

**Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place
Columbus, OH 43214**

**Summer/Off-Season Baseball
Frequently Asked Questions**

*The following questions are related to off-season baseball (such as but not limited to "Travel", "Club", "ACME"
"Junior ACME", "American Legion")*

When may a player begin playing non-interscholastic baseball?

Answer: As soon as his season is complete. A good way to remember this is *when the player DOES participate in non-interscholastic baseball (tryout, practice or compete)* he is ineligible to return to the school team.

Does a Freshman player on a freshmen team or a JV player strictly on a JV team have to wait until the VARSITY season is complete to participate (tryout, practice or compete) in non-interscholastic baseball?

Answer: No. A player is permitted to play (tryout, practice or compete) in non-interscholastic baseball as soon as his season is complete. Once he does...he is ineligible to be a member of the varsity tournament roster, however.

May a player on a school team just TRYOUT for a non-interscholastic team while still a member of the school team?

Answer: No. Players are prohibited from TRYING OUT, practicing or competing while a member of a school team.

Is there any restriction with Middle School aged players playing with High School aged players outside the season of play?

Answer: No. Though they are not permitted to practice or play together during the season, this restriction does not extend to out-of-season play.

Are school coaches permitted to coach non-interscholastic teams?

Answer: Yes, but not until June 1. OHSAA Sports Regulations (4.9) prohibit school coaches from coaching outside the season of play except for 10 days between June 1 and July 31.

Do individuals that volunteer to be part of a school coaching staff fall under these same regulations?

Answer: Yes. To work with student-athletes in any school program, an individual must receive his/her Pupil Activity Certificate 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 OHSAA.

Does this restriction on out of season coaching apply to Junior High coaches also?

Answer: It does if the school sponsors a Junior High baseball team. Between June 1 and July 31, junior high coaching staffs are permitted 10 TOTAL instructional (coaching) days (per staff) to use.

Is there a limit on the number of players from 1 school on the same non-interscholastic team (such as a "travel" team, ACME, etc.)?

Answer: Yes. OHSAA Sports' Regulations (4.5) limit the number of players from the same school on the same non-interscholastic team. The limit for baseball is **FOUR (4)**. There is no limit on players from the same school team from June 1 – July 31.

So, if there is a Memorial Day Tournament, does that mean a summer travel team with 7 players from the same school cannot play?

Answer: Yes. Players, coaches, administrators should pay special attention to the many Memorial Day Tournaments that exist across the state. Teams that play in those tournaments are limited FOUR players on that roster.

Can this rule be 'worked around' by having 7 players from the same school on the same team but only PLAYING any four players from the same school at any one time?

Answer: No. The Sports Regulation requires only 4 on the roster of the same team.

If a player was not on the school team last year but is from the same school, does he count in the 4 total?

Answer: No. Only players that were on the school roster count in the total permitted on a team out of the season of play (excluding June 1 – July 31).

Do 6th graders count in the total permitted on a roster with junior high players in a non-interscholastic game (such as a ‘travel team’)?

Answer: No.. Since 6th graders are not permitted to compete interscholastically there are no restrictions on 6th graders.

How are players ‘classified’ when in Middle School/Junior High and High School relative to playing on non-interscholastic teams?

Answer: Players are considered middle school/junior high until the beginning of their 9th grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; 4 - 8th graders that played on a Junior High sponsored baseball team could participate on a “Travel” team (non-interscholastic) team along with 4 - 9th graders from the same school system that played on their High School baseball team. They are considered separate. Please keep in mind this cannot occur during the season of play.

The above Questions and Answers have been taken from the Ohio High School Athletic Association’s General Sports Regulations as well as the Baseball Specific Sports Regulations that are adopted annually by the OHSAA’s Board of Directors. These were written by Jerry Snodgrass, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner.

Many of these “Q & A’s” were contained within the 2010 Pre-Season Manual provided to ALL Coaches and Officials in Ohio.

Complete BASEBALL Regulations may be found at the following link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/BB09-10.pdf>

Complete GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS may be found at the following link:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg09-10.pdf>