



2010 Softball Manual

For Coaches & Officials



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place ~ Columbus, OH 43214

(614) 267-2502 ~ (614) 267-1677 (fax)

www.ohsaa.org

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Enclosures

COACHES	OFFICIALS
2010 NFHS Softball Rule Book	2010 NFHS Softball Rule Book
	2010 NFHS Softball Case Book
	2010 NFHS Softball Guide
	2010-11 NFHS Softball Umpires Manual

TO: Softball Coaches and Officials

FROM: Roxanne Price, Assistant Commissioner

RE: OHSAA Softball Regulations and Related Materials

This softball manual is intended as a guide to assist with the coaching, officiating, and administration of interscholastic softball. Included in this manual are the sports regulations for softball as adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors, and the NFHS Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis. Also, you will find information on the rules interpretation meetings scheduled for the 2010 season. Additional information regarding the OHSAA bylaws and constitution can be found in the current edition of the OHSAA Handbook or on our website at www.ohsaa.org. Please refer to our handbook or website for information regarding scholarship, residency, transfers, recruiting, non-interscholastic participation and other issues that may affect a student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics. In addition, you will find the general sports regulations that apply to all recognized sports of the OHSAA on our website.

The 2010 Preseason **Manual also includes information regarding OHSAA Points of Emphasis, such as Game Ending Procedures and Field Markings.** Please note that OHSAA Game Ending Procedures may vary from NFHS Rules.

It is mandatory that each school that sponsors softball, send a representative to a rules interpretation meeting. The head varsity coach, assistant coach, or an athletic administrator from each school that sponsors a softball team is required to attend at least one meeting. **Attendance is required in order to be eligible to enter the OHSAA sponsored tournament.** In order to receive credit for attending a meeting, you must be present within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and stay until the conclusion of the meeting. **Please bring the attendance card used to mail the preseason manual to the rules interpretation meeting that you attend. If you do not have the attendance card, you can complete a coach/officials attendance card at the meeting.**

The NFHS Softball Rules Book and the OHSAA Softball Regulations will serve as the official rules of Softball. The OHSAA may have modified some NFHS rules so that they are in alignment with OHSAA sports regulations. The NFHS Rules Book is provided to each member school sponsoring softball as a courtesy by the OHSAA. Each OHSAA softball official will receive a case book as well as an umpires manual.

You are being mailed this manual because your school has indicated that it will sponsor softball on myOHSAA. Your school may have also indicated that it will enter the state softball tournament. If your school has indicated that it will participate in the state tournament and does not enter a team in the state tournament, there will be a penalty of \$150 assessed if the OHSAA does not receive correspondence through myOHSAA by April 26 that your school will not enter a softball team in the postseason tournament.

Again, these materials have been provided to assist you with the coaching, officiating, and administration of softball. Take the time to read and review the materials. If you have any questions, or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 267-2502, ext. 114 or email me at rprice@ohsaa.org. Email correspondence is preferred.

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.

CALENDAR

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

Those coaches or umpires who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting or the scheduled make-up meeting may request a special make-up meeting from one of the interpreters listed below. The fee for a special make-up meeting is \$50.00.

Softball umpires who fail to attend one of these meetings will be suspended the following year and will be ineligible for tournament assignments in the current year.

Individuals attending the rules meeting must be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain until the conclusion of the meeting to receive attendance credit.

INTERPRETERS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Jerry Fick	513-563-2755	swdoc@fuse.net
Phil Kiser	614-868-0859	pkiser9947@aol.com
Roxanne Price	614-267-2502 Ext. 114	rprice@ohsaa.org
Jim Wharton	614-832-4786	heyblueump@hotmail.com

The 2010 schedule of softball rules meetings is listed on the next page. Please check the OHSAA website at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx> frequently to check for changes/updates to the meeting schedule. Rules meeting date and times may need to be adjusted due to inclement weather.

The first softball rules meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2010 at the Easton Hilton, Columbus, Ohio as part of the OHSFSCA clinic. You must register for this meeting with the Softball Coaches Association.

