

This Week In Baseball

May 10, 2010, Issue 6



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

This is the sixth and last in a series of Weekly Bulletins for 2010 to keep coaches in Ohio up-to-date with current topics and issues for OHSAA baseball coaches. Previous "TWIB's" are archived on the "Baseball" webpage at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/default.asp>

- Many questions arise now as teams are ending their seasons at various levels. I have compiled a list of "FAQ's" for Off-Season baseball and have also posted them on this same site. Any question that is not answered can be found generally by asking your school's Athletic Director.
- Scrimmages are still permitted provided you still have one remaining. Teams are permitted 4 total or 3 if you participated in a Preview. Many teams save a scrimmage to be used during the gap between tournament games. Please remember that if you have a scrimmage, it **MUST** be a scrimmage for the other team also. You cannot 'mix and match' and call it a scrimmage for one team but a game for another.
- Speaking of games....if you had any 'suspended games' that were not completed during the season, that game is recorded as 'no contest' and no score and no statistics are recorded. You are free to schedule another game in its place if you have no intent on completing the game.
- As tournament season advances, emotions kick up a notch. Coaches are reminded of the Board of Director's adopted Media Regulations as they relate to coaches and any public criticism of umpires:
 - 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 as 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. *Basically...."Silence is Golden"*.
- Did you know that ALL umpires (regardless of level) in the state of Ohio must attend:
 - A Required STATE rules meeting (the Rules Interp. Meeting qualifies for this), and,
 - 4 additional LOCAL meetings that last a minimum of 1 hour 15 minutes where education takes placeMany coaches are not aware of this continual education required of all officials in the state of Ohio.
- As more and more non-school coaches enter the school coaching ranks, I hear of many 'dress code' issues (lack of a better term). Just a note that Rule 3-3-2 addresses that coaches are required to be in uniform. It is good for the game....high school coaches have done so much to advance the game in Ohio...let's continue to 'Respect the Game'.
- Doug Merrill, the previous coach at Bowling Green High School, was the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity Award winner as selected by the OHSBCA. Doug recently completed an incredible run from Boston to the Florida Keys. Doug represents baseball so well and I would encourage you to read about Doug at http://www.ohsaa.org/news/features/Doug_Merrill_Post_Run.pdf
- A reminder that coaches are permitted 10 days of instruction (as a staff) from June 1 – July 31. You might wonder how it is enforced and I am quick to remind the very foundation of the OHSAA is its self-enforcement basis. Ethics and morals are extremely difficult to legislate. I encourage you to Respect the Game and everything Ohio High School baseball stands for.
- Everyone has the goal of playing there, but in the event you are not, I hope you get a chance to attend (even if for one day) the State Baseball Championships at Huntington Park on June 3, 4 & 5. The move to the home of the Clippers has made Ohio's State Championships among the best in the nation.

• THANKS to everyone for reading this year's "TWIB's" and the many that provided input. It has proven helpful for MANY baseball coaches in Ohio. Thanks to all baseball coaches in Ohio for the MANY hours of effort to do the job you do. So often, everything is lost in the won-lost statistics but we have to step back and KNOW the great things we do for kids in Ohio. Thanks!!!