

# OHSAA

*Ohio High School Athletic Association*



**2010**  
**Pre-Season Baseball Manual**  
**For Coaches and Umpires**



## A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass

### 2010 Baseball Pre-Season Manual

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Greetings as we count the days before spring comes and we can 'get outside'. This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches **and** umpires to serve as a reference throughout the season. It includes materials you have received in the past along with many items from the baseball sports' regulations highlighted throughout. Though information is contained for coaches and officials, both will receive the same manual.

Though there has been discussion since some winter meetings were cancelled, State Rules Interpretations meetings **WILL** be held and attendance **is mandatory**. I *strongly* recommend and encourage attendance by the **head coach**, however, OHSAA Bylaws require the head varsity coach, assistant coach, or an athletic administrator attend at least one meeting. Attendance is required in order to be eligible to enter the OHSAA sponsored tournament. Coaches of junior high and freshmen teams are encouraged to attend as well. Attendance is also mandatory for all officials. In order to receive credit for attending a meeting, you must be present within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and stay until the conclusion of the meeting. Though they are included in this manual, locations and times can always be found on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Due to weather concerns during January and February, please check the website frequently in the event inclement weather forces postponements of any meetings.

Playing rules governing OHSAA baseball stem from the National Federation (NFHS) *and* the OHSAA. **NFHS Rules** govern all playing rules while **OHSAA Sport Regulations** govern specific rules to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

Many have inquired about proposed changes to the start of the season and various off-season rules, including a 'dead period'. It is important to note **THERE WERE NO CHANGES ADOPTED** for the 2010 season, and practices may begin on the schedule as indicated in the 2009-10 OHSAA Handbook (also explained in this manual).

Communication is a key in the successful administration of any of our sports. I encourage you to ask questions or seek assistance by *first* going through your Athletic Administrator. With the extremely high volume of calls and emails, it truly is the most efficient way for us to meet the needs of our schools. Additionally, nearly all informational items can be found on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the "BASEBALL" site. **Please** take the time to review the materials provided. At the beginning and the conclusion of the season we receive such a high volume of calls from sub-varsity coaches and "summer" coaches. We encourage YOUR communication with them to help us operate as efficiently as possible. As always, however, if you have any questions, or I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Simply due to the incredible high volume of calls, email is preferred ([jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org](mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org)).

This is wishing each of you a successful baseball season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in Ohio.

Yours In High School Sports,  
*Jerry Snodgrass*  
Assistant Commissioner

# OHSBCA

Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

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### **Southwest**

*Lee Day*

### **Southwest**

*Mark Thompson*

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*Doug Burtscher*

### **East**

*Kevin Yoder*

# The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

The purpose of the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association is to unify all baseball coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school baseball, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of baseball.

## What the OHSBCA does for You

1. Conducts the Annual OHSBCA Convention & Clinic
2. Conducts 4 Board meetings per year
3. Produces web-based Newsletters
4. Maintains the OHSBCA Website at [www.ohsbca.org](http://www.ohsbca.org)
5. Conducts the Mizuno All-Ohio Series in June honoring 80 Senior players
6. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
7. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
8. Maintains and selects the Hall of Fame and Induction Banquet
9. Provides Scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
10. Selects an annual Academic All-Ohio team
11. Honors coaches with Service and Victory Awards
12. Financially contributes to Team Ohio who play in the Sunbelt Classic
13. Sponsors the BCA Awards Banquet in Tucson, Arizona at the NHFSBCA Clinic
14. Sponsors a College "Coaches' Corner" at the OHSBCA clinic
15. Honors Past Presidents and Hall of Fame members
16. Attends all monthly OHSAA Board of Director meetings in Columbus
17. Maintains sponsorships with Rawlings, Pukka, Mizuno, Miller Net & Hoosier Bat
18. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year" honor

## Joining the OHSBCA

1. The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association accepts memberships through February 15.
2. Annual membership fees are only \$15.00.
3. Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at <http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/membership>





# 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.

## Important Baseball Dates

- OHSBCA State Clinic: Thursday, January 21, 2010
- Coaches' Rules Interp. Meeting: Friday, January 22, 2010
- First Day of Coaching (Pitchers and Catchers): February 22, 2010
- First Day of Coaching: March 8, 2010
- Regular Season Contests May Begin: March 29, 2010
- Tournament Seed Meeting: May 2, 2010
- Sectional Tournaments: May 8 – May 15, 2010
- District Tournaments: May 17 – May 22, 2010
- Regional Tournaments: May 27 – May 29, 2010
- State Tournament: June 3, 4, & 5, 2010
- No-Contact Period: August 9 – September 6, 2010



## OHSAA Contact Information

Jerry Snodgrass	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	<a href="mailto:jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org">jsnodgrass@ohsaa.org</a>
Henry Zaborniak	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees officials programs & tournament assignments	<a href="mailto:hزابorniak@ohsaa.org">hزابorniak@ohsaa.org</a>
Sharon Shoemaker	Administrative Assistant	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	<a href="mailto:sshoemaker@ohsaa.org">sshoemaker@ohsaa.org</a>
Kyle McNeely	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state Rules Interpretation Meetings and fields rules inquiries	<a href="mailto:jkyle@1974@aol.com">jkyle@1974@aol.com</a>
John Dickerson	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state Rules Interpretation Meetings and fields rules inquiries	<a href="mailto:jdickerson@ohsaa.org">jdickerson@ohsaa.org</a>
Phil Kiser	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state Rules Interpretation Meetings and fields rules inquiries	<a href="mailto:pkiser9947@aol.com">pkiser9947@aol.com</a>
Roger Hendrix	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state Rules Interpretation Meetings and fields rules inquiries	<a href="mailto:rhendrix9600@wowway.com">rhendrix9600@wowway.com</a>

