

To: All Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Baseball Administrator
Emily Gates, Team Sports Program Coordinator
Re: Coaches Memo 1 – February 10, 2016

Baseball season is almost here. As many of you know, I attempted to post a "This Week in Baseball" document every week or so of the baseball season. While I will still use that page (<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2015/TWIB2015.htm>) as a 'landing page' for some very helpful documents that address some commonly asked questions, I intend to send 'weekly' memos out to all coaches addressing current issues; this being the first of those memos.

Off-Season – Now until February 22

We're all eager. We all want an early jump on the season. Fast forward to late April...does it really matter now? Keep in mind that we are STILL in the Off-season and all off-season regulations must be followed. Here is an easy link to those:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/TWIBOffseasonBaseballQuestions.pdf>

Coach Certification

All coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are required to obtain a Pupil Activity Coaching Permit through the Ohio Dept. of Education. Now is a good time to take care of this requirement. You can inquire to your Athletic Director and also find specifics addressed here:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2014/TWIB14/InformationOnCoachCertification.pdf>

Online Rules Meeting

Remember, this is a requirement for all Head Coaches. If you did not attend the meeting I conducted at the OHSBCA meeting, please make sure you log on and complete this. I strongly encourage you to watch this even if you DID attend the OHSBCA meeting as there is much more administrative content covered in this version. And...encourage your assistant coaches to take this as well. They should and it will only help YOU with your program in the long run. You can access it directly at: <http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/ContentRegistration.aspx?DocumentID=c47a0211-5d73-4ceb-9fc6-66ab0383a452&Cust=42440&ReturnUrl=/p/4244079283> (you will need to copy/paste this into your browser window).

Required Parents' Meeting

As most of you are aware, all schools are required to conduct a pre-season parent/athlete meeting prior to the start of the season. Besides the fact this is a requirement – it is a GOOD thing. Use it to your advantage, distribute and review your expectations, your school's Code of Conduct, and your letter requirements. Believe it or not, I receive dozens of emails and correspondences from irate parents at the conclusion of a season that complain their son did not receive a Varsity letter. And in most cases, the requirements were never covered. Do yourself a favor and review them BEFORE the season.

“Hey Blue!”

Just a few notes here 'from the other side'. The OHSAA employs "Directors of Development" – the head of officials in each specific sport. The OHSAA's "DoD" for umpires is Dan McGinnis, in his second full year. DoD's are charged with providing continuing education to officials in their sport while also implementing programs/ideas to recruit new officials. Here are a few little known facts:

- All Umpires must attend a State Rules Interpretation Meeting that is specific to Umpires (it is not the same as coaches and shouldn't be)
- All umpires must attend 4 "local" meetings with strict agendas that are covered at the meeting relative to rules
- Umpires receive continued educational related correspondence throughout the season to address current rule issues and concerns
- Umpires working 4 man crews at Regional and State games are provided a clinic to review and educate on all 4-man mechanics

Below is a synopsis from the first of the educational related correspondences that umpires received this week. Much of what I communicate to coaches will also be toward addressing what Umpires are discussing and looking for.

- We are emphasizing on a triple where the base umpire comes into the infield, he will take the BR around to third. This is the only change in the two man mechanics.
- Hybrid pitching position. It is either a ball or a balk.
- At the pre-game conference, make sure that you mention to the coaches that all non-adult shaggers must have a helmet on when retrieving ball within the confines of the playing field. Yes players are non-adult shaggers.
- A player with a glove protecting the catcher in the bull pen does not need helmet, they have a glove!
- Wrist bands are to be worn on the wrists. Not the belt. Period.
- Yes the third to first move is still legal in high school baseball
- When in the B or C position at the time of the pitch, hands on knees.
- Remember we are on video, answer the coaches' questions when asked, you are not going to change their minds.

- With potential weather coming in, make sure you enforce the lightning and thunder rule. Thirty minutes after the last lightening or thunder. Leave the field and go to your car or locker room. Safety is job 1.
- Hustle while on the field. Going from A to B after a walk, jog to B.
- Between innings, plate goes down and stands on the line, base umpire go to outfield.
- Base umpire counts pitches on a pitching change.
- Keep the batter in the box! They have to have one foot in....