2019



BASEBALL COACHES MANUAL

A Message from OHSAA Director of Sport Management, Emily Gates

As the new Baseball Administrator at the Ohio High School Athletic Association, I wanted to start by saying I am extremely excited to work with all baseball coaches across the state and the sport of baseball. I have a large passion for this sport and will continue the efforts to make this a top-tier sport in the state of Ohio and across the nation. I want to open my door to all of you to make sure you reach out to me with any questions, ideas, challenges, concerns, etc., that you may have and also any ideas you have for the betterment of the sport. While I do have a large passion for the sport, the reality is that you all are the ones out there working with the sport every day, and your guidance and feedback matters most. My contact information is listed at the beginning of this manual.

Please take the time to review the information within this manual and continue to check the Baseball webpage on our website, where you will find many resources as well.

This is a reminder that our State Rules Meetings remain **mandatory** for Varsity head coaches, which can be accessed on your myOHSAA profile. This is addressed in the early pages of this manual.

Rules governing OHSAA baseball stem from the National Federation (NFHS) *and* the OHSAA. NFHS Rules govern all playing rules while OHSAA Sport Regulations govern specific rules to Ohio as well as the various administrative regulations and interpretations. Our elected Board of Directors approve these regulations annually and serve as the basis for ALL schools playing by the same rules.

This is wishing each of you a successful season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in the sport of baseball in Ohio!

Sincerely,

Emily Gates
Director of Sport Management
Baseball Sport Administrator

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Mission Statement

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

OHSBCA

Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

OHSBCA Officers

President
Rob Lavengood, Ashland High School
Past President
Tom Neubert, St. Francis De Sales High School
Vice President
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David Burkett, Tuslaw High School
Team Ohio Coordinator/Business Manager
Jeff Mielcarek, Toledo Central Catholic
Website Coordinator
Dave Hall, Perrysburg High School
Poll Director
Curt Karpinski, Elyria High School

OHSBCA Representatives

Central, Jr.
Ryan Lucas, Olentangy High School
Central, Sr.
Drew Kirby, Buckeye Valley High School
East, Jr.
Nathan Prati, Maysville High School
East, Sr.
Michael Valesko, Harrison Central High School
Northeast, Sr.
Dan Ransom, Firelands High School
Northeast, Jr.
Matt Weymer, Ursuline High School
Northeast, So.
Brian Hiscox, Berkshire High School
Northwest, Jr.
Chad Spencer, Lima Shawnee High School
Northwest, Sr.
Chad Jensen, Buckeye Central High School
Southeast, Jr.
Gene Bumgardner, Unioto High School
Southeast, Sr.
Jeff Noble, Waverly High School
Southwest, Jr.
Mark Pelfrey, Springboro High School
Southwest, Sr.
Ray Hamilton, Lakota East High School

The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

The purpose of the **O**hio **H**igh **S**chool **B**aseball **C**oaches **A**ssociation is to unify all baseball coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school baseball, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of baseball.

What the OHSBCA does for You

1. Conducts the Annual OHSBCA Convention & Clinic
2. Conducts 4 Board meetings per year
3. Produces web-based Newsletters
4. Maintains the OHSBCA Website at www.ohsbca.org
5. Conducts the Mizuno All-Ohio Series in June honoring 80 Senior players
6. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
7. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
8. Maintains and selects the Hall of Fame and Induction Banquet
9. Provides Scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
10. Selects an annual Academic All-Ohio team
11. Honors coaches with Service and Victory Awards
12. Financially contributes to Team Ohio who play in the Sunbelt Classic
13. Sponsors the BCA Awards Banquet in Tucson, Arizona at the NHFSBCA Clinic
14. Sponsors a College "Coaches' Corner" at the OHSBCA clinic
15. Honors Past Presidents and Hall of Fame members
16. Attends all monthly OHSAA Board of Director meetings in Columbus
17. Maintains sponsorships with Rawlings, Pukka, Mizuno, Miller Net &

Joining the OHSBCA

1. The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association accepts memberships through February 15
2. Annual membership fees are only $15.00
3. Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/membership

Congratulations to the 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees!

The following coaches will be honored at this year's OHSBCA Clinic as inductees into the Class of 2019. Congratulations to these deserving coaches!

Dave King, *Sidney Lehman High School*
Chuck Schilling, *Hudson High School*
Frank Lamoreaux, *Seneca East High School*
Chris Kubbs, *Marion Pleasant High School*

OHSAA Dates & Contact Info

Practice May Begin on February 18, 2019

OHSBCA Clinic: January 17 – 19, 2019
Online Rules Meeting Live: Wednesday, January 30 at 9:00 am
First Day of Coaching: February 18, 2019
Online Rules Meeting Deadline w/out Late Fee*: Thursday, March 21 at 11:59 pm
Online Rules Meeting FINAL Deadline w/ $50 Late Fee: Monday, April 29 at 11:59 pm
Regular Season Contests May Begin: March 23, 2019
Non-Interscholastic Date: April 29, 2019
Tournament Draw Meeting: May 5, 2019
Sectional Tournaments: May 11 – 18, 2019
District Tournaments: May 20 – May 24, 2019
Regional Tournaments: May 30 & 31, 2019
State Tournament: June 7 – 9, 2019
**late fee begins on Friday, March 22 at 12:00 am*

Baseball Non-Interscholastic Date

The OHSAA establishes a "non-interscholastic' date for each sport that is 6 weeks from the first tournament date (April 19, 2019 for baseball). Though baseball student-athletes are not permitted to play ANY non-interscholastic baseball (travel, ACME, Legion, etc.) DURING THE SEASON OF PLAY, any player that violates this rule on or after the established 'non-interscholastic date' loses his/her eligibility for the OHSAA tournament at all levels. Please continue to remind your players of the non-interscholastic rule throughout the season.

OHSAA Contact Information

Emily Gates	*Director of Sport Management*	Baseball Administrator	egates@ohsaa.org
Dan McGinnis	*Director of Development, Baseball*	Coordinates education and recruitment of umpires	dan.mcginnis@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT BASEBALL LINKS

OHSAA Baseball Webpage: https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/baseball
OHSAA Baseball Sports' Regulations: http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Baseball/BaseballRegs.pdf
OHSAA GENERAL Sports' Regulations: http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf
NFHS (Rules, Field Diagrams, etc.): www.nfhs.org
Coaches' Education: www.nfhslearn.com
The Role of the Parent in Sports: www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=18000
Ohio HS Baseball Coaches' Association: http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/Home_Page

Rules Interpretation Meeting Information

Completion of the meeting, whether online or face to face, is **MANDATORY** for coaches and umpires.

TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETINGS

1. Login to your myOHSAA account (https://officials.myohsaa.org/Logon)
2. Click on the 'Rules Meeting' icon
3. Click on "Find a State Rules Meeting"
4. Search for the Baseball State Rules Meeting using the 'Sports' and 'Meeting Type' drop-down menus
5. Click on 'View Meeting' once the State Rules Meeting has gone live

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be available on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30 AT 9:00 AM

The last day for completion of the online version is **Thursday, March 21 at 11:59 pm,** or a $50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version. **The FINAL deadline WITH PENALTY, will be Monday, April 29 at 11:59 pm.** The Baseball Rules Meeting will no longer be available after Monday, April 29 at 11:59 pm.

REMINDER: Please do not view the Online Rules Meeting on a Chromebook—your attendance will not be recorded properly if viewed on one of these devices.

TO VIEW STATE RULES MEETING ATTENDANCE

1. Login to your myOHSAA account
2. Click on the 'Rules Meeting' icon
3. Click on 'View State Meeting Attendance'

The attendance is uploaded manually, so please allow a few days for the attendance to appear on your myOHSAA profile. We ask that you do not call the OHSAA office to inquire about attendance, as you will receive reminder emails from our office prior to the deadlines if you have not completed the meeting by that time.

Here's What's New In 2019



Bylaw 4-7-1 – Transfer

In the referendum vote which took place in May 2018, the member high school principals voted to change the transfer consequence, for those students who change high schools and do not meet a transfer exception, **from the first half of the season to the second half of the season plus the OHSAA tournament.**

STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED PRIOR TO MAY 16, 2018

Any student who transferred prior to May 16, 2018, during the '17-18 school year who does not meet a transfer exception is ***INELIGIBLE for all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed in any sport he or she played in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer.***

Note on "Completed/Suspended Games and their effect on Transfer Eligibility":

A baseball player who is ineligible due to not meeting one of the 11 transfer exceptions, must sit out all contests (scrimmages and games) until 13 regular season VARSITY contests are completed. Should a contest be suspended due to weather/darkness, etc., that game would NOT count toward the 13 completed contests for ineligibility. Another aspect of this rule requires all ineligible athletes in a contest to remain ineligible when the contest is resumed. So, if 13 other games are completed and the suspended game is

resumed later (game 20 for example), the softball player would remain ineligible for the resumed game. Interestingly enough, this could lead to an increase in the total number of games a player may be ineligible.