## Baseball Informational Links

- OHSAA Baseball Webpage: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/default.asp>
- OHSAA Baseball Sports' Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/BB09-10.pdf>
- OHSAA GENERAL Sports' Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg09-10.pdf>
- Baseball Uniform Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/members/uniform.htm#BB>
- NFHS (Rules, Field Diagrams, etc.): <http://www.nfhs.org>
- Coaches' Education: <http://www.ohsaa.org/EducationAcademy/Coach/default.htm>
- Officials' Education: [http://www.nfhs.org/web/2006/08/officials\\_education.aspx](http://www.nfhs.org/web/2006/08/officials_education.aspx)
- Ohio High School Baseball Coaches' Association: [http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/Home\\_Page](http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/Home_Page)

## ***Rules Interpretation Meeting Information***

As mentioned, Rules Interpretation meetings WILL be held in 2010 and are mandatory for each school and every umpire in Ohio. Few coaches realize that all umpires in Ohio must not ONLY attend the State Rules meeting, but must also attend 4 LOCAL Association meetings that are educational in their nature. Please take the CARD that is located in the inside jacket of the mailing to Coaches and Umpires and turn this in at the conclusion of the meeting you attend. Though any member of your school staff may attend, we *strongly encourage the* HEAD COACH to attend. Meetings and their locations are listed below and can be viewed at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx>

**Attention COACHES**  
**Get YOUR Rules Interpretation Meeting in at the annual OHSBCA Clinic on**  
**Friday, January 22, 2010**  
**Please remember to bring your card enclosed in the Pre-Season Mailing**

### **2010 Baseball State Rules Interpretation Meetings**

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1/28/2010 7:15	Columbian High School, Auditorium Tiffin, OH 44883	Brett Willoughby
2/1/2010 7:15	Geneva High School, Auditorium 1301 South Ridge Road, Geneva, OH 44041	Michael Smith
2/1/2010 7:15	Lakewood High School, Auditorium 14100 Franklin Blvd. Lakewood, OH 44107	Theresa Rice
2/3/2010 7:15	Ashland High School, Cafeteria 1440 King Road, Ashland, OH 44805	Dan Burtscher
2/3/2010 7:15	Logan Middle School 1 Middle School Drive, Logan, OH 43138	Phillip Lightfoot
2/3/2010 7:15	Union Local High School, Auditorium 66779 Morristown Road, Belmont, OH 43718	Thomas Bechtel
2/4/2010 7:15	Austintown-Fitch High School, Auditorium 4560 Falcon Drive, Austintown, OH 44515	John Mang
2/4/2010 7:15	East Clinton High School, Cafeteria 174 Larrick Road, Leesecreek, OH 45138	Charles McMillan
2/8/2010 7:15	Springfield High School, Auditorium 1470 S. McCord Rd., Holland, OH 43528	Daniel Miller
2/10/2010 7:15	Four County Career Center, Meyer Learning Ctr. Route 66 & Route 34, Archbold, OH 43502	Robert Wurm
2/10/2010 7:15	Grant Career Center, Cafeteria State Route 125, Bethel, OH 45106	Jerry Fick
2/11/2010 7:15	Buckeye Career Center, Cafeteria 545 University Drive NE, New Philadelphia, OH 44663	David Gilmore
2/11/2010 7:15	Portsmouth High School 1225 Gallia Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662	Russell Hopkins
2/16/2010 7:15	Copley High School, Auditorium 3807 Ridgewood Road, Copley, OH 44321	Edward Galloway

2/17/2010	7:15	Mayfield High School, Cafeteria 8-9 6116 Wilson Mills Road, Mayfield Heights, OH 44143	Michael Makohus
2/17/2010	7:15	North Ridgeville High School, Cafeteria 34600 Bainbridge Road, North Ridgeville, OH 44035	Cheryl Opperman
2/17/2010	7:15	Upper Valley Joint Vocational School, Hartzell Auditorium 8811 Career Drive, Piqua, OH 45373	Deron Brown
2/18/2010	7:15	Bath High School, Cafeteria 2850 Bible Road, Lima, OH 45801	David May
2/22/2010	7:15	Unioto Junior High School, Auditorium 160 Moundsville Road, Chillicothe, OH 45601	Glen Schmidt
2/24/2010	7:15	Ohio University-Zanesville, Auditorium 1425 Newark Road, Zanesville, OH 43701	Raymond Bess
2/25/2010	7:15	Kettering Middle School, Auditorium 2000 Glengarry Drive, Kettering, OH 45420	Bernie Harris
2/25/2010	7:15	Tri-Rivers Career Center, Multi-Purpose Room 2222 Marion – Mt. Gilead Road, Marion, OH 45420	Lyle McWilliams
2/28/2010	7:15	Springfield High School, Cafeteria 701 E. Home Road, Springfield, OH 45503	Hubert Moon, Jr.
3/2/2010	7:15	Dublin Jerome High School, Theatre 8300 Hyland-Croy Road, Dublin, OH 43016	Daniel Steiner
3/3/2010	7:15	Princeton High School, Auditorium 11080 Chester Road, Cincinnati, OH 45241	Jerry Fick
3/8/2010	4:30 p.m.	Make-Up Meeting (\$50.00 fee), Board Room 4080 Rosela Place, Columbus, OH 43214	Jerry Snodgrass

## **Important Note About Rules Interpretation Meetings**

**When weather conditions force the closure of schools and facilities, Rules Interpretation meetings may be affected and postponed. When inclement weather conditions present themselves, please double check the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) for announcements on postponements and/or rescheduled Rules Interpretation Meetings.**

## *Pre-Season Meetings*

We have encouraged coaches to invite local umpires to meet with their team early practices. It allows the umpires 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 umpire 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.

Pre-season meetings with parents are now mandatory and will most likely occur along with other spring sport teams. This is determined by each school's Athletic Administrator. This is the time to cover such things as eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport polices, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc.

