



2009

Baseball Manual

For

Coaches and Officials



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
4080 Roselea Place – Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 267-2502 - (614) 267-1677 (fax)
www.ohsaa.org

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Enclosures

COACHES	OFFICIALS
2009 NFHS Baseball Rule Book	2009 NFHS Baseball Rule Book
	2009 NFHS Baseball Case Book
	2009 NFHS Baseball Guide



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Baseball Coaches and Officials
FROM: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner
DATE: November 30, 2009
RE: Information for the 2009 Baseball Season

Baseball season is just around the corner and this booklet contains information that will help you in your pre-season preparations *and* will assist you throughout the season. I cannot stress enough the importance of the information in this manual for all levels of teams. To be as efficient as possible, please note the booklet is arranged for umpire and coach specific pages. Please keep it accessible throughout the year. The manual will also be posted to the baseball page on the OHSAA web site at www.ohsaa.org in early January.

Please note that the **STATE RULES INTERPRETATION MEETING IS MANDATORY** for high school coaches and all officials. The details, schedule and site location about these meetings can be found on page 3 of the manual and are always accessible through the web at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx>

We appreciate your taking the time to carefully review this information with your staff. Thanks for all you do for our student-athletes and best of luck throughout your season. Fingers crossed for good Ohio spring weather!





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.



Rules Interpretation Information

Schools sponsoring interscholastic contests in boys baseball must be represented by the head varsity boys' baseball coach, assistant boys' baseball coach or athletic administrator at one of the meetings listed below. Any school failing to meet the requirement will be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition.

Baseball 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.

Individuals attending the 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.

INTERPRETERS	Email
Jerry Snodgrass	jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org
Roger Hendrix	Rhendrix9600@wowway.com
Kyle McNeely	Jkyle1974@aol.com
Phil Kiser	Pkiser9947@aol.com
John Dickerson	jdickerson@ohsaa.org

2009 BASEBALL RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

	<u>INVITATION - COACHES ONLY</u>	
JS 1/23/2009 - 8:00 AM	Coaches Clinic, Hyatt Regency Hotel Columbus, OH 43210	JERRY SNODGRASS
	<u>INVITATION ONLY</u>	
JS 1/23/2009 - 10:45 AM	Interpreters Clinic, Ramada Plaza Hotel Columbus, OH 43214	JERRY SNODGRASS
JD 1/26/2009 - 6:00 PM	Columbian High School 300 S Monroe Street Tiffin, OH 44883	BRETT WILLOUGHBY
JW/RH 1/26/2009 - 6:00 PM	Lakewood High School 14100 Franklin Blvd, Auditorium, Lakewood, OH 44107	NICK NICHOLS
KM/JF 1/28/2009 - 6:00 PM	East Clinton High School 174 Larrick Road Lees Creek, OH 45138	CHARLES MC MILLAN
PK 1/28/2009 - 6:00 PM	Logan-Hocking Middle School 1 Middle School Drive Logan, OH 43138	PHILLIP LIGHTFOOT
JD 1/28/2009 - 6:00 PM	Mentor High School 6477 Center Street, Lecture Room A, Mentor, OH 44060	ERNEST JOHNSON
PK 1/28/2009 - 6:00 PM	Union Local High School 66779 Morristown Road, Auditorium, Belmont, OH 43718	THOMAS BECHTEL
JW/RH 1/29/2009 - 6:00 PM	Ashland High School 1440 King Road Ashland, OH 44805	DAN BURTSCHER
JD 1/29/2009 - 6:00 PM	Austintown-Fitch High School 4560 Falcon Drive Youngstown, OH 44515	JOHN MANG
KM/JF 1/29/2009 - 6:00 PM	Grant Career Center State Route 125, Auditorium, Bethel, OH 45106	JERRY FICK
PK 2/2/2009 - 6:00 PM	Springfield High School 1470 McCord Road Holland, OH 43528	DANIEL MILLER
JD 2/3/2009 - 6:00 PM	Four County Career Center Rt. 66 and St. Rte. 34 Archbold, OH 43502	ROBERT WURM
JW/RH 2/3/2009 - 6:00 PM	Minford High School 491 Bond Road, Cafeteria, Minford, OH 45653	RUSSELL HOPKINS