STUDENTS WHO TRANSFERRED ON OR AFTER MAY 16, 2018

Any student who transferred ON OR AFTER May 16, 2018, during the '17-18 school year or to begin this new school year and who does not meet a transfer exception is ***ELIGIBLE*** *for all contests in the first 50% of the regular season.* ***Once the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed, the student becomes INELIGIBLE for the remainder of the regular season plus the OHSAA tournament. In Softball, the student would become ineligible at Game 14.***

We urge your athletic administrator to direct any questions they might have about this transition and the application of the transfer consequence to a member of the compliance team: Deborah Moore (dmoore@ohsaa.org); Roxanne Price (rprice@ohsaa.org) or Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org).

Please Note Item Removed from Pitch Count

The Pitch Count

1.7 of the Baseball Regulations will now read: *Pitching restrictions in grades 9-12 shall adhere to the following pitch/rest limitations:*

Level	Daily Pitch Limit	O Days of Rest	1 Day of Rest	2 Days of Rest	3 Days of Rest
Grades 7-12	125 pitches	1 – 30 pitches	31 – 50 pitches	51 – 75 pitches	76 + pitches

1.71) A pitcher may finish the current batter if the daily pitch limit is reached during that at bat.
1.72) At the end of each contest, coaches will submit pitcher number and pitches thrown in the designated data collection system.
1.73) All pitches thrown in a suspended game or a "no contest" game SHALL COUNT toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.
1.74) All pitches thrown in a scrimmage or Preview SHALL COUNT toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.
1.75) Each school/team must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this available to the OHSAA upon request.
1.76) Any player pitching during a period in which rest is required is considered to be pitching as an ineligible player. **Note:** Any victorious contest in which an ineligible player is participating will result in forfeiture of the contest.

Please note that we removed the previous 1.72 that listed "if a pitcher pitches at least 31 pitches, he may NOT pitch in the second game of a double header (or the next day)".

A Few Facts Regarding this Regulation

1. This is a National Federation Rule (NFHS) that requires EACH STATE to adopt a "Pitch Count" limitation
2. The OHSAA Constitution requires us to follow the sport rules for each adopted sport
3. This regulation replaces the previous regulation (Regulation 1 of the Baseball specific regulations) that previously limited pitchers to 10 innings in 3 days. That regulation no longer exists.
4. The regulation is in effect for all 7th – 12th school sponsored baseball teams in Ohio.

Reminder on Player Contest Limitations

The OHSAA permits individual players to participate in games on 32 **dates**. Prior to last season, players were permitted to only appear in 27 total contests. By changing this from contests to dates, it affords the opportunity to keep JV programs alive by offering a little flexibility to move players up and down. Additionally, since a doubleheader is on a single date, this affords a player to play in one game of a DH for the JV team and maybe get an inning or two in with the varsity in the second game of a DH and only count that as one date of the 32 permitted. Keep in mind that no player may ever play in more than 2 contests in a single day. penalty for a player that exceeds the contest limitations is ineligibility. And, if an ineligible player participates in a contest, it results in forfeiture of the contest. As in other sports when exceeding contest limitations comes into question, coaches *must* provide written documentation (scorebook pages for example) to prove compliance. So, it does provide flexibility but adds an administrative dimension for coaches.

Pre-Season Parent/Player Meetings

We have encouraged coaches to invite local umpires to meet with their team and parents at these meetings. It allows the umpires to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the game.
Pre-season meetings with parents are now **mandatory** and will most likely occur along with other spring sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator. This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport polices, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc.
Also, though mentioned later in this manual, a course titled "The Role of the Parent in Sports" has recently been offered by the NFHS and is FREE to parents. Encourage them to watch this very informative video course. The course is available through the www.nfhslearn.com website.

Rawlings & Game Ball Information

Rawlings is the official baseball for the OHSAA. The Rawlings "R100" game ball is used at all levels of tournament play. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play, though most coaches choose to use the same ball approved for OHSAA tournament play.

Effective **January 1, 2020**, the ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs, which in turn will require all baseballs to have the NOCSAE mark by this date. Please know that this is an extension from the originally proposed January 1, 2019 date. Balls that only have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 season, as well as any balls that have the NOCSAE mark. Beginning January 1, 2020, all baseballs must have both the NOCSAE and NFHS mark—please see the picture below. This is a NFHS Point of Emphasis.

NFHS Bat Regulations

Each legal wood, aluminum or composite bat shall:

- Be one piece, multi-pieces and permanently assembled, or two pieces with interchangeable barrel construction.
- Not have exposed attachments, rivets, pins rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a potential hazard.
- Be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges. Bats that are broken, altered or that deface the ball are illegal. Materials inside the bat or treatments/devices used to alter the bat specifications and/or enhance performance are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
- Have a knob, handle, barrel, taper (optional transition area) and end cap.

Bats that are not made of a single piece of wood must be marked with **the BBCOR certification mark**. This standard, known as the "Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution", is the only standard bat permitted and recognized. This is covered in detail in the Baseball Rules Meeting.

The BBCOR mark is the only standard permitted for Non-Wood Bats. Requirements of the BBCOR mark:

- Rules require it to be minimum of one inch on each side
- Rules require it to be on the barrel of bat
- Rules require mark to be contrasting color to bat
- Rules require the BBCOR mark to be contrasting color to bat
- Rules require the mark to read "BBCOR .50"

Wood bats are legal. To be classified as a wood bat, the bat must be a single solid piece of wood. If the bat is NOT a solid wood bat, it must meet all the requirements of the BBCOR certification, including the BBCOR mark.

Examples of Non-Wood Bats:

- Bamboo Bats
- Bats with Metal Handles and Wood Barrels

Bat tampering continues to be addressed in the Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis—it is illegal and a federal crime. **Bat warmers or warming of the bat with any artificial device is considered illegal as well.**

DECERTIFIED BATS

Despite the BBCOR certification mark, certain practices led the NFHS to **decertify** a few bats. It is not necessary to get into the process of this, however, it is important to note that the following bats have been **decertified** and will not be permitted for use:

- Reebok Vector TLS 33 inch length
- Marucci Cat 5, 33" length
- Reebok Vector TLS 32" length

Use of any of the above listed bats during OHSAA contests is subject to the penalties outlined in Rules 4-1-3b and 7-4-1a of the NFHS Rules Book.

Coach Certification & Education Requirements

All Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams **must** have a Pupil Activity Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education to coach in the state of Ohio. The application for this certificate is available through local schools' (usually the Athletic Director). The application requires:

- Completion an approved Sports' First Aid Course
- The applicant to possess a valid CPR Card (online CPR is not an accepted method of completion)
- Completion of the required BCI Background Check
- Completion of the NFHS' "Fundamentals of Coaching" course
- Completion of 1 of the 2 approved Concussion Recognition/Management Courses
- Completion of the ODH/ODE Sudden Cardiac Arrest Certification (new in 2017-18)

Weekly Coach Memos & This Week in Baseball

Every couple of weeks of the baseball season, coaches receive an emailed memo highlighting current information and important reminders. These are emailed directly to the head coach via the email entered into the school's myOHSAA profile by the Athletic Administrator. We encourage you to provide this link to your assistant/sub-varsity coaches. Each newsletter is archived to allow coaches to view past postings at any time. These memos can be accessed directly on the OHSAA Baseball webpage.

Special Note on Scheduling & Out of State Contests

The first date for GAMES is **Saturday, March 23, 2019.** This could have an effect on any team that was planning on a southern trip to a non-bordering state.

- You may not play any regular season contest prior to Saturday, March 23, 2019.
- If you scrimmage another opponent, it must be part of the other team's allotted scrimmages also. In other words, it cannot be a scrimmage for your team and a regular season contest for the other team. Any contest in a non-bordering state must be counted as a game for both schools involved.
- Teams may not travel out of state *just* to practice but may practice while out of state for a contest.
- Teams may travel to a non-bordering state one time per season and may not miss any school for travel or competition.

The adopted and approved penalty for violations of the above is <u>INELIGIBILITY FOR THE OHSAA TOURNAMENT.</u>

Relative to regular season 'in-state' contests: Teams may schedule games right up until the board adopted "Season Ends" date of **June 15, 2019.** This means that whether or not you advance in the post-season tournament, you may still schedule (usually 'make up) a contest up until this date. Keep in mind that playing this late also eliminates any opportunity for a player to play non-interscholastic baseball until the school season is complete.

