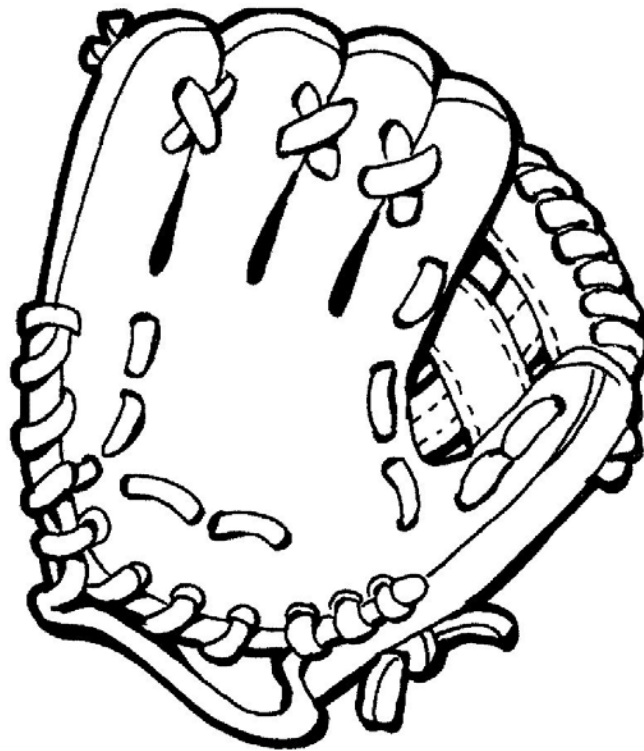


OHSAA

Ohio High School Athletic Association



2012

Pre-Season Baseball Manual

For Coaches and Umpires



A Message from OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, Jerry Snodgrass



Winter is upon us but we start counting the days before 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.

Now, maybe more than any other time in our existence 'we' as coaches and sport administrators need to step forward and provide the leadership to high school student-athletes. There are so many great things about high school athletics and those must be at the forefront every single day we work with students in our schools. Players don't play for million dollar contracts and though I wish every player that takes the field could go on and play at the 'next level', the statistics continue to say that most do not. The high school experience can and should be one of the best they ever have; and YOU as the coach provides the leadership for that experience. I hope ALL of us can work together to make this happen. The OHSBCA and the OHSAA have committed themselves to this mission and 'together we can' accomplish this.

Several changes in place for 2012 are referenced in this manual. This manual mirrors the **mandatory State Rules Interpretation Meeting** that are offered online as well as 'face to face' at limited locations throughout the state. Due to weather concerns during January and February, please check the website frequently in the event inclement weather forces postponements of any of our scheduled face to face meetings.

As nearly everyone knows, BATS are a major and every-changing issue and hopefully this is about the last of the phased in changes. All rules governing OHSAA baseball stem from the National Federation (NFHS) *and* the OHSAA. The **NFHS Rules** are specific to the playing rules while **OHSAA Sports Regulations (and Bylaws)** govern specific rules to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

There have been a few important changes to the administrative regulations for baseball entering this 2012 season. Most significant at this point in time is the removal of a separate "Pitcher/Catcher Start Date". Effective this year, ALL PLAYERS may begin on the same date (Monday, February 20, 2012). Pitchers and Catchers **may not start any earlier than that**.

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 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 with last season, I will be posting "This Week In Baseball" to address current issues and reminders for coaches. I continually update the "Off-Season Q and A's" to address the number of questions involving off-season regulations; all with the idea of HELPING coaches.

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

**Respect
THE
GAME**

The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

OHSBCA

Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

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East, Sr.

Kevin Yoder

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
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.

2012 Important Baseball Dates

- OHSBCA State Clinic: Thursday, January 19, 2012
- Thursday, January 26, 2012: ONLINE Meeting Activated (3:00 p.m.)
- First Day of Coaching: February 20, 2012
- Monday, March 12, 2012: LAST Day for Completion of Rules Meeting before LATE Fee
- Regular Season Contests May Begin: March 26, 2012
- Non-Interscholastic Date: April 16, 2012
- Tournament Seed Meeting: April 29, 2012
- Sectional Tournaments: May 5 – May 12, 2012
- District Tournaments: May 14 – May 19, 2012
- Regional Tournaments: May 24 – May 26, 2012
- State Tournament: May 30, June 1 & June 2, 2012
- No-Contact Period: August 6 – September 3, 2012



Baseball Non-Interscholastic Date

The OHSAA establishes a "non-interscholastic" date for each sport that is 6 weeks from the first tournament date (April 16, 2012 for baseball). Though baseball student-athletes are not permitted to play ANY non-interscholastic baseball (travel, ACME, Legion, etc.) DURING THE SEASON OF PLAY, any player that violates this rule on or after the established 'non-interscholastic date' loses his/her eligibility for the OHSAA tournament at all levels. Please continue to remind your players of the non-interscholastic rule throughout the season.

