injure.

Use of Profanity-

There is an effort to eliminate profanity from players and coaches. The penalty can range from a warning up to ejection.

Pace of Play-

There is to be a concerted effort by coaches, players, and umpires to increase the pace of play. Emphasizing transitions on and off the field, limiting conversations

between innings, and limiting the length of conferences all help to increase the pace of play.

Play Wristbands-

Rules now clarify that these must be worn on the wrist/forearm. A pitcher can wear this on their non-throwing arm. It must be a solid color (not white or grey) and must not be distracting. Wristbands can NOT be worn on the belt.

Sportsmanship-

Cheering and celebrating is always permitted. However, excessive celebrations and unsportsmanlike behavior will not be permitted. Excessive celebrations include, but are not limited to:

- Choreographed celebrations
- Use of props, either on the field or in the dugout
- Chants that are intended to ridicule or taunt the opponent

We ask that coaches limit the use of eye black to its intended purpose. Please do not allow face painting, insignias, or messages to be painted on the athletes' face.

Score Reporting-

The baseball committee is investigating the use of Michigan Power Ranking to potentially seed the district tournament in the future. This could become a proposal to the Representative Council in the future. To have good data, the MHSAA and MHSBCA are asking that all schools input their schedule on the MHSAA website and keep scores updated on this site.