

To: All High School Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Baseball Sport Administrator
Emily Gates, Program Coordinator, Team Sports
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With the weather we have had this spring, I find it a bit of a struggle to send this “end of season” correspondence – in my 8 years at the OHSAA, this has been one of the toughest years for baseball weather. None the less, your efforts do not go unnoticed and I commend each of you for handling it with the patience you have. This memo is intended to provide some helpful hints on many misunderstood out-of-season Baseball Regulations for both coaches and players. This will include “Indoor Regulations” as well as recap some important items to wind down this season.

1. PLEASE make certain you rate your game officials. A password is required from your Athletic Director and the ‘window’ to do this is closing soon. Since it is such an important part of the tournament assignment process, fines are issued for non-compliance. Simple directions for this are found at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>
2. See below regarding a proposal on the No-Contact Period, however the No-Contact period begins on August 8 and runs through September 5.
3. The start of Practice next year is February 20 and the first game date is March 25.
4. **Off-Season Coaching:** This is an area that continues to find many developing their own regulations and interpretations. I have nearly every Q & A posted at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/TWIBOffseasonBaseballQuestions.pdf>
You will find other detailed documents covering “Fall Ball” etc. on my “This week in Baseball” web page at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2015/TWIB2015.htm> and I think you would find these very helpful.
In a nutshell:
 - There is NO LIMIT to the number of players from the same school that can be on the same ‘summer’ team between May 27 and July 31.
 - Your entire coaching staff is permitted a TOTAL of 10 days to coach teams that are made up of more than 4 players from your school teams between June 1 and July 31.
 - You and your coaching staff may coach players from your school teams and UNLIMITED number of days if the team is comprised of 4 or less players from your school teams. (many are not aware of this)
 - Individual Instruction per the parameters set up in General Sports Regulation 8.2 is permitted during the summer in addition to the 10 days of instruction also permitted.
5. **Four (4) Player Instruction (OHSAA Sport Regulation 8.2):** This regulation is detailed in the Coaches Guide posted online and a 10 minute presentation on this, complete with download materials, can be viewed at:
<http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/4244037503>
6. Coaches that do not plan on returning to your school and underclassmen that do not plan on coming out for soccer next year **still count in all OHSAA regulations** affecting baseball. They could always change their mind so all regulations refer to ‘where they played or coached the previous season’.
7. **College Tryouts:** More and more colleges are inviting high school aged players to their campuses and inviting them to tryout or workout with their teams or coaches. As long as it is not during the high school season, there is nothing that prohibits high school players from doing this. Again, as long as it is OUTSIDE the high school baseball season.
8. Next Year’s **Proposals** (I emphasize PROPOSALS as that is all they are at this point)
9. **Youth Baseball Offer – State Tournament**
We have made reduced price tickets (\$3.00 per day) available to the OHSAA State Tournament for youth baseball teams around the state. We had over 500 take advantage of this last year on Friday alone. I hope you will make this offer available to youth teams in your area. This is a GREAT opportunity for youth teams and we would like to recognize them on the video board as well. Here is a link to pass along to your youth teams:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/sb/girls/2016/YouthLeaguePromotion.pdf>
10. Lastly, I have proposed 3 significant regulation changes that would have an effect on the sport of baseball. First, when we approved individual participation on 32 playing dates instead of 27 games, I never made an adjustment for junior high/middle school. In other words, players could only play in 17 games. Though it will have little effect, I am proposing to permit junior high/middle school players to play on 21 dates though there would be no change in the number of games for teams.
Secondly, I have proposed a change in the No-Contact period that currently runs 28 days prior to Labor Day through Labor Day. The start of that No-Contact period generally falls between August 4 and August 9 each year. I have simply proposed it to be the “Month of August”. It would stay within the purpose and intent of having that no-contact

period. There are opponents to it (which I understand) but the administrative reasons outweigh them (in my humble opinion of course). Should these change, obviously they will be communicated well.

Thirdly and most significant – I have proposed permitting scrimmaging in non-bordering states. I simply think the time is right. Our season start never seems to line up well with school's spring breaks. I have met little resistance and since I now administrate both baseball and softball, it is a bit easier for me to administrate as well.

For those still participating in the OHSAA Tournament, I wish you the best of luck. The state baseball tournament at Huntington Park has become an increasingly great event – great baseball in a great location. In 6 of the past 7 years our attendance has increased at the Final Four and I hope you can get to a day of games (1 ticket admits for all 4 games of the day). I hope you as well as your youth leagues get the opportunity to take in a day of games.