You may also conduct a scrimmage at any point in the season, including during tournament play provided you have a scrimmage remaining (as does your opponent). Just keep in mind that if you scrimmage another team, it must be counted as a scrimmage for both teams so that implies that the opponent must have a scrimmage remaining on their schedule as well.

OHSAA Bylaw 1.2 was adopted by the member schools for 2017-18 that requires several important things as it relates to out-of-state competitions. This bylaw reinforces the fact that ALL contests played out-of-state **must be conducted under 2 important criteria:**

1. **All Competitions must be officiated by licensed umpires in the state of competition**
2. **All Competitions must be played under <u>all NFHS Baseball Playing Rules</u>**

Currently it is the responsibility of schools that have agreed to play in out-of-state competitions to insure the above criteria are met. The OHSAA will not approve travel to contests out-of-state that do not abide by these criteria.

Sport Regulation 8: Individual Instruction In & Out of Season

Sports Regulation 8.2 – In Season

Many questions arise regarding players receiving individual instruction **during the season** from individuals not associated with the school's baseball program. These include instruction from private hitting instructors and pitching instructors. The OHSAA's Sports Regulation 8.2 addresses the specifics of receiving instruction during the season. Sports Regulation 8.2.3 reads:

> *"Non-school coaches or instructors may provide individual skill/coaching instruction to a member of a school team at any time provided the individual skill/coaching instruction does not violate any Board of Education (or similar governing body), school administrators'' or school coaches' policies or the Ohio Revised Code."*

The language of this regulation provides the latitude to a school's administration or coach that may NOT want to allow players to obtain "outside instruction" during the season. Within this regulation, they are given the authority to do so within their own athletic/'team policies.

This of course has some exception within the confines, defined in newly adopted General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 that permits school coaches the ability to provide **individual instruction** outside the season of play (see below).

Sports Regulation 8.2.1 – Individual Instruction OUT of Season

General Sports Regulation 8.3 – The "Individual Instruction" Regulation

This addition of this regulation permits school coaches the opportunity to provide individual skill instruction **outside the season** of play and outside the June 1 – July 31 period that was the previous limitation. It is written with the intent of providing skill instruction to individuals and is not intended – nor written – to permit any addition to the "team days" (10) permitted during June and July. Additionally, it is intended to provide an affordable alternative to private instructors. This regulation clearly limits the number of individuals (regardless of age or gender) present while the instruction is taking place to FOUR. This regulation was first proposed by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association and the organization lobbied long and hard for its acceptance. All coaches, whether paid or volunteer, must follow the guidelines established within this regulation. It is built upon the assumption that any individual that works with individuals in a school has a Pupil Activity Coaching Permit and falls under these guidelines. Special attention should be given to the Ohio Ethics Law as it relates to school individuals using school facilities outside the normal work environment. (See your school administration on the Ohio Ethics Law and how it relates to you as a coach).

Comments Regarding General Sports Regulation 8.3.1:

This regulation was originally proposed by several different coaches' associations with the goal of permitting our coaches the same opportunity that private instructors currently have had. We all recognize the explosion of private trainers, from hitting instructors to pitching coaches. Many of them are excellent, many more of them are not and do not possess any of the credentials required of school coaches. The success of this radical departure that now permits our coaches to provide the same opportunities to student-athletes rests squarely in the hands of coaches. It is not designed, nor written as such, to provide more team coaching opportunities out of season and in no way designed to be a team workout regulation outside the season. It is clearly written to allow coaches to provide hitting instruction, fielding instruction or pitching instruction – individual skill instruction – outside the season. I urge you to act professionally and **make this work** for the benefit of all.

Sports Regulation 8.3.1 was never intended to be a workout regulation that permits more time for a coach to coach his team outside the defined coaching season. Nor was it ever proposed to be a workout regulation by the various Coaches Associations that lobbied for the new regulation. It was clearly proposed and adopted to provide a coach the opportunity to provide **individual instruction** outside the season to players on their teams with clearly defined parameters.

Please help make this work for the benefit of players AND coaches.

Coaches' Code of Ethics

From the NFHS Baseball Rules Book

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The Coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. IN all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The Coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

The Coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The Coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The Coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The Coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

The Coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.



OHSAA Sport Regulations

Regulations governing the sport of baseball are divided into two basic categories: **General Sport Regulations** and Baseball **Regulations (sport specific).** These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

General Sport Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as instructional programs outside the window of the season, conditioning programs, open gym regulations, the No-Contact Periods, player and coach ejection policies. Most areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the Baseball webpage and clicking on 'General Sports' Regulations' on the left hand side. I **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.
Though there are far too many to list in this manual, a *few* of the more common ones that affect baseball squads are:

Open Gyms/Facilities/Fields at Member Schools

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in **Rule 10 of the OHSAA Sports' Regulations**. An abbreviated version states:

- A school may open its athletic facilities for **unstructured free play** provided the activity is supervised by a school employee. The school employee may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- The school may designate the sport, or sports, that will be played during the free play period, but **may not limit participation** to a select group of students from within the school. Participation may be limited to students enrolled in that specific school.
- There can be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only those students participating may be involved in the selection of teams.
- Regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- Mandatory attendance at open gyms/facilities is **not permitted.**
- Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym/facility is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or volunteer.
- Coaches **may participate** in the unstructured free play in the open gym/facilities.
- Schools may restrict individuals from observing the open gym/facility activity.

Baseball Specific Regulations

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as, but not limited to, non-interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook. The Baseball AND the General Sport Regulations are found on the left side of the OHSAA Baseball page.

Game Limitations – Grades 9-12

Maximum number of games permitted	27 on a maximum of 27 playing dates
Number of scrimmages/previews permitted	Maximum of 4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages and 1 preview

Scrimmage Note #1: Scrimmages may be held at any time during the season but must count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a scrimmage while Team B counts the competition as a game.
Scrimmage Note #2: Any contest out of state must count as a GAME (for both schools). In other words, scrimmages are not permitted outside the state of Ohio – only games.

Player Game Limitations

Each player may play in games on a maximum of **32 DATES.** This now permits a bit more flexibility for using varsity players that may not get much playing time, to play 'down' on the JV team. The intent of this increase (players were previously limited to playing in 27 games), is to help keep JV and Freshman teams. By permitting the number of dates in the maximum number, a player playing in a DH would count that date as "1", not each game. Moving players up and down to utilize their maximum number of dates also creates a need to track this carefully by coaches. A player that exceeds the number of dates becomes an INELIGIBLE PLAYER. Using an ineligible player in a contest results in forfeiture of the contest. So, limitation provides flexibility but also increases the tracking a coach must do.

Game Limitations – Grades 7-8

Maximum number of games permitted	17 and 1 postseason tournament, not to exceed 4 games
Number of scrimmages/previews permitted	Maximum of 2 scrimmages

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages may be held at any time during the season but must count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a scrimmage while Team B counts the competition as a game.

End of Season Date

Teams may schedule games right up until the board adopted Season End date of **June 15, 2019**. This means that even though you are in tournament or eliminated from tournament, you may still schedule (usually make up) a contest up until this date. Keep in mind that playing this late also eliminates any opportunity for a player to play non-interscholastic baseball until the school season is complete.

Non-Interscholastic Rule

A member of an interscholastic baseball squad (grades 7-12) sponsored by the Board of Education **cannot participate in a non-interscholastic baseball program** (such as club or travel), which includes tryouts, practice and contests, as an individual OR a member of a team in the sport of baseball, at any time during the school team's season. This is explained in OHSAA General Sport Regulation 7.2.1. A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview or regular season or tournament game as a substitute or as a starter.

A member of an interscholastic baseball team sponsored by the Board of Education **MAY** participate in non-interscholastic baseball (such as club or travel) prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic baseball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team is limited to **FOUR** on the roster of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the 2-player limit until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic baseball ONLY when the student's team has completed its season.
- Please keep in mind that from the Friday prior to Memorial Day (May 24, 2019) to July 31, 2019, there are no player limitations from the same school on a non-interscholastic team. If there an excess of four players from the same school, please keep in mind that their own school coach may not coach them until June 1, 2019.
    - If there are an excess of four players from the same school on the summer team, the school coach is limited to 10 days of coaching/instruction between June 1 and July 31.

**Graduating seniors are exempt from this 4-player limitation.*

Please see further explanations under Frequently Asked Questions later in the manual!

Out of State Travel

A baseball team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states OR provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. A team may travel out of state one time to a state or province NOT contiguous to Ohio, but only if there is no loss of school time.

