



# 2016 Softball Manual

For Coaches & Officials




**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

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[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

## Table of Contents

	PAGE
<b>OHSAA Mission Statement</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mandatory Rules Meetings</b>	<b>5</b>
2016 Rules Interpretation Meetings- <b>Note: On-line Meetings Only (Coaches)</b>	6
2016 Season Important Dates	7
<b>OHSAA Contact Information</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Coaches</b>	<b>8</b>
Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association (OHSFSCA)	8
Coaches Code of Ethics	9
<b>Game Procedures</b>	<b>11</b>
Ejection Report Form Procedures	11
<b>Medical &amp; Safety</b>	<b>11</b>
Concussion Information	11
Weather Information	17
<b>Officials</b>	<b>18</b>
Officiating Code of Ethics & Code of Conduct	18
Pre-Season Preparations	19
Address Changes	19
Uniform Requirements	19
OHSAA Local Officials Associations	19
Coaches/Officiating Rating Instructions	20
<b>Regulations</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>OHSAA Softball Regulations – 2015-16</b>	<b>20</b>
OHSAA General Sports Regulations – 2015-16	24
Tournament Regulations	24
<b>Rules Information</b>	<b>24</b>
 Rule Changes 2016	24
Major Editorial Revisions 2016	24
Points of Emphasis 2016	25
<b>OHSAA State Association Adoptions</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>OHSAA Points of Emphasis</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>OHSAA Instructional Program Regulations</b>	<b>27</b>
Game Ending Procedures	28
<b>Non-Interscholastic Rule-Coaches/Students</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>NFHS Slides</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Sportsmanship</b>	<b>50</b>
Online Resources	52
<b><u>Troubleshooting Tips for Viewing Online Rules Meeting</u></b>	<b>52</b>
Concussion Report	54

**Materials Mailed Separately- Some materials mailed to Officials Associations Only**

COACHES	OFFICIALS
No materials mailed for 2016 Season except Memo to Coaches. NFHS Rule Books will be mailed every other school year. No books mailed for 2016 Season	2016 NFHS Softball Rule Book
	2016 NFHS Softball Case Book
	2016/2017 Umpires Manual
	2016 Preseason Guide



**TO:** Softball Coaches and Officials

**FROM:** Roxanne Price, Assistant Commissioner

**RE:** OHSAA Softball Regulations and Related Materials

This softball manual is intended as a guide to assist with the coaching, officiating, and administration of interscholastic softball. Included in this manual are the sports regulations for softball as adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors, and the NFHS Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis. Also, officials you will find information on the face to face rules interpretation meetings scheduled for the 2016 season. Information regarding the OHSAA bylaws and student eligibility is disseminated to Athletic Administrators.

**The 2016 Coaches and Officials Manual** includes information regarding OHSAA Points of Emphasis, such as **Game Ending Procedures (continuous emphasis)**, as well as information on the **Instructional Program Regulations for coaches**. The Manual also includes information about non-interscholastic participation and what is permissible by players and coaches and what is non-permissible. *Please note that OHSAA Game Ending Procedures may vary from NFHS Rules.*

**It is mandatory that each school that sponsors interscholastic softball have a coach (head or assistant) or an athletic administrator view the online rules interpretation meeting. It is preferred that the Head Coach view the online meeting. Any coach may review the meeting and it is suggested that every school coach do so.** For the 2016 softball season, all the rules meetings for coaches will continue to be conducted on-line. More information regarding on-line meetings can be found in this manual. **Attendance/viewing is required by at least one coach/school administrator in order to be eligible to enter the OHSAA-sponsored tournament. The link for the on-line meeting will be on the softball home page and the official's page by 4:00 p.m. on February 2, 2016. The deadline, without penalty, will be March 1, 2016 at 11:59 pm.**

**Officials** have the option to attend a face-to-face meeting or to receive credit for their OHSAA meeting by viewing an online presentation. **Please bring the attendance card mailed to you earlier to the rules interpretation meeting that you attend face to face. If you do not have the attendance card, you may complete an official's attendance card at the meeting. You will find the link to the on-line meeting on the Officials page of the OHSAA website.** The on-line meeting will be available on February 2, 2016 through March 16 at 11:59 pm.

The NFHS Softball Rules and the OHSAA Softball Regulations will serve as the official rules of Softball. The OHSAA may have modified some NFHS rules so that they are in alignment with OHSAA sports regulations. The NFHS Softball Rules Book in the past has been provided to each member school sponsoring softball and each OHSAA licensed official as a courtesy by the OHSAA. **Softball head coaches will receive a NFHS Softball Rules Book every other year. No NFHS Softball Rules Book will be mailed to member school coaches this school year.** Each OHSAA softball official will receive a case book as well as the NFHS Softball Rules Book. Additional materials have been mailed to the Officials Associations to assist with classes, compliments of the OHSAA.

As a head coach you received an earlier memo from me because your school has indicated that it sanctions softball as an interscholastic sport. Your school may have also indicated that it will enter the state softball tournament. If your school has indicated that it will participate in the state tournament and does not enter a team in the state tournament, there will be a penalty of \$150 assessed if the OHSAA does not receive correspondence through MyOHSAA by April 25, 2016 that your school will not enter a softball team in the postseason tournament.

Again, these materials have been provided to assist you with your coaching and/or officiating responsibilities. **Take the time to review the materials.** If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 267-2502 or email me at [rprice@ohsaa.org](mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org). Email correspondence is preferred. **If you have questions in regard to playing rules, such as courtesy runners, dead ball situations, and substitution rules, please contact Jerry Fick, Director of Officials Development at [swdoc@fuse.net](mailto:swdoc@fuse.net) or George Gulas at [geoshe@zoominternet.net](mailto:geoshe@zoominternet.net)**



**Dear OHSAA Softball Umpire:**

First, let me thank all of you for your commitment and dedication to OHSAA softball. Your efforts are much appreciated by all of us at the association. We wish you a great season in 2016.

To further increase consistency we will continue our enhanced training opportunities for umpires. We will again offer our online state meeting. The state meeting will be available both online and in person. There will be eight in person meetings. **Each meeting will feature sessions of about two and a half hours and, in addition to the state meeting, will review the most important items that we want to cover prior to the 2016 season. By attending the entire session you will receive credit for a local meeting in addition to the state softball meeting.** **The schedule is listed below with all meetings starting at 6PM:**

Tuesday, February 2 – Columbus – OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place

Thursday, February 4 – Zanesville High School – 1701 Blue Ave.

Tuesday, February 9 – Canton McKinley High School – 2323 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW

Thursday, February 11 – Findlay – Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St.

Tuesday, February 16 – Piqua – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr.

Thursday, February 18 – Garfield Heights High School – 4900 Turney Rd.

Tuesday, February 23 – Monroe High School - 220 Yankee Rd.

Thursday, February 25 – Jackson High School (Jackson) – 500 Vaughn St.

**The online meeting for softball will be available February 2 at 4:00 pm.** To find the link to the meeting, you must navigate the **OFFICIALS HOME PAGE** from the “officiating” page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). You may also access the online meeting and listing of in person meetings from your myOHSAA account. **The last day in which an online rules meeting may be viewed without penalty for officials is March 16.** Note that tablets and mobile devices should not be used for the online meetings. Frequently these devices will not record rules meeting credit. A laptop or desktop device must be used.

- **An important message to all OHSAA officials who hold BOTH a baseball and softball permit** ---- As you have been previously informed, effective with the 2016 season, the OHSAA will require umpires holding permits in both sports to attend four local meetings for baseball and four local meetings for softball. **Local Associations will no longer be permitted to offer meetings that give credit for both sports in a single session.** There will be one exception to this provision as each local association will be able to conduct one meeting that covers OHSAA regulations and other items that are common to both sports. Officials will be able to attend only one of these meetings and those who do so will receive credit for a meeting in both baseball and softball. An official attending one of these meetings would have to attend at least three additional baseball meetings and three additional softball meetings to meet the attendance requirements for each sport. All local associations offering these "dual credit" meetings may offer only one such meeting per year and will be required to follow the agenda and PowerPoint provided by the

OHSAA. We want to be certain that all umpires holding both of these permits are aware of this change. Many umpires won't be impacted because either associations or individual umpires have been meeting the new requirements in past years. **The purpose of these changes is to increase the educational opportunities for our umpires working both games and ultimately benefit participating student athletes by enhancing the knowledge base of umpires in these two sports.**

We will also continue our popular series of Softball Umpire Mechanics Clinics. These clinics, designed to help umpires improve their skills and attain their advancement goals, continue to emphasize both plate and base mechanics. We have found that umpires with a strong knowledge of mechanics add greatly to the game of softball. Each clinic is staffed by the OHSAA Softball Umpire Instructional Team and will include OHSAA softball observers. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

**Sunday, February 21 – Massillon**  
**Saturday, March 5 – Reynoldsburg**  
**Sunday, March 6 – Cincinnati**  
**All sessions are from 9 AM to 4PM.**

**Details, including registration information and specific locations, concerning all of these events can be found at the OHSAA officiating web page using this link:**  
**<http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/Clinics/SoftballClinicGeneric.pdf>**

We will also again offer a pre-tournament clinic covering the three umpire system, as well as other topics, on Sunday, May 1 at Waggoner Road Junior High School in Reynoldsburg. Based on your requests we will hold this event on a Sunday, and while this free clinic is intended for umpires working the three umpire system in postseason play it is open to all OHSAA umpires. No preregistration is needed. The schedule will include registration at noon with the clinic running from 12:30-4PM. Specific details and the exact site will be announced in our weekly bulletins this season.