JD	2/5/2009 - 6:00 PM	Buckeye Career Center 545 University Drive New Philadelphia, OH 44663	DAVID GILMORE
PK	2/10/2009 - 6:00 PM	Copley High School 3807 Ridgewood Road Copley, OH 44321	EDWARD GALLOWAY
KM/JF	2/10/2009 - 6:00 PM	Upper Valley JVS 8811 Career Drive, Hartzell Room, Piqua, OH 45373	DERON BROWN
JD	2/11/2009 - 6:00 PM	North Ridgeville High School 34600 Bainbridge Road North Ridgeville, OH 44039	CHERYL OPPERMAN
PK	2/12/2009 - 6:00 PM	Bath High School 2850 Bible Road, Cafeteria, Lima, OH 45801	DAVID MAY
JD	2/12/2009 - 6:00 PM	Unioto Junior High School 160 Moundsville Road Chillicothe, OH 45601	GLEN SCHMIDT
JW/RH	2/17/2009 - 6:00 PM	Mayfield High School 6116 Wilson Mills Road, Cafeteria, Mayfield Heights, OH 44143	MICHAEL MAKOHUS
PK	2/17/2009 - 6:00 PM	Ohio University - Zanesville Newark Road Zanesville, OH 43701	RAYMOND BESS
KM/JF	2/19/2009 - 6:00 PM	Kettering Middle School 3000 Glengarry Drive, Auditorium, Kettering, OH 45420	BERNIE HARRIS
JW/RH	2/19/2009 - 6:00 PM	Tri-Rivers Career Center 2222 Marion-Mount Gilead Road Marion, OH 45420	LYLE MC WILLIAMS
KM/JF	2/22/2009 - 3:00 PM	Springfield High School 701 E Home Road Springfield, OH 45503	HUBERT MOON JR
JW/RH	2/24/2009 - 6:00 PM	Dublin Jerome High School 8300 Hyland-Croy Road Dublin, OH 43016	DANIEL STEINER
KM/JF	2/25/2009 - 6:00 PM	Princeton High School 11080 Chester Road, Auditorium, Cincinnati, OH 45246	JERRY FICK
PK	3/2/2009 - 4:30 PM	\$50.00 Fee - Makeup - OHSAA Headquarters 4080 Roselea Place Columbus, OH 43214	JOHN DICKERSON

Those coaches or umpires who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting or the scheduled make-up meeting may request a special make-up meeting from one of the interpreters listed on the previous page. Such meeting must be held no later than Monday, April 5, 2009. The fee for a Special Make-up Meeting is \$50.00. Requests after the above date must be addressed to the Commissioner.

Special Notice

Coaches Attending the State Baseball Clinic on January 22, 23 & 24

Hyatt Regency Hotel – Columbus

As listed above, there will be a SPECIAL State Rules Interpretation meeting Friday, January 23, 2009 from 8:00 - 8:40 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel , Columbus, in conjunction with the State Baseball Clinic.

Please be prompt as time is limited because of other planned sessions.

Please bring the attendance card that was included in this mailing.



OHSAA Baseball Calendar

February 23	First Day of Coaching Pitchers and Catchers Only
March 9	First Day of Coaching
March 19	First Day High School Preview Permitted
March 30	Season Begins
April 20	Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted
May 9 – May 16	Sectional Tournament
May 18 – May 23	District Tournament
May 28 - May 30	Regional Tournament
June 4 - June 6	State Tournament
June 13	Coaching and Season Ends
August 10 - September 7	Coaches' No Contact Period for Summer of 2009



OHSAA Contact Information

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

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
Jerry Snodgrass	Assistant Commissioner State Rules Interpreter	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org
Henry Zaborniak	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees officials programs & tournament assignments	hزابorniak@ohsaa.org
Sharon Shoemaker	Administrative Assistant	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	sshoemaker@ohsaa.org
Kyle McNeely	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	Jkyle1974@aol.com
John Dickerson	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	jdickerson@ohsaa.org
Phil Kiser	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	Pkiser9947@aol.com
Roger Hendrix	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	Rhendrix9600@wowway.com



OHSAA Special Information

The following items are excerpts from the OHSAA Baseball Sport Regulations. Many of the questions coming into our office are answered with the few items below. The Baseball Sport Regulations are included in their entirety in this booklet.