Teams **may not travel out of state only to practice, but may practice while in that state awaiting a contest.**

*Please pay special attention and refer back to the section on the special note on this year's season start and how it may affect out of state travel.

Comments to News/Media

Each year, unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials/Umpires are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Executive Director.

Videotaping Regulations

The improvement of various electronic devices, especially cell phones, has drawn much attention to the rules regarding recording baseball contests. As a result, NFHS playing rules now DO permit teams to use video equipment (including radar guns) which may be used in the dugout only. NO video equipment or electronic devices (including cell phones) can be used within the confines of the playing field. Complete regulations available on page 87 of the OHSAA Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at under Section "A" of the Media Regulations. A few highlights of this include but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating,
- It is **not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph regular season games, scrimmages, previews, OR tournament contests of other schools** without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

Doubleheaders

There are no restrictions on playing doubleheaders on school nights. Doubleheaders are now permitted to be played on ANY night of the week simply dependent on local school district/athletic department policy.

Umpires

Umpires used for JV and Varsity contests must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 umpires. Class 1, 2 or 3 are recommended for Freshmen games.

Protests

Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will **not be considered**. Per NFHS playing rules, their decisions and interpretations of the rules are **FINAL**. This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules. No video evidence is permitted to determine errors or correct them before, during or after the contest.

The Officials Program

OHSAA Staff

Beau Rugg, Sr. Director of Officiating
Tyler Brooks, Director of Officiating
Ben Ferree, Asst. Director of Officiating
Angie Lawler, Director of Officiating

Officials Development Coordinators

Lori Powers-Basinger, Gymnastics
Gary Wilkins, Ice Hockey
Don Muenz, Soccer
Jerry Fick, Softball
RJ Van Almen, Swimming & Diving
Diane Plas, Volleyball
Jim Vreeland, Wrestling
Bruce Mauer, Football
Dennis Morris, Basketball
Dan McGinnis, Baseball
Dale Gabor, Track & Field
Travis Burwell, Field Hockey
Lee Spitzer, Boys Lacrosse
Lissa Fickert, Girls Lacrosse

A Message from Dan McGinnis, OHSAA Baseball Officials Development Director

Welcome to another baseball season in Ohio. This "Pre-Season Manual" has been complied for coaches **and** officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to post-season.

Several years ago, the OHSAA's Board of Directors ago adopted a transition from the long standing "District Officials' Committee (DOC)" to individuals directly responsible for officiating oversight in each specific sport. On the left column of this page, you will read the various directors hired to serve in this important role.

Education and Recruitment are the basic cornerstones for the Official Development Directors and as we make strides to improve these areas; the entire sport will stand to reap the benefits. I continue to work hand in hand with Emily Gates, the OHSAA Sport Administrator for baseball to bring forward the best officiating practices available. The utilization of each local association is critical in the communication necessary to meet our goals for providing quality, continuing education while also emphasizing the recruitment of new, young officials into the umpire ranks. As you know, we began communicating with local associates in "Plays of the Day", etc. last season and the help of local secretaries to disseminate this information is of critical importance.

I continue to look forward to the limitless opportunities this position provides. *Everyone's* efforts, from coaching to administrating to umpiring ultimately benefit our greatest resource: the student-athletes in Ohio.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the officials in Ohio!

Yours In High School Sports,

Dan McGinnis

Officiating Development Director

2019 Rules Information

NFHS Rules Changes

1-3-1 Modified the effective date that baseballs shall meet a NOCSAE performance standard, effective January 1, 2020.

Rationale: To maintain a consistent and uniformed standard for high school baseball competition, every baseball manufactured should meet the same level of quality and playability. However, due to the number of baseballs that some high schools have in their inventory, the implementation date was moved back to accommodate that surplus. The effective date is January 1, 2020.

6-1-3 Modified an element of the pivot foot requirement.

Rationale: This rule change eliminates the requirement for the entire pivot foot to be in contact with the pitcher's plate. Many pitching mounds are constructed such that is problematic for a pitcher to have his entire pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. No advantage is gained by having some of his pivot foot no tin contact with the pitcher's plate.

Umpire Signal Created a signal for a 3- or 4-person mechanic to indicate the direction of the rotation to the umpire crew.

Rationale: When using 3- or 4-person mechanics, the umpires indicate to their partner(s) where they are rotating to a specific base for coverage of an anticipated play. The umpire(s) points with both hands in the direction of the base that he/she is moving toward.

Umpire Signal Created a signal for a game umpire to alert his or her partner of relevant information.

Rationale: The game umpire indicates to his/her partner that he/she has some information that is relevant by tapping two times over his/her left chest (heart).

2019 NFHS Points of Emphasis

1. **Sportsmanship**
2. **Compliance of Players' Equipment**
3. **Baserunner's Responsibilities**

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believe there are areas of the game of interscholastic of baseball that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, and some areas need more attention than others, which is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as "Points of Emphasis." When a topic included in the Point of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because they are not being given the proper attention.

SPORTSMANSHIP – NATIONAL ANTHEM STAND-OFF

The standing and singing of the national anthem is a valued tradition that is held prior to sporting events. Staring down an opponent after the national anthem, trying to intimidate them or refusing to leave the respective baseline before the other team departs is not consistent with the mission of education-based athletics. Coaches are the closest role models to these students and are held accountable for the behavior of their players as they represent their school and community. If those actions are not representative of high school sports and what they stand for, then corrective measures should take place.

SPORTSMANSHIP – BENCH JOCKEYING, CELEBRATIONS AND NEGATIVE COMMENTS BETWEEN OPPONENTS

Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose. Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench on buckets or stools. Players are not allowed to stand or kneel outside their dugout/bench and make "cat-calls" or any other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice. Rooting for your team is an integral part of high school baseball. However, making disparaging remarks toward your opponent does not improve the game; in fact, it detracts from the contest. The purpose of interscholastic sports is educational. Chants/intentional distractions/loud noises (natural or artificial) directed at the opponent's pitcher prior to his pitching, or the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play is not good sportsmanship. We should strive to have our young people play to the best of their ability and let their natural talent be the barometer of their success.

This is unsportsmanlike behavior and shall not be tolerated in interscholastic baseball. Umpires and coaches need to work together for the benefit of the students they officiate and teach. It is these game situations that provide coaches and umpires excellent "teachable moments" to reinforce proper behavior and perspective. The positive values that are learned at the baseball diamond will serve the young people long after their high school careers have ended.

ENFORCEMENT OF NFHS JEWELRY RULE

Items that are attached, except medical appliances/devices, are considered to be jewelry. The primary cause for the restriction of jewelry is primary for risk minimization for the wearer and for the opponent. Earrings and various other piercings can be problematic for a player if the piercing gets caught on equipment and torn away from the body. Obviously, if a physician has provided documentation in support of a particular piercing, the local state association has the latitude (with proper justification) to make a special accommodation for the player. We need to be more vigilant to protect our players and their opponents.

COMPLIANCE OF PLAYER'S EQUIPMENT

In preparation of the new equipment that will have the NOCSAE stamp being introduced into high school baseball, it is appropriate to begin to have those discussions with players, coaches, umpires and parents. The NOCSAE stamped baseball will be available for use during the 2019 high school baseball season. The transition will be easier when all the baseballs have both the NFHS Authenticating Mark and NOCSAE seal effective January 1, 2020, but in the interim, balls that have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for use this season.

It is critical that coaches understand their responsibility regarding being knowledgeable about the equipment that their players possess and use for game competition. The NOCSAE standard for body/chest protectors is an important piece of equipment that is designed to protect the heart and cardiac cavity and reduce the risk of commotio cordis. All high school catchers will have to have new body/chest protectors beginning January 1, 2020. When a coach is asked to verify that his players are properly equipped in accordance with NFHS rules, he/she shall also verify that the participants are using only legal equipment, including bats that are unaltered from the manufacturer's original design, production and meet the provisions of Rule 1-3-2 and helmets that meet the provisions of Rule 1-5-1 and are free of cracks and damage.

BASERUNNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The baserunner is arguably one of the most important roles in baseball. Without him/her there can be no scoring. However, the baserunner has tremendous responsibilities. Beside Definitions, Baserunning is the second largest rule in the NFHS Rule book. The Baseball Rules Committee wants to emphasize that the advancing baserunner has to touch the bases in the correct order (including awarded bases), he/she should not miss any base or leave a base too early, but if that occurs, he/she must return to touch the base immediately. In addition, the committee wants to point out that if the baserunner runs more than three feet away from a direct line between bases to avoid a tag or to hinder the defensive player he/she will be declared out. They must slide in a direct line between the bases. When he/she elects to slide (by rule he/she does not have to slide) it must be legal. The baserunner cannot cause illegal contact and/or illegally alter the actions of the defensive player in the immediate act of making a play or on a force play. Jumping, hurdling and leaping are all legal attempts to avoid the fielder as long as the fielder is lying on the ground. Diving over a fielder is illegal. Attention to the intricacies of base running will enhance better rule knowledge and compliance, elevate fair play and promote risk minimization.