## *Rawlings & Game Ball Information*

Rawlings is the official baseball for the OHSAA. The Rawlings "R100" game ball is used at all levels of tournament play. Other National Federation (NFHS) approved balls are able to be used for regular season play, though most coaches choose to use the same ball approved for OHSAA tournament play.

## *Coach Certification & Education Requirements*

All Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams **MUST:**

- Have completed a Sports' First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Possess a valid Pupil Activities Supervisor Validation from the Ohio Dept. of Education
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body

In June of 2008, the OHSAA's Board of Directors passed the requirement for **all coaches** in Ohio to complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" class on the schedule listed below. There currently are two methods of completing the course; a "blended" delivery instructed by trained instructors in a classroom setting or "online" accessed through the OHSAA website by clicking on the "Coach Education" logo on the right or going directly to the site at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/EducationAcademy/Coach/default.htm>. Complete listings of classes through the site at <http://www.ohsaa.org/EducationAcademy/Coach/default.htm>. Several mailings were sent to school administrators over the course of the 2008-09 school year providing background information and compliance information. Completion of the course is a one time requirement and *Coaches* in Ohio must complete this course on the following schedule:

<b>New coaches who have never held a Pupil Activity Certificate:</b>	<b>Completion required beginning Jan. 1, 2010</b>
<b>Coaches who will Re-new their current Pupil Activity Certificate:</b>	<b>Upon Next Renewal after Jan. 1, 2010</b>



## *Coaches' Code of Ethics*

### **From 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 should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS 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 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 students, 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 promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the 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.

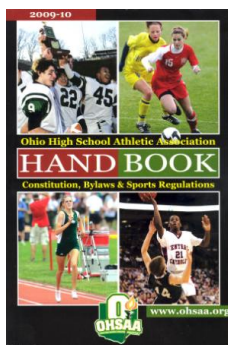
**The Coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The Coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The Coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**The Coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.





# OHSAA Sports' Regulations



Regulations governing the sport of baseball are divided into two basic categories: **GENERAL Sports' Regulations** and **BASEBALL Regulations (sport specific)**. These are reviewed annually and approved by the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

## General Sports' Regulations

These regulations can be accessed and address regulations that affect all sports governed by the OHSAA. They include, but are not limited to, such things as Instructional Programs outside the window of the season, Physical Fitness (Conditioning) Programs, Open Gym Regulations, No Contact Periods, Player and Coach Ejection Policies. These are important and *most* areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. They are easily accessed via the web by navigating to the "Baseball" webpage and clicking on "General Sports' Regulations" on the left hand side or directly going to <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GenSportsReg09-10.pdf>. I **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Though there are far too many to list in this manual, a *few* of the more common ones that affect baseball squads are:

### Open Gyms/Facilities/Fields at Member Schools

Open Gyms (or facilities) are clearly defined in **Rule 7 of the OHSAA Sports' Regulations**. An abbreviated version states:

- A school may open its athletic facilities for **unstructured free play** provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but **may not limit participation** to a select group of students from within the school. Participation **may** be limited to students enrolled in that specific school.
- There can be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only those students participating may be involved in the selection of teams.
- Regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- Mandatory attendance at open gyms/facilities is **not permitted**.
- Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym/facility is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or volunteer.
- Coaches **may participate** in the unstructured free play in the open gym/facilities.

Schools MAY restrict individuals from observing the open gym/facility activity.

## Baseball Specific Regulations

Each spring, regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport the OHSAA sponsors. These address areas such as (but not limited to) Non-Interscholastic competition, number of contests (game, scrimmage or preview) that are permitted, season start and end dates, out of state travel, etc. All coaches should familiarize themselves with these regulations. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these Regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes. Upon approval, they are submitted for printing to the annual OHSAA Handbook (which every administrator has been provided). These are also available through baseball web page at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/default.asp>. Baseball specific AND the General Sports' Regulations are found on the left side of the page. A *few* of the Sports' Regulation **highlights** are listed but you are encouraged to read the entire regulations at the above listed website.

### Game Limitations (Grades 9-12)

Maximum number of games permitted: **27 on 23 playing dates**

Scrimmages/Previews: Maximum of **4** scrimmages OR **3** scrimmages and 1 Preview

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during the season but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'.

### Game Limitations (Grades 7-8)

Maximum number of games permitted: **17 and 1 Post-Season tournament not to exceed 4 games**

Scrimmages: Maximum of **2** scrimmages

Scrimmage Note: Scrimmages MAY be held at any time during the season but MUST count as the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a 'scrimmage' while Team B counts the competition as a 'game'.

### Non-Interscholastic Competition

A member of an interscholastic baseball squad (grades 7-12) sponsored by the Board of Education **cannot participate in a non-interscholastic Baseball program** (such as 'club or 'travel'), which includes tryouts, practice and contests as an individual OR a member of a team in the sport of Basketball anytime during the school team's season. This is explained in OHSAA Bylaw 10-3-1. A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview OR regular season or tournament game as a substitute OR as a starter.

A member of an interscholastic baseball team sponsored by the Board of Education **MAY** participate in non-interscholastic baseball (such as 'club' or 'travel') PRIOR TO and AFTER the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic baseball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team is limited to **FOUR on the roster** of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11\*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the two player limit until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic baseball ONLY WHEN the student's team has completed its season.

\*Graduating seniors are exempt from this particular 4 player limitation.

### 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. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. A team may travel out of state one time to state or province NOT contiguous to Ohio but only if there is no loss of school time. **Any contest played in a non-contiguous state MUST be scheduled as a GAME (one of the 27 permitted).**

Teams may not travel out of state only to practice.

### Comments to News Media

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws 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." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials/Umpires are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations", page 77, 2009-10 OHSAA Handbook).