For the last four seasons the OHSAA also provided weekly bulletins to our local association rules interpreters and secretaries throughout the regular season. These were distributed electronically and most associations were able to pass this information on to their members each week. In order to simplify this process we will continue to post these bulletins at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (Go to the Officials Page – DOD Section) for the 2016 season. The direct link is <http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/directors.htm> The comments we received were very positive and if umpires have suggestions on how to improve these further please let me know.

Again, I thank you for all you do in support of OHSAA softball.

Jerry Fick  
Director of Officials Development - Softball

## OHSAA 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.

## CALENDAR OF RULES MEETINGS

Schools sponsoring interscholastic contests in girls fast pitch softball must have an authorized representative, the head varsity girls' softball coach, assistant girls' softball coach or athletic administrator, [view a softball online rules meeting](#). **OFFICIALS MUST VIEW AN ONLINE MEETING OR ATTEND ONE OF THE FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED. YOU WILL FIND THIS SCHEDULED LIST OF MEETINGS BELOW AND ON THE OFFICIALS PAGE OF THE OHSAA WEBSITE. *IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, OFFICIALS SHOULD CONTINUE TO CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.* THE ON-LINE MEETINGS FOR BOTH OFFICIALS AND COACHES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON **FEBRUARY 2, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COACHES AND OFFICIALS ON-LINE MEETINGS WILL HAVE SEPARATE CONTENT.**

***THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULED IN PERSON MAKE UP MEETING FOR OFFICIALS. FOR COACHES, THERE WILL BE NO FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS. COACHES WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO VIEW THE RULES MEETING ON-LINE.***

Any school failing to meet the on-line meeting requirement will be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition.

Softball umpires who fail to attend one of these meetings will be suspended the following year and will be ineligible for tournament assignments in the current year.

**Officials attending a face-to face rules meeting must be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain until the conclusion of the meeting to receive attendance credit.** Please see below for the face-to-face rules meeting dates and locations, along with the contact person for each meeting:

DATE	LOCATION	CONTACT
February 2, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>OHSAA Office</b> 4080 Roselea Pl., Columbus 43214	Dan McGinnis
February 4, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>Zanesville High School</b> 1701 Blue Ave., Zanesville 43701	Raymond Bess
February 9, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>McKinley High School</b> 2323 17th St. NW, Canton 44708	Keith Bialota
February 11, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>Glenwood Middle School</b> 1715 N. Main St., Findlay 45840	Chad Snyder
February 16, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>Upper Valley Career Center</b> 8811 Career Dr., Piqua 45356	Jim Merz
February 18, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>Garfield Heights High School</b> 4900 Turney Rd., Garfield Heights 44125	Theresa Rice
February 23, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>Monroe High School</b> 220 Yankee Rd., Monroe 45050	Jerry Fick
February 25, 2016 – 6:00 pm	<b>Jackson High School</b> 500 Vaughn St., Jackson 45640	B Wilson

The 2016 schedule of softball rules meetings for officials can also be found under the Officials link on the OHSAA website. **Please check the OHSAA website frequently to check for changes/updates to the meeting schedule.** Rules meeting dates and times may need to be adjusted due to inclement weather.

**Coaches, please note that there will not be a face-to-face rules meeting held at the OHSFSCA clinic in January.** The implementation of on-line rules meetings no longer makes it necessary to conduct a meeting at the softball coaches' clinic.

Contact information for Rules Interpreters is indicated below. Mr. Fick and Mr. Gulas would be responsible for interpreting "contest" rules. Ms. Price is responsible for interpreting OHSAA sports regulations, such as number of contests permitted, non-interscholastic rule and permissible and non-permissible activities outside of the school season.

INTERPRETERS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Jerry Fick	513-563-2755	<a href="mailto:swdoc@fuse.net">swdoc@fuse.net</a>
George Gulas	330-321-1858	<a href="mailto:geoshe@zoominternet.net">geoshe@zoominternet.net</a>
Roxanne Price	614-267-2502 Ext. 114	<a href="mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org">rprice@ohsaa.org</a>

## ONLINE METHOD OF COMPLETION

**Officials** should access their myOHSAA account. Once in the system, there will be a link for the OFFICIALS on-line Rules Meeting. Log in, completing the required fields and complete the softball PowerPoint. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed for credit to be provided. The on-line rules meeting will be available by 4:00 p.m. February 2, 2016. The last date to review an on-line meeting without penalty will be Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 11:59 pm. A \$50 late fee will be assessed after this date to complete the on-line rules meeting. The last date to review an on-line meeting with penalty is Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 11:59 pm.**

**Coaches** can access the on-line version by navigating the **OHSAA softball webpage**. There will be a coach's link on the softball front page. The link will be at the top of the page. The online rules meeting will be available by 4:00 p.m. **February 2, 2016**. You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which your athletic administrator or principal can give to you. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed to receive credit.** The last day for completion of the on-line version **without penalty is Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 11:59 pm.** A \$50 late fee will be assessed after this date to complete the on-line rules meeting. The last date to review an online meeting **with penalty is Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 11:59 pm.**

Officials and an administrator at a member school that has not attended/viewed a rules meeting will be notified prior to the deadline for viewing a meeting. The athletic director will be notified if there has been no attendance by a school coach. **There is no need to double check "attendance" with the OHSAA.** Please do not contact the OHSAA Office in regard to "credit" for rules meeting attendance. **OFFICIALS will have their profile page updated reflecting their attendance periodically.** We ask that officials check their profile page. Athletic Directors can check the status of meeting "attendance" by accessing myOHSAA. Please do not call the OHSAA for verification of your completion of the on-line version of the rules meeting without waiting a few days after completion of an on-line rules meeting and checking your profile page if you are an official or with your athletic administrator if you are a school coach.

**Coaches**, to reiterate, your athletic administrator can assist you in checking whether you have received "credit" for viewing the on-line rules meeting. The athletic administrator can log onto **myOHSAA**. On the left hand side of the home page under "Participation Info" he/she can click on the school summary and then scroll down to the sanctioned sport section to check state rules meeting status. If your school plans to participate in the OHSAA softball tournament, your school's rules meeting status will be reflected.

**ONLINE MEETINGS BEGIN FEBRUARY 2, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. AS YOU WILL HAVE ALMOST A MONTH (OR MORE FOR OFFICIALS) TO COMPLETE AN ONLINE MEETING, PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OHSAA OFFICE SHOULD THE MEETING NOT BE AVAILABLE AT EXACTLY 4:00 P.M.**

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The **officials** who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting, or who do not complete an on-line rules meeting, may request a special make-up meeting from Mr. Fick or Mr. Gulas, listed above. Such meeting must be held no later than Tuesday, April 12, 2016. The fee for a Special Make-up Meeting is \$50.00. Officials request after the above date must be addressed to the Director of Officiating Development, Mr. Jerry Fick. **Coaches** who miss the deadline to view the on-line meeting must contact Ms. Emily Gates, Program Coordinator ([egates@ohsaa.org](mailto:egates@ohsaa.org)). See the information printed above for the deadline regarding on-line meetings and penalties assessed.

\*Please check our website, [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) for regular updates to the face-to-face rules interpretation meetings. Inclement weather may result in the postponement or cancellation of rules meetings.

### 2016 IMPORTANT DATES

2016 OHSAA Softball Calendar	
February 22	<u>First Day of Coaching/Instruction for all prospective members of the school team</u>
February 23-Until the first regular season game of the teams involved	H.S. Preview Permitted
March 26	First Day Regular Season Contests Permitted
April 18	Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted <b>(see Softball Regulation 6.8 for additional information)</b>
May 7- May 14	Sectional Tournament
May 16 – May 21	District Tournament
May 25 – May 28	Regional Tournament
June 2 – June 4	State Tournament
June 11	Coaching and School Season Ends
August 8- September 5	Coaches' No Contact Period



## OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 ~ 614-267-2502 ~ 614-267-1677 (fax)

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
Roxanne Price	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	<a href="mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org">rprice@ohsaa.org</a>
Beau Rugg	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees officials programs & tournament assignments	<a href="mailto:brugg@ohsaa.org">brugg@ohsaa.org</a>
Emily Gates	Program Coordinator	Assists in the administration of softball and coordinates rule meeting attendance	<a href="mailto:egates@ohsaa.org">egates@ohsaa.org</a>
Jerry Fick	State Rules Interpreter & Director of Officials Development	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	<a href="mailto:swdoc@fuse.net">swdoc@fuse.net</a>
George Gulas	State Rules Interpreter	Fields Rules Inquiries	<a href="mailto:geoshe@zoominternet.net">geoshe@zoominternet.net</a>

## SOFTBALL LINKS

National Association of Sports Officials	<a href="http://www.naso.org">www.naso.org</a>
National Federation of State High School Associations	<a href="http://www.nfhs.org">www.nfhs.org</a>
National Fast Pitch Coaches Association	<a href="http://www.nfca.org">www.nfca.org</a>
Ohio High School Athletic Association	<a href="http://www.ohsaa.org">www.ohsaa.org</a>
Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association	<a href="http://www.ohsfsc.org">www.ohsfsc.org</a>
American Softball Association/USA Softball	<a href="http://www.teamusa.org/USA-softbal">http://www.teamusa.org/USA-softbal</a>

## COACHES

### OHIO HIGH SCHOOL FAST PITCH SOFTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION (OHSFSCA)

[www.ohsfsc.org](http://www.ohsfsc.org)

The Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association (OHSFSCA) is a non-profit organization designed to help promote high school softball in the state of Ohio. Membership in the OHSFSCA is open to all high school coaches in the state. The OHSFSCA is run by an Executive Committee and assisted by the local district officers.