The following are GREAT sources of information for most questions:

www.ohsaa.org (All Bylaws, Sport Regulations, etc. of the Ohio High School Athletic Association)

www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/default.asp (Baseball Sport Specific Information of the OHSAA)

www.nfhs.org (National Federation Website)

1. *High School baseball teams are allowed to play **27** games on **23** playing dates. It is **NOT** permissible to schedule MORE than 27 games with the hope of fulfilling a schedule as a result of rainouts.*
2. *Doubleheaders may be scheduled ONLY on non-school days OR when there is no school the next day.*
3. *The Rawlings R100 is the official baseball adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and will be the ONLY baseball used in all Sectional, District, Regional and State Tournament games.*
4. *Off-season instruction includes hitting/pitching/field instruction on a one on one basis. By OHSAA rules, this is not permissible.*
5. *Teams formed for Fall baseball leagues may have no more than 4 players from one school on the same team. Included in this number are freshmen, JV and varsity players from the previous year.*
6. *JV/Varsity teams are permitted 4 scrimmages, or 3 scrimmages and 1 Preview.*
7. *Umpires must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 for all JV and Varsity games. Class 1, 2, or 3 are recommended for Freshmen games.*
8. *Near the conclusion of your season, there is a natural tendency for players to want to start playing/practicing on their summer teams. Rule 4.1 address Non-Interscholastic Participation by stating "A member of an interscholastic baseball squad sponsored by the Board of Education **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest)** as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of baseball during the schools' season. This defines that they cannot PRACTICE. The basic 'rule of thumb' is that once an individual DOES tryout, practice or play for a non-interscholastic team, they cannot 'come back' to be a part of the high school team.*
9. *Out of state travel is permitted for games, scrimmages and previews to states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio. A team is permitted to travel OUT OF STATE ONE TIME to a state or province not contiguous to Ohio for a game contest provided there is no loss of school time. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state or province must be counted as a game. A baseball team may NOT travel out of state only to practice.*



Baseball – Sports Specific Information

Officials Rating Procedure for Coaches

Rating and voting for officials is an important process of the OHSAA Baseball tournaments. A few years ago, the system was changed to include coaches, athletic administrators, District Athletic Board members and assignors. Coaches are a vital part of this process. It is important to note there is a difference between the term "Rating" of officials and "Voting" for officials. Coaches are asked to RATE the officials on a game by game basis through the *myOHSAA* data management system. To do this, athletic administrators must provide each head coach a password for access. Athletic administrators must also enter your game schedule (which they have been instructed to do), complete with umpires' names. This can be more challenging in the spring with rainouts, etc., therefore it is beneficial to communicate with your athletic administrator. The complete rating instructions are available at <http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>.

Baseball Tournament Regulations

Sectional and District tournaments are conducted by the respective District Athletic Boards. Sites and Assignments for Sectional/District play are listed at each District Athletic Board's Website. Overall Tournament Regulations are available at www.ohsaa.org (after approval at the February Board of Directors meeting). On the website, under "Sports & Tournaments" select baseball. They are listed under tournament information on the left side. Sectional/District managers are asked to update winners and scores of games to allow the OHSAA to keep updated tournament brackets at www.ohsaa.org, again, navigating to the baseball drop down menu.

OHSAA General Sports Regulations

General Sports Regulations adopted annually govern many of the aspects that involve all sports. These regulations include, but are not limited to, off-season regulations, open gym regulations, physical fitness program regulations, etc. OHSAA General Regulations are available in their entirety at www.ohsaa.org. <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg08-09.pdf>.

OHSAA Baseball Regulations

The Baseball specific Regulations are located at the end of this manual (pages 19-22) but are always available from the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/BB08-09.pdf> and going to the 2008-2009 OHSAA Baseball Regulations on the left side menu. This also includes Uniform Regulations and other baseball relative information.



NFHS Coaches Code of Ethics



(From www.nfhs.org and the NFHS Baseball 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 were 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 Information

- **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 do the same. 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**
As you know, pre-season meetings are **required**. As part of your pre-season preparations, you are encouraged to 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 COORDINATE 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. They will appreciate your help in this area.
- **Importance of Coaches Rating System**
The Rating/Voting procedures have changed in recent years, however the coaches' vote is an important part of the officials' tournament selection process. Ratings are done at the conclusion of each game, allowing you to rate each official you have. Voting is now done at the conclusion of the season by your athletic administrator online with information being sent to him/her electronically. **Please vote conscientiously in your rating.** Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament.
- **Inquiries**
Our 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) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides baseball regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSBCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information can be found on their website (www.ohsbca.org).
- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media** – OHSAA Media Regulation 18
OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and 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 comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.



