

“TWIB” . . . This Week in Baseball

Weekly News and Information
The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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A COLD start to the 2011 season but most areas were able to open up on Monday and Tuesday as scheduled. I will attempt to post a “This Week in Baseball” approximately every 10-12 days throughout the season. I hope this *helps* coaches in Ohio as I will try to address current issues that arise throughout the state.

Jerry Snodgrass, Ass't. Commissioner

Bat Regulations...An Attempt to Make it “Easier”

Here we go...bat regulations. They were part of the mandatory Rules Interpretation meetings whether you completed it online OR face to face. A ‘blast’ email was sent to all Head Baseball Coaches on Wednesday, March 30 (who have email addresses listed in myOHSAA) to offer a little help. Though it indeed has proven to be a difficult task to get through this year (next year ONLY BBCOR certified bats will be legal), the following has proven helpful to many:

The Washington (state) testing facility has now posted lists of EVERY BESR bat that is manufactured and placed it on one of 2 lists; APPROVED or UNAPPROVED. There are 1656 total bats on the APPROVED list and if printed takes up approx. 52 pages. The UNAPPROVED list has 216 bats and takes up 6 pages. You must know the Manufacturer, the Model Number, and the Length. Here is the suggestion:

-Print the UNAPPROVED list. IF a bat is on this list, it is NOT PERMITTED FOR USE. If it is NOT on the list, it is a legal bat.

-Check all the bats in your ‘arsenal’, including those that players own. If they are on the UNAPPROVED list...toss them now.

-Laminate the list and keep it in your dugout on a clipboard. When bats are in question OR at the pre-game equipment check, this list should be referenced. Umpires have also been asked to print and keep the list with them.

All bats are listed alphabetically by manufacturer, then model and bat length. There are currently 216 unapproved bats. Coaches of ALL teams (Freshmen, JV, Varsity) are asked to print this list and laminate it. Keep it on a clipboard in your dugout.

*The UNAPPROVED list is available at:
<http://www.mme.wsu.edu/~ssl/certified/banned/certified.html>*

I realize the entire ‘bat issue’ is confusing. I HOPE this helps get everyone through the year.

Early Season Reminders

During the pre-season, everything from team pictures to ‘who provides the post-game meal’ dominate coaches’ minds. Even those who have coached for many years often find a few items they may have forgotten to cover, especially with freshmen or Junior Varsity teams. Here are a few items you might take a rain day and focus on as part of a team meeting or with your coaching staff:

Jewelry & “Phiten” Necklaces:

The so-called energy-enhancing bracelets and necklaces are NOT legal in high school baseball. A commonly advertised item is marketed as a “Phiten” necklace/bracelet and often worn by professional athletes. It is not legal. Other items such as the “Livestrong” bracelet, WWJD bracelets, etc. are also NOT legal.

Non-Interscholastic Baseball (Travel, Club)

Participation in non-interscholastic baseball programs during the season of play are strictly prohibited. This includes try-outs, practices, or contests. Take a few minutes and remind your players, especially those in the younger grades...stay away from them until the season is complete.

Private Instruction from Pitching/Hitting Coaches

Private instruction IS permitted during the season as long as you the coach permit it.

Coach Certification

All coaches in Ohio, whether paid or volunteer are required to possess a “Pupil Activity Validation” certificate through the Ohio Department of Education.

Playing in JV/Varsity Games on Same Day

Per rule change this year, there are no penalties for adding a player’s name to a lineup card after the game starts. This opens the door for a JV player to leave a JV contest, ‘come over’ to the Varsity contest and participate in that game. Though this IS permissible, the very first item listed in the baseball sports’ regulation (1.1) prohibits any team or individual from playing in more than two games per day. This would then prohibit a player from leaving a JV contest, playing in the Varsity contest (or freshmen contest) and then returning BACK to the JV contest. Keep in mind that playing in 2 games in a day count toward that player’s 27 total permitted on the season. There is no ‘inning requirement’ that must be met during the year.

Need Help with Parents?

The National Federation of High Schools recently launched a course to help parents understand their role in school-based athletics. The course is *excellent* and focuses on educating PARENTS on the importance of THEIR behavior in school sports. The course, titled “The Role of Parent in Sports” is **FREE**, professionally produced, and available at: www.nfhslearn.com



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