OHSAA Contact Information

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 Henry Zaborniak
 Kyle McNeely
 Sharon Shoemaker

Assistant Commissioner
 Assistant Commissioner
 Director of Development- Baseball
 Administrative Assistant

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 Officiating Coordinator/Tournament Officiating hزابorniak@ohsaa.org
 Coordinates Education and Recruitment of Umpires jkyle1974@aol.com
 Assists with Coordination: Season/Tournament sshoemaker@ohsaa.org

Baseball Informational Links

- OHSAA Baseball Webpage: www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/default.asp
- OHSAA Baseball Sports' Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rq/lts/11-12BBreg.pdf>
- OHSAA GENERAL Sports' Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rq/lts/GenSportsReg11-12.pdf>
- Baseball Uniform Regulations: www.ohsaa.org/members/uniform.htm#BB
- NFHS (Rules, Field Diagrams, etc.): www.nfhs.org
- Coaches' Education: www.ohsaa.org/EducationAcademy/Coach/default.htm or www.nfhs.org
- The Role of the Parent in Sports: www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=18000
- Ohio HS Baseball Coaches' Association: http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/Home_Page
- "This Week in Baseball": <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2012/TWIB2012.htm>

Rules Interpretation Meeting Information

Though we encourage EVERYONE to complete the Rules Interpretation meeting ONLINE, a limited number of 'face to face' meetings will be offered in 2012. Completion of the meeting, whether online or face to face, is **MANDATORY**. 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.

ONLINE METHOD OF COMPLETION

Officials should access their myOHSAA account. Once in the system, there will be a link for the OFFICIALS online Rules Meeting. Simply log in, completing the required fields and complete the course. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed and the quiz completed for credit to be provided.

The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

The last day for completion of the online version is Monday, March 12, 2012 or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the online version.

Coaches should access the online version by navigating to the OHSAA's BASEBALL webpage at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/default.asp>. You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which can be provided by your school's Athletic Director. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed and any quiz and/or survey completed for attendance credit to be provided. The ONLINE MEETING works BEST with Internet Explorer and the computer MUST have Adobe Flash Player (a free download) to watch the presentation. Currently, iPads do not support Flash Player so the online meeting cannot be viewed on an iPad.

Please do not call the OHSAA office to inquire about attendance. Umpires will have their profile page updated reflecting their attendance periodically (it is NOT immediate). Schools will have their profile page updated periodically reflecting attendance credit. PLEASE do not call the office for verification after completing the online version; profiles are updated periodically and attendance may not be reflected until several days after completion.

"FACE TO FACE" RULES MEETINGS

IF you choose to attend a "Face to Face" State Rules Interpretation meeting, 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>

2012 Baseball State Rules Interpretation Meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
1/30/2012	7:15	Springfield High School (Holland); Auditorium	Daniel Duriss
2/1/2012	7:15	Ashland High School: Cafeteria	Dan Burtscher
2/2/2012	7:15	Beavercreek High School: Auditorium	Jerry Fick
2/7/2012	7:15	Bath (Lima) High School: Cafeteria	Anthony Hattery
2/8/2012	7:15	Mason High School: Auditorium	Jerry Snodgrass
2/9/2012	7:15	Brooklyn High School: Auditorium	Theresa Rice
2/13/2012	7:15	Athens High School: Auditorium	Phillip Lightfoot
2/15/2012	7:15	Ohio University-Zanesville: Auditorium	Raymond Bess
2/16/2012	7:15	Portsmouth High School:	Russell Hopkins
2/21/2012	7:15	Whetstone High School: Auditorium	Daniel Steiner
2/22/2012	7:15	Copley High School: Cafeteria	Edward Galloway
2/23/2012	7:15	Buckeye Career Center (New Philadelphia): Cafeteria	David Gilmore
2/29/2012	7:15	Upper Valley JVS (Piqua): Auditorium	Jerry Fick

Pre-Season Meetings

We have encouraged coaches to invite local umpires to meet with their team and parents at these meetings. 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. Since Pre-Season meetings are a requirement for all teams/schools, we also recommended inviting an umpire to these pre-season meetings. 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 policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations travel plans for away contests, etc. Also, though mentioned later in this manual, a course titled "The Role of the Parent in Sports" has recently been offered by the NFHS and is FREE to parents. Encourage them to watch this VERY informative video course. The course is available through the www.nfhslearn.com website.