### **Videotaping Regulations**

The improvement of various electronic devices, especially cell phones, has drawn much attention to the rules regarding recording baseball contests. Complete regulations available on page 76 of the OHSAA Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg09-10.pdf> under Section "A" of the Media Regulations. A few highlights of this include but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such tapes or photographs may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed. In other words, it is not possible to use photographs or any recorded information at halftime of a game.
- It is **not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph regular season OR tournament contests of other schools** without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

### **Doubleheaders**

Doubleheaders may be scheduled ONLY on non-school days OR when there is no school the next day.

### **Non-Interscholastic Baseball**

Teams formed for FALL baseball leagues may have no more than **FOUR** players from any one school on the same team. Included in this number are freshmen, JV and varsity players from the previous year's roster. Teams that form for SPRING and SUMMER baseball may only have **FOUR** players from any one school on the same team **until June 1**. Between June 1 and July 31, any number of players from any one school may be on the same non-school team.

### **Special Note Regarding Non-Interscholastic Baseball Teams**

Near the conclusion of each baseball season, there is a natural tendency for players wanting to start practicing OR playing with their 'summer' teams. Rule 4.1 of the OHSAA General Sports' Regulations addresses 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 school's season." *This defines they cannot **PRACTICE** as well as play in a game. The basic "rule of thumb" is that once an individual DOES tryout, practice or compete in a game for a non-interscholastic team, that individual may not 'come back' to be part of the high school team. Coaches should have heightened awareness of this at tournament time.*

### **Umpires**

Umpires used for JV and Varsity contests must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 umpires. Class 1, 2 or 3 are recommended for Freshmen games.

### **Protests**

Bylaw 8, Section 3(1) of the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, "*Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will **not be considered**.*" Their decisions and interpretations are final." This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by playing rules.



# 2010 Rules Information

## Rules Changes



- 3-3-g6** Any member of the coaching staff who was not the head coach (or designee) in 3-2-4 Leaves the vicinity of the dugout or coaching box to dispute a judgment call by an umpire.
- 1-2-4** When the dugout is temporarily extended, for any reason, it shall be extended toward the outfield on a line parallel to the foul line. The extension of the dugout area shall be equally applied for both teams.
- 1-3-2** Effective **January 1, 2012**, the bat, which may be a wood or non-wood product, shall be a smooth cylinder Implement from the top of the cap to the top of the knob. The cap of the bat and the knob of the bat shall be permanently and securely fastened. All non-wood bats shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark has to be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. There shall be no devices, attachments or wrappings that cause the handle to become flush with the knob. Molded grips are illegal.
- 7-4-1f** any member of the offensive team or coach other than the runner(s) interferes with a fielder who is attempting to field a foul fly ball.

## Minor Editorial Changes

- 1-4-2** Clarified the compliance of a pitcher's uniform.
- 2-5-1** Clarified a section heading change
- 7-3-2** Clarified a batting infraction
- 8-1-1d1** Clarified when a batter is struck by a pitched ball.
- 8-4-2** Clarified interference violation
- PEN**
- 9-1-1-d** Clarified a third out declaration

## Uniform Information

Frequently, we receive calls relative to uniform requirements. Uniform regulations are developed as part of the National playing rules by the National Federation (NFHS). With the styles being developed year after year by college and professional teams, I encourage you to review these uniform regulations when ordering new uniforms. We do post these uniform regulations on the OHSAA website and can be viewed directly by going to <http://www.ohsaa.org/members/uniform.htm#BB>



Style A Southland Athletic nylon/cotton vest with braid. Available with sleeves.



## 2010 Points of Emphasis

### Points of Emphasis for 2010

1. *Good Sporting Behavior*
2. *Rolling and Altering of Bats*
3. *Checking Bats and Other Equipment*
4. *Concussions*
5. *Lightning Safety*
6. *Three-Foot Running Lane Violation*

Taken from pages 64-65 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 2010 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: good sporting behavior (especially when it involves assistant coaches), rolling and altering bats, checking bats and equipment, concussions, lightning/bad weather, and violation of the 3 foot running lane. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce or they are not being given the proper attention.

**Coach's Responsibility for Good Sporting Behavior:** For the head coach, the duties of controlling the dugout and team behavior includes being both accountable and responsible for the actions of the assistant coaches and all other team personnel. Remember that the head coach is the only coach responsible for communications with umpires, and it is not the role of the assistant coach to dispute or appeal play situations and rulings. 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 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.

**Commissioner's Comment Regarding this POE:** *"Ejections in baseball have risen in the past few years in Ohio, the major increase attributed to Assistant Coaches. It is important to note that ALL coaches, as addressed in this handbook, must be Board of Education approved and meet all requirements set by the OHSAA and the Ohio Department of Education. Head coaches by their very nature and job descriptions are 'overseers' of their programs. It is important for Head Coaches to lead by example and control staff members.*

**Altering of Bats:** Altering bats by such methods as rolling, shaving the bat wall, flattening or otherwise manipulating the bat from its original manufactured condition is not legal and can result in the bat being declared illegal by the umpires. Coaches must insist that players use only legal equipment not only because it is a rule, but it is in the best interests of the principles of fair play and sportsmanship.

**Commissioner's Comment Regarding this POE:** *"As coaches feel more and more pressure to win, more and more opportunities exist to violate rules to 'get an edge'. The OHSAA continues to promote it's "Respect the Game" campaign and no campaign could better emphasize the importance of paying attention to this Point of Emphasis."*

### **Checking Bats and Other Equipment:**

Rule 10-2-3 requires that umpires inspect all bats (and helmets) prior to the start of a contest. This is a rules-driven opportunity to ensure that only legal equipment is used and helps protect the health and safety of the players, coaches and umpires. This important duty cannot be ignored by umpires and must result in cooperation from team members and coaches.

