

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Issue #4 May 6, 2013

Finally, a great week of weather across the state! From the many across the state I have spoken with, teams are getting games in...they just have been in less than ideal conditions. We all hope this stays while we head into tournament week. I have covered a few items relative to tournament draws in this week's issue of "TWIB". There will most likely be multiple "TWIB's" put up per week in the coming few weeks as there are many items I would like to address and many info items to put out.

Rating & Voting For Officials

This is a good time to check that you have been RATING your umpires. Rating of umpires is required and non-compliance results in fines simply because it is vital to the tournament assignment process. This slips under the rug more in baseball simply because of the number of make-up games and the number of games in which umpires are assigned by 'outside' individuals (not the Athletic Director). Double check with your Athletic Director to make sure your games and umpires are recorded in myOHSAA and you have rated your umpires. Instructions for this are also detailed at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>

Note on Scrimmages

If you have un-used scrimmages remaining you ARE able to use them anytime during the season or during tournament. Just remember...if you use it as one of your scrimmages...it MUST be a scrimmage for the other team as well. If not, you will catch your self exceeding contest limitations (27 games).

Player Contest Limitations

With a fairly good stretch of good weather, this would be a good time to make sure no player has or will exceed the contest limitations. Regulations limit a player to participating in 27 total contests on the regular season so if you have a player who has played 'up and down' between a JV and Varsity team, check his participation. A player that exceeds the number becomes an INELIGIBLE player. And....use of an ineligible player in a contest results in forfeiture. See the danger if this is a tournament game?

Non-Interscholastic Regulation Warning #3 – Critical Time

Yes, I know...it is the 3rd straight time I have mentioned this. But, I ask that all coaches take 5 minutes before or after practice to remind your players NOT to participate in a tryout, practice or competition for their summer teams. The danger is magnified heading into tournament play. Should any player violate the regulation and participate, *even without your knowledge*, he becomes an ineligible player. Using an ineligible player in tournament not only requires forfeiture but as you can predict, would eliminate your team from the tournament.

Survey Results – Inning Limitations for Players

% of those responding to survey that would support an INNING limitation for players instead of the current GAME limitation: 48% in favor 52% NOT in favor

Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

Off-Season Regulations Made Easy!

The off-season regulations create more questions than just about any other topic for school baseball coaches. In a nutshell, here are a few details regarding the various off-season regulations as well as a few "Q & A's" and other resources. Ultimately, players eligibility is affected by violations of off-season regulations so it is prudent to know these. They are also covered at each year's Rules Interp Meetings that are required of all high school head baseball coaches.

[All School Coaches, Paid OR Volunteer MUST be approved by a Board of Ed.](#)

Since this is the case, it explains that ALL COACHES are bound by the same regulations.

[All Coaches are prohibited from coaching players from their own school anytime outside the season of play EXCEPT for 10 days during June and July.](#)

That is right...the ONLY time a school coach (in any team sport!) can coach players from their own school is during 10 days permitted during June & July.

Q: Does that mean that EACH coach is permitted 10 days?

A: No. The regulation clearly states that the 10 days are permitted per staff.

[Non-School Teams are limited to 4 players from any one school EXCEPT for June/July](#)

A fundamental rule for off-season team sports limits non-school teams to a '50% of a school's starting lineup' on the off-season team's roster. In baseball, this means that any non-school team is limited to 4 total players from the same school. This limitation is NOT in effect from May 25 through July. The 'danger area' is obviously up until May 25 as well as increasingly popular "Fall Ball". YOU have the ability to communicate this with players AND protect their eligibility. This is referenced in the General Sports' Regulation 6.5 (see inset box below).

Q: My school has an "Travel" team made up of 4 players that played for our JV team and 9 others that did not play. Can they do this?

A: Yes. The 50% limitation identifies only those that played for a school team the previous year.

Q: Do Junior High players fall under this regulation?

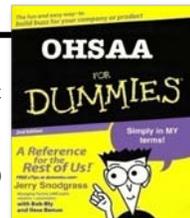
A: They do IF they play for the school sponsored Junior High teams.

[Players may not try-out, practice OR play with non-school teams until their season is over](#)

Another fundamental regulation strictly prohibits players from association with non-school teams during their season of play. This is clarified in Sports Regulation 6.3.

Q: Must JV players wait until the VARSITY season is complete to play for their summer team?

A: No. They can begin play with their summer team as soon as THEIR season is complete, however, they are ineligible to RETURN to dress/play for the Varsity at that point.



Resources for Off-Season Q & A's

General Sports Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg12-13.pdf>

Baseball Regulations: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rqlts/GenSportsReg12-13.pdf>

Common Baseball Q & A's: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2013/2013TWIBFAQ.pdf>

Guide for Summer Coaches:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2013/2013TWIBSummerBaseball.pdf>



“Taking a Closer Look”Team “Activity” during infield

The practice of a team coming out of their dugout to watch the opponent's warm up drills and infield is occurring more and more often. Often, this 'strategy' is intended to intimidate the other team, which too often all falls under 'unsporting conduct'. The rule requires that a team not be in live territory (other than a bullpen area) during the opponent's infield practice prior to the start of the game. Easy to figure out how the rule came about; a team had the habit of kneeling on one knee close to the foul line when the other team was taking infield. They would laugh and talk loudly whenever a mistake was made during the warm-ups by the other team. The second baseman got tired of it and sent his next throw to first base, not to first, but into the line of players, starting a brawl and ending the possibility of a game for that day. Sometimes little reminders like this are necessary to "Respect the Game". We owe it to the game...and we owe it to the players we teach.