Uniform Information



Frequently, we receive calls relative to uniform requirements. Uniform regulations are developed as part of the National playing rules by the National Federation (NFHS). With the styles being developed year after year by college and professional teams, I encourage you to review these uniform regulations when ordering new uniforms. These uniform regulars are posted on the OHSAA baseball webpage.

Jewelry Regulations

Many questions arise early in the season regarding Jewelry regulations. The mere fact jewelry is permitted at the professional level, gives many the belief it is permitted in high schools also. **Jewelry is NOT permitted** and addressed in 2 different NFHS Rules (1-5 Article 12 and Rule 3-3-1d). Only Religious or medical medals may be word and a Religious medal must be taped and worn **UNDER** the uniform. A medical alert must be taped also and may be visible.

The Phiten necklace has gained popularity with professionals relative to the various enhancements it proposes to offer. This titanium necklace is considered jewelry and not permitted in high school sports.

End of Game (Suspended/Complete Game) Procedures

PRINT, COPY THIS PAGE AND KEEP IT WITH YOU DURING GAMES
PROVIDE IT TO JV and FRESHMAN COACHES

Considerable confusion exists year after year in the area of complete or suspended games. Recently, it has surfaced that schools and/or leagues have chosen NOT to follow these adopted procedures. It is important that ALL SCHOOLS are informed of this regulation as it MUST be followed. Penalties for non-compliance range from fines to suspension from the OHSAA Tournament. These procedures are part of the OHSAA Adopted Baseball Regulations and must be followed. These procedures are here to describe Game Ending and Suspended/Interrupted Game procedures.

MOST baseball games end when the team behind in the score completes its turn at bat in the seventh inning (or an extra inning) or when the home team scores the go-ahead run in the seventh inning (or an extra inning). The following exceptions to this are:

- Coaches and the plate umpire may mutually agree to end a game early. This could be in situations where there is a tremendous lead after 2 or 3 innings and both coaches simply agree to end the game. **The score stands and the game are over.**
- Anytime a team has a 10-run lead and the team behind in the score has completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning OR the home team takes a 10-run lead in the fifth inning, **the game ends.**

Though a game also ends when it is forfeited under NFHS Rule 4-3, no OHSAA contest can be forfeited until **after it has started.**

- A game that is not started is considered a no contest, regardless of reason.

Suspended Game Procedures

No game is ever 'called' and started over at a later date. When a regular season game is interrupted or suspended for any reason and the game cannot be resumed that date, the game will be **suspended** if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning.
When a game has gone beyond the fifth inning, it is a complete game, subject to these two exceptions:

1. **THE GAME IS TIED.** The OHSAA does not permit any baseball game to end in a tie. All games are considered as won, lost, or suspended. Therefore, a tied game is a suspended game.
2. **THE GAME HAS GONE FIVE INNINGS AND THE VISITING TEAM HAS SCORED ONE OR MORE RUNS TO TIE THE SCORE OR TAKE THE LEAD AND THE HOME TEAM HAS NOT RE-TAKEN THE LEAD AND THE GAME IS CALLED WHILE AN INNING IS IN PROGRESS BUT BEFORE IT IS COMPLETED.**

Examples of Completed/Suspended Games

1. In a regular season game, the home team is ahead 2-0 after FIVE innings and:
   - The game is called prior to the start of the sixth inning due to darkness: **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
   - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count on the batter and the game cannot be completed: **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
   - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning reaches base and the game is called. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
   - The visiting team scores one run in the top of the sixth inning and the game is called at any time during the sixth inning. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
   - The visiting team scores two runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not complete, nor does the home team re-take the lead in the bottom half of the sixth inning. **Ruling: SUSPENDED GAME**
   - The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the home team retakes the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game is called later in the bottom half of the sixth inning or after six complete innings. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**

When a suspended game is completed, it shall be continued from the point of suspension with batting orders and lineups the same. Substitutions may be made. Any player that may have been suspended from the original contest is suspended and not able to play in the resumed game. Suspended games that are never completed simply go down as a "No Contest".

NFHS Permitted State Adoptions: OHIO

The OHSAA has maintained a stance of being "100% compliant" with NFHS Baseball Rules. The NFHS Rules carefully permit each state the right to adopt certain rules that are specific to that state and are known as **"State Adoptions"**. These "State Adoptions" do not cause any fundamental change in the game from state to state. These permitted "State Adoptions" and Ohio's decision on the adoption is as follows:

Rule 1-4-4 permits each state to permit a "commemorative or memorial patch" on the uniform.
To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.

Ohio's Stance: ADOPTED in Ohio

Rule 1-2-9 permits a state to use a double first base
A double first base is permitted (by state association adoption)

Ohio's Stance: NOT ADOPTED in Ohio

Rule 2-33-1 permits for certain Speed Up Rules
Suggested speed-up rules

Ohio's Stance: NONE of the suggested speed-up rules have been adopted in Ohio for all games. However, in non-league games, coaches may agree to use any, all or any part of suggested speed-up rules. Agreement must be reached prior to the start of the contest.

Rule 4-3 permits a state to determine how it counts a suspended game

By state association adoption, a regulation called game, where a winner cannot be determined, shall be counted as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost for each team.

Ohio's Stance: NOT ADOPTED in Ohio.

Relative to Tournament Play in Ohio: Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion per the playing rules. (The **10** rule would be applicable)

Ohio's Stance: ADOPTED in Ohio.

Rule 4-4-1a permits each state to how to determine a forfeit

State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of its teams.

The following has been adopted in Ohio:

No interscholastic contest is subject to forfeiture unless the contest has been started. Any scheduled regular season contest that is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as, failure of a team to arrive, strikes, school closings are "No Contest." Contests not played are not included in won-lost statistics.

Rule 4-2-4 permits states an option on how they agree to end a shortened game
Game ending procedures may be determined.

By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief a game may be shortened or the game terminated at any time. If there is no mutual agreement a game will be ended according to Rule 4 Section 2 and the following:

A game may end any time after 5 innings or after 4 l/2 innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

If a game is called prior to the completion of a full inning after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game in the following situation:

The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead.

Ohio's Stance: Adopted for REGULAR SEASON ONLY in Ohio

If a suspended game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game (substitution may be made). Any suspended game, if it is to be resumed, will be picked up from the point of interruption.

Once a game has started, it will <u>not start over</u>. Any suspended game, regardless of where it was interrupted, will be re-started from the point where play was suspended.

<u>PLEASE SEE EXAMPLES IN OTHER PLACES IN THIS MANUAL.</u>

Ohio's Stance: ADOPTED in Ohio

<u>Rule 6-1-6</u> requires each state to determine a pitch count limitation

Ohio's Pitching Rule:

Level	Daily Pitch Limit	O Days of Rest	1 Day of Rest	2 Days of Rest	3 Days of Rest
Grades 7-12	125 pitches	1 – 30 pitches	31 – 50 pitches	51 – 75 pitches	76 + pitches

The limit is on a player as a pitcher. If he can pitch with either arm he is limited as a pitcher, **not** the number of pitches per arm. A player that exceeds pitching limitations and pitches in any contest that limits would have prevented him from pitching is considered ineligible and would be competing as an ineligible player. Use of an ineligible player results in forfeiture of any victorious contest.

Games that are NOT resumed, no matter how many innings have been played, are considered no contest

Looking Ahead to Tournament Time

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Softball Tournament in 4 divisions. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct baseball tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their January meeting. Beginning with the 2018 tournament EMIS numbers will be utilized for a 2-year period with Competitive Balance Roster Numbers used annually from the previous season's required submissions. As a result, enrollment numbers will change annually, and divisional alignments will change annually instead of the 2-year cycle used for several years. Divisional alignments listed below utilize Competitive Balance numbers from the 2017-18 roster submissions and are in effect for the 2019 Tournament

Division	Boys Enrolled	Total Schools
I	366 and more	191
II	215 – 365	192
III	130 – 214	191
IV	129 and less	194

Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2018 is **Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 pm**.

State Tournament Dates & Order of Games

June 7, 8 & 9, 2019 **Location TBA**

Division I, Division IV, Division II, Division III

Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament (the number of Regional 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament.
The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its' December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to www.ohsaa.org and navigating to the BASEBALL webpage under the "Sports and Tournaments" pull down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.

