



NORTH COAST SECTION, CIF
5 Crow Canyon Ct., Ste. 209
San Ramon, CA 94583
Phone: 925-263-2110 Fax: 925-263-2120
Website: www.cifncs.org

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL ADVISORY

To: Principals, Head Masters, Athletic Directors
From: Gil Lemmon, Commissioner of Athletics
Date: May 15, 2014

TEHACHAPI BASEBALL COACH IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Yesterday Tehachapi High School baseball coach Chris Olofson sustained a substantial head injury after being struck by a line drive while standing in the coaching box. While these incidents are rare, the injury can be severe as a result. Coach Olofson was in critical condition with a skull fracture and some bleeding on the brain as of yesterday evening, listed as stable today. Our thoughts and prayers are for a speedy recovery, as well as support for his family, school and community.

Based on this incident North Coast Section, CIF is sharing information concerning the NFHS rules and option that high school baseball and softball programs have to protect all individuals who are positioned in the playing area of a contest.

NFHS Baseball and Softball Rules

NFHS baseball (Rule 1-5-1) and softball (Rule 1-6-1 and 3) rules mandate that on-deck batters, batters, runners, retired runners, players/students in the coaches box as well as non-adult bat/ball shaggers to wear a batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard.

There is no requirement for a certified coach in the coaches' box to wear a similar helmet. However, it is not against the NFHS rules in either baseball or softball for the certified coach in the coaches' box to wear a batting helmet for protection, and is encouraged. No one wants to see a similar incident in our section, an injury that could be avoided, or lessened in severity, by this simple proactive effort to protect coaches.

North Coast Section may recommend mandatory requirement by coaches to wear batting helmets in the future, with a possible proposal being reviewed by the NCS Sports Advisory Committee in September. Agendas and minutes of all governance meetings (SAC, Executive Committee and Board of Managers) are posted at the NCS website and coaches are encouraged to review agenda items that may impact their sport.

Best of luck in the remaining days of the 2014 baseball/softball seasons. We are looking forward to another season of great championships.

Cc: Roger Blake, Executive Director, California Interscholastic Federation
Chris Heller, President, North Coast Section, CIF
Karen Smith, Associate Commissioner, NCS/CIF
Bri Niemi, Assistant Commissioner, NCS/CIF
League Commissioners