Please visit their website for additional information regarding the softball clinic, the Hall of Fame, All-Ohio honors, membership forms, executive board contact information, etc.

#### 2015-16 OHSFSCA Executive Board Directory

Title	Name	E-Mail	Phone
<b>President/OHSAA Rep</b>	Jamie Lining	<a href="mailto:bucks9395@bright.net">bucks9395@bright.net</a>	419-722-2451 (C)
<b>President-Elect</b>	James Smith	<a href="mailto:Jsmith8420@aol.com">Jsmith8420@aol.com</a>	440-281-2701 (C)
<b>Past President</b>	Barbara Sleek	<a href="mailto:absleek@aol.com">absleek@aol.com</a>	740-516-4201 (C)
<b>Secretary</b>	Melissa Lahna	<a href="mailto:easterndistrictsoftball@gmail.com">easterndistrictsoftball@gmail.com</a>	304-218-3943 (C)

Title	Name	E-mail	Phone
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bill Amero	<a href="mailto:billamero@yahoo.com">billamero@yahoo.com</a>	330-501-7506 (C)
<b>Clinic Director</b>	Bill Matthews	<a href="mailto:wmatth@centurytel.net">wmatth@centurytel.net</a>	440-309-6938 (W)
<b>Clinic Assistant</b>	Sharon Monas	<a href="mailto:nedsecretary@roadrunner.com">nedsecretary@roadrunner.com</a>	440-417-2322 (C)

Please review the OHSFSCA website for a complete list of executive board members, [www.ohsfsc.org](http://www.ohsfsc.org)

## **COACHES CODE OF ETHICS**

(From [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) and the NFHS Softball 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-athlete should be treated as though he or she was the coaches' own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFCA 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-athlete 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 student-athletes, 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 avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

**The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her 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.

Before and after contests, **coaches** for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

**A coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration. A coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **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 be respectful. 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**

During your pre-season preparations, 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 COMMUNICATE 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. Thanks so much for your assistance!

- **Importance of Coaches Rating Umpires**

***Each year coaches are required to rate umpires that work their varsity contests.*** Please take advantage of this opportunity and take the time to rate the umpires. Rating is done online and information regarding the procedure will be sent electronically to school athletic administrators. Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament. Please note that school athletic administrators can provide the OHSAA with a list of up to 15 umpires that have received favorable ratings.

- **Inquiries**

The 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](http://www.ohsaa.org)) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides softball regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSFSCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information is provided in this manual and can be found on their website ([www.ohsfsc.org](http://www.ohsfsc.org)).

- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media**

OHSAA Media Regulations reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and shall be mutually 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 public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding the officials, the players, coaches or schools. Coaches and participants are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

Mr. Beau Rugg is the Assistant Commissioner responsible for the Officials program at the OHSAA.

- **Equipment – Worth**

Worth is the “Official Softball” of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. For 2015, our tournament balls will be provided by Worth. The OHSAA Worth representative is Denny Helmig.

## GAME PROCEDURES

### EJECTION REPORT FORM PROCEDURES

- 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 “Officials Report” form. An Official’s Report Form can be viewed and printed by clicking on the Officiating Link at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) . 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 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 Commissioner should be made aware must be provided/ written on the report.
- 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.
- Please include the ejected person’s first and last names. Make sure that the form is complete at the bottom with the date and the name of the administrator that you spoke with at the school.

#### **General Ejection Procedures**

General Sports Regulation 14.2 requires any coach (paid or volunteer) ejected from a contest 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.

## CONCUSSION REGULATIONS

Please note that the date of implementation indicated below will reach its 3 year anniversary this spring. Concussion certification last for three years only, thus it will be time for individuals to renew their certification, if the certification was received in 2013. When an official’s concussion training certificate is 90 days away from expiration, they should receive an email from the OHSAA. Anyone who works with youth sports programs, coaches and officials, are required in the state of Ohio to have a valid concussion certification in order to continue to coach or officiate. It is ultimately your responsibility to ensure you are in compliance with state law before you officiate or coach your team. Coaches should contact their athletic administrator about the requirements of the certification.



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

Notwithstanding the leading role that the Ohio High School Athletic Association has played in the area of developing policies concerning concussion prevention, recognition and management, in December of 2012, Ohio's Governor Kasich signed into law legislation that was passed by Ohio's 129th General Assembly which incorporated much of what the OHSAA regulations previously mandated. This law adds several aspects to previous OHSAA regulations. Therefore, in order to be fully compliant with this law as signed by our Governor, modifications have been made to OHSAA policy. These modifications are set forth in these updated Concussion Regulations.

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 REQUIREMENTS**

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 REQUIREMENTS**

**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>

### **APPROVED ONLINE CONCUSSION EDUCATION COURSES**

THE FOLLOWING FREE ONLINE TRAINING COURSES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR COACHES AND CONTEST OFFICIALS:

**National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports - What you Need to Know:**  
<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>

(This free online course is available through the NFHS. Click the "order here" button, and complete a brief registration form to take the course. Follow these steps to complete the course:

1. Click on the button that says "Please Login to Order." In the window that appears, click "Register Now."
2. When your registration is complete, you may "order" the free concussion course offered along the left-hand side of the page. Continue following prompts. Although it may look like you will be charged for the course, there is no cost.
3. Once you've completed "Checkout," you will be able to take the free online course.
4. When you have completed and passed the course, you have the option of printing a certificate of completion.
5. All Ohio Officials should select this option to print, retain a copy of the certificate and carry it with them to all contests.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports On-Line Training Program:** [http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online\\_training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html) -

**PLEASE NOTE:** Both courses offer a "certificate of completion" upon successful passage. The NFHS course allows organizations to search for and [track coaches and other individuals such as contest officials who have completed the course](#), while the CDC course does not.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. What are the “signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?”

The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following list of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

#### SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE

- Appears dazed or stunned
- is confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Cannot recall events prior to hit
- Cannot recall events after hit
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

### 2. Who is responsible for administering this rule?

All individuals who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest officials, administrators, students, parents and medical personnel.

### 3. What is the role of coaches in administering this rule?

- Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
- Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student’s parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional.
- Coaches shall be aware that any student removed from a practice or a contest due to a suspected concussion or head injury **shall not return to participation on the same day as the removal.**
- Coaches shall possess a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit and shall take one of the approved online concussion courses upon renewal of the permit.

### 4. What is the role of contest officials in administering the rule?

- Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any student who displays these signs or symptoms. When informing the head coach about removal of an athlete, the official shall be accompanied by another (second) official if possible.
- **An official shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition that same day.**

- If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition on the same day as removal, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the OHSAA.
- Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
  - All Officials shall possess either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or shall complete one of the online concussion courses which are valid for three years from the date of completion.
  - At initial licensure or renewal of the OHSAA officiating permit, the official shall indicate that he or she has either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has completed one of the approved online concussion courses.
  - All officials should carry with them evidence of completion of one of these options at all times while officiating a contest.
  - Officials are required to submit to the OHSAA the “OHSAA Concussion Report” within 48 hours whenever a student has been removed from a contest under this regulation.

### **5. What are the expectations of student-athletes in concussion management?**

- While all individuals involved in the interscholastic athletics program have a responsibility to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions, it is also the responsibility of student-athletes to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.
- Student-athletes who exhibit symptoms such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, have the responsibility to report these immediately to their coach and/or health care professional. Teammates also share the responsibility to report these symptoms when they are exhibited by a fellow student athlete.
  - Student-athletes shall review and sign, on an annual basis, along with their parents or legal guardians, the Ohio Department of Health’s Concussion Information Sheet found on the OHSAA website and at this link: <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

### **6. Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?**

- **Only** an M.D. (Medical Doctor), D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), or another health care provider approved by the school’s Board of Education or other governing body who 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;
  - 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

is empowered to make the on-site determination that an athlete has **not** received a concussion.

**Even if that determination has been made, however, the student may not return to practice or competition on the same day he/she has been removed from a practice or competition (see No. 7 below).**

- If any one of these physicians or authorized medical providers has answered that “yes” there has been a concussion, that decision is final.

