

Though FOOTBALL season is nearly upon us...it is also nearing time for "Fall Baseball". More and more fall teams have evolved around the state and the Q and A's on this "TWIB" are provided to answer questions surrounding this. Most additional questions can be answered by navigating around the www.ohsaa.org website or simply by emailing Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner at jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org

Jerry Snodgrass, Ass't. Commissioner

This Week in Baseball.....

Yes, it is a long way away, but throughout each baseball season, weekly communications are posted on the Baseball website at www.ohsaa.org. These communications, "This Week in Baseball" are designed to help coaches with various administrative items, including this "TWIB" that addresses Fall Ball. Additionally, input is provided from Kyle McNeely, chair of the National Rules Committee (NFHS) and the OHSAA's Director of Officiating Development. Past issues are currently on the OHSAA's 'baseball' webpage.

No Contact Period

School coaches are currently in the annual "No-Contact" period that runs for 28 days and ends with Labor Day. School coaches, paid and volunteer are prohibited from having 'baseball related contact during this time period.

QUESTIONS?

Most questions can be answered through the BASEBALL web pages from our home page at www.ohsaa.org. Please check these resources for any additional questions.



SPORTS REGULATION 4 ADDRESSES NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC BASEBALL PROGRAMS

Sports Regulations 4.1 – 4.12 address how participating in non-interscholastic programs such as "Fall Baseball" effects a student-athlete's eligibility. These can be viewed in their entirety at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqts/GenSportsReg12-13.pdf>. The Sports' Regulations that most affect Fall Baseball are addressed below.

Sports Regulation 4.5:

Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs Outside the Interscholastic Season– Team Sports

Any individual that has been a member of a SCHOOL TEAM (baseball in this case) MAY participate in tryouts, training or practices for a fall baseball team under certain condition:

- The number of players from the same school on the fall baseball team is limited to a maximum of **FOUR**. There is no restriction on this number from June 1 – July 31 but since Fall baseball is outside that window, the number is limited to **FOUR**.

Q: If a player was not part of the baseball team last year, does he count in that number?

A: **No.** Only players that were on the school's roster count in that number

Q: Do players that played on the Freshmen or JV team count along with Varsity players?

A: **Yes.** Any player that played last year on a 9-12 school sponsored team count in that number.

Q: Do players that graduated last spring count in that total?

A: **No.** Item 'c' of Sports Regulation 4.5 indicates that graduating seniors do not count in this total.

Q: Does a person that was not on the team count in the total of 4?

A: **No.** Only players that were on the school team roster count in the number permitted.

Q: We do not have Jr. High (school sponsored) baseball, what about incoming 8th and 9th graders?

A: If the school did not have Jr. High Baseball, these rules do not affect them. There would be no restriction on the number of freshmen (for example) on the same 'fall ball' team IF they did not have a school sponsored Jr. High team last season.

Q: We DID have Jr. High baseball, how do the rules affect them?

A: The same rules apply to them as do grades 9-12. Those that played on last year's 7th and or 8th grade team (or combined Jr. High team) DO count separately from those in high school. In other words, a fall baseball team COULD consist of 4 that played Jr. High Baseball last season and 4 that

Sports Regulation 4.9:

Members of the Interscholastic Coaching Staff – Team Sports

In non-school tryouts, training, practice or contests, members of a school's coaching staff may coach players from the school district they are employed at for a **maximum of 10 days from June 1 – July 31.**

So, HOW does this affect coaching Fall Ball teams?

Q: Does this mean a high school coach cannot coach Fall Ball?

A: It 'does' and it 'doesn't'. Let me explain: IF the high school coach has no duties in his contract that have him coach (practice or games) at the Junior High level...he actually MAY coach fall ball **TEAMS** comprised of Junior High (2012-13 7th and 8th grade) players. Vice versa with Junior High coaches...if there is nothing in their contract that stipulates that they coach at the high school level (practices or games), they MAY coach fall ball **TEAMS** comprised of High School aged players. Keep in mind, however...the 50% limitation (4 player limit) described above is still in effect. In no case may they provide individual instruction but if they meet the conditions stipulated above, they may coach **TEAMS** in team play (such as 'fall ball').