

“TWIB” . . . This Week in Baseball

Weekly News and Information
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Snow one day, 70 degrees the next. Welcome to Ohio. Baseball coaches may have the greatest patience in the world dealing with spring weather. My daily commute to work at the OHSAA takes me from Northwest Ohio to Central Ohio each day. It is amazing how much the 5-9 degree difference between the two areas means in the springtime. Yes, they are mowing in Central Ohio. By and large it has been a good start to the season. A few issues that have arisen are being addressed this week. Remember to Rate your umpires!

Bats, Bats...and More Bats

For the most part, the 'bat issue' has settled down. There still is a bit of knowledge lacking regarding the available lists (approved and unapproved), however, those individuals are not reading these postings anyhow...so I'll leave that aspect alone for now.
So...

What's The PENALTY for Using an Illegal Bat?

Actually, the Penalty is detailed in(a) of Rule 7-4-1 of the NFHS Rule Book.

First, the player is OUT when he enters the batter's box; even if the ball is dead OR is discovered having used an illegal bat.

Secondly, if the infraction is discovered before the next pitch following the player's turn at bat who used an illegal bat...the defense may accept the penalty OR the result of the play.

The ball is immediately DEAD, the batter is OUT, and the runners RETURN to the base occupied at the time of the pitch.

Might You Wonder????

An interesting question was submitted this week; If a 'certain' bat manufacturer's bat model in 31, 32, and 34 inch are illegal, why would the 33 inch model be legal? Would it not make sense that the 33 inch would be illegal also?

Answer: The bat manufacturer only reworked the bat and submitted it for testing/approval in the 33 inch length only. Why? Costs to rework the bat vs potential sales for that bat. As a result, it actually is a decision of the manufacturer and therefore the other lengths 'make' the Unapproved list. Interesting but illustrates the degree to which bats have been tested and the costs associated with the testing.

Rate Your Umpires!!!

It is a VERY important part of the tournament process. Rate your umpires after each game. If the umpires change, YOU can change the names as well. Go to

<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf> for complete instructions.

Jerry Snodgrass, Ass't. Commissioner

What's a Signature Worth?

As you probably know, contests between schools are agreed upon in writing through OHSAA contracts. Contracts are actually addressed within the fundamental Bylaws of the OHSAA in Bylaw 7 (<http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf>). When a contest is agreed upon, that agreement is done through the signatures of both Athletic Directors, agreeing to the conditions set forth in the contract; most notably the date, location and time of the contest(s) (they are often done for multiple games). There are many factors that cause "alterations" to contracts and baseball as much as any other sport often schedules 'on a phone call' and 'worries about the contract/paperwork later'. I'll focus on some issues this week and in the next few that are starting to get confusing.

Rainouts

Rainouts are 'obvious' and conditions make it impossible to play (please refer to "suspended" or "completed" games). But what if the umpires show up and the game does not get started? What if the game begins and is suspended after 1 out? (don't forget...that game cannot start over!!). What if a team observes the weather radar and sees impending storms and deems in impractical to travel? All are very worth questions that have long had the 'understanding' and agreement of parties involved. You might want to revisit with your Athletic Director how these scenarios are handled. Some things to keep in mind....

-Umpires that come to the game STILL spent money for traveling to the game. They are not reimbursed for mileage during the regular season. Many also took off work to get there.

-If the game began and suspended after 1 out, should the umpires not get ANYTHING for the time and effort? I am not a union rep arguing on anyone's behalf, but merely stating the role they play for the great game of baseball. It is harder and harder to get people to enter the umpiring world with the challenges they face. Just something to consider.

-Most don't realize that the cost of a bus trip is in the \$4.00/mile range, AND, it isn't free! Nearly every athletic department in Ohio is being forced to pay for their athletic trips.

Out of Season Coaching Proposal Fails

The proposal by football coaches' association received much attention by baseball coaches recently. The proposal was submitted to the OHSAA's Board of Directors and acted upon at Thursday's April 7 meeting. The proposal was defeated by the Board, however, the OHSAA will continue to look at options in the Sports Regulations that permit coaches of ALL SPORTS more contact with their athletes. Though the proposal for football appears very challenging to baseball, the looking at the bigger picture of ALL sports wanting to spend more time outside the season with athletes, the Regulations are continuing to be looked at without being an infringement on other sports. Stay tuned.



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