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 a Pupil Activity Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education to coach in the state of Ohio. The application for this certificate is available through local schools' (usually the Athletic Director). The application requires:

- Completion an approved Sports' First Aid Course
- The applicant to possess a valid CPR Card
- Completion of the required BCI Background Check
- Completion of the NFHS' "Fundamentals of Coaching" course

The "Fundamentals of Coaching" course through the NFHS is required for **any individual applying for a Pupil Activity Permit** through the Ohio Department of Education. Any individual that currently possesses the Pupil Activity Permit is required to take the course when applying for a new Permit. Completion of the course is a 'one-time' requirement so will not need to be repeated in subsequent renewals of the Pupil Activity Permit. 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>

Effective with the 2012 tournament, all Tournament Entry Forms require schools to list their Board of Education approved coaches along with their valid permit number. **ONLY** those coaches listed on this Entry Form and signed by the school Principal will be permitted to coach in the tournament.

"This Week in Baseball"

Each week (approximately) of the baseball season, an informative newsletter is posted on the OHSAA's baseball webpage to provide current information, helpful suggestions, and current announcements for baseball coaches (and umpires) throughout the state. Questions that may arise during the season can be submitted and answered through this medium for the benefit of ALL coaches in Ohio. I encourage you to provide this link to your assistant/sub-varsity coaches. Each newsletter is archived to allow coaches to view past postings at any time. This link can be accessed directly at: : <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2012/TWIB2012.htm>

Sports Regulation 5.3 and Player Instruction

MANY questions arise regarding players receiving individual instruction from individuals not associated with the school's baseball program. These include instruction from private hitting instructors and pitching instructors. The OHSAA's Sports Regulation 5 addresses this and Sports Regulation 5.3 addresses the specifics of this particular subject. Sports Regulation 5.3 reads:

"Individual skill instruction may be received in any sport by a squad member at any time in individual or group lessons. The coach may not conduct individual or group lessons for a squad member except during June 1 – July 31 and during the season of the sport."

Recently, language was also added to give schools the authority to permit this or NOT permit it within their own teams. Therefore, should a school's administration NOT want to allow players to obtain "outside instruction" during the season, they are given the authority to do so within their own athletic/team policies.

If a school DOES wish to permit players to receive instruction, a few often asked questions are addressed within the "Frequently Asked Questions" portion of this manual.

2012 Baseball BAT REGULATIONS

Bats must NOW be marked with the "BBCOR" certification mark. This new standard, known as the "batted ball Coefficient of Restitution" is the only standard permitted and recognized. This is covered in detail in all Rules Interpretation meetings.

- The "BBCOR mark" is the ONLY standard permitted for Non-Wood Bats (there are some bats that may have BOTH markings and if so...they ARE Legal as long as the BBCOR marking is on the bat.

- Rules require it to be MINIMUM of ONE inch on each side
- Rules require it to be on the BARREL of bat
- Rules require mark to be contrasting color to bat
- Rules require the BBCOR mark to be contrasting color to bat

Wood bats ARE LEGAL.

To be classified as a "wood bat", the bat must be a SINGLE SOLID PIECE OF WOOD.

If the bat is NOT a solid wood bat, it must meet all the requirements of the BBCOR certification...including the 'mark'.

Examples of Non-Wood Bats:

Bamboo Bats

Bats with Metal Handles and Wood Barrels

A "Tamper Evident" protocol was *originally* required as part of the new bat standards. This requirement has been lifted and the NFHS has plans to have a protocol in place by 2015.

Bat Tampering is addressed in the Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis for 2012. It is ILLEGAL and actually a FEDERAL CRIME. **BAT WARMERS** or Warming of the bat with any artificial device is considered ILLEGAL as well.

Jewelry Regulations

Many questions arise early in the season regarding Jewelry regulations. The mere fact jewelry is permitted at the professional level, gives many the belief it is permitted in high schools also. **Jewelry is NOT permitted** and addressed in 2 different NFHS Rules (1-5 Article 12 and Rule 3-3-1d). Only Religious or medical medals may be worn and a Religious medal MUST BE TAPED and worn UNDER the uniform. A medical alert must be taped also and may be visible.

The "Phiten" necklace has gained popularity with professionals relative to the various enhancements it proposes to offer. This titanium necklace is considered JEWELRY and NOT permitted in High Schools.

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.

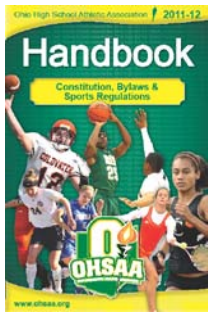
The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

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/GenSportsReg11-12.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 77-78, 2011-12 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 78 of the OHSAA Handbook or through the General Sports Regulations on the web at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg11-12.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 games, scrimmages, Previews, 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. Please read the section later in this manual "Frequently Asked Questions" to get further in-depth information on Non-Interscholastic baseball.

