

This Week in Softball

Issue 1 | October 24, 2019

Softball Proposal

The Coaches Association made a proposal to the Board of Directors on August 7 to extend the use of the 10 coaching days currently permitted in June and July only. The Board acted on that proposal in their regularly scheduled meeting this morning and voted 8-0 to **deny** the proposal. Therefore, there is no change to General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 which reads:

Team Sports (10-Day Rule) – Members of a school team’s coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may coach students from their school teams for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31. In addition:

- a.) The 10-day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff. Each individual coach is not entitled to 10 different days for coaching. Ten days refers to any amount of time utilized during those 10 days (i.e. the regulation does NOT permit 240 total hours of coaching... 10 days of 24 hours each).*
- b.) In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted.*
- c.) The Board of Directors may further limit the number of contact days during this period as specified in the specific sports regulations.*
- d.) See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for regulations pertaining to out-of-season instruction, which is different than this regulation on coaching.*

Coaching Out-of-Season

Per General Sport Regulation 7.5.2, school coaches are permitted to coach out of season teams that include players from your own school. A few reminders:

1. There is a 4-player limitation for students who played on the same school team the previous season.
2. You cannot rotate the 4 players on your roster in separate games or tournaments.
3. If you have Freshman that did NOT play for their junior high school softball team, they do not count in the 4-player limitation.
4. If you have any other student-athlete did not play for a school team the previous softball season, they do not count in your 4-player limitation.
5. You may hold practices with your out of season team.

Indoor Softball

Per Softball Regulation 2.6, participation in indoor Softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2019 – February 1, 2020, for student-athletes. A few clarifications:

1. There is no 4-player limitation in place for student-athletes from November 1-February 1 when playing indoors.
2. If there are more than 4 players from the same school, a school coach is NOT permitted to coach the team.
3. If there are 4 or less players from the same school, a school coach IS permitted to coach the team.
4. Practices may be held.

Individual Instruction Regulation

Per General Sport Regulation 8, the purpose of the Individual Instruction rule is to provide coaches the opportunity to offer individual skill instruction outside of the season and the No-Contact Period. Please read the main parameters to this regulation:

1. Instruction is defined as when the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught.
2. It must be skill instruction only—it *cannot* be team play.
3. There can be no more than 4 players present at one time in any facility where the instruction is taking place. For example, you could not have 4 players receiving instruction out on the softball field and 4 separate players receiving instruction in the gym.
4. There is no limit to the number of coaches that may be present.
5. Individual Instruction *cannot* be required of your student athletes.

Open Field/Open Gym

The main component of an Open Gym or Open Field is that it must be free and unstructured play. There can be no instruction, no hitting ground balls, no rotating into the batting cages, etc. Your only options as coaches are to supervise or to participate in play. This is outlined further in General Sports Regulation 10 on page 84 here:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>

2020 Season Start Date

A reminder that the 2020 season start date for competition is March 28. If you have a spring break trip planned prior to this, please remember that you are permitted to scrimmage out of state, but it **must** be a scrimmage for your opponent as well. I would suggest getting this in writing from your opponent(s) as the consequence would be removal from the tournament. One major component of the scrimmage regulation is that no admission can be charged. Please find additional details on scrimmages on page 92:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>. Also, remember that no school time can be missed for travel or competition when going to a non-contiguous state for competition.

Lauren Prochaska

Director of Sport Management

E: lprochaska@ohsaa.org **B:** (614) 267-2502 x 127