### **7. Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she has been removed from a practice or competition for a suspected concussion?**

- **No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day.**
- No coach or contest official shall allow a student to return to practice or to competition on any day after the initial removal until that student has been assessed and cleared for return with **written authorization** by a physician or licensed health care provider authorized by the school.
- If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.

### **8. Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice/competition in the sport for a student who has diagnosed with a concussion?**



- Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a physician or other approved health care provider, only a physician or approved provider can authorize subsequent Return To Play (RTP), and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written **RTP authorization shall be kept at the school indefinitely** as a part of that student's permanent record. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> to access the OHSAA

"Medical Authorization to Return to Play" Form.

- School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.

### **9. What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?**

- After a clearance has been issued, the student's actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.

- The National Federation of State High School Associations has included the following graduated protocol in its Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports:

(**Note:** This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

### **NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE 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](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/concussiontoolkit>

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](http://www.biaoh.org)

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

**OFFICIALS-A COPY OF THE OHSAA CONCUSSION REPORT CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS MANUAL.**

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) :

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found in the front of the NFHS Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
  - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
  - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
  - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
  - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

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## LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

(OHSAA General Sports Regulation)

**The current Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy states:**

### 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 any 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 shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

**Management:**

- **Evacuation** – If lightning 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 **mandatory** 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.**

## OFFICIALS

### OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS

(From [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) and the NFHS Softball Rules Book)

**Officials** at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

**Officials** shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

**Officials** shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

**Officials** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

**Officials** shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

**Officials** shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

**Officials** shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

**Officials** shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

**Officials** shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

## PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We also recommended inviting an official(s) to a pre-season meeting with team parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the game. Many of you already participate in such activities, but for those that do not, please get involved!

## ADDRESS CHANGES-Officials

**NOTE:** Address changes are now to be maintained by officials via [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org), click on myOHSAA. Renewal notices are emailed to the address you have entered in myOHSAA. No notices will be physically mailed to you. In order to renew, you may mail a check to the OHSAA with your permit number in the memo line, or you may renew on-line from June 1-June 30 of each year.

## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

Details concerning the OHSAA Softball Umpires Uniform can be found on page 48 of the Handbook for Officials. This can be located at <http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/OHSAAOfficialsHandbook.pdf>

Let's resolve to make the effort to look professional. **Make sure all shirts and caps have the "new logo" which is now REQUIRED.** A few reminders regarding uniforms:

1. Pants are to be either Heather Gray or Charcoal Gray. All umpires on the same crew for a regular season/tournament game are to be dressed alike. In the event that the umpires do not agree to all wear charcoal gray pants, heather gray pants shall be worn.
2. A MLU navy shirt with the OHSAA logo embroidered or sublimated. The new OHSAA logo is mandatory. It is not permissible to wear a long sleeve garment under the short sleeve shirt. An American Flag patch/emblem is optional for the shirt and, if worn, shall be on the left sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder with the star field facing to the front. No other logs, patches, emblems or numbers are permitted on the officiating uniform.
3. Wear an approved coat or a long sleeve navy shirt with the OHSAA logo if the weather requires more than a short sleeve shirt. A jacket shall be the red shoulder stripe model-Navy with red/white trim on the shoulder. The OHSAA logo shall be displayed on the jacket
4. ***Beginning with the 2014 season, a navy cap with the OHSAA logo was required. The caps with the "OHSAA" block letters will no longer be acceptable.***

The plate umpire shall wear all protective equipment required by rule and shall also wear one or two ball bags. Both ball bags shall be of the same color. .

***Penalty for an improper uniform - Fine not to exceed \$100.***

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## OHSAA LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under "Officiating" select Local/State Rules Meetings. Select Local Rules Meetings on the left side, sport: fast pitch softball. Softball Officials must attend four local association meetings.

## COACHES RATING PROCEDURES

Please watch our website and be prepared to receive notification through your athletic administrator concerning the rating system that coaches will use to evaluate contest officials who are being considered for tournament assignments. **Coaches rate umpires/officials, other approved individuals vote for umpires/officials. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting occurs at the end of the season. Officials are not able to see how a coach rated. Your contest information, including official's information must be entered into the OHSAA data management system. Consult your athletic administrator.**

### SOFTBALL – GIRLS

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

##### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day. In softball, each team or individual may play three games on a non-school day **one time during the regular season.**  
**Note:** Completion of a suspended game along with a regularly scheduled game(s) is not considered a doubleheader (penalty – see Sports Regulation 20).
- 1.2) **Teams** – No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates. **Penalty:** A team that exceeds the regular season participation limitation shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.  
**Note:** Double headers may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy.
- 1.21) Any scheduled regular season game in softball which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost records.
- 1.3) **Individuals** – An individual may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus OHSAA-sponsored tournaments.
- 1.31) If an individual plays a game at any level on separate dates, each game counts toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game on Monday and a varsity game on Wednesday. Participation in both games counts as two dates toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)
- 1.32) If an individual plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game in the same day, each contest does not count toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game on a Thursday. Participation in both games counts as one date toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)  
**Penalty:** Any student who exceeds the maximum playing date limitation shall not be eligible for the OHSAA tournament.  
**Note:** If the games described in 1.32 are occurring simultaneously, that same individual may not re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred.
- 1.4) **Interrupted Games**
- 1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF 4-2-3), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.
- 1.42) When 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, the game shall be suspended when the following circumstances prevail:
- 1) The game has gone five innings and;
  - 2) The game is called while an inning is in progress but before it is completed.
- 1.43) There cannot be a tie game. Games are won, lost or suspended.
- 1.5) 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.
- 1.6) A softball game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat (regular season games and tournament games).
- 1.7) **Previews** – A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start day of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Fast Pitch Softball Rules. No more than one preview may be participated in during a season.
- 1.8) The high school pitching distance shall be 43 feet. For middle school, the required distance shall be 40 feet.

##### 2) Uniforms

- 2.1) Uniforms of all team members shall be of the same color and style. State Associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons. A number on the back of each player's jersey is required and shall be at least 6 inches high. The number must be of solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt. The numbers may have a contrasting color border, which shall not exceed ¼ inch. No

players on the same team shall wear identical numbers (0 and 00 are considered the same number). The school's official uniform (including uniform jersey, and/or pants/short/skirt, etc., visible undergarments, socks, stockings, caps and headwear) may bear only a single manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference (partial or whole) that does not exceed 2 ¼ square inches with no dimension exceeding 2 ¼ inches on each item. One American flag (2 inch x 3 inch maximum) may be worn on each item of uniform apparel, and either commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches and with written state association approval, may be worn on the jersey, provided neither the flag nor the patch interferes with the visibility of the number. **Note:** See NFHS Regulation 3 Section 2 Uniforms, Player Equipment for additional information.

### 3) Out-of-State Travel

A softball 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 to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a softball team may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

"School time" is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. **Penalty for violation:** The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner's office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A softball team may not travel out of state only to practice (See Bylaw 9-2-2). However, teams may practice out of state while there to compete in contests. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game, not as a scrimmage. No regular season games can be played prior to the official start of the OHSAA season. Any violation of this out-of-state regulation, including the practice regulation and participating in regular season contests prior to the official start date, shall result in the removal of the school team (all levels) from the OHSAA tournament.

### 4) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See **Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches** under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

**Note:** The use of any equipment/object to create additional noise is a violation of the unsporting conduct regulation.

Noisemaking devices are not permitted in the dugout. This would include musical instruments, whistles and horns. It is also not permissible to bang items such as ball buckets or bang bats on dugouts, benches or fences. Note that the penalty section for violations of this rule permits a "warning", but for repeated violations the umpire may "restrict to the bench" or eject either the coach of the offender(s).

### 5) Transfer Bylaw

Due to many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play softball, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and preview) until regular season contest number 14 in softball.

### 6) Non-Interscholastic Participation

6.1) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or as a member of a team in the sport of softball **during the school's season** (Sports Regulation 7.3).

6.2) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board may participate in non-interscholastic softball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:

6.21) The number of interscholastic softball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.

**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic softball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of softball are exempt from this limitation.

6.22) There is no limit on the number of softball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend (May 27, 2016) – July 31, 2016 provided the players have concluded their school season.

6.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.

6.24) Participation in indoor fast pitch softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 (which restricts the number of squad members from the same school to four) if played indoors from November 1, 2015, through February 1, 2016, for student-athletes. The number of students from the same team

participating during this time is unrestricted. School coaches are not permitted to coach members of their school teams in indoor leagues (or fall leagues).

6.25) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.

6.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic softball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school softball squad, until the student's school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.

6.4) A girl playing on a school softball team MAY participate on a non-interscholastic slow pitch softball team at the same time with the permission of the school coach. This is not a violation since the OHSAA only recognizes fast pitch softball as a sport.

6.5) An intramural team is a non-interscholastic team (Sports Regulation 7.1), and all rules for non-interscholastic teams apply.

6.6) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic softball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in non-interscholastic softball except for 10 days from June 1 – July 31.

6.7) **All-Star Games** – Regulation permitting coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside of the school team's season.