Northwest District: www.nwdab.org

Central District: www.cdab.org

Southwest District: www.swdab.org



Northeast District: www.nedab.org

East District: www.eastohsaa.org

Southeast District: www.sedab.org

Rating & Voting for Officials

You often hear at tournament contests that "the tournament officials have been selected by a process approved by the Board of Directors". That 'process' is an important one for both coaches AND officials and is the basis for officials assignments to OHSAA Tournaments. To make this process work it requires Coaches and Athletic Directors to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone's best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:

1. Coaches **RATE** Officials. There are 3 other categories that **VOTE FOR** Officials. Those 'three categories are: athletic administrators, each local Officials' Association and a "Stakeholders Group that includes OHSAA Staff, Certified Assigners and approved Observers.



2. Ratings are best done at the conclusion of a game but need to be done by the end of the season. Officials **are NOT able** to see how a coach rated.
3. "Pools" of officials are created as a result of ratings and votes. These pools are arranged into a "State Pool", "Regional Pool" and "Sectional/District Pool". Each pool has more officials than are needed at that level. Pools are created by mathematically calculating the following:
    1. Total of each of the 4 categories = Score
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to **sectional and district tournaments** in their respective Athletic Districts. The process of assignment from approved pools is at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.

    Note: The total score is not made available to those making assignments; merely the 'pool' itself is made available to them.

5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the **Regional and State Tournament**. **Note: In Lacrosse, all tournament officials are assigned from the OHSAA State office.**

- Please remember that RATING is done by coaches and is NOT MANDATORY.

Instructions for Rating Officials

1. Access the *my*OHSAA system at http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org OR from the home page of the www.ohsaa.org
2. Logon to *my*OHSAA using the login credentials provided by your athletic administrator.
3. If you are a coach, click the orange "Rate Game Officials" button near the upper left corner. If you are an athletic administrator, click the "Rate Game Officials" link in the left navigation.
4. Once you are on the Rating Game Officials page, click the star (green or red) to access the rating form for that sport. Stars that are gray are sports that are currently out of season.
5. Follow the instructions at the top of each sport specific rating page and click on the green "Add Officials to Rate" button. •
    - Type the first few letters of the official's last name or their permit number and wait for the list of matching officials to appear below the input box.
    - Select the official from the list to add them to the input box.
    - Once the official is added to the box, select the appropriate rating and click the "Save" button



6. The official's name and rating will be added and displayed on the "Rate Officials" page.
7. Continue adding officials using the "Add Official to Rate" button.
8. Officials can be added to the rating form at different times throughout the season until the deadline of December 1 for fall sports. A maximum of 50 officials can be added to the rating form.
9. Ratings can also be changed using the "Edit" link after the official's rating entry on the rating form until the deadline of June 15 for spring sports.

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Athletic Administrators receive separate instructions for VOTING for officials at the conclusion of the season. Additional individuals that VOTE for officials include:

1. Approved OHSAA Assignors
2. Local Officials' Associations
3. Approved Observers
4. OHSAA Staff

Please Note:
Officials ratings/voting are used for the NEXT season. The officials you rate during the season THIS YEAR, will be assigned pools for NEXT YEAR'S tournament.

Miscellaneous Information

Professionalism

Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials aren't perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.

Pre-Season Preparations

As you know, pre-season meetings are **required.** As part of your pre-season preparations, you are encouraged invite a local official(s) to meet with your team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.

Scheduling Conflicts

Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that game, but also other games they are scheduled to work. They will appreciate your help in this area.

Over Scheduling

Scheduling more contests than the Sport Regulations permit in any sport is **NOT PERMITTED.** A few short years ago, the weather in Ohio was actually good enough for nearly every regular season game to be completed. There were teams that reportedly had overscheduled and then had to cancel contracts. This led to contract disputes which could not be settled, ultimately reaching the Executive Director's office. Financial penalties apply in cases of contract disputes even if there is no financial clause listed on the contract. Over scheduling is not permitted in any sport.

Importance of Coaches Rating System

The Rating/Voting procedures have changed in recent years, however the coaches' vote is an important part of the officials' tournament selection process. Ratings are done at the conclusion of each game, allowing you to rate each official you have. Voting is now done at the conclusion of the season by your athletic administrator online with information being sent to him/her electronically. **Please vote conscientiously in your rating.** Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament.

Inquiries

Our OHSAA office is here to help as needed but depending on the time of the year it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website (www.ohsaa.org) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides baseball regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSBCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website (www.ohsbca.org).

Coaches' Comments to the News Media – OHSAA Media Regulation

OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.

Baseball Game Procedures

Ejection Procedures

Following the contest, the umpire shall contact the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact may be made after the game if an administrator is present or by phone the morning on the first school day after the contest.

- **ALL ejections, REQUIRE a report to be completed and filed with the OHSAA.**
- **Ejection Reports are now completed and submitted ELECTRONICALLY. Simply click the 'submit' button and it will be transmitted to our staff. This automatically triggers the report to the school.**
- In the event of an ejection, a coach is ejected from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS two additional games. Ejected coaches must also pay a $100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection. The responsibility for compliance rests with the school's administration.
- Ejected **COACHES** are required to LEAVE the premises immediately. If no assistant coach is present, the game is over and the score stands 'as is'.
- Ejected **PLAYERS** are to remain in the BENCH AREA under the supervision of the coach.
- With the Rule change in Rule 3-3-f6, **Assistant coaches** should pay particular attention to the ejection procedures.
- **ALL EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED** per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

Special Note Regarding Ejections:
Coach ejections in baseball continue to lead ALL sports for the total number of ejections. Though every ejection has its own story, do not call the OHSAA office asking for an appeal of the ejection. It will not and cannot be overturned. The circumstances surrounding the ejection can and should be expressed on the "School Response Form" that will be received by the school after the ejection occurs.

Comments to the Media – Think First!

Think first before comments are given to the media. This is covered in the Rules Interpretation Meeting as well. You may not agree with the officiating, but comments to the media (including Social Media) regarding officiating or unsporting comments about an opponent are **strictly prohibited.** Think twice before speaking. Fines are administered for violations of this OHSAA Board of Directors adopted regulation and are not appealable.

Tournament Umpire Selection

Tournament selection and contracting is done through the *my*OHSAA management system. It is utilized to capture and certify the availability and eligibility of OHSAA tournament eligible officials in ALL sports. All officials who are tournament eligible are sent an email with step-by-step instructions on how to access and complete the OHSAA tournament application. Applications **must** be completed in *my*OHSAA by the posted deadline and officials will receive this notification approximately 14-20 days prior to the application deadline.

Contracts for tournament contests are issued electronically through the *my*OHSAA system. District Athletic Boards are given the responsibility of assignment of officials at the Sectional/District level; the OHSAA office is responsible for Regional and State assignments.

Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is **not a guarantee** of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

Ejection Protocol

Officials shall file a written report with the school and the OHSAA office whenever a coach or player is ejected from an athletic contest. Use the "Official's Report" form explained earlier in this manual (available on the "Officiating Home" page of the OHSAA website. Additional forms can be obtained by contacting the Association office or your local association secretary. The report shall be filed with the reported school and the OHSAA within 48 hours of the ejection. Whenever an ejection occurs, the ejecting official shall speak with the offender's principal/athletic director no later than the first school day following the ejection. An official failing to follow the ejection protocol and/or failing to file the Official's Report may be penalized in accordance with Section 7 of the OHSAA Handbook for Officials.

The "Official's Report" form is also used to report good or poor sportsmanship, severe injuries, facility problems, or equipment problems. Ejections other than players or coaches and other items of which the Director should be made aware must be provided.

Please use only one form per school. Each offending school will need its own copy. The reporting official will receive notification of resolution upon receipt of the reported school's reply.

It is the official's responsibility to send a copy of the form to the reported school.

Please write legibly and include the ejected person's first and last names. Make sure that the form is complete at the bottom with the date and name of the administrator that you spoke with at the school.

General Ejection Procedures

General Sports' Regulation 14.2 (passed by the OHSAA's Board of Directors in 2008) requires any coach ejected from a contest (paid OR volunteer) to complete the **Teaching and Modeling Behavior** course through the NFHS and submit payment of a $100.00 fine within 30 days of the ejection.

Officials' Code of Ethics

(From www.ohsaa.org and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

Our member schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. This requires officials to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is an established **Code of Ethics** and **Code of Conduct** for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

An Official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.

An Official must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.

An Official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

An Official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

An Official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress accordingly to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.

An Official shall avoid the use of **tobacco and related products** at the contest site.

An Official must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S Responsibility!

NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

The OHSBCA & Sportsmanship

The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship.
The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OHSBCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSBCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award that is recognized at the boys' and girls' state tournament.