With the NFHS requirements for bats in a transitional stage through 2012, this duty has never been more important. Coaches must ensure that as equipment purchases are made for bats that will be in use in 2012, the new BBCOR

requirement is considered. Due to the fact it has been reported that many players (and parents) purchase their own bats, it is critical that coaches inform players and parents of the coming rule change. In addition, coaches must diligently monitor the condition of the bats that are being used by members of the team.

***Commissioner's Comment Regarding this POE: "It is essential that umpires conduct their pre-game check of bats and helmets. Helmets must be NOCSAE approved and bats must meet BESR standards and not cracked or dented. Umpires should also check catcher's helmets and mask/helmet combinations. This is vital not only to doing what is required but also to the safety of players"***

### **Concussions:**

The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has set forth guidelines on concussions. The committee is concerned that players are being allowed to return to competitive activity sooner than guidelines recommend. Coaches and athletic trainers are encouraged to review these guidelines and to strictly adhere to them. Please refer to the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Handbook (October 2008).

***Commissioner's Comment Regarding this POE: "At no time has the focus on head injuries and concussions been more in the public eye than now. It is important for coaches to address this in pre-season meetings and help develop the understanding that head injuries MUST be reported and properly treated. The OHSAA continues to provide guidelines and information on head injuries in pre-season mailings such as this."***

### **Lightning Safety:**

No weather condition poses a greater danger for baseball participants than lightning. The NFHS has developed guidelines to assist schools, coaches and umpires in handling instances where lightning poses a threat. From the time thunder or lightning flash is observed, play SHALL be suspended for a minimum of 30 minutes from the last sound of thunder or observed lightning flash. All participants (coaches, players, umpires and fans) should seek shelter. All NFHS rules books contain appropriate procedures for handling lightning situations.

***Commissioner's Comment Regarding this POE: "Most of us have grown up witnessing various organizations violating common sense standards regarding inclement weather. The NFHS Policy on Lightning and Inclement weather appears in all outdoor sport pre-season manuals and the OHSAA's General Sports' Regulations. The OHSAA has also taken this policy one step further by removing the word "should" and replacing it with the word "Shall" to eliminate any doubt as to what must be followed relative to delaying and restarting of play"***

### **Three-Foot Running Lane Violation**

The Baseball Rules Committee is concerned that the application of this rule not being enforced consistently or properly. The batter-runner is required by rule (8-4-1g) to be in the running lane when the ball is being fielded or thrown to first base. The runner is allowed to run outside the running lane to avoid contact with a fielder who is in the act of fielding or throwing a ball. The batter-runner must be entirely inside of the running lane. If either foot is outside the running lane, the batter-runner is considered to be outside the running lane.

***Commissioner's Comment Regarding this POE: "All Points of Emphasis are a result of items the NFHS Rules Committee deem necessary for special attention. As mentioned, there is concern the interpretation and enforcement of this rule has been lax and is therefore a "POE" for 2010."***



## Rules by State Association Adoption

The following are “State Adoptions” that are permitted according to each state by NFHS rules. Each NFHS Adoption is listed along with whether the adoption is ADOPTED or NOT ADOPTED in Ohio.

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**

### **I-2-9 page 9**

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

**Not adopted in Ohio for baseball.**

### **2-33-1 page 22**

Suggested speed-up rules

**NONE of the suggested speed-up rules have not been adopted in Ohio for all games. 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 32**

Game ending procedures may be determined.

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 32**

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 32**

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.**

**6-2-6 page 39**

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>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</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 relative to the pitching rule.**



# Looking Ahead to Tournament Time

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Baseball Tournament in 4 divisions. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct baseball tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their December meeting. The 4 divisions are determined by the EMIS reports from the October 2008 count. These divisions will remain the same for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school year. Divisional Breakdowns are based upon the following enrollments:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	409 and more	192
II	232-408	193
III	134-231	195
IV	133 and less	196

## Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2010 is **May 2, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.**