4.71) Interscholastic team coaches may coach players from his or her school in special "All-Star contests. Coaches are permitted to coach in "All-Star" contests if they meet all the following provisions:

a) Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.

b) All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.

c) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school

**Note on "All-Star Games":** "All-star" games are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these "all-star" competitions outside the school season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.3.

**Penalty:** For a senior, violation of this regulation may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the school year. For all other students, the penalty may result in loss of eligibility for the ensuing season in the sport in which the student participated in the All-Star contest.

6.8) **Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates**

A softball athlete who has not participated for a school team in softball that season must cease non-interscholastic softball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in softball in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

Date: April 18, 2016.

## 7) Instructional Programs

School coaches may provide individual instruction to up to four (4) individuals anytime outside of the season outside of the no contact period. No more than four individuals at one time may be present at the same time in all combined facilities (See General Sports Regulation 8.2).

## 8) No Contact Period – Coaches

See **Regulations for No Contact Period – Coaches** under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

## 9) Penalties

9.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic softball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic softball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic softball season or the ensuing softball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

9.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic programs) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

## B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – Grades 9-12

1) Coaching and instruction may begin – February 22, 2016.

2) First game – March 26, 2016.

3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament – April 25, 2016.

4) Tournament seed/drawing meeting – May 1, 2016, 2:00 pm.

5) Coaching and Season end – June 11, 2016.

6) Scrimmages or Previews – Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.

7) Regular season games permitted – Maximum of 27 on 27 playing dates.

Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to school policy.

8) Rules – National Federation Fast Pitch Softball

9) Officials:

9.1) Varsity – All umpires must be OHSAA Class 1 officials.

9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity – Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 softball umpire required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1 or 2.

9.3) Freshman – OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 softball umpires required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1, 2 or 3 umpires in training.

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches mutually agree.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin – February 22, 2016.
- 2) Date first game may be played – March 26, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end – June 11, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages permitted – A maximum of two scrimmages per year.
- 5) Regular season games permitted – Maximum 17 and one postseason tournament not to exceed four games.
- 6) Rules – National Federation Fast Pitch Softball.
- 7) Officials – OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 softball umpires required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1, 2 or 3 umpires in training.

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches mutually agree.

Softball	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Coaching Begins	2/22	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/24	2/22
Season Begins	3/26	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/28	3/27
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/18	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/20	4/19
Sectional	5/7-5/14	5/6-5/13	5/5-5/12	5/4-5/11	5/9-5/16	5/8-5/15
District	5/16-5/21	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19	5/13-5/18	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22
Regional	5/25-5/28	5/24-5/27	5/23-5/26	5/22-5/25	5/27-5/30	5/26-5/29
State	6/2-6/4	6/1-6/3	5/31-6/2	5/30-6/1	6/4-6/6	6/3-6/5
Season Ends	6/11	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/13	6/12
Easter	3/27	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4
Coach – No Contact Period	8/8-9/5	8/7-9/4	8/6-9/3	8/5-9/2	8/10-9/7	8/9-9/6

**SOFTBALL – GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE**

2016-2020-2024	2017-2021-2025	2018-2022-2026	2019-2023-2027
IV	I	II	III
III	IV	I	II
II	III	IV	I
I	II	III	IV

THESE REGULATIONS CAN ALSO BE FOUND ON THE SOFTBALL PAGE OF THE OHSAA WEBSITE ([WWW.OHSAA.ORG](http://WWW.OHSAA.ORG)). ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE SOFTBALL PAGE (UNDER THE LINK “SPORTS” ON THE WEBSITE), IN THE GRAY BOX YOU WILL FIND 2015-2016 SOFTBALL REGULATIONS.





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## OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS-2015-16

(Applies to ALL sports – Can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) under the SPORTS Link and in the OHSAA Handbook)

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### TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Tournament Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after approval at a winter Board of Director's meeting). On the website, under "Sports" select Softball. Tournament Regulations are (will be) listed under Tournament Information on the left side.

### RULES INFORMATION



#### Softball Rule Changes 2016

Rule	Change
2-57-4	Projected Substitute- A projected substitute is the act of entering a substitute without first removing a player from that position in the lineup.
	NFHS Softball Rule Changes can be found at the beginning of the NFHS 2016 Softball Rules Book. Information about the projected substitute can be found on page 83 of the NFHS 2016 Softball Rules Book.
	NFHS Ebooks are available at <a href="http://www.nfhs.org/ebooks">www.nfhs.org/ebooks</a>



#### Major Editorial Changes 2016

Rule	
3-2-4	One American flag (2 inch x 3 inch maximum) may be worn or occupy space on the jersey. By state association adoption, for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey.
	<b>TWO MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES FROM 2015 HIGHLIGHTED BELOW</b>
5-1-4 (From 2015)	After a dead ball situation, the ball becomes live when it is held by the pitcher on the pitcher's plate and the umpire calls and/or signals "Play Ball."
7-1-1&2 Pen 2 (From 2015)	When an improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and the defensive team appeals to the umpire before the next pitch (legal or illegal), or prior to an intentional base on balls (S.P), or before all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher vacates her normal fielding position if a half-inning is ending. The umpire shall declare the batter who should have batted out (not the improper batter). The improper batter's time at bat is negated and she is returned to the dugout bench area. All outs stand and runners who were not declared out must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. If a runner advances because of a stolen base, wild pitch, passed ball (F.P.) or an illegal pitch (F.P.) while the improper batter is at bat, such advance is legal. (The OHSAA notes that while the first sentences is quite lengthy, there should be a "comma after half inning is ending, not a period. It is a grammatical error in the NFHS Rule book). NFHS NOTE: If any situation arises which could lead to an appeal by the defense on the last play

of the game, umpires should not leave the field until all infielders have left fair territory and the catcher has vacated her normal fielding position. If teams line up to shake hands, there is little chance for an appeal even if the defensive infielders have not crossed the foul line and umpires can leave the game at this point. No appeal can be made once the umpires have left the field.



## 2016 Points of Emphasis

**The NFHS has identified the following as points of emphasis for 2016. Additional information can be found on pages 84-86 of the NFHS 2015 Softball Rule Book.**

- Strike Zone
- DP/Flex Education
- Pitching

### 2015-16 OHSAA State Association Adoptions

The National Federation has identified the following items (page 83 of the rules book) that may or may not be adopted by each state association (those addressing slow pitch have been excluded as they are not applicable in Ohio). The OHSAA adoptions are indicated as such.

**1-2-1 NOTE:** A double first base is *permitted*. (8-10).- **Adopted in OH**

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**3-2-1** State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons. **Adopted in OH**

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**3-2-4** By State Association Adoption, for special occasions, a commemorative or memorial patch, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey. **Adopted in Ohio**

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**4-2-3** By state association adoption, game ending procedures may be determined. **Adopted in OH (see game ending procedures outlined in OHSAA Points of Emphasis).**

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**4-2-3 NOTE 2:** By state association adoption, the number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five innings. Current state association game- ending procedures still apply. **Adopted in OH**

**Game ending procedures adopted in Ohio are as follows:**

1. A game may end anytime after five innings, when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat for regular season and tournament games.
2. If a game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game, provided the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead and the home team does not complete its turn at bat.
3. 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 (6 1/2 or 7 innings); however, the 10-run rule applies.

**NOTE:** By state association adoption, a game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a *suspended game*. If the game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of

suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such games will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so (OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.41)

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**4-2-6** By state association adoption, the tiebreaker procedure may be instituted at a point in the game specified by the state association. **NOT adopted in OH**

**THE OHSAA DOES NOT INSTITUTE A TIEBREAK PROCEDURE FOR SOFTBALL-This applies to the regular season as well as OHSAA tournaments.**

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**4-3-1-a** State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams. **NOT adopted in OH—(A Game Not Started is a No Contest according to OHSAA regulations, not a forfeit).**

**Rule 4-3-1a** is not applicable in Ohio. **OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.21** supersedes and reads as follows: "Any scheduled game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as, failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc. is a "No Contest." Games not played are not included in won-lost records." **In OHSAA fast pitch softball, no game is subject to forfeiture unless the contest has been started.**

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**4-4-1** It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted. **NOT adopted in OH**

**NFHS Rule 4-4-1** regarding a protested game is not applicable in Ohio. The OHSAA Handbook, Bylaw 8-3-1 states: "**Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the contest playing rules by officials will not be considered, and those decisions shall be final. The Commissioner's office does not have the authority or the jurisdiction to order contests replayed, or to overturn decisions of contest officials regarding the decisions and interpretations of contest playing rules. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by the contest officials are final**"

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**5-2-1b**

**Note** After 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or by state association adoption, suspended. **NOT adopted in OH**

**While officials may call a game because of weather conditions, OHSAA game ending procedures apply. It has to be determined if the game is won, lost or suspended.**

## **NFHS/OHSAA CLARIFICATIONS/COMMENTS**

You will find comments on the 2016 Rules Changes and Points of Emphasis starting on page 83 of the NFHS 2016 Softball Rules Book. These comments are in regard to the following:

*Projected Substitute, American Flag and Commemorative Patches, Strike Zone, DP/Flex Education and Pitching.*

