

To: All Ohio Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner
Emily Gates, Program Coordinator

With the current No-Contact Period coming to a close, we are taking this opportunity to communicate a few items that you will encounter over the next several weeks, especially with the increase in "Fall Baseball" around the state and the permissions granted in the OHSAA's General Sports Regulation 8.2 permitting "Individual Instruction".

Fall Baseball

Fall isn't just for football anymore....Fall baseball, fall softball and fall basketball leagues are increasing in number every year. With the increase in these, this is just a reminder that General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 still restricts the number of players that played for the same school teams the previous season to FOUR on the same NON-school team outside the season (except during June and July). So, IF your players are playing in a fall league, just insure there are not more than 4 that played for any of your school teams the previous season on the same fall team. Please do not confuse this rule with the "4 Player Individual Instruction Regulation" (see below) as they are completely separate regulations. Advice, clarifications and common Q and A's on "Fall Ball" are posted at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/TWIBAdviceForFallBall.pdf>

Individual Instruction

We are entering the 3rd year for the Individual Instruction Regulation. Knowing most baseball coaches do not utilize this until January, there are still some things to take note of. Though there are some fairly strict parameters, this is a reminder that the purpose of this was to provide coaches the opportunity to provide individual SKILL instruction – NOT team workouts. There is nothing in the regulation that would permit coaches to coach fall teams – this is a misconception not permitted by the regulation. I would encourage you to read, print and disseminate the updated explanation of this regulation located at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2014/TWIB14/BaseballIndividualInstruction.pdf>

Open Field/Open Gym

It has been my intent to remove any and all misunderstandings as well as address all scenarios permitted within various other sports regulations – most notably those addressing "Open Gyms/Fields", "Conditioning & Weight Programs". Basically, in an "open field"....it can be **unstructured** play. No instruction, no hitting ground balls, no rotating into the batting cages, etc. You may ask "what CAN you do"? Basically, players can choose sides and..... *play baseball*. But keep in mind, that is why the individual instruction regulation was put in place – to PERMIT you to do some coaching/instruction outside the season. "Open Fields/Gyms" and "Individual Instruction" are 2 entirely separate regulations and I strongly encourage you to understand both. Detailed off-season baseball Q and A's are addressed in a document on the "This Week in Baseball" page directly at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/TWIBOffseasonBaseballQuestions.pdf>

"Showcases"

Another overnight sensation – "Showcases". Intended to feature the 'elite' players, Ohio stands to have the best tournament ever based upon the number of "Showcases" that have developed. Simply keep in mind that "Showcases" are no different than any other "Travel", "Classic" or whatever other name they may go by in the off-season. There is a limit of 4 players on these teams that played for the same school teams the previous seasons if these "Showcases" involve team play. If they are hitting, throwing, etc., they are permitted to do these outside the season. Just as indicated above with "Fall Leagues" and the same General Sports Regulation (7.3.1) applies.

2016 Schedule Notes

No doubt, where spring break falls and the start of the season for games causes some difficulty for schools making out of state trips (especially south). Just remember:

1. Games may begin on March 26, 2016, not before
2. Any contest out of state MUST be a game (not a scrimmage)
3. Any travel to a non-bordering state cannot result in missing school
4. Schools are permitted to travel to non-bordering states ONE time per season provided they meet the above requirements of the bylaw.

Remember also that due to changes LAST year, you are now permitted to schedule doubleheaders during the week if you so choose. At my request, the Board of Directors approved my opinion that SCHOOLS should decide how late teams should be out on weeknights – not the OHSAA.