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. As mentioned in the section above, you are encouraged to read the section titled "Frequently Asked Questions" later in this manual to get more in-depth questions answered relative to non-interscholastic baseball.*

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.



A Message from Kyle McNeely, OHSAA Baseball Officials Development Director

The Officials Program

OHSAA Staff

Henry Zaborniak, Assistant Commissioner
Kerri Hudson, Adm. Ass't.
Angie Lawler, Adm. Ass't.
Kim Zaborniak, Adm. Ass't.

Officials Development Coordinators

Lori Powers-Basinger: Gymnastics
Gary Wilkins: Ice Hockey
Don Muenz: Soccer
Jerry Fick: Softball
Ken Gipe: Swimming & Diving
Diane Plas: Volleyball
Jim Vreeland: Wrestling
Bruce Mauer: Football
Dennis Morris: Basketball
Kyle McNeely: Baseball
Dale Gabor: Track & Field
Bill Gardiner: Field Hockey

Welcome to another baseball season in Ohio. This "Pre-Season Manual" has been compiled for coaches and officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to post-season.

Board of Director's action 2 seasons ago adopted a transition from the long standing "District Officials' Committee (DOC)" to individuals directly responsible for officiating oversight in each specific sport. On the left column of this page, you will read the various directors hired to serve in this important role.

Education and Recruitment are the basic cornerstones for the Official Development Directors and as we make strides to improve these areas; the entire sport will stand to reap the benefits. I continue to work hand in hand with Jerry Snodgrass, the OHSAA's Sport Administrator for baseball and continue to serve as the lead interpreter of the NFHS baseball rules. Serving as chair of the National Baseball Rules Committee provides me the opportunity to assist umpires in Ohio to a great degree. The utilization of each local association is critical in the communication necessary to meet our goals for providing quality, continuing education while also emphasizing the recruitment of new, young officials into the umpire ranks. As you know, we began communicating with local associates in "Plays of the Day", etc. last season and the help of local secretaries to disseminate this information is of critical importance.

I continue to look forward to the limitless opportunities this position provides. *Everyone's* efforts, from coaching to administrating to umpiring ultimately benefit our greatest resource: the student-athletes in Ohio.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the officials in Ohio!



Yours In High School Sports,
Kyle McNeely
Officiating Development Director



2012 Rules Information

Rules Changes

- 1-3-2d Clarified the allowable size and usage of the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) mark.
- 1-3-5 Modified the restriction of intentionally altering the temperature of a bat.
- 1-5-8 Clarified how state associations may provide reasonable accommodations
- 1-5-10 Clarified that the umpire is responsible for resolving any compliant equipment issues.
- 3-1-6 Clarified that any amount of blood found on a player's equipment or uniform requires immediate attention.
- 3-3-1g7 Modified the coaching decorum rule for post-game incidents.
- 3-3-1q Clarified where a player's location should be during a fight or physical confrontation.
- 4-1-3a-b Clarified the coach's responsibility for compliant equipment used in a game.
- 6-2-2e Clarified the time allowance for relief pitchers warming up.
- Exception*
- 10-1-2 Clarified the game officials' administrative responsibilities.
- 10-2-3 Modified the officials' responsibility regarding pre-game equipment checks.
- Suggested Double First Base Rule (not used in Ohio)**
Clarified the specific situation when the defensive player would be able to use either the orange or white base
For registering an out.



Minor Editorial Rule Changes

- 8-4-1e Editorial revision to align with 2011 rule change
- Dead Ball and Delayed Dead Ball Table**
Awards or Penalties #2

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. These uniform regulars are posted on the OHSAA website and can be viewed directly by going to www.ohsaa.org/members/uniform.htm#BB

End of Game (Suspended/Complete Game) Procedures

Considerable confusion often arises in the area of complete or suspended games. Recently, it has surfaced that schools and/or leagues have chosen NOT to follow these adopted procedures. It is important that ALL SCHOOLS are informed of this regulation as it MUST be followed. Penalties for non-compliance range from fines to suspension from the OHSAAA Tournament. These procedures are part of the OHSAA Adopted Baseball Regulations and must be followed. These procedures are here to describe Game Ending and Suspended/Interrupted Game procedures.

MOST baseball games end when the team behind in the score completes its turn at bat in the seventh inning (or an extra inning) or when the home team scores the go-ahead run in the seventh inning (or an extra inning). The following exceptions to this are:

- Coaches and the plate umpire may mutually agree to end a game early. This could be in situations where there is a tremendous lead after 2 or 3 innings and both coaches simply agree to end the game. **The score stands and the game is over.**
- Anytime a team has a ten run lead and the team behind in the score has completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning OR the home team takes a ten run lead in the fifth inning, **the game ends.**

Though a game also ends when it is forfeited under NFHS Rule 4-4, no OHSAA contest can be forfeited until **after it has started.**

- A game that is not started is considered a "NO CONTEST", regardless of reason.