**As a reminder from last season: Batting and Catcher's Helmets: Helmet surfaces manufactured with a glare (mirror- like) surface are illegal. This rule change is due to some of the new helmets being manufactured with a glare (mirror like) surface which is distracting and potentially dangerous to other players. An illegal helmet is shown below.**



**This helmet is illegal.**

The NFHS Softball Rules Committee also showed concern in *the 2013 Softball Rules Book* about enforcement of the 24-inch width pitching requirement. **Pitchers are starting and/or finishing outside the 24-inch width limitation without an illegal pitch being declared, giving a significant advantage to the pitcher and the defensive team.**

- **As a reminder, a pitcher is prohibited** from wearing or using any item that, in the umpire's judgment, distracts the batter. There have been reports of the pitchers wearing items with optic yellow in prominent locations. **Any use of equipment or part of the uniform that, in the umpire's view, would distract the batter, shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis and could require the removal of such equipment.**

## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (OHSAA) POINTS OF EMPHASIS- 2016

- *The OHSAA Softball REGULAR SEASON begins on Saturday, March 26, 2016. No regular season game may be played prior to this date. Every contest in a non-contiguous state must count as a regular season contest, thus no scrimmages can be played in a non-contiguous state. If you are playing a contest in a non-contiguous state, the contest must be played on March 26 or later in the season.*
- DOUBLEHEADERS MAY NOW BE PLAYED ON ANY DAY PURSUANT TO BOARD OF EDUCATION OR SIMILAR GOVERNING BODY POLICY. SEE "NOTE" UNDER SOFTBALL REGULATION 1.2
- No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates
- An individual may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus the OHSAA- sponsored tournaments
- IT IS PERMISSIBLE to instruct all members of the school team during the time *previously reserved* by the OHSAA for pitchers and catchers. **Coaching and Instruction may begin on February 22, 2016 for all members of the school team.**
- **OHSAA Instructional Program Regulation (General Sport Regulation 8.2.1) Coaches-many of your questions in regard to giving instruction and coaching outside of the season can be answered by referencing the information below:**

Interscholastic coaches in the sport of softball may provide individual instruction anytime outside the season of play outside the defined no-contact period. Individual instruction is defined as no more than four individuals present at one time in all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place.

What does this mean? In the past the only time coaches could give instruction to members of the school team was during the season and during the time period from June 1 to July 31 (with restrictions). While a coach may still not instruct during open gyms or weight training (in weight training no equipment used to play the sport may be included in the workout), a school coach may now coach/instruct members of a school team outside of the season at any time outside of the no contact period as long as **NO MORE THAN FOUR INDIVIDUALS ARE PRESENT AT ONE TIME IN ALL COMBINED FACILITIES.**

**EXAMPLE:** IF A COACH IS GIVING TWO INDIVIDUALS (THESE INDIVIDUALS DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL TEAM) PITCHING INSTRUCTION ON THE SOFTBALL FIELD, AND ANOTHER COACH IS INSTRUCTING TWO INDIVIDUALS IN THE GYM (PITCHING OR ANY OTHER SKILL), AND **AT LEAST ONE** OF THESE FOUR INDIVIDUALS IS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL TEAM, NO OTHER INDIVIDUAL MAY BE ENGAGED IN ANY OTHER SOFTBALL ACTIVITY (INCLUDING AN OPEN GYM) DURING THAT SAME TIME.

IF THERE IS INSTRUCTION/COACHING OCCURRING OUTSIDE OF THE SEASON and OUTSIDE THE PERMISSIBLE TIME FROM JUNE 1-JULY 31 (10 DAY RESTRICTION), THERE CAN BE NO MORE THAN FOUR INDIVIDUALS TOTAL (IF AT LEAST ONE INDIVIDUAL IS A TEAM MEMBER), IN COMBINED FACILITIES. You would not be able to have an open gym, full of team members, and also instruct just one individual member of the team and be in compliance if the total number of students participating in these activities while instruction is taking place is more than four!! We have excluded those engaged in weight training/conditioning from this four person limitation as no equipment used in playing the sport can be utilized in physical fitness programs.

**NOTE:** I believe that there has been a misinterpretation of the above rule (8.2.1). Many of our regulations deal with “members of the school team,” this regulation applies to all individuals in combined facilities being given instruction, not just “team members.” If at least one team member is involved, then you must count the total number of individuals involved and the total number may not exceed four. Please make a note of the correct interpretation.

- An individual may compete in both a varsity and non-varsity contest that is occurring simultaneously; however, that same individual **may not** re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred. **An individual may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus the OHSAA sponsored tournament.** School teams are limited to 27 regular season contests.

## Softball Game Ending and Suspended/interrupted Game Procedures

Most softball games end when the team behind in the score completes its turn at bat in the seventh inning (or an extra inning) or the home team scores the go ahead run in the seventh inning (or any extra inning). This rule is adjusted when both schools have agreed to play a five inning game when multiple regular season games (such as a doubleheader) are scheduled for the same day.

- Under OHSAA rules any game also ends whenever a team has a ten 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 ten run lead in the fifth inning. In the event the visiting team holds a ten run lead after the sixth inning or the home team takes a ten run lead in the bottom of the sixth inning, the ten run rule would apply (there is no ten run rule in a scheduled five inning game). In addition any game will also end when both head coaches and the plate umpire mutually agree to shorten and terminate the game. A game will also end when it is forfeited under NFHS rule 4-3-1, however, **in OHSAA play no game can be forfeited until after it has started.** A game which cannot be started for any reason is a “No Contest.” All of these rules apply equally to regular season and tournament games.
- Under OHSAA rules, games are never 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 day the game will

be suspended if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning. **If a regular season contest has gone beyond this point (fifth inning) it is a complete game, subject to two important exceptions:**

1. Tie game- the OHSAA does not permit contests to end in a tie. All games are won, lost, or suspended. *Therefore, tie games are suspended.* Any game is also suspended when it...
  2. 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 retaken the lead **AND** the game is called while an inning is in progress but before it has been completed.
- 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. **Suspended games that are not resumed are a “No Contest.”**

#### **Examples Of Completed Games Are As Follows:**

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. **Ruling: Complete Game**
  - the first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count and the game is called. **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 completed, nor does the home team retake the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. **Ruling-Suspended Game**
  - the visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not completed nor does the home team retake the lead in the bottom 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 of the sixth or after six innings. **Ruling- Complete Game**

## **POINTS OF EMPHASIS- NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC RULE**

### **COACHES**

- **Coaches authorized by the Board of Education or other governing body (non-public school), whether volunteer or paid may only coach members of their school team in “team ball” during the school season and from June 1-July 31 IF there are four or less team members *rostered* on the team.**
- **If there are five or more members of the team on a “summer travel ball” team, you are permitted only 10 coaching days starting June 1, 2016 and ending July 31, 2016. Please note the instructional program regulations (8.2.1 ) mentioned above. If you coach/instruct more than four individuals at any one time from June 1-July 31, that counts toward one of the 10 days. This 10 day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff, collectively. Each individual coach does not get 10 days.**
- **As a school coach you may not coach any member of your school team in “team” softball (as a member of a team) during the fall or winter, spring or summer...UNLESS IT IS DURING THE SCHOOL SEASON AND FROM JUNE 1-JULY 31, (WITH RESTRICTION-SEE ABOVE). You may not coach a “fall ball team” that has a member of your school team rostered, nor an indoor winter league team that has a team member rostered. The only time you may coach a member of your school team as a part of a team is during the school season and with restriction from June 1-July 31. OHSAA non-interscholastic regulations apply to both high school and middle school coaches and their respective team members.**

## STUDENTS AND COACHES

- Students who are matriculating to high school, who participated as 8<sup>th</sup> graders on a middle school team, count against the four player limitation for the high school beginning on August 1 prior to the student's freshman year in high school. Incoming freshman who did not participate on a middle school team do not count against the four player limitation as described in Softball Regulation 6.21. No student who did not participate on a school softball team during the previous (most recent) school season would count as a member of the school team.
- **Softball regulation 6.2 also applies to middle school teams**. A student who will be entering her freshman year, who has participate on a middle school softball team, will continue to count against the four player limitation in regard to the middle school team until August 1 of her freshman year. Prior to August 1, the student will count against the middle school limitation. Member schools that field both a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, students who participate on either team are considered to be part of ONE SCHOOL TEAM in regard to Softball Regulation 6.21. Member High Schools that have multiple softball teams (Freshman, JV, Varsity) have only ONE SCHOOL TEAM for purposes of this bylaw. There can be no more than four members from the same school team, except during the school season and from the period beginning the Friday before Memorial Day weekend (May 27, 2016)-July 31, 2016. See the 2015-16 Softball Regulations regarding indoor softball. **From November 1-February 1**, there is no restriction on the number of members from the same school team that may participate on an indoor softball team in an indoor softball league. There is also no restriction on the number of students from the same school team that may participate together from the Friday before Memorial Day –July **31 PROVIDED** the student's school team has concluded its school season.

