

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Finally, a great week of weather across the state! From the many across the state I have spoken with, teams are getting games in...they just have been in less than ideal conditions. We all hope this stays while we head into tournament week. I have covered a few items relative to tournament draws in this week's issue of "TWIB". There will most likely be multiple "TWIB's" put up per week in the coming few weeks as there are many items I would like to address and many info items to put out.

Who Decided THAT????

The rules the OHSAA creates are **Administrative Rules/Regulations**. These include 'practice dates', no-contact periods, out of season regulations, eligibility requirements, etc. The most recent changes with these occurred going into this season where the schedule now permitted you to schedule 27 games on 27 different dates instead of the "27 on 23". Wonder how regulations like this are determined? Though it may seem like I sit around and throw crumbled paper in the wastebasket and dream up things to change, it is far from it. First, I rely on input from the OHSBCA (baseball coaches' association). When items are discussed that they or myself bring to the table, and they make perfect sense, I generally take them to our staff meetings. Softball typically likes to stay in step with most of the baseball regulations (and it makes sense to do so). After weighing nearly every unintended consequence of a regulation change, I will then move forward with it as I propose changes to the Board of Directors. This is done in June of each year so the handbook and all postings can be updated. There are times when the OHSBCA may recommend a change that I may not be 100% comfortable with so ALL Coaches' Associations have the opportunity to propose changes to their Regulations on an annual basis. The President of the OHSBCA comes before the Board of Directors and eventually, the 9 voting members of the "BOD" vote on whether to accept the proposal or not. It is a good and fair system to implement changes and has worked well during my time here at the OHSAA.

These proposed changes are not to be confused with PLAYING RULE Changes. Those I'll address in an interesting "TWIB" in the next week.

When does the OHSBCA propose changes? In September of each year.

What's next? First, as mentioned previously, the ability to provide 'hitting' and 'pitching' instruction outside the season of play WILL be permitted come September.

Tournament Seed Meetings....Already?

Yes, hard to believe. Tournament draws are Sunday (May 5) at 2:00 p.m. across the state. Here are a few reminders going into the draw:

Tournament Regulations: PLEASE print the Board approved Tournament Regulations and take them to your seed meetings. I do ask all tournament managers to print them and review them but in the event they do not, please review them. As the tournament progresses, there are often disagreements on regulations for the tournaments. Schools complete Entry Forms agreeing to abide by Tournament Regulations that have been adopted by the Board of Directors. You can download these regulations at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/bbrglts.pdf>

Team Records: You will be asked to post your record by division. Take a few minutes to check the teams you have played and what division they are in. It is easier to go in with that information than to scramble at the seed meeting.

Out of State Teams: If you competed against an out of state team, find their enrollment and place that school in the proper division they would fit if they were an Ohio school.

Number in Uniform: Though covered in the tournament regulations, you are permitted to dress any 18 players from your eligibility list. You may change them from game to game but they must be on the eligibility list submitted to the tournament manager.

Seeding Procedures: A very vital part of the tournament process – who is the home team and who is the visiting team (for districts that do not play 'home sites' for higher seeded teams) for whether you are permitted to vote for yourself as a seed. Please take time to familiarize yourself with those procedures prior to the draw; they should have been provided to you from the tournament manager/District Athletic Board prior to your meeting.

Pitching Restrictions

About this time every year, there is significant discussion on 'pitching restrictions' for players. The debate generally centers on 'why there is not a pitch count limitation' rather than an 'inning limitation. Though more will be said later, an interesting comparison of ALL states pitching restrictions can be found by [clicking here](#).

Face Painting

Seriously? Yes...it actually has come up. My editorial comment first; coaches, please don't let your players do this. Please. Respect the Game is more than just a slogan. So I hesitate to even go further with this...BUT...there is no rule prohibiting 'eye black' or face painting. IF a pitcher has it on...it still must be considered not distracting by the umpire to be legal. And, it must meet all requirements of Rule 3-3-1 which references it cannot be used to intimidate, be unsporting, be profane, or intend to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.

Doubleheaders

Remember if you are resuming a suspended contest and want to start a regularly scheduled contest right after its completion, it does NOT count as a 'doubleheader' by our regulations – thereby giving you a little flexibility on rescheduling games (and possibly saving some transportation costs).

Non-Interscholastic Regulation Warning #2 – College Tryouts/Workouts

I may be repeating myself every week but it is simply to help prevent any unfortunate forfeitures. This may seem totally harmless; a player is invited to "George Bush College" for a workout/tryout for potential college grant-in-aid. Harmless? Unfortunately, participation in a college workout/tryout **during the baseball season** is a violation of the non-interscholastic regulation and immediately makes a baseball player ineligible. Please remind your players!

Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner



"Taking a Closer Look".....The "Slide Rule"

One of the chief cornerstones for NFHS rules committees is the consideration of safety for those playing the respective sport. It was with this fundamental in mind, that the Baseball Rules Committee adopted the "force-play slide rule" in high school some years ago. The intent was to eliminate the "take-out" slide that had dangerous potential for injury as a baserunner would attempt to disrupt the infielder attempting to receive the baseball and throw it for a double play. The rule basically requires that a runner, in a force situation, slide in a direct line between the two bases. It is important to remember that in high school, a slide is never mandatory, but in a force situation, if the runner chooses to slide, he must execute a legal slide and do so in a direct line. The runner may slide to a side of the base where the fielder is not making the play, or may go in standing up by moving away from the base to the side, or infield, where the play is not being made. One of the key components is, when the runner opts to slide, he does make a legal slide. It is important to remember that the fielder has "protection" on the back side of the base or home plate. If a runner slides and goes past the base or plate, and makes contact or alters the fielder's play, the runner has committed an illegal slide, which is interference in this situation. The rule does apply at all bases, including home plate, (except for first base), in a force situation.