2010 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS

See www.ohsaa.org for regular updates to the Rules Interpretation Meetings

1/28/2010 - 6:00 PM	Columbian High School 300 E. Monroe St., Auditorium, Tiffin, OH 44883	BRETT WILLOUGHBY
2/1/2010 - 6:00 PM	Geneva High School 1301 S. Ridge Rd., Auditorium, Geneva, OH 44041	MICHAEL SMITH
2/1/2010 - 6:00 PM	Lakewood High School 14100 Franklin Blvd., Auditorium, Lakewood, OH 44107	THERESA RICE
2/3/2010 - 6:00 PM	Ashland High School 1440 King Rd., Cafeteria, Ashland, OH 44805	DAN BURTSCHER
2/3/2010 - 6:00 PM	Logan Middle School 1 Middle School Dr. Logan, OH 43138	PHILLIP LIGHTFOOT
2/4/2010 - 6:00 PM	Austintown-Fitch High School 4560 Falcon Dr., Auditorium, Youngstown, OH 44515	JOHN MANG
2/4/2010 - 6:00 PM	East Clinton High School 174 Larrick Rd., Cafeteria, Lees Creek, OH 45138	CHARLES MC MILLAN
2/8/2010 - 6:00 PM	Springfield High School 1470 S. McCord Rd., Auditorium, Holland, OH 43528	DANIEL MILLER
2/10/2010 - 6:00 PM	Four County Career Center Rt. 66 & Rt. 34, Meyer Learning Center, Archbold, OH 43502	ROBERT WURM
2/10/2010 - 6:00 PM	Grant Career Center State Route 125, Auditorium, Bethel, OH 45106	JERRY FICK
2/11/2010 - 6:00 PM	Buckeye Career Center 545 University Dr. NE, Cafeteria, New Philadelphia, OH 44663	DAVID GILMORE
2/11/2010 - 6:00 PM	Portsmouth High School 1225 Gallia St. Portsmouth, OH 45662	RUSSELL HOPKINS
2/16/2010 - 6:00 PM	Copley High School 3807 Ridgewood Rd., Auditorium, Copley, OH 44321	EDWARD GALLOWAY
2/17/2010 - 6:00 PM	Mayfield High School 6116 Wilson Mills Rd., Cafeteria 8-9, Mayfield Heights, OH 44143	MICHAEL MAKOHUS
2/17/2010 - 6:00 PM	North Ridgeville High School 34600 Bainbridge Rd., Cafeteria, North Ridgeville, OH 44035	CHERYL OPPERMAN
2/17/2010 - 6:00 PM	Upper Valley JVS 8811 Career Dr., Hartzell Auditorium, Piqua, OH 45373	DERON BROWN
2/18/2010 - 6:00 PM	Bath High School 2850 Bible Rd., Cafeteria, Lima, OH 45801	DAVID MAY
2/22/2010 - 6:00 PM	Unioto Junior High School 160 Moundsville Rd., Auditorium, Chillicothe, OH 45601	GLEN SCHMIDT
2/24/2010 - 6:00 PM	Ohio University Zanesville 1425 Newark Rd., Auditorium, Zanesville, OH 43701	RAYMOND BESS
2/25/2010 - 6:00 PM	Kettering Middle School 3000 Glengarry Dr., Auditorium, Kettering, OH 45420	BERNIE HARRIS
2/25/2010 - 6:00 PM	Tri-Rivers Career Center 2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Rd., Multi-purpose Room, Marion, OH 43302	LYLE MC WILLIAMS
2/28/2010 - 3:00 PM	Springfield High School 701 E. Home Rd., Cafeteria, Springfield, OH 45503	HUBERT MOON JR
3/2/2010 - 6:00 PM	Dublin Jerome High School 8300 Hyland-Croy Rd., Theatre, Dublin, OH 43016	DANIEL STEINER
3/3/2010 - 6:00 PM	Princeton High School 11080 Chester Rd., Auditorium, Cincinnati, OH 45246	JERRY FICK
3/8/2010 - 4:30 PM	\$50.00 Fee - Makeup - OHSAA Headquarters 4080 Roselea Pl., Board Room, Columbus, OH 43214	Jerry Snodgrass

Those coaches or umpires who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting or the scheduled make-up meeting may request a special make-up meeting from one of the interpreters listed above. Such meeting must be held no later than Monday, April 5, 2010. The fee for a Special Make-up Meeting is \$50.00. Requests after the above date must be addressed to Assistant Commissioner, Roxanne Price.

2010 IMPORTANT DATES

2010 OHSAA Softball Calendar	
February 22	First Day of Coaching Pitchers and Catchers Only
March 8	First Day of Coaching
March 19	First Day H.S. Preview Permitted
March 29	Season Begins
April 19	Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted (see Softball Regulation 4.9 for additional information)
May 8- May 15	Sectional Tournament
May 17 - May 22	District Tournament
May 26 - May 29	Regional Tournament
June 3 - June 5	State Tournament
June 12	Coaching and Season Ends
August 9- September 6	Coaches' No Contact Period

OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
Roxanne Price	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	rprice@ohsaa.org
Henry Zaborniak	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees officials programs & tournament assignments	hزابorniak@ohsaa.org
Renee Moore	Administrative Assistant	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	rmoore@ohsaa.org
Jerry Fick	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	swdoc@fuse.net
Phil Kiser	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	pkiser9947@aol.com
Jim Wharton	State Rules Interpreter	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	heyblueump@hotmail.com

SOFTBALL LINKS

National Association of Sports Officials	www.naso.org
National Federation of State High School Associations	www.nfhs.org
National Fast Pitch Coaches Association	www.nfca.org
Ohio High School Athletic Association	www.ohsaa.org
Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association	www.ohsfca.org

COACHES

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL FAST PITCH SOFTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION (OHSFSCA)

www.ohsfscsca.org

The Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association (OHSFSCA) is a non-profit organization designed to help promote high school softball in the state of Ohio. Membership in the OHSFSCA is open to all high school coaches in the state. The OHSFSCA is run by an Executive Committee and assisted by the local district officers.

Please visit their website for additional information regarding the softball clinic, the Hall of Fame, All-Ohio honors, membership forms, executive board contact information, etc.

2009-10 OHSFSCA Executive Board Directory

Title	Name	E-Mail	Phone
President	Bill Amero	billamero@yahoo.com	330-501-7506 (C)
President-Elect	Brenda Radabaugh	bradabaugh@oregoncs.org	419-693-0665 (W)
Past President	Mike Huff	Mhuff72@yahoo.com	614-578-2520 (C)
Secretary	Charles Tackett	cetackett@tippcity.k12.oh.us	937-667-8448 (W)
Treasurer	Jim Culler	cullersb@aol.com	330-325-9222 (H)
Clinic Director	Bill Matthews	bill_matthews@amherstk12.org	440-988-4433 (W)
Asst. Clinic Director	Sharon Monas	nedsecretary@roadrunner.com	440-417-2322 (C)
OHSAA Representative	Kevin Moody	Kevin_moody@hboe.org	614-582-7717 (C)

Please review the OHSFSCA website for a complete list of executive board members, www.ohsfscsca.org

COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

(From www.nfhs.org and the NFHS Softball Rules Book)

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student-athlete should be treated as though he or she was the coaches' own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFCA Board of Directors.

The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student-athletes, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The coach shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

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

Before and after contests, **coaches** for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration. A coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **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 be respectful. 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**

During your pre-season preparations, 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 COMMUNICATE 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. Thanks so much for your assistance!

- **Importance of Coaches Rating Umpires**

Each year coaches are required to rate umpires that work their varsity contests. Please take advantage of this opportunity and take the time to rate the umpires. Rating is done online and information regarding the procedure will be sent electronically to school athletic administrators. Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament. Please note that school athletic administrators can provide the OHSAA with a list of up to 15 umpires that have received favorable ratings.

- **Inquiries**

The 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 softball regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSFSCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information is provided on page 7 of this manual and can be found on their website (www.ohsfscsca.org).

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

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.

- **Equipment – Worth**

Worth is the "Official Softball" of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. For 2010, our tournament ball will be the WorthC12RYL-OH softball.

GAME PROCEDURES

EJECTION REPORT FORM PROCEDURES

- Following the contest, the official shall contact the Athletic Director or Principal of the violator's school to advise the administration of the ejection. Contact may be made after the game if an administrator is present or by phone the morning on the first school day after the contest. Ejection Reports can be located online at www.ohsaa.org.
- Report form must be completed
 - One copy sent to OHSAA
 - 2nd copy retained for your records
 - **3rd copy ALONG WITH RESPONSE FORM-MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFENDING SCHOOL**
- If there is an ejection, a report **must** be completed. Please do not eject an individual if the proper penalty is a "restriction to the bench" per NFHS regulations.
- Please refer to the second page of an "Officials Report" for detailed information regarding required reports, requested reports, and specific ejection protocol.

MEDICAL & SAFETY

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at www.ohsaa.org and at www.nfhs.org :

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found in the front of the NFHS Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
 - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
 - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
 - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
 - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER (OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Beginning in the fall of **2009**, the policy on lightning and inclement weather has changed from recent policies. The current Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy states:

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 lightning 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 any 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 shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation** – If lightning 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 **mandatory** 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.**

OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS

(From www.nfhs.org and the NFHS Softball Rules Book)

Officials at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

Officials shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We also recommended inviting an official(s) to a pre-season meeting with team parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the game. Many of you already participate in such activities, but for those that do not, please get involved!

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Annual renewal cards are sent to the address the OHSAA has on file, failure to notify the OHSAA will result in your not receiving the renewal card.