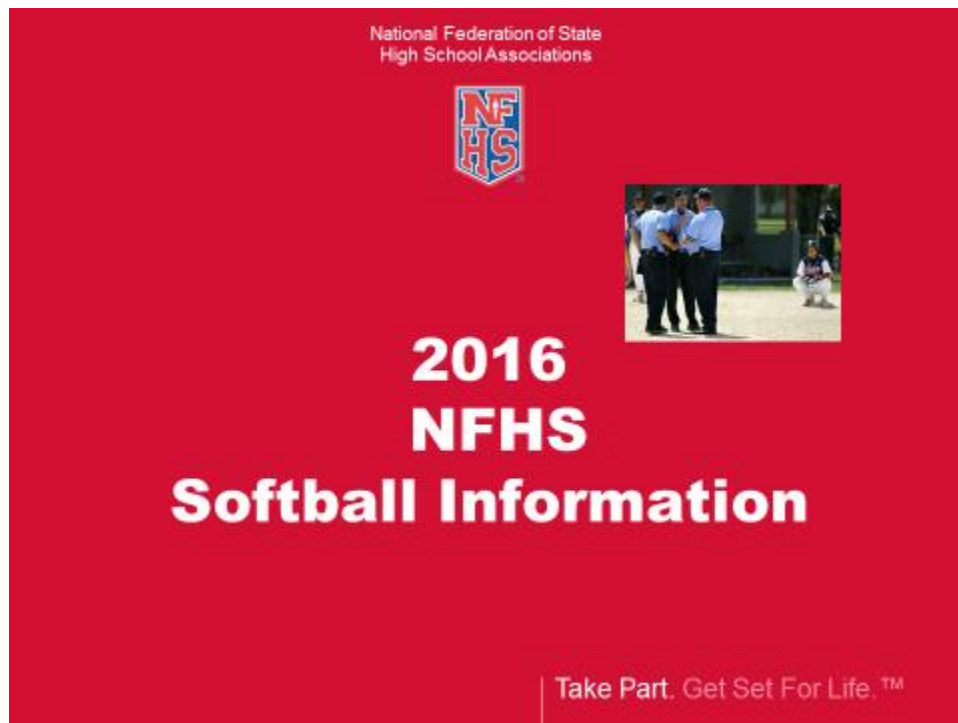




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## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF HIGH SCHOOLS SOFTBALL PRESENTATION SLIDES

The following pages referencing the NFHS Softball Rules Changes and Points of Emphasis are provided compliments of the National Federation of High Schools. THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO IN THE NFHS 2016 SOFTBALL RULES BOOK.





## 2016 NFHS Softball Rules and Case Book as E-Books

- Electronic Versions of the NFHS Softball Rules and Case Book are now available for purchase as e-books.
- Apple users can visit iTunes for available books.
- Apple, Android and Kindle users can buy e-books from Amazon.com and view them through the Kindle app.
- Price: \$5.99 each
- Visit [www.nfhs.org/ebooks](http://www.nfhs.org/ebooks) for more information.



National Federation of State  
High School Associations



### NFHS Softball

### 2016 Rules Changes

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

**RULE CHANGE**

# SUBSTITUTIONS RULE 2-57-4 New



A projected substitute is the act of entering a substitute without first removing a player from that position in the line-up.

**REFEREE**

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**RULE CHANGE**

# SUBSTITUTIONS RULE 2-57-4 New



PLAYERS	
1	A. Abel
2	B. Baker
3	C. Carter
4	D. Daniels
5	E. Edwards
6	F. Franklin
7	G. George
8	H. Hill
9	I. Isaac

Jackson is batting for Abel; when we go on defense, Abel will re-enter. – **PROJECTED SUBSTITUTE (Illegal)**

Umpire: "I can take Jackson for Abel now, but you will have to re-enter Abel when she goes back into the game."

**REFEREE**

© REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015

**RULE  
CHANGE**

# SUBSTITUTIONS RULE 2-57-4 New



The image shows a screenshot of a baseball scorebook. At the top, it says 'OFFICIAL Line-up Softball'. Below that, there is a table for the batting order with columns for 'No.', 'Name', and 'Pos.'. The players listed are: 1. J. Abel, 2. J. Baker, 3. J. Charles, 4. G. Davis, 5. F. Edwards, 6. R. Franklin, 7. M. George, 8. E. Hamilton, 9. K. Lewis, and 10. [blank]. Below the batting order, there is a 'SUBSTITUTIONS' section with columns for 'No.', 'Name', and 'Pos.'. The substitutions listed are: 1. J. Baker, 2. J. Charles, 3. G. Davis, 4. F. Edwards, 5. R. Franklin, 6. M. George, 7. E. Hamilton, 8. K. Lewis, and 9. [blank].

Team is coming to bat in the bottom of the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. Coach wants to put in Jackson, Knutson, Larson.

This is not a projected substitute, just multiple substitutes.

**REFEREE**

© REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015

National Federation of State  
High School Associations



## NFHS Softball

# 2016 Major Editorial Changes

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## One American Flag (3-2-4)

One American flag (2 inch x 3 inch maximum) may be worn or occupy space on the jersey. By state association adoption, for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, not to exceed 4 square inches, may be worn on the jersey.



EDITORIAL  
CHANGE

### EQUIPMENT RULE 3-2-4



A commemorative patch may be placed on a jersey with state association approval. A number should not be used in the memorial patch.

REFEREE

© REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015



## NFHS Softball

# 2016 Points of Emphasis

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## STRIKE ZONE (FP)

The NFHS Softball Rules Committee believes that improvements have been made in helping umpires identify the strike zone for each hitter.

Additional work on this issue is needed to make the game fair for all hitters. There is no such thing as a common strike zone for all hitters.



## STRIKE ZONE (FP)


The strike zone for fast-pitch is the space over any part of home plate which is between the batter's forward armpit and the top of the knees when the batter assumes a natural batting stance.

Any part of the ball passing through the strike zone in flight over the plate shall be considered a strike. The umpire shall determine each batter's strike zone according to the batter's usual stance.



**POINT OF EMPHASIS**

### STRIKE ZONE



The diagram shows a batter in a batting stance on a field. A white rectangular box labeled 'FAST PITCH STRIKE ZONE' is positioned over the batter's front foot and extends upwards to the top of the batter's knees. The field is depicted with a green outfield and a tan infield.

Enforce the strike zone from the top of the knees and especially the high end of the zone at the batter's forward armpit.

**REFEREE** © REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015


## DP/FLEX EDUCATION (3-3-6)

Coaches and umpires across the country have expressed confusion regarding the DP/FLEX (3-3-6). The NFHS Softball Rules Committee reinforced its support of the rule and encourages coaches and umpires alike to utilize the resources available that thoroughly explain the rule and even provide some strategies for using the rule.



**POINT OF EMPHASIS**

### DP/FLEX



Batting #	Player #	Player Name	Position
1	11	Alice	F-2
2	12	Barbara	F-5
3	13	Cathy	F-3
4	14	Debra	DP
5	15	Emma	F-8
6	16	Fiona	F-7
7	17	Gine	F-4
8	18	Helen	F-6
9	19	Isabella	F-9
Doesn't Bat	20	Jamie	FLEX

Coaches and umpires need to continue to utilize the resources available that thoroughly explain rule 3-3-6, including strategies for using the option.

**REFEREE** © REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015

## PITCHING (FP) 6-1-1

The NFHS Softball Rules Committee believes the pitching rule in fast pitch is in place to allow pitchers with varying degrees of pitching skills to pitch with success. The present rule allows for coaches and pitchers to determine the pitching stance to use based on the pitching strength of the pitcher.



## PITCHING (FP) 6-1-1

### STANCE

Pitchers must take (or simulate taking) signals from the catcher with their hands separated. The pivot foot must be on or partially on the pitcher's plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with or behind the pitcher's plate.





## **PITCHING (FP) 6-1-1**

### **STANCE**

The pitcher must bring the hands together in front of the body (one time only) for not less than one second and not more than 10 seconds before releasing the ball.



## **PITCHING (FP) 6-1-1**

### **24-INCH PLATE VIOLATION**

Both feet must start within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitching plate.

As the pitcher winds up and delivers the pitch, the stride foot and the pivot foot must remain in or partially within the pitching plate.



# PITCHING (FP) 6-1-1

## 24-INCH PLATE VIOLATION



Enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of the plate umpire.

Failure to call this infraction gives the pitcher an added advantage not intended by the rule as it allows her to put more movement on the ball.



**POINT OF EMPHASIS**

## PITCHING RULE 6-1-1



The diagram shows a silhouette of a pitcher in a ready stance on a pitching mound. The mound is represented by a yellow area with a white line. The background is divided into three horizontal bands: grey for the sky, green for the outfield, and yellow for the infield. The pitcher's feet are positioned on the mound, with the pivot foot on the top of the pitching plate.

Pitchers are encouraged to choose the starting stance for pitching that supports their skill level. A strong and advanced pitcher may choose to start with the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitching plate while a novice or not so strong pitcher may choose to start with the non-pivot foot behind the pitching plate. Both choices would require the pivot foot to be on or partially on the top of the pitching plate.