## State Tournament Dates & Order of Games

June 3, 4, and 5, 2010

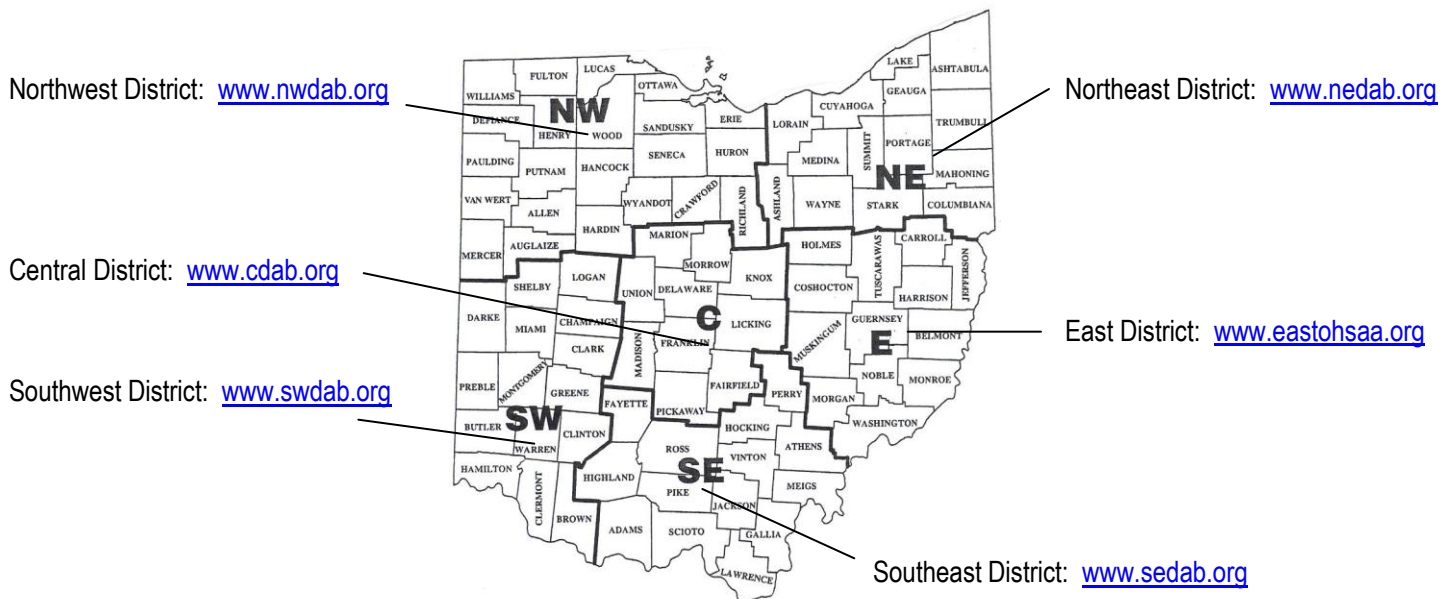
Huntington Park, Columbus

Division IV, Division III, Division I, Division II

## Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament (the number of Regional 'qualifiers') from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament.

The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its' December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the BASEBALL webpage under the "Sports and Tournaments" pull down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.



# Rating & Voting for Officials



You often hear at tournament contests that “the tournament officials have been selected by a process approved by the Board of Directors”. That ‘process’ is an important one for both coaches AND officials and is the basis for officials assignments to OHSAA Tournaments. To make this process work it requires Coaches and Athletic Directors to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone’s best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:



1. Coaches **RATE** Umpires/Officials, other approved individuals **VOTE FOR** Umpires/Officials Those ‘other individuals’ are: athletic administrators; approved OHSAA assigners, each local Officials’ Association with more than 125 members, District Athletic Board members and OHSAA Staff.
2. Ratings are done at the conclusion of a game; voting is done at the end of the season. As mentioned above, ratings are done by COACHES at the conclusion of a game. Officials **are NOT able** to see how a coach rated.
3. “Pools” of officials are created as a result of ratings and votes. These pools are arranged into a “State Pool”, “Regional Pool” and “Sectional/District Pool”. Each pool has more officials than are needed at that level. Pools are created by mathematically calculating the following:
  1. Total number of votes x Average of Coach ratings = Score
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to **sectional and district tournaments** in their respective Athletic Districts. The process of assignment from approved pools is at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.

**Note:** The total score is not made available to those making assignments; merely the ‘pool’ itself is made available to them.
5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the **Regional and State Tournament**.
6. All Rating and Voting is done through the *myOHSAA* Data Management System. Therefore, the data **MUST** be entered (official’s name and event) in order to receive ratings and/or votes and be included in a pool.
7. Coaches obtain a User Name and Password for access to the *myOHSAA* system. Information on how to obtain this is listed below.

In order for the process to work effectively, games and officials must be entered into the *myOHSAA Data Management System* by a school’s Athletic Administrator. Schools that are the home team in a contest are the ones required to enter the contest and the officials. In some cases, league assigners have this capability. IF a contest is not entered, there can be no rating of officials. If this is not done, eventually, this will lead to a fine for not rating officials. Please encourage your Athletic Administrator to enter contests into the system.

You will note that using the *myOHSAA* system will allow you to view other teams’ schedules to assist you with possible scouting opportunities as well as serve as a ‘double check’ with often changing schedules due to cancellations or additions of contests.

### Instructions for Rating Umpires

1. Access the *myOHSAA* system at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org> OR from the home page of the [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)
2. Logon to *myOHSAA* using the login credentials provided by your athletic administrator. After logging in, you may be directed to set a new password and provide a security question and answer. Follow the on screen instructions for setting a new password and save your account information.
3. The home page will appear which contains all the tools and information currently available to a Head Coach. A summary of post game reports appears at the top of the home page.

1. **Click** on your sport in the list of post game reports. The varsity schedule will appear.
  2. **Click “Record”** under the score column of the varsity schedule. The *Report Score/Rate Officials* page will appear.
4. **To Report The Score:**
- **Click “Report “** in the section labeled “Score”.
  - **Enter** the score for each team and click “Save”.
5. **To Rate Umpires:**
- **Scroll** down to the “Rate Officials” section.
  - In the box marked “Requested Officials”, the names of those officials that did not accept the contract prior to the contest will appear. If these officials worked the contest, click the box in front of their name(s) and then click the “Add Official” button. This adds the official(s) to the rating form below. Note: officials that electronically accepted the contract before the contest will automatically display on the rating form.
  - If you were the away team and your opponent has not entered the officials for the contest, **“Click to Add Officials for Rating”** will allow you to enter the officials for rating after the event has occurred.
  - **Umpires may now be rated as a group or individually.**
    - *To rate officials as a group:* simply click the number of the rating.
    - *To rate officials individually:* remove the check mark from the “Rate All Officials” box by clicking on it. Each official’s name will activate. Uncheck any official you do not want to rate or that did not officiate the contest. Click on the number of the rating you want to give to the official.
  - **CLICK the “Submit Ratings” Button.**  
**NOTE:** for volleyball the button is labeled “Submit Scores/Ratings” The list of rated officials will appear in the “Details” section of the page.
  - **Exit the page by clicking the “Cancel” button.** You will be directed back to your varsity schedule.
  - **Repeat** these steps to report the scores and rate officials of all your varsity contests (home or away). Sub-varsity contests may be rated but are not required.



**Official’s Ratings may also be accessed through the team’s schedule page. To do this, simply**

1. **Access your team’s schedule:** In the left column locate the drop down box labeled “Select Calendar”, using the drop down select your teams calendar from the list.
2. Once your team’s schedule has appeared, **click on the double red stars** in the rating column.
3. Repeat the steps under Number 3 above parts c through h to complete the ratings.