Suspended Game Procedures

No game is every 'called' and 'started over' at a later date. When a regular season game is interrupted or suspended for ANY reason and the game cannot be resumed that date, the game will be **SUSPENDED** if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning.

When a game HAS gone beyond the fifth inning, it is a complete game, subject to these TWO EXCEPTIONS:

1. **THE GAME IS TIED.** The OHSAA does not permit any baseball game to end in a tie. All games are considered as "won", "lost", or "suspended". Therefore, **a tied game is a "Suspended" game.**
2. **THE GAME HAS GONE FIVE INNINGS AND THE VISITING TEAM HAS SCORED ONE OR MORE RUNS TO TIE THE SCORE OR TAKE THE LEAD AND THE HOME TEAM HAS NOT RE-TAKEN THE LEAD AND THE GAME IS CALLED WHILE AN INNING IS IN PROGRESS BUT BEFORE IT IS COMPLETED.**

Examples of Completed/Suspended Games

1. In a regular season game, the home team is ahead 2-0 after FIVE innings and:
 - The game is called prior to the start of the sixth inning due to darkness: **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
 - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count on the batter and the game cannot be completed: **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
 - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning reaches base and the game is called. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
 - The visiting team scores one run in the top of the sixth inning and the game is called at any time during the sixth inning. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
 - The visiting team scores two runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not complete, nor does the home team re-take the lead in the bottom half of the sixth inning. **Ruling: SUSPENDED GAME**
 - The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not completed nor does the home team retake the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. **Ruling: SUSPENDED GAME**
 - The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the home team retakes the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game is called later in the bottom half of the sixth inning or after six complete innings. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**

When a suspended game is completed, it shall be continued from the point of suspension with batting orders and lineups the same. Substitutions may be made. Any player that may have been suspended from the original contest is suspended and not able to play in the resumed game. Suspended games tha



Rules by State Association Adoption

The NFHS Rules permits each state the right to adopt certain rules that are specific to that state. These are known as “State Adoptions” and Ohio’s stance (Adopted or Not Adopted) are listed below.

Rule 1-4-4 (Pages 12-13)

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

Rule 1-2-9 (page 9)

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

NOT ADOPTED in Ohio

Rule 2-33-1 (page 23)

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.

Rule 4-2-4 (page 32-33)

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

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.

PLEASE SEE EXAMPLES IN OTHER PLACES IN THIS MANUAL.

ADOPTED in Ohio

Rule 4-3-1 (page 33)

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 in Ohio.

Rule 4-4-1a (page 33)

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:

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 a team to arrive, strikes, school closings are “No Contest.” Contests not played are not included in won-lost statistics.

Rule 6-1-6 (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.

Games that are NOT resumed, no matter how many innings have been played, are considered "NO CONTEST"

2012 Points of Emphasis



1. Coach's Responsibility
2. Altering of Bats
3. Pace of the Game
4. Good Sporting Behavior

Taken from pages 65 & 66 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." 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: The role of the head coach is not only very prominent in the community but bears tremendous responsibility. As highlighted in this year's rules changes, the head coach is responsible for being a teacher, role model and mentor. He is required to know and verify that each team member is properly attired and has equipment that meets the standards set by NFHS rules. Besides being the only coach responsible for communications with umpires, he is responsible for appropriate behavior-modeling before, during and after a contest. Everyone involve understands the importance of the role of the coach and he awesome opportunity he has to teach life lessons to willing and capable young people.

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.

Pace of the Game: The NFHS Rules 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.

Good Sporting Behavior: Coaches and umpires must work together. Each contest is another opportunity for coaches and umpires to teach not only baseball skills, but also model respectful behavior as well as professional relationships. 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.

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 2010 count. These divisions will remain the same for the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school year. Divisional Breakdowns are based upon the following enrollments:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	379 and more	194
II	220-378	193
III	128-219	194
IV	127 and less	193

Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2012 is **April 29, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m.**

State Tournament Dates & Order of Games

May 31, June 1 & 2, 2012

Huntington Park, Columbus

Division II, Division I, Division III, Division IV

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 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.

