

# “TWIB” . . . This Week in Baseball



Weekly News and Information  
The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Who'll stop the rain? Frustrating...yes. Patience tested...yes. Many could take a valuable lesson from high school baseball coaches on how to deal with these and the wandering minds of high school players. Our hats go off to you in your efforts to keep kids focused while keeping their sights set on regular season *and* tournament play at the same time. There are a few often asked weather related questions I'll address this week. Continued best of luck. The weather WILL get better!

*Jerry Snodgrass, Ass't. Commissioner*

## OHSAA Provides ADMINISTRATIVE Rules

The OHSAA's rules for baseball fall in the "administrative category. These include 'practice dates', no-contact periods, out of season regulations, eligibility requirements, etc. The number one concern at this point is an OHSAA Administrative rule known as the:

**Non-Interscholastic Rule:** Players may not tryout or begin practice or games with summer teams until their season is complete. This is one of the largest violations that occurs in baseball. A good way to look at this rule is that "as soon as a player plays non-interscholastic baseball in practice, tryouts or games, he is INELIGIBLE to play for the school team at that point." At this point in the season, coaches should REMIND their players; they cannot practice or play with that 'travel' team or the "Legion" team until their season is complete. IF they do, the penalty is harsh: the player forfeits his eligibility AND any school game a player participates in after violating the rule is forfeited because he would be playing as an INELIGIBLE player. Remind your players!

## Weeknight Doubleheader Rule WAIVED for remainder of 2011 Season!!!!!!

The weather has played havoc all spring. I have asked our Board of Directors (elected by our schools!) to waive the restriction on doubleheaders during the week for the remainder of the 2011 season. Our Board weighed the factors and have granted my request. This waiver is granted provided NO SCHOOL IS MISSED to do so (whether it is travel or play). A "blast" email was emailed to all School Athletic Directors on May 10.

### What About a 5 Inning Doubleheader to Make it More Feasible?

NFHS Playing Rules (Rule 4-2 Article 1 to be exact) states that "...A regulation game consists of seven innings (turns at bat) unless extra inning(s) are necessary because of a tie score, or unless shortened because the home team needs none of its half of the seventh or only a fraction of it (described in Article 2 of Rule 4-2), or because of darkness." Of course, the "run rule" is defined as well (in Article 2). So what does this mean? It simply means that by rule, a high school game consists of 7 innings with the exceptions listed. Game ending procedures when darkness or rain interferes with play is further described in Article 3 of Rule 4-2.

There are certain rules that are permitted as "State Adoptions", however, shortening a game to 5 innings is not one of them....the reasoning that a 5 inning game is NOT PERMITTED!

## So Who Makes These Crazy Rules?

With the attention focused on the NFHS Playing Rules, who actually MAKES these rules? One must look at the different TYPES of rules to understand. There is a distinction between the PLAYING rules of baseball and the ADMINISTRATIVE rules that govern baseball and we often want to confuse the two. Let's focus on the PLAYING rules of the game (I will focus on the Administrative rules later).

### The NFHS Rules Committee

There is an 12 person committee made up of 1 representative from each of the 8 different 'sections' in the nation, plus 1. Rep from the NFHS Coaches' & Officials' Associations a Chairperson and the NFHS Staff Editor (who does not have voting privileges) Each section is comprised of 5-7 states. Ohio is a member of "Section 2" and the current representative to the Committee from Section 2 is Julian Tacket, Executive Director of Kentucky. The "Rules Process" then takes on this format:

- An agenda is sent to all State Associations (i.e. OHSAA)
- Section Representatives contact State Sport's Administrators (i.e. "me") for evaluation and input
- Rule Change Proposals are entertained from each state
- Baseball Questionnaires are emailed to ALL Baseball Coaches and Umpires in Ohio for input
- After feedback is obtained, the Committee meets to review. Any proposal on an agenda for change must be moved and approved by a 2 vote margin  
To be considered for possible approval
- If an approval is approved for discussion, it is then worked on by the Committee and must pass the Committee by same 2 vote margin to become rule
- Before becoming a rule, the change must be approved by the NFHS Rules Review Committee, then by the NFHS Board of Directors
- If not comment by the Board of Directors, it becomes rule in 2 weeks.

### Frank Gamble Picks up Win 600!

39 years in the dugout and Coach Gamble is rewarded with his 600<sup>th</sup> career victory at Massillon Perry. The longtime OHSBCA liaison to the OHSAA, Frank stands for everything good about high school sports. Read more at [www.indeonline.com](http://www.indeonline.com)

### What happens If we don't follow NFHS Rules..what's the big deal?

The OHSAA follows playing rules adopted by the NFHS. Obviously, we could choose not to do that. We have always believe that in our sports, the research and input by a national group is the best way to weigh rule changes and implementation of those rules. IF we chose NOT to follow the rules, we would forfeit our representation to the National Rules Committee. Big deal you say? The last 4 years, the CHAIR of the National Rules Committee was Kyle McNeely, OHIO's Director of Development. Kyle was extremely valuable to the Committee as well as Umpires in Ohio.

### Help with this Short Survey!

I am asking readers to answer a few survey questions relative to the OHSAA's Administrative rules. Simply click below to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TWIBSurvey>

### Rules Interpretation Meetings

The Rule Change format serves as the basis for Ohio's annual (required) State Rules Interpretation Meetings. Rule Books are printed and PURCHASED (few realize that!) by each State Association (such as the OHSAA) and distributed to EVERY head coach and Umpire in Ohio. Umpires receive this (along with a "Case Book" as part of their annual dues, where school coaches are provided this Official NFHS Rules Book free of charge as a service to schools.

### Statistically Speaking

**Baseball Regional Tournament Attendance: 2003 – Present**

**Baseball State Tournament Attendance: 2003 - Present**

2003	18,601	2004	17,060	2005	20,544	2006	19,572	2007	17,814	2008	15,762	2009	14,831	2010	17,929
	12,296		10,009		15,065		12,668		12,978		9,749		12,836		17,632