

Softball officials,

It's almost here. Despite multiple snow storms and some really cold days, the high school season is indeed upon us. Hopefully you've been gearing up so that the first day on the field doesn't take you by surprise. Keep working out, reading the rulebook, and discussing with your colleagues all the things that will make the upcoming season a good one. There are a couple of things I'd like to address as we approach opening day...

- A video will be posted soon on the MPSSAA rules interpreters' site that I'd like for each of you to watch. This year I'd like us all to focus on basic mechanics as way of continuing to bring consistency across all associations. The presentation goes over the most basic softball mechanics that we all should adhere to regardless of what part of the state we work or the level of the game we're involved in. The NFHS Umpire Manual is the source for the information, with a few, small additions. The more every one of us looks professional during each moment of game, the more we all benefit from the positive appearance we give to coaches, players, and fans. Your local association is always available to assist you and you can contact me with any questions at any time.
- There have been multiple concerns about some of the questions on this year's NFHS test. The exam is understandably never perfect, but I agree that this year's exam has many questions that are unclear and could result in multiple answers being interpreted as correct. I have asked all local association boards to forward me any question that they feel is ambiguous, poorly worded, or simply wrong, and I will communicate these concerns with the national office. They will not be able to specifically address the concerns until the test officially ends, but I do think that it is important that they know we are paying attention and each of us is striving to achieve the best score we can get.

Warmer days are just around the corner. I want each of you to have the best year you can have, and I'll be communicating more as the softball season begins. Always feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns.

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