Northwest District: www.nwdab.org

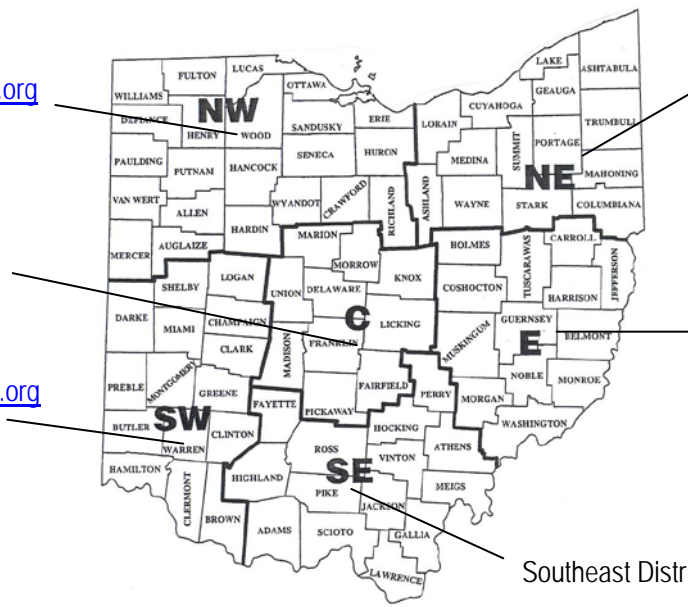
Northeast District: www.nedab.org

Central District: www.cdab.org

East District: www.eastohsaa.org

Southwest District: www.swdab.org


Southeast District: www.sedab.org



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
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.

- **Over Scheduling**

Scheduling more contests than the sport's regulations permit in any sport is **NOT PERMITTED**. A few short years ago, the weather in Ohio was actually good enough for nearly every regular season game to be completed. There were teams that reportedly had overscheduled and then had to cancel contracts. This led to contract disputes which could not be settled, ultimately reaching the Commissioner's office. Financial penalties apply in cases of contract disputes *even if there is no financial clause listed on the contract*. Over scheduling is not permitted in any sport.

- **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

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 umpire 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 filed with the OHSAA.**
- The OHSAA's "Officiating Page" has been reconstructed and the "Ejection Report" is still on the Officiating Home page. Umpires filing this report should go to the www.ohsaa.org web site, Select the "Officiating-Home" drop down screen from the Officiating site. Once on the Officiating-Home page, you will find the Ejection Form" at the top half of the page
- **Ejection Reports are now completed and submitted ELECTRONICALLY. Simply click the 'submit' button and it will be transmitted to our staff. Umpires DO NOT NEED TO SEND THIS REPORT TO THE SCHOOLS.....THE OHSAA WILL DO THAT.**
- 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. The responsibility for compliance rests with the school's administration.
- COACHES are required to LEAVE the premises immediately. If no assistant coach is present, the game is over.
- PLAYERS are to remain in the BENCH AREA under the supervision of the coach.
- With the Rule change two years ago 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.

Special Note Regarding Ejections:

Coach ejections in baseball continue to lead ALL sports for the total number of ejections. Though every ejection has its own story, do not call the OHSAA office asking for an appeal of the ejection. It will not and cannot be overturned. The circumstances surrounding the ejection can and should be expressed on the "School Response Form" that will be received by the school after the ejection occurs.

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.

Fines WILL be levied and suspensions administered in accordance with this Board adopted regulation when it is violated. (See Sports Regulations "Media Regulations", Section B, page 78, OHSAA Handbook).

The Ohio High School Athletic Association
Baseball
Game Introductions



Welcome to _____ High School. Ladies and Gentlemen to honor America, would you please rise, gentlemen remove your caps and join in singing our National Anthem; The Star Spangled Banner.

Play National Anthem

After National Anthem: Good afternoon, on behalf of _____ High School, welcome to today's baseball game between _____ and _____.

The OHSAA takes great pride in the conduct of all student-athletes and working with schools to promote good sportsmanship and the values of school-based athletics. We encourage you to cheer for your team during today's game and to show both teams the same respect you'd like them to display. This keeps with those values and ideals. Spectators are reminded that unruly behavior may result in immediate ejection from the premises. The athletic departments of BOTH schools appreciate your cooperation.

Visiting Team:

Home Team:

	#	Name	Position		#	Name	Position
1.					1.		
2.					2.		
3.					3.		
4.					4.		
5.					5.		
6.					6.		
7.					7.		
8.					8.		
9.					9.		
P					P		

The Head Coach for _____ (Visiting team) is _____ and he is assisted by _____.

The Head Coach for _____ (Home team) is _____ and the assistant coaches are: _____.

