

Dear Coaches,

The 2020 spring sports season is finally here and we are excited for another successful year of high school baseball across New Mexico. Practice officially starts Monday, February 3rd with the ultimate goal of every team being an opportunity to play for the Blue Trophy in mid May.

Although both the Albuquerque Isotopes & University of New Mexico Lobos are in town during most of this year's state tournament, both facilities have been secured so that each final will take place in one of the state's top baseball facilities. Class 2A will play its championship game on Friday, May 15th at UNM's Santa Ana Star Field. Classes A, 3A, 4A, & 5A will follow with their finals taking place on Saturday, May 16th at Isotopes Park.

Please remember that coaching is not only about skills and winning. The goal of interscholastic activities is to teach these young student-athletes about life itself. Coaches are true role models for these kids, and remember no matter what the situation, it is the duty of the coach to promote good sportsmanship and foster good character. With that, the NMAA office would like to remind you of the sportsmanship initiative that was launched in August of 2014. We encourage all coaches, administrators, student-athletes, and community members to help build a culture within interscholastic activities that promotes the core values of respect, integrity, and responsibility. The NMAA sportsmanship initiative is centered on these ideals with the mindset that all individuals involved in high school athletics should **"Compete with Class"**. In 2019, baseball coach ejections were down quite a bit from the previous year (25 to 10). I commend our coaches for this decrease as sportsmanship does of course start at the top. Player ejections did increase somewhat significantly (29 to 43), however, so I would like to once again challenge our schools in this area so that there are minimal ejections and negative incidents reported to our office during the 2020 baseball season.

The online rules clinic will detail all of the important information that you will need to know for the 2020 season. The main points of emphasis will be pitching regulations (including two new updates to these rules), sportsmanship, the new NFHS rules regarding the use of the DH, and the new NFHS equipment safety regulations that begin this year (baseballs and catcher's chest protector).

Each portion of the clinic contains important information pertaining to the upcoming season. You will need to review each unit by February 15th to receive credit. Your school will be fined should you fail to take this course. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this rules clinic or any other Baseball related issues.

Best of luck to you this season!

Sincerely,

Dusty Young
NMAA Associate Director

