



## **MIAA REENTRY RULE**

I understand the new MIAA reentry rule has been the cause of many discussions and concerns on the part of many Boards and umpires, as well as, coaches. After hours, days, weeks of discussion with the MIAA and other involved parties, I feel confident we have reached a definitive answer to this issue. I hope the following will offer you some explanation and clarification of the rule:

**NFHS RULE 2, SECTION 36, ARTICLE 3(C) DEFINES AN ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTE AS: "a player who enters the game on defense while the player for whom he is batting is also on defense".** This suggests a "link" (they both share the same spot in the batting order) between the DH and the player for whom he is batting. That "link" has been somewhat expanded by the MIAA rule to state that "the defensive player who is being DH'd for may NOT reenter the game unless the DH has been terminated"(see guideline 3). The player who is being DH'd for is always permitted to pinch hit or pinch run for the DH(see guideline 4). (Guidelines 5-9) give examples reaffirming the main principles:

- (1) The DH can be pinch hit or pinch run for and that person becomes the DH and the original DH may reenter.
- (2) The player who is being DH'd for can always pinch hit or pinch run for the DH. DH terminated.
- (3) The player who is being DH'd for CANNOT reenter if there is still a DH.
- (4) Once the DH is terminated by entering the game defensively, the only player that may reenter is the player who was originally DH'd for and that player and the DH cannot both occupy defensive positions.

### **PENALTY FOR AN ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTE**

If there is an illegal substitute/player on offense or defense NFHS RULE 3 SECTION 1 ARTICLE 1 shall apply: If on offense (illegal batter, pinch runner) and discovered by a coach or an umpire before the next pitch to the FOLLOWING batter of either team: The "illegal player" is declared out, all base running advances nullified (return to bases) and the defense gets to keep any outs recorded during the play. The "illegal player" is removed and restricted to the bench.

If there is an illegal substitute/player on defense and discovered by a coach or an umpire before the next pitch to the FOLLOWING batter of either team: the offensive team may elect to take the result of the play or have the batter bat again. The "illegal player" is removed and restricted to the bench.

If a "restricted player" should happen to reenter the game illegally, the above penalties would apply including "ejection" from the game.

If the question of an "illegal player" occurs during a game ending play, it must be discovered before all infielders, including the pitcher, leave fair territory (cross the foul lines).

### **NFHS EXCEPTION**

The MIAA has also adopted the NFHS Exception Rule with regards to pitchers. This rule, simply put, means that any starting or relief pitcher, who, may be eligible to reenter must remain in the game (continue to remain in the game in a defensive position) if the coach wants to have the option of bringing him back as a "pitcher"(guidelines 10-11). Once he is replaced, in any capacity, (pinch hit, pinch run, etc.) he may be eligible to reenter, but he may NOT return to pitch.

Tom Clews, MBUA State Interpreter

