

MARCH 7, 2014

Training Bulletin

PITCHING REGULATIONS – CHARGED CONFERENCE (Defensive)

ISSUE:

Over the past several weeks, we have heard from a number of coaches about an issue concerning defensive charged conferences. The primary area of concern is that some officials are charging a coach with a conference if the coach stops by the pitcher's mound between innings to observe or talk with his pitcher. This is NOT a "conference" unless the coach delays the start of the inning (see approved case ruling below).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (NFHS Rule 3-4-1)

ART. 1 . . . Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than three charged conferences during a seven-inning game, without penalty, to permit coaches or their nonplaying representatives to confer with a defensive player or players. In an extra inning game, each team shall be permitted one charged conference each inning while on defense without penalty. The number of charged conferences permitted is not cumulative. A request for time for this purpose shall be made by a coach, player, substitute or an attendant. Time granted for an obviously incapacitated player shall not constitute a charged conference.

APPROVED NFHS RULINGS

SITUATION:

Between innings, the coach of Team A walks from the third base coach's box to the pitcher's mound and proceeds to visit with F1.

RULING:

F1 has one minute in which to complete his warm-up throws. At that point, the coach should leave the field. The umpire should not allow play to begin until the coach is off the field. The umpire may assess the coach a charged conference if he delays leaving the field.