

# 1. BASEBALL

## A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day.

**Note:** Completion of a suspended game along with a regularly scheduled game(s) is not considered a doubleheader (Penalty – see Sports Regulation 20).

- 1.2) **Teams** – No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates.

**Note:** Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy.

- 1.21) Any scheduled game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc., is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost records.

- 1.22) Any team exceeding the regular season participation limitation shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.

### 1.3) Individuals

- 1.3.1) An individual in grades 9-12 may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus OHSAA-sponsored tournaments.

- 1.3.2) An individual in grades 7-8 may play on a maximum of 21 playing dates plus one postseason or league/conference tournament.

- 1.33) If an individual plays a game at any level on separate dates, each game counts toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game on Monday and a varsity game on Wednesday. Participation in both games counts as two dates toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

- 1.34) If an individual plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game in the same day, each contest does not count toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game on a Thursday. Participation in both games counts as one date toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

**Note:** If the games described in 1.33 are occurring simultaneously, that same individual may not re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred.

### 1.4) Interrupted Games

- 1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF4-3-1), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (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. Pitches thrown during any suspended game count in the normal day to day limitation described in Baseball Sports Regulation 1.7. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.

- 1.42) A game which has gone five innings and is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed and the following situation prevails shall be a suspended game:

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.

A suspended game that is not completed at a later date due to the inability to reschedule is considered a “No Contest,” not counted in the won-lost statistics, and both teams are permitted to schedule another contest.

- 1.43) Games cannot end in a tie. Games are either won, lost or suspended.

- 1.5) 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 (10 run rule applicable).

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- 1.6) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
- 1.7) Pitchers in grades 7-12 are limited to pitch count restrictions as stated below:
  - 1.71) A pitcher may finish the current batter if the **daily pitch limit** (125) is reached during that at bat.
  - 1.72) At the end of each contest, coaches will submit pitcher number and pitches thrown in the designated data collection system.
  - 1.73) All pitches thrown in a suspended game or a “no contest” game SHALL COUNT toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.
  - 1.74) All pitches thrown in a scrimmage or preview shall count toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.
  - 1.75) All pitches thrown SHALL COUNT per player and not per arm, should you have an ambidextrous pitcher.
  - 1.76) Each school/team must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this available to the OHSAA upon request.
  - 1.77) Any player pitching during a period in which rest is required is considered to be pitching as an ineligible player.

**Note:** Any victorious contest in which an ineligible player is participating will result in forfeiture of the contest.

**Note:** The daily pitch limit days of rest are based on a full and complete days and not (24) hours.
- 1.8) Previews — A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Baseball Rules.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic baseball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or similar governing board **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 (Sports Regulation 7.2).
- 2.2) A member of a school baseball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic baseball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
  - 2.21) The number of interscholastic baseball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.  
**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic baseball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of baseball are exempt from this limitation.
  - 2.22) There is no limit on the number of baseball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning Friday prior to Memorial Day Weekend (May 22, 2020) - July 31, provided the players have concluded their school season.
  - 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
  - 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic baseball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school baseball squad, until the student’s school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.
- 2.4) All-Star Games — “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-

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athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school baseball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-Interscholastic Competition.”

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

### 2.5) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A baseball athlete who has not participated for a school team in baseball that season must cease non-interscholastic baseball competition four weeks (28 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in baseball in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in baseball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in baseball shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in baseball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

DATE: May 11, 2020

2.6) Participation in indoor baseball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2018-February 1, 2019, for student-athletes.

2.7) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic baseball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in indoor baseball except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.

### 3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations on the Baseball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### 4) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations on the Baseball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### 5) Penalties

5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic baseball squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic baseball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic baseball season or the ensuing baseball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Executive Director may deem appropriate.

### 6) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school baseball within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #15.

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play baseball, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (scrimmages, previews, Foundation games, jamborees) until regular season contest number 14 in baseball and then be eligible for no more than 14 games on 16 playing dates.

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For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations on the Baseball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 on the Eligibility Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 24, 2020
- 2) First game — March 28, 2020
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 27, 2020
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — May 3, 2020
- 5) Coaching and Season end — Saturday after state tournament (June 20, 2020)
- 6) Scrimmage or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview.
- 7) Regular season games permitted (Team) — Maximum of 27 (on 27 playing dates). Double-headers may be played on any day pursuant to school policy.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Baseball.
- 9) Uniform Rules — National Federation Baseball
- 10) Officials:
  - 10.1) Varsity — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 umpires.  
**Note:** A Class 2 official may be used in emergency situations only with permission from the Executive Director's Office. If a Class 2 official is used in a varsity game, the Class 1 shall be the lead Official and determine which official will work the plate.
  - 10.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 required.
  - 10.3) Freshmen — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.  
**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches mutually agree.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 24, 2020
- 2) Date first game may be played — March 28, 2020
- 3) Coaching and Season end — June 20, 2020
- 4) Scrimmages permitted — A maximum of two scrimmages per year.
- 5) Regular season games permitted — Maximum 17 and 1 postseason/league/conference tournament not to exceed 4 games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Baseball.
- 7) Uniform Rules — National Federation Baseball
- 8) Officials — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

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| <b>Baseball</b>            | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Coach — No Contact Period  | 8/1-8/31    | 8/1-8/31    | 8/1-8/31    | 8/1-8/31    |
| Coaching and Tryouts Begin | 2/24        | 2/22        | 2/21        | 2/20        |
| Season Begins              | 3/28        | 3/27        | 3/26        | 3/25        |
| Sectional                  | 5/16-5/23   | 5/15-5/22   | 5/14-5/21   | 5/13-5/20   |
| District                   | 5/25-5/30   | 5/24-5/29   | 5/23-5/28   | 5/22-5/27   |
| Regional                   | 6/4-6/5     | 6/3-6/4     | 6/2-6/3     | 6/1-6/2     |
| State                      | 6/11-6/13   | 6/10-6/12   | 6/9-6/11    | 6/8-6/10    |
| Season Ends                | 6/20        | 6/19        | 6/18        | 6/17        |
| Easter                     | 4/12        | 4/4         | 4/17        | 4/9         |

| <b>BASEBALL — BOYS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE</b> |                |                |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2020-2024-2028                                            | 2021-2025-2029 | 2022-2026-2030 | 2023-2027-2031 |
| II                                                        | III            | IV             | I              |
| I                                                         | II             | III            | IV             |
| III                                                       | IV             | I              | II             |
| IV                                                        | I              | II             | III            |