The Official's Role in Sportsmanship

The National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked "*what is the number-one problem in our games today?"* Not too surprising, the number one response was "Poor Sportsmanship". As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive on-field behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:



1. What exactly is at Stake
2. What is Expected of Officials, and,
3. What steps need to be taken

As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt the DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.

Sportsmanship for Parents

The NFHS has made a NO COST online course available to PARENTS…to help them understand their role in their son/daughter's athletic career. The course is titled "The Role of the Parent in Sports" and is easily accessible through the "Learning Center" at www.nfhslearn.com. And, again…it is FREE and a good tool for coaches to use in dealing with parents.

The OHSAA & Sportsmanship

Respect THE GAME

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the basketball community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great shooter, a great rebounder or a great free-throw shooter. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.

- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.

- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.

- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.

- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.

- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated……with respect.

- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember…some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

OHSAA Resources

On our website www.ohsaa.org – click on "Sportsmanship" on the right side of the screen) you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award, the newly adopted "Respect the Game Challenge" and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

Lightning and Inclement Weather

Emphasis on Lightning and Inclement Weather is addressed as an OHSAA Sports Regulation (20). Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports.

WEATHER

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

• **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

• **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

• **Evacuation-** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

• **Thirty-minute rule-** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

Baseball FAQ's

The OHSAA receives a *large* volume of calls and email at the conclusion of the season in regard to what coaches 'can and cannot do'. Though this is not inclusive, a few guidelines are listed below to assist you AND your middle school and sub-varsity coaches. Please remove, copy and share this page with others on your staff. Please go through your Athletic Administrator for questions related to the OHSAA's Bylaws and Sports' Regulations. All are contained within the OHSAA's Handbook, pictured to the right and are also available online at www.ohsaa.org.

Q: When is baseball's No-Contact Period?
A: The "No-Contact Period" for baseball ends with Labor Day and begins 28 days (4 weeks) prior, which is August 5 – September 2, 2019.

Q: Can middle school players practice or play with high school players?
A: No. OHSAA Bylaws prohibit middle school players from practicing *or* competing with high school players during the season of play in all sports.

Q: Can middle school players participate in open gyms/fields at the high school level?
A: Yes. OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations do not prevent anyone from participating in open gyms/fields/facilities.

Q: Can middle school players participate with high school players during "Summer Ball" or "Fall Ball?"
A: Yes. Any competition that occurs outside the defined season of play is not considered OHSAA sponsored and therefore not under any regulations that limit 7-8 from playing with 9-12 individuals.

Q: Can middle school players be included with high school players during Individual Instruction permitted by Sports Regulation 8.2?
A: Yes. Since it is outside the season, there is no restriction on age groups. Any individual receiving instruction must be counted as one of the four (4) permitted in *all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.*

Q: What can we as coaches do during an open field?
A: Coaches may supervise the open field. Open fields cannot be made mandatory. Open fields must be 'free and unstructured play', so no coaching may take place during an open gym. Open fields/gyms are defined in their entirety in Sports' Regulation #10 on page 31 of the OHSAA Handbook. Under no circumstances may open fields be a disguise for an early start to practice. Language in the General Sports Regulation 8.3 delineates the permissions in that regulation from those in open fields.

Q: What can coaches do during conditioning programs?
A: First, conditioning programs (defined as "Physical Fitness Programs in the OHSAA Handbook) cannot be made mandatory. Sport Regulation 9 starting on page 80 of the OHSAA Handbook defines Physical Fitness/Conditioning Programs. Obviously, conditioning programs cannot be used as a disguise for conducting out of season practices.

Q: Who can volunteer to be a member of the coaching staff?
A: To work with student-athletes in any school program, an individual must receive his/her Pupil Activity Permit through the Ohio Department of Education *and* be approved by the school's Board of Education. Once achieving these requirements, a volunteer falls under all Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSA which limits them to the same out of season coaching limitations as paid staff members.

Q: Can volunteer coach players from the school team during the June 1 – July 31 period of time?
A: Basically, yes, but when teams are playing with more than 50% of a schools' roster (4), the days of coaching/instruction must be counted in the 10 total permitted to the staff. If the non-interscholastic **team** is comprised of LESS than 4 players from the school, the days coaching that team in team competition do not count toward the 10 days permitted to that coaching staff. Based upon the language adopted in the Individual Instruction Regulation, the example given here would NOT fit within that regulation.

Q: What if I instruct only 1, or up to 4, players in hitting instruction during the June 1 – July 31 period. Do those days count?
A: IF there are no more than 4 individuals present **in all the combined facilities where the instruction is taking place**, this would be permissible General Sports Regulation 8.3 that permits school coaches the opportunity to provide individual skill instruction outside the season of play.

Q: Can a volunteer coach players from the school team during off-season baseball such as travel or fall ball (or other non-school baseball)?
A: Yes, as long as there are no more than 4 players (50% rule) from their school team and as long as it is NOT during the no-contact period and that it is only during team play and not during any type of practice. Off-season team practices simply cannot be coached by a school team (other than the 10 days permitted during June and July).

Q: If my son or daughter plays on a non-interscholastic team, can I coach them if I am a school coach?
A: Yes, as long as there are no more than 4 players (50% rule) from their school team and as long as it is NOT during the no-contact period. You would only be able to coach *more* than 4 players from your school team on the non-school team during June 1 – July 31 and if there are more than 4, it must count towards your 10 permitted days.

Q: Can a player on my team participate in non-interscholastic team(s) at the same time as the season?
A: No. Sports Regulation 7 prohibits student-athletes from participating in programs such as travel, club and like programs during the season of play. Coaches should go to great lengths to explain this to players on their teams and remind them periodically throughout the season.

Q: When CAN a player on my team participate in non-interscholastic Baseball?
A: As soon as his season is complete. This means a Varsity player may participate as soon as his last game (including tournament) is played. Any sub-varsity player may play non-interscholastically when his season is complete, *but* it must be kept in mind that he cannot return to dress/participate in any OHSAA tournament game. Many Athletic Administrations will safeguard this by allowing no level of player to participate in non-interscholastic baseball until the varsity's last tournament game. Though not entirely necessary, this does safeguard all athletes.

Q: How many players can play together on a non-interscholastic team?
A: FOUR (4). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic **roster during all months except May 24, 2019 (the Friday prior to Memorial Day) and July 31, 2018** to no more than 50% of those that make up a starting lineup of a team. In baseball that magic number is 4.

Q: How are players considered when middle school/junior high players play with high schools' players in the off-season?
A: Players are considered middle school/junior high until August 1 of their 9th grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; four 8th graders could participate on a non-interscholastic along with four 9th graders from the same school. They are considered separate.

Q: During the summer, how many days are we permitted to coach our players?
A: TEN (10) **anytime there are more than 4 individuals (players from last year's team or NOT).** From June 1 – July 31, a coaching staff is permitted to coach a total 10 days, known as instructional days. These days are designed as team instructional days and are afforded to coaching staff's for that reason. The implemented General Sports Regulation permitted individual instruction was added to provide an opportunity for individual skill instruction while leaving the team instruction time intact.

Q: Does a day of my own summer camp count toward these 10 days?
A: Yes, as long as there are more than 4 present *in all the combined facilities where the instruction is taking place*. Any day of individual instruction or team instruction is considered one of the 10 total permitted between June 1 and July 31 if *more than 4 individuals are present in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.*

Q: How about if I coach a team (from June 1 – July 31) that consists of only 4 players from my school team? (less than 50% of the roster)
A: Currently the OHSAA does not view that as an instructional day, but one must remember it must be between June 1 and July 31 and it must be in team competition.

Q: In the above, it is stated that it must be in "team competition". Explain that.
A: When a non-school summer team is comprised of 4 or less players from the same school, a coach may coach that team (during June 1 – July 31) without those days counting toward the 10 instructional days permitted to a staff **if and only if**, the coaching is done during team play. This is not true, and all days must count toward 1 of the 10, when instruction is provided to a school team member during June and July whether there is 1 player there or 100 players there.

Q: Does each member of my staff receive 10 separate days?
A: No. Obviously, if this were to occur, a school could have upwards of 40 and 60 days of permitted instruction. The 10 days permitted are per staff.

Q: Do volunteers count in the 10-day total?
A: Yes. As mentioned earlier, all volunteers fall under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA. The 10 days permitted to a staff are inclusive of paid *and* volunteer coaches.

Q: Are players permitted to receive private instruction from individuals such as outside/private pitching instructors or hitting instructors DURING the season of play?
A: Yes, if your school athletic administration approves it. Sports' Regulation 8.3 DOES permit individuals to receive Individual Skill Instruction at any time in individual or group lessons.

