

“TWIB” . . . This Week in Baseball

Weekly News and Information
The Ohio High School Athletic Association

2011 Issue 3

April 15, 2011

Spring weather...it's killin' us! Congrats to teams that have been able to stay focused through rainout after rainout and have handled the cold playing conditions. Spring in Ohio. Many teams are taking spring trips this week and next. I'll address a few items regarding that as well.

Jerry Snodgrass, Ass't. Commissioner

Bats, Bats...and More Bats

Certainly can't leave this one alone. It appears through April 15, MOST of the bats that have been attempted to be used (and ultimately tossed out) are Easton Stealth bats.

Crisis Management?

One of the Points of Emphasis this season deals with "Administrative Oversight/Responsibility" at games. Basically, SOMEONE must be in charge of the athletic event; whether it be an Athletic Administrator, a Principal, or....YOU. That someone just may be "YOU" that must insure that umpires are protected when the game ends and they are walking to their car; the unruly fan in the stands from your school is dealt with and/or removed. Difficult? Yes....but as mentioned, SOMEONE is in charge of the athletic event. In addition to the above, weather issues remain a constant threat in Ohio. Make sure you review the "lightning policy" AND that you are familiar with your school's Crisis Management Plan. Schools have them and if you are the only one there, you should familiarize yourself with that plan. For freshmen and/JV coaches....if you need help with one, just email me; I'll gladly provide you samples of one. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Athletic Discussion Meetings Begin

Often, the coach is one of the last to hear what OHSAA rule changes are proposed and are left to scramble and learn how they affect you. Each year, the OHSAA's Constitution requires our staff to hold meetings around the state to explain proposed changes to the OHSAA's Bylaws and Constitution. Those meetings begin this week and Principals, Superintendents and Athletic Directors are encouraged to attend. I encourage YOU as the baseball coach to discuss proposed changes with your AD and how they affect baseball.

Renewing Contracts?

Just a reminder since most coaches/school in baseball's renew contracts for future years soon after a game is played this year; NEXT year, the first play date for games is EARLIER and games may begin on Saturday, March 24, 2012. This 'opens up' another Saturday for playing games...assuming Mother Nature cooperates!

Contracts 101...continued from last week

This is the second of issues that relate to "Contracts". Weather issues bring some 'unusual' situations with contracted games. Consider this....for nearly 104 years, a contract between 2 schools was as good as a handshake. You contracted a game, you agreed to play...and you played. When weather issues entered, 'gentlemen's agreements' worked just fine. Now here are some 'touchy issues' that have arisen lately as the 'landscape' appears to have changed lately:

Cancelling a NON-league game for a LEAGUE game make-up

I preface this with focusing on an above statement; that for nearly 104 years, 'it worked'. Doesn't seem to be the case today. You know the scenario; a league game is rained out and needs to be made up. So, you cancel a non-league game to make up a league game. It was accepted as 'ok' for a long time but the impact on the non-league school is coming more to light. When everyone agrees to the scenario...all is good. But what happens when the DON'T? Makes for a tough answer, but when people DON'T agree....it has to revert back to a 'signed contract'. Voiding a signed contract theoretically has implications. Check out Bylaw 7-1-7

(<http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf>) This Bylaw indicates that:

"If contractual obligations cannot be fulfilled by reason of weather, strike, force majeure or similar such circumstances, the contracting school should:

- (a) Void the contract by mutual consent of the parties involved, or*
- (b) Reschedule the contest at another date mutually agreeable to all parties, or*
- (c) Schools using the damage clause in game contracts would use the amount stated in the contract for financial settlement.*
- (d) If steps a, b or c cannot be accomplished, determine the financial loss to the offended school and make a financial settlement. If the settlement cannot be agreed upon, the OHSAA will examine past records of games previously played and arrive at a settlement.*

What am I suggesting? Just be understanding of the 'other guy' when cancelling to reschedule. What goes around comes around.

Over-scheduling

Over-scheduling is not permitted. Yes...we have all heard stories that it is 'done anyhow'. Though it appears out of the thought process this year, last year was a year that schools that DID over-schedule

Had to 'dump' games because no games were can-

Celled. Uh-oh. Refer to the above. Though it may

Appear I am 'out of touch with reality', far from it...

I am merely focusing on the 'what if's' that reach our Office more and more each year.

Spring Trips?

Though there are few rule differences from state to state, all OHSAA administrative rules apply to out of state contests. If you are ejected in Florida...you are still ejected here. Surprise...we actually receive a report from the Athletic Association of that state. Looking ahead....in 2013, Baseball begins AFTER Easter.



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