2009 Rule Changes

- 1-2-2 Modified the criteria for using certain color material for painting the lines on the field
- 7-3-4 Clarified the status of a hit batter
- PENALTY**
- 10-1-9 Modified the color choice of an umpire's slacks



2009 Minor Editorial Changes

- 3-2-3 Clarified a condition when a live ball touches a base coach in foul territory
- 5-1-1j1 Clarified an exception to a dead ball situation
- 5-2-2a Clarified a dead-ball condition
- 5-2-2-c Deleted an unnecessary rule reference
- 6-2-3 Clarified the correct action in regard to the responsibilities of the pitcher



Rules by State Association Adoption

1-4-4 page 15

To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.

Adopted in Ohio for baseball

1-2-9 page 13

A double fist base is permitted (by state association adoption)

Not adopted in Ohio for baseball.

2-33-1 page 26 & 66

Suggested speed-up rules

Any, all or any part of suggested speed-up rules have not been adopted in Ohio. However, in non-league games, coaches may agree to use any, all or any part of suggested speed-up rules. Agreement must be reached prior to the start of the contest.

4-2-4 page 35

By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief a game may be shortened or the game terminated at any time. If there is no mutual agreement a game will be ended according to Rule 4 Section 2 and the following:

A game may end any time after 5 innings or after 4 1/2 innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

If a game is called prior to the completion of a full inning after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game in the following situation:

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.

Adopted for REGULAR SEASON ONLY in Ohio for baseball

If a suspended game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game (substitution may be made). Any suspended game, if it is to be resumed, will be picked up from the point of interruption. **Once a game has started, it will not start over.** Any suspended game, regardless of where it was interrupted, will be re-started from the point where play was suspended.

Adopted in Ohio for baseball

4-3-1 page 35

By state association adoption, a regulation called game, where a winner cannot be determined, shall be counted as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost for each team.

NOT adopted in Ohio.

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 per the playing rules. (The 10 rule would be applicable)

Adopted for Ohio in baseball

4-4-1a page 35 and 36

State associates are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of its teams.

The following has been adopted in Ohio for baseball:

No interscholastic contest is subject to forfeiture unless the contest has been started. Any scheduled regular season contest that is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as, failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings are "No Contest." Contests not played are not included in won-lost statistics.

4-5-1 page 36

State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.

The following has been adopted in Ohio for baseball:

Protests are NOT PERMITTED in Ohio.

6-2-6 page 42

Each state association shall adopt a pitching restriction to afford pitchers a reasonable rest period between pitching appearances.

No player may pitch in more than 10 innings in a three day period. This regulation is mandatory. The following examples are all permitted:

<u>S</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
0	0	7	0	0	7	0
0	4	3	2	5	3	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	0
0	10	0	0	7	0	3
0	0	7	0	0	7	3
0	0	0	0	0	6	4
0	0	6	1	0	9	1

The limit is on a player as a pitcher. If he can pitch with either arm he is limited as a pitcher, **not** ten innings per arm. A player pitching in an eleventh inning in a three-day period is considered an ineligible player. **Any part of an inning is considered as an inning as per pitching rule.**

Requests for baseball rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the state association responsible for the high school baseball program in your state. The NFHS will assist in answering rules questions from state associations whenever called upon.



2009 Points of Emphasis

Points of Emphasis for 2009

1. *Team Personnel Location*
2. *Pace of Play*
3. *Coaching Staff Professionalism*
4. *Pitching Requirements*
5. *Good Sporting Behavior*

Taken from pages 67-69 in the
Officials Rules Book

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Director believes there are areas of the game of interscholastic baseball that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as "Points of Emphasis." For the 2009 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: team personnel location, pace of game play, coaching staff professionalism, pitching requirements and good sporting behavior. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these rules are important enough to reinforce or they have been misinterpreted.

Team Personnel Location: It is imperative that coaches are not on buckets outside the dugout or illegally extending the dugout toward home plate or allowing players to leave the dugout during live ball play. The salient point of this acknowledgement is that it is not in the best interest of the students we serve. This is a risk minimization concern and the consequences could be disastrous.

Pace of Game Play: The committee is concerned that long delays in game action detract from what otherwise is an exciting and enjoyable game. There are several rules that need to be enforced more consistently. In particular, the batter's box rule (the batter must generally keep one foot in the box during an at-bat), handling offensive and defensive charged conferences in a timely manner, and speeding the time between innings and during pitching changes by umpires diligently counting the number of warm-up pitches are areas the committee identified as areas in need of improvement.

