



Memorandum

To: NFHS State Association Baseball Liaisons

From: B. Elliot Hopkins, MLD, CAA, NFHS Director of Sports, Sanctioning and Student Services

Subject: Baseball Wristband Information

Date: April 4, 2023

Good Afternoon, I have received numerous emails and calls from state associations regarding a specific baseball wristband that contains defensive plays and available pitches for defensive players. This particular product advertises that it was intended to be worn on the belt buckle or the wrist. This declaration is in direct opposition to our previous interpretation that these type products have to be worn on the wrist. I contacted the manufacturer as a professional courtesy to discuss our interpretation and intent regarding these products. Unfortunately, there was not much compromise or agreement that resulted from our conversation. The facts of the matter are that we have had NFHS Baseball Rule 1-5-11 that states, "Non-traditional playing equipment must be reviewed by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee before it will be permitted to be used." in our rule book since 1984. We followed up with an NFHS Approved Ruling citing that these products were intended to be worn on their wrist in 2010. We hope that you share this document with your schools. A manufacturer who chooses to improve their position and sales in the marketplace by using advertising tactics to circumvent a national rule is inappropriate. This product can be worn and used...on the wrist. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office.

BEH/kjr

enclosure