Immediately following each half inning:

In that inning for _____:

- _____ Runs
- _____ Hits:
- _____ Errors:
- and _____ LOB

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

Concussion Management

The OHSAA has made a concerted effort to provide educational resources to member schools on this vital topic of concussion management. One of the most significant rule changes for all sports from the NFHS deals with Concussion Management. The following are resources that are currently available:

1. **Suggested Guidelines for Concussion Management in Sport** – a publication from the NFHS
<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Suggested%20Guidelines%20for%20Concussion%20Management%20in%20Sports.pdf>
2. **Questions vital to diagnosing concussion** – Q& A and a video from an ESPN special on concussions -
<http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/e60/news/story?id=5162747>
3. **Concussion in Sports – What you Need to Know** - A 20-minute course at no cost to the user is available at www.nfhslearn.com. The course was designed for coaches, parents, officials and students to assist in recognizing the signs and symptoms of concussion and to take the appropriate steps to manage them. The OHSAA strongly suggests that schools include this course in the preseason meetings with coaches, parents and students.
4. **Centers for Disease Control – Resources to Prevent and Recognize Concussions** - <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Concussion>
5. **Fact Sheets for Parents, Coaches and Athletes** - <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/ParentsFactsheet.pdf>
<http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/CoachGuide%20on%20Concussion.pdf>; <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/AthleteFactsheet.pdf>
6. Video from the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association – Recognizing Sports Concussions
http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/Concussion%20Stuff/DVD_1_0000.wmv

The OHSAA has adopted the following sports regulation:

Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared **with written authorization** by an appropriate health care professional.

In Ohio, an "appropriate health care professional" shall be a **physician**, as authorized under ORC Chapter 4731 and includes both doctors of medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) and an **athletic trainer, licensed** under ORC Chapter 4755.

The OHSAA strongly suggests that schools include the "Concussion Recognition Course" at pre-season meetings with coaches, parents and students.

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 and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

Lightning and Inclement Weather

Emphasis on Lightning and Inclement Weather is addressed as an OHSAA Sports Regulation (20). 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.

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 Asked 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.

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/Fields at the High School level?

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

Can coaches run "Open Fields" in the August 1 – August 8 period of time?

Answer: Yes, but under the strict guidelines of the definition of "Open Fields/Facilities/Gyms". No instruction can take place during any Open Field.

What can we as coaches do during an Open Field?

Answer: Coaches may supervise the Open Field. Open Fields cannot be made mandatory. Open Fields 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. Under no circumstances may Open Fields be a disguise for an early start to practice.

What can coaches do during Conditioning Programs?

Answer: First, conditioning programs cannot be made mandatory. Sports' Regulation #6 starting on page 62 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 Permit 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 which limits them to the same out of season coaching limitations as paid staff members.

Can volunteer coach players from the school team during the June 1 – July 31 period of time?

Answer: Basically, 'yes', but when teams are playing with more than 50% of a schools' roster (4), the days of coaching/instruction must be counted in the 10 total permitted to the staff. If the non-interscholastic team is comprised of LESS than 4 players from the school, the days coaching that team in TEAM COMPETITION do not count toward the 10 days permitted to that coaching staff.

What if I INSTRUCT only ONE (or up to FOUR) players in hitting instruction during the June 1 – July 31 period. Do THOSE days count?

Answer: Yes. When it comes to INSTRUCTION, a 'day is a day'. ALL days count toward the 10 permitted to a staff.

Can a volunteer coach players from the school team during the "Off-season" 'travel baseball' (or other non-school baseball)?

Answer: No. A volunteer coach is restricted to the same out-of-season (non-interscholastic) rules that a paid coach is restricted to.

If my son or daughter plays on a Non-Interscholastic team (such as "club" or "travel") can I coach them if I am a school coach?

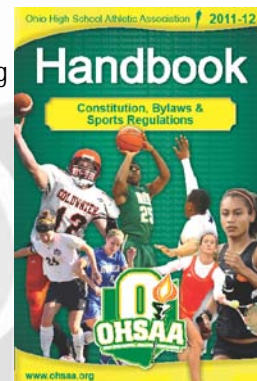
Answer: Only during the June 1 – July 31 period of time. Coaching one's own players is prohibited outside the season other than those dates and no exception is provided for families.

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" and like programs during the season of play. Coaches should go to great lengths to explain this to players on their teams and remind them periodically throughout the season.

When CAN a player on my team participate in Non-Interscholastic Baseball?

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 "travel" or "ACME" or "Legion ball")?

Answer: FOUR (4). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic roster during all months except May 25, 2012 (the Friday prior to Memorial Day) and July 31, 2012 to no more than 50% of those that make up a starting lineup of a team. In baseball that magic number is 4.

How are players 'considered' when Middle School/Junior High players play with High School players in the off-season?

Answer: Players are considered middle school/junior high until August 1 of their 9th grade year and are considered separate as it relates to participating on non-interscholastic teams. For example; 4- 8th graders could participate on a "Club" (non-interscholastic) team along with 4- 9th graders from the same school. They are considered separate.

During the summer when instruction is permitted (June 1 – July 31), 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 (from June 1 – July 31) that consists of only 5 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 AND it must be in TEAM COMPETITION.

In the above, it is stated that it must be in "Team Competition". Explain that.

