

“TWIB” . . . This Week in Baseball

Weekly News and Information
The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Tournament draws? Hard to believe. Mark your calendar though, seed dates are rapidly approaching. Seed meetings are held at the same time on the same date (Sunday, May 1 @ 2:00 p.m.) at all Sectional locations across Ohio. I plan on posting a new “TWIB” on Friday of this week with some important notes for coaches prior to seed meetings.

Jerry Snodgrass, Ass't. Commissioner

Coaches & Umpires....

Recently, a communication was shared with EVERY umpire licensed in the state of Ohio. Our Director of Development for Baseball Officiating, Kyle McNeely, shared the following with all umpires. It is part of our ongoing effort to provide education for our Umpires...ultimately making the game better. Below are the issues addressed:

Radar Guns

5 instances reported in one week in Ohio. Rule 3-3-1 as well as other Approved Rulings, do NOT allow radar guns OR cameras in the dugout.

Warming Up Outfielders to Pitch

A few instances have coaches wanting a current outfielder to warm-up to come in to pitch. A coach takes a defensive conference and while on the mound, sends a bullpen catcher out to the foul line and take warm-up pitches from the outfielder. This is not permitted....if he wants to warm-up, he needs to be substituted for permitting him to head to the bullpen to warm-up...legally.

Sunglasses

Might be hard to believe they are needed but a few occurrences have players putting sunglasses on the bill of the cap and umpires making them be removed. The requirement actually is NOT in the rulebook and does not prevent them from being worn on the cap.

Warming Bats

Can't say I have seen the gizmo's for this and probably easier to perceive than the sunglasses. But, the cold spring has had a few teams used some 'means' to warm bats. It is LEGAL in baseball, not in softball. Science says that by the time the batter gets to the plate, the bat returns to air temperature anyway. Much excitement about nothing.

Not Enough Playing Time?

Many factors, one being weather preventing consistent play, often tempts players to 'stray' to their summer team, especially at the JV level. This is a good time to REMIND your players they cannot **practice, tryout OR play** with any non-school team during the season of play. It affects them AND the team as they become an INELIGIBLE player.

Coaches Influence Players WAY Beyond the Field

We continue to expound on the virtues of Education-based Athletics and the strong influence coaches have on the lives of those they coach. Many coaches spend more time with kids than their own parents do during this time of the year. I encourage you to be that role model and do as SO many coaches in Ohio do; go *beyond* the "x's and o's" of the game. In my communications with coaches, many ask for resources to utilize with their players. I have offered a few here and when you are looking for resources and things to do until we can get outside and play on a regular basis. I think you will find these as tools to 'reach into the bag' and provide experiences that they will take beyond the field and beyond wins and losses.

New Mexico Launches Unique Alcohol Education Program

Recently, the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) launched a unique online program that chronicled the life of a former great high school athlete who remains in prison for causing a fatal crash that took the lives of several individuals. The program is a great tool for ANY high school athlete in America, where nearly 60% of all seniors and 50% of all juniors report regular drinking activity. I encourage coaches to reference this to your players and do what 'we' do best...educate. The free course is available at: <http://www.lifeofanathlete.com/courses.aspx>

The Influence of Social Networking?

A 4:25 clip from "YouTube" on Social Networking and its power. You may have seen this but it is a good informational tool and something you might want to show parents. You can access it directly at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFZ0z5Fm-Ng> If you have not seen this, I promise you'll find this extremely interesting. Over a million others have.

Parents In Need of Education?

Always looking for something to 'help' parents be better fans? Aren't we all. A great resource for parents is a FREE course put together and offered by the NFHS called "The Role of The Parent In Sports". Parents may hear it from you, but this is a great 'other voice' that reinforces proper behavior by parents in their vested interest in school sports. The course has a 'demo' and can be viewed by going to the www.nfhslearn.com website or directly at: <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=18000>

Coaches...Know Your Record vs Divisions for Sunday!

When coaches go into Sunday's Seed Meeting, you'll be asked to 'post your record' vs Division. Take some time to look up your opponent's classification prior to Sunday's meeting as it will make things a little less hectic.

Extending a Game to 9 innings?

Each year, this comes up relative to a Saturday game. By mutual agreement, coaches want to extend a game to a 9 inning game rather than play a DH. Not permitted by rule. Why? Games are required to be 7 innings in length.



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