Address changes are now to be submitted via www.myOHSAA.org . Please log-on in order to make the appropriate changes.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

The approved uniform for interscholastic softball umpires is the gray or heather gray color pants with an MLU navy shirt with the OHSAA **embroidered** logo on the right breast (Note: It is not permissible to wear a long sleeve garment under a short sleeve shirt). Undershirts or t-shirts shall be red. When needed, a navy blue jacket or coat shall be worn. Official OHSAA apparel shall be purchased from only OHSAA authorized dealers. All umpires on a crew **must be dressed alike**. Navy caps with OHSAA printed in block letters on the crown must be worn and shall be purchased only from licensed dealers. No jewelry may be worn except wedding band, medical ID, religious medal, or a timing device. Emblems and patches are not permitted on the officiating uniform. The new OHSAA logo will be required for the 2013 softball season.

Penalty for an improper uniform - Fine not to exceed \$100.

COACHES RATING PROCEDURES

PLEASE VIEW OUR WEBSITE, WWW.OHSAA.ORG , AND BE PREPARED TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION THROUGH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNING THE RATING SYSTEM THAT COACHES WILL USE TO EVALUATE CONTEST OFFICIALS WHO ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENT.

OFFICIALS, PLEASE LOG INTO *myOHSAA* TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO YOUR ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, ETC.

OHSAA LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at www.ohsaa.org . Under "Officiating" select Local/State Rules Meetings. Select Local Rules Meetings on the left side, sport: fast pitch softball

OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS-2009-10

(Applies to ALL sports – Can be found at www.ohsaa.org and in the OHSAA Handbook)

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Tournament Regulations are available at www.ohsaa.org (after approval at the January Board meeting). On the website, under “Sports” select softball. Tournament Regulations are listed under Tournament Information on the left side.

RULES INFORMATION

NFHS Softball Rule Changes 2010

Rule	Change
1-1-2b	Changed the female fast-pitch pitching distance to 43 feet effective with the 2010-11 academic year. Note: Individual state associations are permitted to adopt the 43 feet distance in 200-10 if desired. (OHIO WILL NOT ADOPT THE 43 FEET DISTANCE UNTIL THE 2011 SEASON) .
1-5	Identified and specified guidelines for each part of the bat, including: knob, handle/grip, taper, barrel and end cap. In addition, the rule clarifies that the taper must be a solid surface.
3-2-12	Added an exception to permit hard, unadorned devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips, no longer than 2 inches, to be worn to control a player's hair.
9-6-6	Changes the required number of innings pitched to half of the total number of innings played in the game for a starting pitcher to be credited with a win.

Major Editorial Revisions 2010

Rule	Change
1-3-3	An eighth of an inch was added to the maximum circumference of both 11- and 12-inch softballs, to 11 ¼ and 12 ¼ respectively.
2-20-1f	Clarified that a batted ball is fair if it first falls or is first touched on or over fair territory beyond first, second or third base.
3-1-3	Clarified that a team's lineup card shall include the first initial and last name of each player.
3-2-7	Clarified that exposed undergarments must be a solid color.
8-2-9 Note	Added a note to clarify that the batter-runner is called out when she hits an infield fly even when the infield fly is not initially called, if brought to the umpire's attention before the next pitch.

NFHS 2010 Points of Emphasis

The NFHS has identified the following as points of emphasis for 2010. Additional information can be found on pages 81-83 of the rule book.

- Illegal Pitch Enforcement
- Three Foot Running Lane
- Non-Traditional Game Equipment
- DP/FLEX Rule

2009-10 OHSAA State Association Adoptions

The National Federation has identified the following items (page 79 of the rules book) that may or may not be adopted by each state association (those addressing slow pitch have been excluded as they are not applicable in Ohio). The OHSAA adoptions are indicated as such.

1-2-1 NOTE: A double first base is permitted. (8-10).- **Adopted in OH**

3-2-1 State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons.

4-2-3 By state association adoption, game ending procedures may be determined. **Adopted in OH (see game ending procedures outlined in OHSAA Points of Emphasis).**

4-2-3 NOTE 2: By state association adoption, the number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five innings, current state association game- ending procedures still apply. **Adopted in OH**

Game ending procedures adopted in Ohio are as follows:

1. A game may end anytime after 5 innings, when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat for regular season and tournament games.
2. If a game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game, provided the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead.
3. 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 (6 1/2 or 7 innings); however, the 10 run rule applies.

NOTE: By state association adoption, a game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such games will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so (OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.41).