Coaching Staff Professionalism: The coaching staff sets the entire tone of a contest and season. Quite frankly, the students look up to the coaching staff as role models and will repeat what the coaches say and imitate how the coaches act. This role as a mentor is a very serious and honorable role. Coaches, have the opportunity to take advantage of "teachable moments" during contests that will contribute to the overall development of a young person through the sport of baseball. That is why so much emphasis has been placed on the coach in this year's rules book. There is an emphasis on attending the pre-game conference, which sets a proper tone when interacting with the umpires. Controlling the dugout, modeling good sporting behavior and exhibiting ethical behavior are essential in providing an excellent lesson on being a good citizen and support the sole purpose of education-based athletics.

Pitching Requirements: There have been several rule changes that incorporate a pitcher's movement and his position on the pitcher's plate. The pitching requirements begin once he engages the pitcher's plate. In NFHS sanctioned baseball there are only two positions the pitcher can possess – the windup and the set (also known as the stretch) position. The starting position of the non-pivot foot determines whether the pitcher is going to pitch from the windup or set position. Pitchers in the windup position are required to have their non-pivot foot in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate. If a pitcher's non-pivot foot is in front of that line and he attempts to pitch from the windup, he has made an illegal pitch or committed a balk. In the set position, he shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of the pitcher's plate. He shall go to the set position without delay and in one continuous motion, he

shall come to a complete and discernable stop, which does not include a change of direction with both hands in front of his body and his glove at or below his chin. These requirements provide guidance that the batter and base runner(s) know when they can swing and run and when the pitcher is in a position to deliver the ball, creating a level play field for all involved with the game. Umpires must be aware of the position of the non-pivot foot. Going to the mouth while in contact with the pitcher's plate is a balk, not because the pitcher goes to his mouth, but because the action simulates the start of the pitching motion.

Good Sporting Behavior: Umpires and coaches need to work together. Each contest is another opportunity for coaches and umpires to teach not only baseball, but also model good sporting behavior as well. The committee feels that the practice of attempting to intimidate the other team before, during or after the game is not acceptable. The positive values that are learned will serve the players long after their baseball experience has concluded. Game situations typically provide a coach the opportunity to identify a teachable moment to reinforce good sporting behavior.



Baseball Game Procedures

Ejection Procedures

Following the contest, the official shall contact the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact may be made after the game if an administrator is present or by phone the morning on the first school day after the contest.

- If there is an ejection, a report must be completed and white copy sent to OHSAA.
- Effective 2008-09, coaches ejected from contests shall be fined \$100.00 and must take the National Federation of State High School Associations Fundamentals of Coaching course and complete the course within 30 days.
- To reflect this change, officials are asked to please go to www.ohsaa.org web site, click on officiating, go to drop down screen, click on officiating-home, go down to #11 Coach and Player Game Ejection, print form and follow directions.

Medical and Safety 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 and at 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

Lightning and Inclement Weather

(OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Recognition and Management:

Occasionally it may be necessary to interrupt an outdoor interscholastic athletic contest due to lightning in the area. Officials, coaches, certified athletic trainers, athletes and administrators should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Due to the fact that this natural phenomenon is highly unpredictable, upon first sign of lightning or other threatening weather (thunder) the contest officials and school administrators shall monitor weather in the area. Upon the first indication that thunderstorm development is within 15 miles of the contest, the contest official shall suspend the competition until 30 minutes after the storm has left this 15-mile zone. In order to protect student-athletes, spectators and other participants, there shall be access to appropriate shelter in the event of such suspension. All contests suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption.

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.
- **Flash to Bang** — This method is used to assess how far away lightning is striking. It is determined by counting the number of seconds it takes to hear a clap of thunder after witnessing a flash of lightning. The number of seconds is then divided by five to get the distance, in miles, to the lightning flash. Generally, a 30-second or less flash-to-bang count suggests it is advisable to move the athletes from the field to a safe shelter.
- **National Weather Service** — Weather can be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions.



General Information For Officials

Change of Address Procedures/Information

Annual Renewal Cards along with this manual, have been sent to the address the OHSAA has on file through the *myOHSAA* data management system. If this manual and your card did not reach you, you have either **MOVED** residence and not updated your profile **OR** you have not paid your 2009 dues. Please make certain you keep your profile updated.

