

To: All Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Baseball Administrator
Emily Gates, Team Sports Program Coordinator
Re: Coaches Memo 3 – March 1, 2016

Here we go. Practice started for many of you and hopefully we'll get outside soon. I have always been amazed since working in Columbus for 8 years and having lived in the 'great northwest' part of the state most of my career, how different the weather is in Central Ohio south this time of year. A 4-7 degree temperature difference in the late winter/early spring is very significant. Throw in the winds off Lake Erie and some parts of the state are certainly more conducive to early season baseball. No....I am not going to say "competitive advantage".

Speaking of Competitive "Balance"

Many have asked. The "Competitive Balance" referendum was passed by member schools 2 years ago. Recently, the OHSAA's elected Board of Directors voted to delay the implementation of this referendum until the fall of 2017. Basically, the plan (which many have forgotten) adjusts a TEAM's enrollment based upon 'where a player lives'. Obviously from that you can tell that it is 'sport specific' and is all based upon the premise of a team's roster and the school district OR attendance zone in which they reside. A player that plays on any 9-12 baseball team that lives outside the school district counts more than a player that lives IN the school district. These adjustments affect the final enrollment count of a team (a baseball team could be different than a softball team for example) and ultimately could affect the division a school is placed in for that sport. You can also see that it would be very likely for some schools to have teams in different divisions. There are much more specific details but that is the idea of this. So, for those asking, the plan has been delayed a year primarily to perfect a system to collect and figure these different factors that make up the team's 'final enrollment count'.

College Workouts - Important

This is a major thing – many Div. II, III and NAIA schools invite HS players to their campus and ask them to workout for them. The OHSAA considers these college workouts as "non-interscholastic" events. This also means that players must comply with the non-interscholastic rule **while being a member of the school team**. In other words, players are not permitted to tryout, WORKOUT, practice or compete with any non-school baseball team/organization **while being a member of the school baseball team**. Here's the key though – a player for your team does not become a member of the school team until he participates in his first scrimmage or game for the school. So, if you have not had a scrimmage or a game – that player does not violate that non-interscholastic rule by going to a college workout. Most people just assume that once practice started on Feb. 22 that they are members of the school team. But, by our definition, they are not until they play in their first scrimmage or game. The more you know....

3 Hour Scrimmage Limitation – Practicing with Other Teams

OHSAA regulations permit scrimmages to be no longer than 3 hours. This limitation is for actual field/game time. In other words, if you have a 3 way scrimmage and you are sitting out a few innings while the other 2 teams are scrimmaging, that time does not count toward your 3 hours. I don't think anyone would exceed that amount of time but it is written that way to permit 'tri-scrimmages' and multi-team scrimmages. And speaking of Scrimmages – teams are wanting to 'practice with/against' other teams (from other schools). By our definition, any **practice** with another school also counts as a scrimmage. And remember, you may use a scrimmage ANY time throughout the season, including during tournament time. A scrimmage simply must be a scrimmage for both schools involved. Many will hold a scrimmage until tournament time.

The "Minimum Temp"

I receive many emails following a cold evening on 'what the minimum temperature is' to play a game. That is impossible for us to ascertain. If we required it to be 40 degrees, we would have no way of monitoring that temp from this office. Likewise, though I hear of some leagues that have a policy on it – it still becomes difficult for one school to accurately provide a temperature to the other school. Common sense has to prevail between coaches. Call ahead.

Player Limitation Reminders

Last year, at the request and cooperation with the OHSBCA, I was able to adjust baseball regulations to permit an individual player to participate **in contests on 32 dates**. That means of course that a DH would count as **one date** in this regulation. Any adjustment we have made through the years is to help maintain schedules of JV teams, etc. with limited numbers on rosters. Just make sure you DO keep track. Any player that would exceed this number would immediately become INELIGIBLE. And, use of an ineligible player results in forfeiture of any winning contest.