

To: All Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Baseball Administrator
Emily Gates Team Sports Program Coordinator
Re: Coaches Memo 9: May 10, 2016

Two straight weeks of good weather. Finally. Just a few items here as we move closer and closer to tournament time.

NFHS Baseball Questionnaire – One More Reminder

Just a second reminder to participate in the NFHS Rules Questionnaire. It is extremely important for Ohio to respond. Typically, Ohio has had the first or second most respondents of all states and it goes a long way on what will appear in front of the National Rules Committee. So...please take a moment and respond to the survey. The link to the questionnaire was on the direct email sent to all baseball head coaches. Please contact me or Emily if you would need that link.

Tournament Regulation Reminder

Addressed in last week's Coaches' Memo was a request for coaches to download, print and read the OHSAA Baseball Tournament Regulations. Specifically addressed is the number of individuals permitted in uniform and in the dugout/bench area. For years, there was a limitation of 18 players in uniform. Then, as with many regulations, there became more and more and more players in the dugout simply with a jacket over their uniform and it met the regulation but not the intent of the regulation. So, 2 years ago, the OHSBCA recommended a change to the following:

- **22 Players in uniform** (and obvious increase from the 18)
- **1 Manager/Bat Boy**
- **1 Scorekeeper**
- **1 Athletic Trainer**
- **Any number of coaches provided they are board approved, possess a valid Pupil activity Coaching Permit, and are in NFHS required uniform**

So, you can see from this, the only variable is the number of coaches. And, only those 22 players in uniform are permitted on the field for warm-up. Why keep bringing this up? As more and more districts play on the fields of higher seeded teams, there becomes an obvious tendency for both coaches to 'mutually agree' to not follow the regulation. After all "it is for kids, isn't it?" Well....following rules and regulations are for kids also. My point? Follow the regulation wherever you are playing. The OHSBCA proposed it, the OHSAA's Board of Directors adopted it with my support – let's all Respect the Game and follow it so the next level manager doesn't get called on to be the 'bad guy'.

Summer Teams – Here We Go.....

It's that time. Regardless of what its called (Babe Ruth, ACME, Legion, Travel, etc.) every coach wants that jump to get started. As I have stressed in each weekly memo – players are NOT permitted to participate, tryout, etc. for ANY of these programs while they are members of the school team. (Still have 2-3 violations each week!). So, the logical question becomes 'WHEN, CAN THEY?'. Here is another way to look at it – a player CAN actually tryout, participate, etc. **anytime he chooses to do so**. BUT – as soon as he does he is **INELIGIBLE**. That also then answers 'when' a Freshmen or JV player can start to participate – when his season (freshmen, JV) is complete. But, as soon as he does, he is NOT eligible to return to the varsity team for tournament. And, I have some great advice for all of those summer coaches to help you out. You can find that on the "This Week in Baseball Page" or directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/TWIBAdviceforSummerTeamCoaches.pdf> It is advice to help you AND the non-school coach. As questions arise with it, I continue to update it.

Baseball Ejections though Monday, May 9

Coaches – 23

Players – 77

Behind the Mask

With Runners on 2nd and 3rd. 1 out. Batter swings at strike 3, ball goes to backstop, batter turns and walks to his 3rd base dugout, everyone tells him to run, he stops about 15 feet from the plate area turns runs toward first. When running to first he crosses the home plate area interfering with the catchers throw to the pitcher covering home plate to put out the runner coming from 3rd base. No contact but blocks vision while running between them and ball ends up behind the pitchers mound. So how is this ruled?

RULING-There is no interference; the b/r (batter/runner) has the right to run and has apparently done nothing intentional. Even if the b/r was out (I think MLB had a rule change that causes b/r to be out if he leaves the dirt circle after strike three without intending to advance) the rules still allow him to mistakenly think he could advance and that is not to be considered intent to interfere. Good luck to the umpires on this one because it looks like a cut and dried case of interference to everyone who does not know the rules. When explaining, it might be good to note that the pitch was not a

good one and the pitcher/catcher put themselves in the position of throwing from some distance to the plate. This does not take away the right of the b/r to try to advance. Both sides, to a degree, have messed up. No intent.....and no interference.