4-2-6 By state association adoption, the tiebreaker procedure may be instituted at a point in the game specified by the state association. **NOT adopted in OH**

4-3-1-a State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams. **NOT adopted in OH**

Rule 4-3-1a is not applicable in Ohio. OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.3 supersedes and reads as follows: "Any scheduled regular season contest in fast pitch softball which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as, failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings are 'No Contest.' Contests not played are not included in won-lost statistics." In fast pitch softball, no game is subject to forfeiture unless the contest has been started.

4-4-1 It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted. **NOT adopted in OH**

NFHS Rule 4-4-1 regarding a protested game is not applicable in Ohio. The OHSAA Handbook, Bylaw 8-3-1 states : "Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials during the contest will not be considered and the Commissioner does not have the authority to order contest replayed. The decisions and interpretations of the officials are final."

5-2-1b

Note After 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or by state association adoption, suspended. **NOT adopted in OH**

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (OHSAA) POINTS OF EMPHASIS-2010

- **Softball Game Ending and Suspended/interrupted Game Procedures**

Most softball games end when the team behind in the score completes its turn at bat in the seventh inning (or an extra inning) or the home team scores the go ahead run in the seventh inning (or any extra inning). This rule is adjusted when both schools have agreed to play a five inning game when multiple regular season games (such as a doubleheader) are scheduled for the same day.

- Under OHSAA rules any game also ends whenever 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. In the event the visiting team holds a ten run lead after the sixth inning or the home team takes a ten run lead in the bottom of the sixth inning, the ten run rule would apply (there is no ten run rule in a scheduled five inning game). In addition any game will also end when both head coaches and the plate umpire mutually agree to shorten and terminate the game. A game will also end when it is forfeited under NFHS rule 4-3-3, however, in OHSAA play not game can be forfeited until after it has started. A game which cannot be started for any reason is a "No Contest." All of these rules apply equally to regular season and tournament games.
- Under OHSAA rules, games are never 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 day the game will be suspended if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning. **If a regular season contest has gone beyond this point (fifth inning) it is a complete game, subject to two important exceptions:**
 1. Tie game- the OHSAA does not permit contests to end in a tie. All games are won, lost, or suspended. *Therefore, tie games are suspended.* Any game is also suspended when it...
 2. 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 retaken the lead **AND** the game is called while an inning is in progress but before it has been completed.
- 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. **Suspended games that are not resumed are a "No Contest."**

Examples Of Completed Games Are As Follows:

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. **Ruling: Complete Game**
 - the first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count and the game is called. **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 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 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 of the sixth or after six innings. **Ruling- Complete Game**

POINTS OF EMPHASIS – FIELD MARKINGS

Please note for the 2011 softball season, the pitching distance will move to 43 feet from 40 feet.

SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2004 we created a Softball Advisory Committee to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas among coaches, officials, and administrators. The committee meets annually in June to discuss a variety of issues. The committee members listed below may solicit feedback from you throughout the season. In addition, if you have ideas or suggestions, please feel free to pass them along to any committee member for consideration at our annual meeting.

2009-2010 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	NAME	SCHOOL	E-MAIL
Coaches	Jeff "Odie" Estep	Symmes Valley HS	Jestep_sv@scoca-k12.org
	Julie Barber	St. Francis DeSales HS	jbarber1414@yahoo.com
	Angelo Forte	Hilliard Davidson HS	angelo_forte@hboe.org
	Willard Himes	Tuscarawas Valley HS	ejhimes@hotmail.com
	Bob Lance	Norwayne HS	BL3557@aol.com
	Walt Snyder	Bellevue HS	w_snyder@verizon.net
	Charles Tackett	Tippecanoe HS	cetackett@tippecity.k12.oh.us
Clinic Director	Bill Matthews	Amherst	bill_matthews@amherst.k12.oh.us
Officials	Phil Kiser	State Rules Interpreter	Pkiser9947@aol.com
	Pam Mercer	Official	pmercer@uhs.laca.org
	Debra Moore	Official	Light71@aol.com
	Carmen Rodriguez	Official	crodgmcss@yahoo.com
	Jim Wharton	State Rules Interpreter & Official	heyblueump@hotmail.com
	Jane Young	Official	
Administrators	Greg Burke	Westland HS	Greg_burke@swcs.k12.oh.us
	Molly Feesler	Bexley HS	molly.feesler@bexley.org
	Robin Spiller	Northmont HS	rspiller@northmontschools.com
OHSAA	Roxanne Price	OHSAA	rprice@ohsaa.org

RespectSM THE GAME

The OHSAA challenges everyone to take positive steps toward positive sporting behavior. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning.

Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of your sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.

- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

CONCLUSION

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

Note from Roxanne Price, Chair of the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee:

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, we wish to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in 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 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 the players, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season.

NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

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.