Answer: When a non-school 'summer' team is comprised of 4 or less players from the same school, a coach may coach that team (ONLY during June 1 – July 31) without those days counting toward the 10 'instructional days' permitted to a staff **if and only if**, the coaching is done during TEAM play. This is NOT true, and all days must count toward 1 of the 10, when instruction is provided to a school team member during June and July whether there is 1 player there or 100 players there.

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.

Are players permitted to receive "private" instruction from individuals such as pitching instructors or hitting instructors DURING the season of play?

Answer: Yes...if your school athletic administration approves it. Sports' Regulation 5.3 DOES permit individuals to receive Individual Skill Instruction at ANY TIME in Individual or Group lessons. Any board approved COACH, however, may only provide that instruction during the season of play or during one of the 10 days provided to coach between June 1 and July 31.

One of my players was selected to play in a BASKETBALL or FOOTBALL All-Star game during the baseball season. Is he permitted to play in that contest?

Answer: Yes. The regulations that prohibit players from playing non-interscholastic BASEBALL during the baseball season. They do not prevent a player from playing in another sport.

Given the above, does that mean a baseball player is permitted to play on an AAU Basketball team during the baseball season?

Answer: Yes. The player would not be violating any OHSAA Sports' Regulations.

Given the above, does this also mean that a player could be on our school's track team while also being on the school's baseball team?

Answer: Yes. Any limitations on that would be imposed by individual schools.

Can players participate in "Hitting Leagues" during the off-season?

Answer: Yes, however, they are limited to the 50% limitation of 4 players from the same school on the same "hitting league" team.

Since weather issues often force games to be made up LATE in the season, how late can we actually play a game?

Answer: The last game for a game to be played is the Saturday after the state tournament (June 9 in 2012).

IF we have to make up games late in the season, can our players play for their summer teams while still completing our regular schedule?

Answer: NO. All non-interscholastic rules are in effect during the season, regardless of how late the season goes.

What is meant by the “Non-Interscholastic Date” and when is it?

Answer: The “Non-Interscholastic Date” for baseball is **April 16, 2013**. Though baseball players are not permitted to tryout, practice OR compete for any non-interscholastic team during the season of play, any player that does so ON or AFTER this date renders a player ineligible for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other penalties.

I have a player that has been selected to participate in a “Home Run Derby” contest during the season. Is he permitted to do this?

Answer: Yes. A contest such as this is not considered as “non-interscholastic baseball” and is permitted to do this. One should pay CLOSE ATTENTION to the prizes being offered and the amateur rules associated with the contest.

Can a school approved coach coach a non-school team (i.e. ‘travel’) during the same time he is coaching the school team?

Answer: Yes. The OHSAA has not regulation prohibiting this. However, it does not waive any of the “Recruiting Bylaw” defined in detail in Section 9 of Bylaw 4. Coaches that do this should pay special attention to this Bylaw to not attempt to circumvent the “Recruiting Bylaw”.

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 take my team out of state just to practice?

Answer: No.

Can my team practice while out of state to a permitted tournament?

Answer: Yes. OHSAA Bylaw 9 permits a team to practice out of state while part of an approved out of state competition.

Are we permitted to schedule MORE than 27 contests in the event we have rainouts?

Answer: No. Teams are NOT permitted to over schedule. Consider the consequences; 2 years ago, the weather in Ohio was GREAT. There was talk that many teams DID over schedule and were forced to ‘drop’ or cancel contracts. There are serious repercussions for breaking contracts, whether financial penalties exist on the contract or not. With the internet communication, games are easy to pick up if you need games.

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.

Can teams practice with another school?

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

Can a School team play against a non-school team?

Answer: Yes. Ohio is one of the few states that do not regulate ‘who’ its teams participate against.

Can a girl play on a baseball team, even if the school has softball?

Answer: Yes. Regardless of whether or not a school has a softball team, a girl may play on a baseball team if the school has no policy against it. A girl that does so is limited to playing on the baseball team only and cannot move back and forth between baseball and softball.

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

"Face to Face" State Rules Interpretation meeting dates & locations are listed in the beginning of this manual. Additionally, OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at on the web at www.ohsaa.org. Under "Officiating" select "Local/State Rules Meetings" then "Local Rules Meetings" and on the left side, select "Baseball"

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 explained earlier in this manual (available on the "Officiating Home" page of the OHSAA website). 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 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 "baseball world" 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 closer or a great 2 strike hitter. 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 – 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.

An **EXCELLENT** resource for PARENTS is a course developed by the NFHS, which is FREE and easily accessible to all parents. The course; *The Role of the Parent in Sports*, is excellent in promoting sportsmanship and the ideals of school-based athletics and available through the “NFHS Learn” website or directly at: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=18000>. Encourage parents of your players to take this course!