

To: All High School Head Softball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Softball Sport Administrator
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With the weather we have had this spring, we commend you for the factors you have had to deal with all spring. Additionally, I appreciate the feedback many of you have provided since we were assigned the sport administration of softball. We both feel a bit strange talking about "end of season" items when we have not had consistent weather to play all spring. None the less, this memo is intended to provide some helpful hints on many misunderstood out-of-season Softball Regulations for both coaches and players.

1. PLEASE make certain you rate your game officials. A password is required from your Athletic Director and the 'window' to do this is closing soon. Since it is such an important part of the tournament assignment process, fines are issued for non-compliance. Simple directions for this are found at:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/myOHSAA/OfficialRatingInstructions.pdf>
There has been a slight 'issue' that has developed by many leagues having put umpires into "Arbiter" instead of myOHSAA. Though you may not be aware of that, it simply makes accessing umpires that did your games a little more difficult. However, you MAY enter your own umpires' names after the games have been played and we strongly encourage you to do that. If you have more questions on that, have your Athletic Director notify me.
2. See below regarding a proposal on the No-Contact Period, however though it is down the road a way, the No-Contact period begins on August 8 and runs through September 5.
3. The start of Practice next year is February 20 and the first game date is March 25.
4. **Off-Season Coaching:** This is an area that continues to find many developing their own regulations and interpretations. I have nearly every Q & A posted at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/sb/girls/2016/QandA.pdf>
You will find other detailed documents covering "Fall Ball" etc. on my "This week in Baseball" web page at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2015/TWIB2015.htm> and I think you would find these very helpful.
In a nutshell:
 - There is NO LIMIT to the number of players from the same school that can be on the same 'summer' team between May 27 and July 31.
 - Your entire coaching staff is permitted a TOTAL of 10 days to coach teams that are made up of more than 4 players from your school teams between June 1 and July 31.
 - You and your coaching staff may coach players from your school teams and UNLIMITED number of days if the team is comprised of 4 or less players from your school teams. (many are not aware of this)
 - Individual Instruction per the parameters set up in General Sports Regulation 8.2 is permitted during the summer in addition to the 10 days of instruction also permitted.
5. **Four (4) Player Instruction (OHSAA Sport Regulation 8.2):** This regulation is detailed in the Coaches Guide posted online and a 10 minute presentation on this, complete with download materials, can be viewed at:
<http://ohsaa.articulate-online.com/4244037503>
6. Coaches that do not plan on returning to your school and underclassmen that do not plan on coming out for softball next year **still count in all OHSAA regulations** affecting softball. They could always change their mind so all regulations refer to 'where they played or coached the previous season'.
7. **College Tryouts:** More and more colleges are inviting high school aged players to their campuses and inviting them to tryout or workout with their teams or coaches. As long as it is not during the high school season, there is nothing that prohibits high school players from doing this. Again, as long as it is OUTSIDE the high school baseball season.
8. Next Year's **Proposals** (I emphasize PROPOSALS as that is all they are at this point)
9. **Youth Softball Offer – State Tournament**
We put together an initiative to attract younger players to the state softball tournament. School is out most places, and it would be a great opportunity to bring future school softball players to a great event. We are making tickets available to youth teams for \$3.00 each will gain admission for all 4 games on a day. I hope you'll encourage youth and travel team players and coaches in your area to take advantage of this. Here is a link to pass along to them:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/sb/girls/2016/SoftballYouthLeaguePromotion.pdf>
10. Lastly, I have proposed 3 significant regulation changes that would have an effect on the sport of softball. First, when we approved individual participation on 32 playing dates instead of 27 games, I never made an adjustment for junior high/middle school. In other words, players could only play in 17 games. Though it will have little effect, I am

proposing to permit junior high/middle school players to play on 21 dates though there would be no change in the number of games for teams.

Secondly, I have proposed a change in the No-Contact period that currently runs 28 days prior to Labor Day through Labor Day. The start of that No-Contact period generally falls between August 4 and August 9 each year. I have simply proposed it to be the "Month of August". It would stay within the purpose and intent of having that no-contact period. There are opponents to it (which I understand) but the administrative reasons outweigh them (in my humble opinion of course). Should these change, obviously they will be communicated well.

Thirdly and most significant – I have proposed permitting scrimmaging in non-bordering states. I simply think the time is right. Our season start never seems to line up well with school's spring breaks. I have met little resistance and since I now administrate both baseball and softball, it is a bit easier for me to administrate this as well as support it.

For those still participating in the OHSAA Tournament, I wish you the best of luck. The state softball tournament at Firestone Park has become an increasingly great event – great softball in a great location. I hope you as well as your youth leagues get the opportunity to take in a day of games. We also for the first time will permit 1 ticket admission for all games of the day – there will be no clearing of the stadium between games.