Officials' Uniform Information

The approved uniform for interscholastic baseball umpires are gray color pants with an MLU navy shirt with the OHSAA **embroidered** logo on the right breast. (Note: It is not permissible to wear a long sleeve garment under a short sleeve shirt). Undershirts or t-shirts shall be red. When needed, a navy blue jacket or coat shall be worn. Official OHSAA apparel shall be purchased from only OHSAA authorized dealers. All umpires on a crew **must be dressed alike**. Navy caps with OHSAA printed in block letters on the crown must be worn and shall be purchased only from licensed dealers. No jewelry may be worn except wedding band, medical ID, religious medal, or a timing device. Emblems and patches are not permitted on the officiating uniform. The penalty is a fine not to exceed \$100.00.

Officials' Local Association Information

OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at www.ohsaa.org. Under "Officiating" select local/state rules meetings. Select local rules meetings on the left side, sport: baseball.

Officials' Code of Ethics

(Taken from www.nfhs.org and the NFHS Baseball 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.



The OHSAA'S Respect The Game Program

Respect THE GAMESM

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 our 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.

Note from Roxanne Price:

Chair of the OHSAA Sportsmanship Ethics, and Integrity Committee:

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of 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 who may be 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 students, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season!

Speak with Courtesy
Act with Dignity
Play or Observe with Pride

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.



1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day.

1.2) An individual may play in a reserve game and a varsity game in the same day. Participation in both counts as two games in contest limitation of 27 contests on 23 playing dates. Doubleheader must be played on nonschool days or when there is no school the next day. Penalty — See Sports Regulation 16.

1.3) Any scheduled regular season game in baseball which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is "No Contest." Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics.

1.4) Interrupted Games

1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (4-3-1), 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 suspensions subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.

1.42) A game which has gone five innings and is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed and the following situation prevails shall be a suspended game:
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.

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 (10 run rule applicable).

1.6) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

1.7) No player may pitch in more than 10 innings in a three day period. Any part of an inning counts as one inning. (Regular season and tournament games)

1.8) Previews —A preview may be scheduled and played only during the period of time beginning with Friday (March 20) before the season begins 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 Baseball Rules.

2) Out of State Travel

A baseball 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 baseball team may travel out of state one time per sport 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. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game. A baseball team may not travel out of state only to practice.

3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Section 10 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) Non-Interscholastic Participation

4.1) A member of an interscholastic baseball 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 similar governing board **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of baseball during the school's season (Bylaw 10-3-1).

4.2) A member of a school baseball 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 may participate in non-interscholastic baseball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:

4.21) The number of interscholastic baseball 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 baseball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of baseball are exempt from this limitation.

4.22) There is no limit on the number of baseball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31.

4.23) 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.

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

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

4.4) An intramural team is a non-interscholastic team (Bylaw 10-2-1) and all rules for non-interscholastic teams apply.

4.5) All-Star Games — There are many directors of non-interscholastic competitions that use the term "All Star" in describing their events. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these "all star" competitions outside the interscholastic season of their sports may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with Bylaws 10-3-1 and 10-3-4. The purpose of this special "All-Star" regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her own school in a competition that has the following components:

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

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

3) Participants shall play in no more than two All-Star games.

4) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school (Bylaw 10-3-1).

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.

4.6) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

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

DATE: April 20, 2009

4.7) Participation in indoor baseball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Bylaw 10-3-3 for student-athletes.

4.8) In accordance with Bylaw 10-3-5, interscholastic baseball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in indoor baseball except for 10 days from June 1 – July 31.

5) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 4 of the General Sports Regulations.

6) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 7 of the General Sports Regulations.

7) Penalties

7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Bylaw 10-3-1 (participation with a noninterscholastic baseball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic baseball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic baseball season or the ensuing baseball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

7.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Bylaw 10 (non-interscholastic teams) 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 — March 9, 2009.

NOTE: Pitching and catching candidates may begin throwing with pitching instruction two weeks prior to this starting date — February 23, 2009.

2) First game — March 30, 2009.

3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 27, 2009.

4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — May 3, 2009.

5) Coaching and Season end — Saturday after state tournament (June 13, 2009).

6) Scrimmage 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 23 playing dates). Doubleheaders may only be scheduled on nonschool days, or when there is no school the next day.

8) Rules — National Federation Baseball.

9) Officials:

9.1) Varsity —All must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 Baseball umpires.

9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity—All must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 Baseball umpires.

9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 Baseball umpires recommended.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

1) Coaching and instruction may begin — March 9, 2009.

NOTE: Pitching and catching candidates may begin throwing with instruction two weeks prior to this starting date — February 23, 2009.

2) Date first game may be played — March 30, 2009.

3) Coaching and Season end — June 13, 2009.

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 Baseball.

7) Officials — OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 Baseball or Softball umpires recommended.