**Athletic Administrators receive separate instructions for VOTING** for officials at the conclusion of the season. Additional individuals that VOTE for officials include:

1. Approved OHSAA Assignors
2. Local Officials’ Associations
3. District Athletic Board Members
4. OHSAA Commissioners

**Please Note:**

Umpires ratings/voting are used for the NEXT season. The officials you rate during the season THIS YEAR, will be assigned pools for NEXT YEAR’S tournament.



## 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 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](http://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](http://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.



## 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.**
- To reflect this change, officials are asked to please go to [www.ohsaa.org](http://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.
- In the event of an ejection, a coach is ejected from ALL GAMES for the remainder of the day of the ejection PLUS two additional games. Ejected coaches must also pay a \$100.00 fine and complete the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course within 30 days of the ejection.
- With the Rule change in Rule 3-3-g6, **Assistant coaches** should pay particular attention to the ejection procedures.
- **ALL EJECTIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT PERMITTED TO BE APPEALED** per the OHSAA's Board of Directors.

### *Medical Information*

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at the OHSAA's "Healthy Lifestyles and Sports Medicine" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.asp> Additional information relative to various equipment and rules relative to medical issues can be found throughout this manual as well.

- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found in the supplemental articles of the NFHS 2009-10 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

## Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests and all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during basketball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

## Lightning and Inclement Weather

### (OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Lightning and Inclement weather procedures are new for 2010. Please review these carefully. Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports and is contained within **OHSAA Sports Regulation 20.**

#### 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 lightening 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 an 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 should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

##### **Management:**

- **Evacuation-** If lightening 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 required 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.**

# Baseball Frequently Asksed Questions

The OHSAA receives a *large* volume of calls and email at the conclusion of the season in regard to what coaches 'can and cannot do'. Though this is not inclusive, a few guidelines are listed below to assist you AND your middle school and sub-varsity coaches. Please remove, copy and share this page with others on your staff. Please go through your Athletic Administrator for questions related to the OHSAA's Bylaws and Sports' Regulations. All are contained within the OHSAA's Handbook, pictured to the right and are also available online at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

## Can Middle School Players practice or play with High School players?

Answer: No. OHSAA Bylaws prohibit middle school players from practicing or competing with High School players during the season of play in all sports.

## Can Middle School Players participate in Open Gyms/Facilities at the High School level?

Answer: Yes. OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations do not prevent anyone from participating in Open Gyms or Facilities.

## What can we as coaches do during an Open Gym?

Answer: Coaches may supervise the Open Gym/Facility. Open Gyms cannot be made mandatory. Open Gyms must be 'free and unstructured play, so NO coaching may take place during an Open Gym. Open Gyms are defined in their entirety in Sports' Regulation #7 on pages 66-67.

## What can we as coaches do during Conditioning Programs?

Answer: Conditioning programs cannot be made mandatory. Sports' Regulation #6 on page 66 of the OHSAA Handbook defines Physical Fitness/Conditioning Programs. Obviously, conditioning programs cannot be used as a 'disguise' for conducting out of season practices.

## Who can volunteer to be a member of the coaching staff?

Answer: To work with student-athletes in any school program, an individual must receive his/her Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education and be approved by the school's Board of Education. Once achieving these requirements, a volunteer falls under all Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA.

## Can a volunteer coach players from the school team during the summer?

Answer: Basically, 'yes', but when teams are playing with more than 50% of a schools' roster, the days of coaching/instruction must be counted in the 10 total permitted to the staff.

## If my son or daughter plays on a Non-Interscholastic team (such as ACME, Pony or Legion), can I coach them if I am a school coach?

Answer: **Only** during the June 1 – July 31 period of time. Coaching ones own players is prohibited outside the season other than those dates and no exception is provided for families.

## Can a player on my team participate in non-interscholastic team(s) at the same time as the season?

Answer: No. Sports' Regulation #4 prohibits student-athletes from participating in programs such as "Travel, Club, ACME or Legion" and like programs during the season of play. Coaches should go to great lengths to explain this to players on their teams.

## When CAN a player on my team participate in Non-Interscholastic Baseball (such as travel, ACME, Pony League, etc.)?

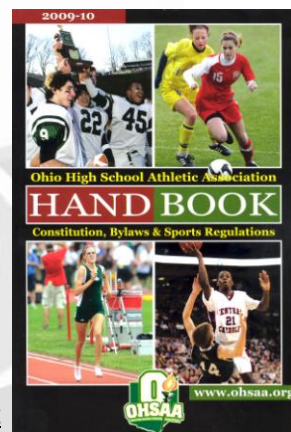
Answer: As soon as his season is complete. This means a Varsity player may participate as soon as his last game (including tournament) is played. Any sub-varsity player may play non-interscholastically when his season is complete but it must be kept in mind that he cannot return to dress/participate in any OHSAA tournament game. Many Athletic Administrations will safeguard this by allowing no level of player to participate in non-interscholastic baseball until the varsity's last tournament game. Though not entirely necessary, this DOES safeguard all athletes.

## How many players can play together on a Non-Interscholastic team such as ACME or Legion Baseball?

Answer: FOUR (4). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic roster during all months except June and July to no more than 50% of those that make up a starting lineup of a team. In baseball that magic number is 4. The only exception to this is explained on page 65 in Sports' Regulation 4.11 in which all members of the non-interscholastic squad are siblings (by blood or adoption) and no other player from the same school squad is a participant on the non-school team.

## How are players 'classified' when in Middle School/Junior High and High School?

Answer: Players are considered middle school/junior high until the beginning of their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; a 2 8<sup>th</sup> graders could participate on an "AAU" (non-interscholastic) team along with 2 9<sup>th</sup> graders from the same school. They are considered separate. Please keep in mind this cannot occur during the season of play.