Q: One of my players was selected to play in a basketball or football All-Star game during the baseball season. Is he permitted to play in that contest?
A: Yes. The regulations that prohibit players from playing non-interscholastic baseball during the baseball season. They do not prevent a player from playing in another sport.

Q: Given the above, does that mean a baseball player is permitted to play on an AAU Basketball team during the baseball season?
A: Yes. The player would not be violating any OHSAA Sports' Regulations.

Q: Given the above, does this also mean that a player could be on our school's track team while also being on the school's baseball team?
A: Yes. Any limitations on that would be imposed by individual schools.

Q: Can players participate in hitting leagues during the off-season?
A: Yes, however, they are limited to the 50% limitation of 4 players from the same school on the same hitting league team.

Q: Since weather issues often force games to be made up late in the season, how late can we actually play a game?
A: The last game for a game to be played is the Saturday after the State Tournament, which is June 15, 2019.

Q: If we have to make up games late in the season, can our players play for their summer teams while still completing our regular schedule?
A: NO. All non-interscholastic rules are in effect during the season, regardless of how late the season goes.

Q: What is meant by the "Non-Interscholastic Date" listed in the Handbook and *when* is it?
A: The "Non-Interscholastic Date" for baseball is **April 29, 2019**. Though baseball players are not permitted to tryout, practice or compete for any non-interscholastic team during the season of play, any player that does so on or after this date renders a player ineligible for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other penalties.

Q: I have a player that has been selected to participate in a Home Run Derby contest during the season. Is he permitted to do this?
A: Yes. A contest such as this is not considered as non-interscholastic baseball and is permitted to do this. One should pay close attention to the prizes being offered and the amateur rules associated with the contest.

Q: Can a school approved coach coach a non-school team during the same time he is coaching the school team?
A: Yes. The OHSAA has no regulation prohibiting this. However, it does not waive any of the "Recruiting Bylaw" defined in detail in Section 9 of Bylaw 4. Coaches that do this should pay special attention to this Bylaw to not attempt to circumvent the Recruiting Bylaw

Q: Can I travel out of state to play a contest?
A: Yes, with certain restrictions. Teams may travel out of state to a bordering state (contiguous state) an unlimited number of times to play. Teams may travel to non-bordering (contiguous states) **one time** per sport per season to compete provided there is no loss of school time.

Q: Can I take my team out of state just to practice?
A: No.

Q: Can my team practice while out of state to a permitted tournament?
A: Yes. OHSAA Bylaw 9 permits a team to practice out of state while part of an approved out of state competition.

Q: Are we permitted to schedule MORE than 27 contests in the event we have rainouts?
A: No. Teams are NOT permitted to over schedule.

Q: Can I have a scrimmage during the season or during tournament time?
A: Yes. As long as a team has a scrimmage remaining, they may use it at any time. It is important to note that any scrimmage with another school must be a scrimmage for that school also; it cannot be a game for one school and a scrimmage for another school.

Q: Can teams practice with another school?
A: Yes, but, it must be counted as a scrimmage.

Q: Can a School team play against a non-school team?
A: Yes. Ohio is one of the few states that do not regulate 'who' its teams participate against.

Q: Can a girl play on a baseball team, even if the school has softball?
A: Yes. Regardless of whether or not a school has a softball team, a girl may play on a baseball team if the school has no policy against it. A girl that does so is limited to playing on the baseball team only and cannot move back and forth between baseball and softball.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association
Baseball
Game Introductions

Welcome to _____ High School. Ladies and Gentlemen to honor America, would you please rise, gentlemen remove your caps and join in singing our National Anthem; The Star Spangled Banner.

Play National Anthem

After National Anthem: Good afternoon, on behalf of _____ High School, welcome to today's baseball game between _____ and _____

The OHSAA takes great pride in the conduct of all student-athletes and working with schools to promote good sportsmanship and the values of school-based athletics. We encourage you to cheer for your team during today's game and to show both teams the same respect you'd like them to display. This keeps with those values and ideals. Spectators are reminded that unruly behavior may result in immediate ejection from the premises. The athletic departments of BOTH schools appreciate your cooperation.

	Visiting Team:					Home Team:		
	#	Name	Position		#	Name	Position
1.				1.			
2.				2.			
3.				3.			
4.				4.			
5.				5.			
6.				6.			
7.				7.			
8.				8.			
9.				9.			
P				P			

The Head Coach for _____ (Visiting team) is _____ and he is assisted by _____.

The Head Coach for _____ (Home team) is _____ and the assistant coaches are: _____.

Immediately following each half inning:
In that inning for _____:

_____ Runs
_____ Hits:
_____ Errors:
and _____ LOB

Concussion Management

Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

> Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:
>
> 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.
> 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
    a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
    b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.

2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

1) In consultation with a physician;
2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
3) In collaboration with a physician, or
4) Under the supervision of a physician.

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

COACHES REQUIRMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course.** This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity

Program/Coaching Permit expires.

CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIRMENTS

New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school "shall permit" an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore**,** all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses.** This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the "Concussion Information Sheet" which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here:
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx

NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICALCLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
    - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
    - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
    - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx

Online Concussion Management Training
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training

Ohio's Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx
Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~/media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx

ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES

Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries
http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx

CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports
Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit

CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators
http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html

Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis
http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf

Brain Injury Association of Ohio
www.biaoh.org

Return to Play Form for Schools

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
PH:614-267-2502; FAX:614-267-1677
www.ohsaa.org

MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS BEEN REMOVED DUE TO A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

Ohio State Law as well as NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a practice or contest and **not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal**. Thereafter, **written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.)** or another qualified licensed medical provider, who works in consultation with, collaboration with or under the supervision of an M.D. or D.O. or who is working pursuant to the referral by an M.D. or D.O., AND is authorized by the Board or Education or other governing board, **is required to grant clearance for the student to return to participation**. This form shall serve as the authorization that the physician or licensed medical professional has examined the student, and has cleared the student to return to participation. The physician or licensed medical professional must complete this form and submit to a school administrator prior to the student's resumption of participation in practice and/or a contest. **To reiterate, this student is not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.**

I, _____, M.D., D.O. or _____(other qualified licensed medical provider) have examined the following
(Print name of MD, DO or Other)
student, _____ from _____High School/7-8th grade school
(Name of Student),
who was removed from a _____(sport) contest at the _____level (V, JV, 9th, 7-8th) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a concussion. I have examined this student, and determined that the student is cleared to resume participation upon the completion of the directions provided below.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DIRECTIONS BELOW

___Return to play protocol for concussion as outlined in Zurich Consensus Statement 2012 or as attached.
___Return to play protocol for concussion required under direction of Licensed Athletic Trainer or other qualified Licensed medical provider as approved in above directive
___Return to play protocol for concussion not required, and the student may return to participation in practice and competition on this date_____
___Other: (explain):

VALID ONLY WITH ALL INFORMATION COMPLETED
Signature of Medical Professional _____
(MD, DO or other qualified Licensed Medical Provider as Approved in the Above Directive)
Date: _____

Contact Information: _____

(Print or Stamp) Address: _____

Phone: _____

Return to play is also subject to clarification of this document, as deemed necessary, by Licensed Athletic Trainer, other qualified Licensed medical providers authorized by Board of Education or other governing body, or school district administration. Return to play decisions are also subject to recognized principles of conditioning, skill development, mental preparedness, etc.
Parent(s)/Guardian and student are reminded that the initial signature document of awareness of signs and symptoms of concussion and need/requirement to report are still in effect. Parent(s)/Guardian and student have a responsibility to report any further signs or symptoms of a concussion or head injury to coaches, administrators and the student- athlete's doctor. Information regarding signs and symptoms are available from school district personnel or OHSAA website.

PRESENT THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Note: The school must retain this form indefinitely as a part of the student's permanent record. Medical Providers should retain a copy for their own records.

Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests ***and*** all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during basketball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.

2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.

3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.

4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.

5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.

6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.

7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.

8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.

9 .Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at www.ohsaa.org and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

H1N1 Influenza Policy

The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the following policy with advice from the Ohio Department of Health and shall observe this policy at tournament time in the event of an H1N1 Influenza outbreak.

1. The Ohio Department of Health has advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio as to whether or not to close a school or university due to an influenza outbreak; however, at this time the Centers for Disease Control are not recommending closures except in extreme circumstances.
2. In the event schools remain open, competitors and teams shall be expected to play tournament contests on the dates scheduled.
3. In the event schools are closed, the OHSAA, in conjunction with our District Athletic Boards and tournament personnel, shall reschedule the tournament contest for the schools thus affected.
4. Please watch the OHSAA web site home page at www.ohsaa.org and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.