

To: All Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Baseball Administrator
Emily Gates, Team Sports Program Coordinator
Re: Coaches Memo 4: March 22, 2016

Inside, outside, inside, OUTSIDE! Hopefully a mild winter also leads to a good spring. My apologies for skipping a week or so in this 'weekly' memo. State basketball (my winter sport) has been a bit consuming over the past 3 weeks and my new assigned sports of boys' and girls' lacrosse has also taken some time. But...we're back! Hopefully some suggestions/clarity in the items below will help. Good luck this week as we are ready to start on Saturday with first games.

Ejection Rule Change

Effective this year, ejections from any pre-season scrimmage result in suspension from the first regular season contest. Previously, any ejection from a scrimmage went unreported with no consequences, however, there was concern across the state with various issues happening in pre-season scrimmages that 'something' needed to be done to curtail several issues. Another change in the Ejection rule now permits a player that was ejected to be in the dugout/locker room for other sports during his period of suspension and he may ride with the team. BUT....he is NOT permitted to be in uniform and is not permitted to participate in ANY part of the warm-up during pre-game or during the game.

Suspended Games – Resumption of Play

This is interesting and also often misunderstood. I will work 'backward' on this explanation. First...in any sport, whenever a suspended game is picked up and completed, every situation that was in place at the time of interruption is to be in place for the resumed portion of the game. The runners on base, the count on the batter, etc. Few may realize the other implications of this. Most notably, they are:

- **Pitchers' Innings:** If a pitcher only had 3 innings remaining in his allotted number of innings in the 10 day period, that same number of innings is available to him during the resumed game, regardless of how things transpired over the course of the schedule. Simply put, if the pitcher had 3 innings remaining on his pitching availability when the game was suspended, he has 3 innings remaining in the resumed game as well.
- **Player Ejections:** This is interesting as well. If a player was ejected in the initial game that was suspended, he remains suspended for the resumption of the game. Here is another aspect of this – say "player A" was ejected for Malicious contact in a game. The game is suspended in the 3rd inning due to inclement weather. First, that 'game' (not a completed one) does not count in the 2 game suspension of a player. So, he still has 2 games to sit out but oddly enough, he is also ineligible for the resumption of the suspended game. Unfortunately, he potentially does have to miss more than the 2 games when that scenario occurs.

Baseball Coaches Guide/Manual

I actually covered this previously but as teams move outside and there is less and less time to deal with the 'behind the scenes' issues, please take a moment to download the Baseball Coaches Guide and pass it along to your assistant coaches. More and more issues arise with assistants and volunteers not understanding various regulations so this *should* help you considerably. You can download it at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/bbmanual.pdf>

Illegal Equipment – Necklaces

This is just a reminder that various types of necklaces, despite what they claim to do, are considered 'jewelry' and are not legal to wear during games.

Ineligible Players due to Transfer

With the transfer rule being relaxed considerably 2 years ago, there are obviously more and more transfers. Do yourself (and your team) a big favor and just double check for anyone that is on your roster now that was NOT on the roster a year ago. If they were not, check with your Athletic Director to see if that player is a transfer. IF that player is a transfer and does not meet any of the exceptions that would grant them immediate eligibility, they are ineligible for the first 13 completed contests. This brings up some interesting scenarios. IF a player is sitting out due to transfer and one of the first 13 games is suspended due to weather (for example), that game does not count as one of the 13 that he must sit out until that game is completed. Should that game be completed later in the season after the player has sat out 13, he remains ineligible for the resumed portion of the game – not because of the transfer rule but because all 'conditions' (including eligible players) must be the same in the resumed portion of the game as in the beginning/initial portion of the game. And, keep in mind that ineligible players are not permitted to participate in scrimmages during the time of their ineligibility.

Academic Eligibility

This always presents a little challenge for baseball/softball coaches with most grading periods ending right about the start of the regular season. Players that are currently ineligible remain ineligible until the fifth scheduled school day following the official end of the grading period. You can see that if spring break follows the end of your grading period, that player will remain ineligible until the 5th day when you return. Likewise, any athletes that are eligible *remain eligible* for that same period of time if they happen to have the misfortune of becoming ineligible. The bottom line – make sure you are checking with your Athletic Director.