**During the summer, how many days are we permitted to coach our players?**

Answer: TEN (10). From June 1 – July 31, a coaching staff is permitted to coach a total 10 days, known as 'instructional days'.

**Does a day of my own summer camp count toward these 10 days?**

Answer: Yes. Any day of instruction is considered one of the 10 total permitted between June 1 and July 31.

**How about if I coach a team that consists of only 4 players from my school team? (less than 50% of the roster)**

Answer: Currently the OHSAA does not view that as an instructional day, but one must remember it MUST be between June 1 and July 31.

**Does each member of my staff receive 10 separate days?**

Answer: No. Obviously, if this were to occur, a school could have upwards of 40 and 60 days of permitted instruction. The 10 days permitted are per staff.

**Do Volunteers count in the 10 day total?**

Answer: Yes. As mentioned earlier, all volunteers fall under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA. The 10 days permitted to a staff are inclusive of paid and volunteer coaches.

**Can I travel out of state to Play a contest?**

Answer: Yes, with certain restrictions. Teams may travel out of state to a bordering state (contiguous state) an unlimited number of times to play. Teams may travel to NON-bordering (contiguous states) **one time** per sport per season to compete provided there is no loss of school time.

**Can I travel with my team out of state to practice?**

Answer: No.

**Can I have a scrimmage during the season or during tournament time?**

Answer: Yes. As long as a team has a scrimmage remaining, they may use it at any time. It IS important to note that any scrimmage with another school must be a scrimmage for THAT school also; it cannot be a 'game' for one school and a 'scrimmage' for another school.

**Am I permitted to practice with another school?**

Answer: Yes, BUT, it must be counted as a scrimmage.

## Official Specific Information



### Tournament Selection Process



Tournament selection and contracting is done through the *myOHSAA* management system. It is utilized to capture and certify the availability and eligibility of OHSAA tournament eligible officials in ALL sports. All officials who are tournament eligible are sent an email with step-by-step instructions on how to access and complete the OHSAA tournament application. Applications **must** be completed in *myOHSAA* by the posted deadline and officials will receive this notification approximately 14-20 days prior to the application deadline.

Contracts for tournament contests are issued electronically through the *myOHSAA* system. District Athletic Boards are given the responsibility of assignment of officials at the Sectional/District level; the OHSAA office is responsible for Regional and State assignments.

Being an OHSAA tournament ELIGIBLE official is **not a guarantee** of an OHSAA Tournament assignment.

### State and Local Meetings

State Rules Interpretation meetings are listed on page 5 of this manual. Additionally, OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at on the web at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under "Officiating" select "Local/State Rules Meetings" then "Local Rules Meetings" and on the left side, select "Basketball".



### Ejection Protocol

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 "Official's Report" form. An Official's Report form can be viewed and printed by clicking the link below. Additional forms can be obtained by contacting the Association office or your local association secretary. 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 Section 7 of 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.

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.

**It is the official's responsibility to send a copy of the form to the reported school.**

Please write legibly and include the ejected person's first and last names. Make sure that the form is complete at the bottom with the date and name of the administrator that you spoke with at the school.

#### **General Ejection Procedures**

General Sports' Regulation 10.2 (passed by the OHSAA's Board of Directors in 2008) requires any coach ejected from a contest (paid OR volunteer) 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.



## *Officials' Code of Ethics*

(From [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

Our member schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. This requires officials to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is an established **Code of Ethics** and **Code of Conduct** for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

**An Official** must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.

**An Official** must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.

**An Official** must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

**An Official** must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

**An Official** will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress accordingly to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.

**An Official** shall avoid the use of **tobacco and related products** at the contest site.

**An Official** must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.

# Sportsmanship

## Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S Responsibility!

### NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

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

### The OHSBCA & Sportsmanship

Good Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association stands tall in its commitment to good sportsmanship. The school-based experience is one that affords tremendous opportunities to student-athletes that they will remember for a lifetime. Those experiences are dependent on the role model the head coach provides. The OHSBCA encourages all coaches to exhibit behavior that serves as a role model for the student-athletes we serve. In conjunction with the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSBCA annually selects a recipient of the SEI Award.



### The Official's Role in Sportsmanship

In 2004 the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) conducted a survey of 550 sports officials and asked "what is the number-one problem in our games today?" Not too surprising, the number one response was "Poor Sportsmanship". As a result, the NASO brought together some of the best and brightest in youth, high school, collegiate and pro sports to examine the issue and explore the official's role in promoting positive onfield/oncourt behavior. The results were published in the book at the right and identified 3 critical ideas:

1. What is at Stake
2. What is Expected, and,
3. What steps to Take

As a result, the following are important results of this study and publication:

1. 65% of respondents indicated their respective associations do not do *enough* to help improve sportsmanship.
2. 89% of officials responding consider themselves PARTNERS with players, coaches and administrators in improving sportsmanship.
3. 54% of officials responding indicated they felt the DO have the training, authority and knowledge to make an impact.



The conclusion:

Sportsmanship is EVERYONE'S job and we are all partners in this endeavor.



## *The OHSAA & Sportsmanship*

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!

The Ohio High School Athletic Association challenges all of us in the soccer community to take positive steps toward the goal of attaining the high ideal of good sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

*Roxanne Price*

Assistant Commissioner

### **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.

### *Sportsmanship 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.

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

Each year unpleasant situations arise as a result of comments made to the news media by coaches. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws 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." 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 in regard to the officials. Coaches violating this rule may be asked to discuss the problem personally with the Commissioner. (See Sports Regulations “Media Regulations”, Section B, page 77, OHSAA Handbook).



**Speak with Courtesy**

**Act with Dignity**

**Play or Observe with Pride**