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## OTHER SOFTBALL TOPICS

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

### Malicious Contact 2-35; 8-6-14

- Malicious contact is defined as an act that involves excessive force with an opponent.
- A runner is out when she remains on her feet and maliciously crashes into a defensive player.
- Malicious contact supersedes obstruction.



TEACHING  
MOMENTS

## MALICIOUS CONTACT RULE 2-35; 8-6-14



When malicious contact is initiated by a runner, the runner is out and all other runners must return to the last base touched at the time of interference. The runner is also ejected.

REFEREE

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TEACHING  
MOMENTS

## APPEALS RULE 2-1; 8-3-2 Effect; 8-8-16



Appeal – A play or rule violation on which the umpire does not make a ruling until requested by a coach or player.

REFEREE

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## Appeal 2-1-2

- Types of Appeals:
  - Missed a base, either advancing or returning (live or dead-ball appeal).
  - Leaving a base on a caught fly ball before the ball is first touched (live or dead-ball appeal)
  - Batting out of order (dead-ball appeal only)
  - Attempting to advance to second base after making the turn at first base overrunning first base (live-ball appeal only)



## Appeals 1-1-3

- Methods by which an Appeal can be made:
  - Live – An Appeal may be made during a live ball by any fielder in possession of the ball touching the base missed or left too soon on a caught fly ball, or by tagging the runner committing the violation if she is still on the playing field (even if she is standing on another base).



## Appeals 2-1-3

- Method (continued)
  - Dead – The dead-ball appeal may be made:
    1. Once all runners have completed their advancement and time has been called, the coach or any defensive player with or without the ball, may make a verbal appeal on a runner missing a base or leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball. The administering umpire should then make a decision on the play.



## Appeal 2-1-3

- Method (continued)
  - Dead – The dead-ball appeal may be made:
    2. If the ball has gone out of play, runners must be given the opportunity to complete their base running responsibilities before the dead-ball appeal can be made.



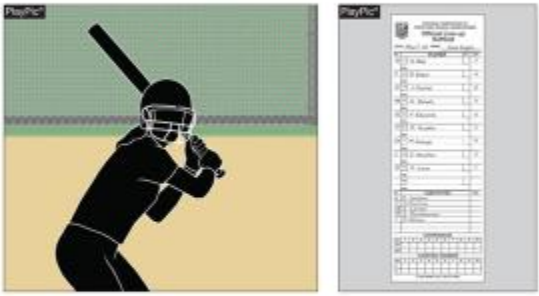
# Appeal 2-1-3

- Method (continued)
  - Dead – The dead-ball appeal may be made:
    3. If the pitcher has possession of the ball and is in contact with the pitching plate when making a verbal appeal, no illegal pitch is called.
    4. If “play ball” has been declared by the umpire and the pitcher then requests an appeal, the umpire would again call “time” and allow the appeal.



**TEACHING MOMENTS**

## BATTING OUT-OF-ORDER RULE 2-7-2; 7-1-2



Batting out of order is failing to bat in proper sequence as listed on the official lineup card.

**REFEREE** © REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015

The complex block contains a red banner with the text 'TEACHING MOMENTS' in white. Below the banner is the title 'BATTING OUT-OF-ORDER RULE 2-7-2; 7-1-2' in large black font. To the right of the title is the NFHS logo. Below the title are two side-by-side images: on the left, a silhouette of a baseball player in a batting stance; on the right, a screenshot of a baseball lineup card. Below the images is a paragraph defining 'Batting out of order'. At the bottom of the block, the word 'REFEREE' is on the left and '© REFEREE ENTERPRISES INC. 2015' is on the right.

## Batting Out of Order

- **Penalty:**  
A shall be called out on appeal when she fails to bat in her proper turn and another batter completes a time at bat in her place.



## Obstruction 2-36

- Obstruction is the act of the defensive team member that hinders or impedes a batter's attempt to make contact with a pitched ball or that impedes the progress of a runner or batter-runner who is legally running bases, unless the fielder is in possession of the ball or is making the initial play on a batted ball.
- The act may be intentional or unintentional, physical or verbal.



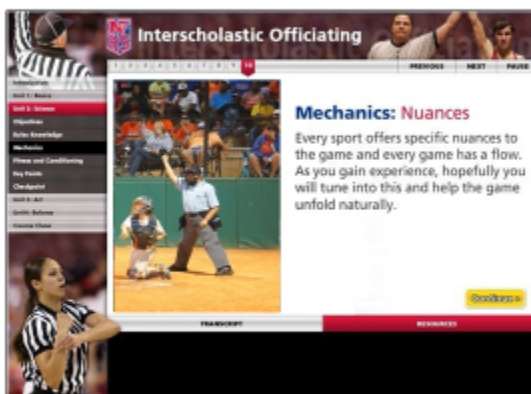


## Interference 2-32; 8-2-7,8

- Interference is an act (physical or verbal) by a member of the team at bat who illegally impedes, hinders or confuses any fielder; or when a runner creates malicious contact with any fielder with or without the ball, in or out of the baseline.
- Other types of interference involve equipment, umpire and spectator.



## Interscholastic Officiating [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com)



- Introduction to skills and concepts used as an official
- Ideal for new officials or those in first few years of officiating
- 30-45 minutes to complete
- Topics include: basics of becoming and staying an official, science of officiating, art of officiating, how to combine these skills for successful officiating
- Course is FREE to any NFHS Officials Association member
- Non-members course is \$20
- Contact NFHS Officials Department for details (317.972.6900)

# Coaching Softball

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Sports Specific Course

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**Course Details**

**Related Courses**

- [Coaching Soccer](#) (View Course)
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## NFHS LEARNING CENTER

Free Courses on NFHSLearn.com

- Heat Illness Prevention
- Concussion in Sports**
- Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment
- Coaching Pole Vault
- NCAA Eligibility
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- Positive Sport Parenting**
- Sports Nutrition**
- Coaching Unified Sports
- Sportsmanship**
- Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

**Positive Sport Parenting**  
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## NFHS Officials Association Central Hub www.nfhs.arbitersports.com



### Contains

- Sport information
- Rules information
- Rules library
- Searchable rules book and case book
- Video content on officiating sport, competition situations and interpretations

## SPORTSMANSHIP

**Respect**<sup>SM</sup>  
**THE**  
**GAME**

The OHSAA challenges everyone to take positive steps toward positive sporting behavior. 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 finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. 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 your 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.

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### **Note from Roxanne Price, Chair of the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee:**

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, we wish to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in 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 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 the players, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season.

### **NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement**

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations 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.

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## **ONLINE RESOURCES**

On our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://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 and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING TIPS FOR ONLINE RULES MEETINGS**

**Do not attempt to view the online rules meeting from a cellular device or a tablet. Utilize a desktop or laptop computer.**

**Problems Viewing an Online Rules Meeting?** Problems are usually the result of a cache or buffering issue with the user’s computer or ISP. Often, going “back” a screen, or allowing the computer to sit for a few minutes and “catch up” will solve the problem.

**If problems persist, try the following steps *before* calling the OHSAA office:**

1. Upgrade Adobe Flash Player here: <http://www.adobe.com/go/getflash>
2. Try a different Internet Browser, such as Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, etc.
3. Disable Pop-up Blockers through your internet settings.
4. Clear your browser cache. You can do this in Internet Explorer by going to Tools > Internet Options > General > Temporary Internet Files. Select Delete Cookies and Delete Files
5. Also in Internet Options, on the Security, Privacy, and Advanced tabs, reset everything to its default settings. There is a button on each tab to reset defaults.
6. In Windows Vista / 7, go to Start > All Programs > Accessories > Run.  
In Windows XP, go to Start > Run.

7. Copy and paste the following line of text (depending on your operating system) into the Run dialog box. Click OK, and delete the entire contents of the window (folder) that opens.

**Windows Vista / 7:** "C:\Users\%username%\AppData\Roaming\Macromedia\Flash Player\#SharedObjects"

**Windows XP:** "C:\Documents and Settings\%username%\Application Data\Macromedia\Flash Player\#SharedObjects"

8. Close all browser windows for the changes to take effect, and then test your content again.

## HAVE A WONDERFUL 2016 SOFTBALL SEASON





Ohio High School Athletic Association  
 -4080 Roselea Place  
 Columbus, Ohio 43214  
 Telephone: 614-267-2502; Facsimile – 614-267-1677  
[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

### **OHSAA CONCUSSION REPORT**

NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a contest and not permitted to reenter competition without written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or an Athletic Trainer. This form shall serve to document that a student has been removed from a contest in accordance with NFHS and OHSAA rules due to exhibiting signs, symptoms and/or behaviors consistent with a concussion. The contest official must complete this form and forward it to the OHSAA within 48 hours after the conclusion of the contest. It is recommended that the official keep a copy of this report. In addition, if required by NFHS rule, an appropriate entry shall be made in the scorebook or other document as prescribed.

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sport** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of Contest (Circle One)**    7<sup>th</sup>    8<sup>th</sup>    9<sup>th</sup>    JV    Varsity

**Official's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **OHSAA Permit #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

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**Please forward to Andrea Heiberger at the OHSAA within 48 hours.**