

All,

As happens each year, the high school softball season seems to be flying by. There are a couple of weeks left and then the playoffs will be starting in your local area. Thanks for continuing to represent yourself and your organization in a positive way. Here are a few things to consider as we all go down the home stretch:

- Stay focused on giving your best game to each contest. Every game is important to the participants: the match between two strong schools as well as the game where teams are simply trying to end the season on a positive note. Give the players and coaches your very best effort.
- -Remember that we are looking to be as consistent as we can be across the state. Are you recognizing and enforcing illegal pitches if they occur? How about this year's emphasis on pace of play? And remember the clarifications that come from the NFHS on a weekly basis. such as their directive to allow one on deck batter on the field between innings. One. Not one plus one. One single batter warming up with a bat on the field of play. No one said that every coach or player is going to be happy with this emphasis, but it comes from the NFHS. If each one of us enforces this, all teams will soon get used to the routine.
- Finally, keep having fun. Sometimes I can't believe that I am getting paid for working in a profession that I truly enjoy. Work with your partner to follow the prescribed mechanics, keep studying the rulebook, and give all teams your best possible game.

Finish strong and as always feel free to contact me with any questions.

Rick