



Baseball Bulletin 2026-1

January 22, 2026

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

- **Introduction** – It's hard to believe baseball season is just around the corner. Most of the state is expecting significant snowfall this weekend which means it's time to get ready for the spring baseball season. I hope you are as excited to get prepared as I am!
- **State Rules Interpretation meetings** – I highly encourage you to attend an in-person State Rules Interpretation meeting. These are highly interactive and the discussions during the meeting are invaluable. There will be the on-line State Rules interpretation meeting available sometime in February. The in-person meeting schedule is as follows (subject to change due to weather and school closures):
 - **Monday, January 26 - Columbus** – Franklin Heights HS – 1001 Demorest Rd, Columbus
 - **Wednesday, January 28 – New Concord** – John Glenn High School – 13120 John Glenn School Rd, New Concord
 - **Tuesday, February 3** – West Chester – Lakota West High School, 8940 Union Centre Blvd, West Chester (Cafeteria - Enter through cafeteria doors east end of building – Door #24)
 - **Thursday, February 5 – Cleveland** – Berea-Midpark High School, 165 E. Bagley Rd, Berea (Enter at side gym doors in back of school off of Eastland Road)
 - **Thursday, February 12 – Findlay** – Donnell Middle School – 301 Baldwin Ave., Findlay
 - **Tuesday, February 17 – Piqua** – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr., Piqua
 - **Thursday, February 19 – Canton** – Stark County Educational Service Center, 6057 Strip Ave NW, Canton

All meetings will begin at 6:00 PM in combination with Softball. At 6:00 pm the softball SRI meeting and the baseball local meeting will begin in separate rooms. Following these meetings, the Baseball SRI and softball local meetings will occur. By attending, you will be able to get credit for two meetings maximum (2 SRI meetings baseball and softball, 2 local meetings baseball and softball, or 1 state SRI and 1 local of the same sport)

- **Local on-line meetings** – We will once again publish two local on-line meetings during the spring. The dates are to be determined but will more than likely be late March and Mid April.
- **Clinics** – We have two confirmed clinics so far this year. This year we will again focus on the newer umpire, however, I encourage all umpires to attend to brush up on mechanics and rules.

Veteran umpires attend each year and get valuable feedback and information. We've also been able to discover unknown talents in the past that may have been overlooked!

To register for the clinics, please use the links below and submit payment per the instructions on the registration form:

- **Saturday, February 28, 9:00-1:00** – Rossford High School, 28720 Lime City Rd, Perrysburg, OH 43551 [Register here](#)
- **Saturday, March 7, 9am – 3pm**, Sidney Middle School, 980 Fair Rd, Sidney, OH 45365 [Register Here](#)

The cost of each clinic will be \$40 payable to the local organization organizing the clinic. This will cover the costs of running the clinic. This is an excellent opportunity to get evaluated and receive instruction from some of the best umpires in the state! Multiple umpires received regional assignments for the first time last year in part because of their clinic participation and the evaluations we received.

- **Local Association membership and meetings – JOIN A LOCAL ASSOCIATION!!!** – I've received several questions over the past year and my previous years as a secretary/treasurer of my local association. Membership and participation in your local associations is imperative to your success as an umpire as well as the success of our collective efforts around the state. Your local associations are there to assist you with connecting you to assignors, answering questions related to rules and mechanics, conducting local clinics and training opportunities, and providing you with educational meetings to fulfill your required local meeting credits. Umpires often ask me and other leaders around the state, "how do I advance and get varsity games or tournament games?" I always ask the individual, "How involved are you in your local association?" I find a lot of these people asking the how are the same people that sit in the back of the meeting playing on their phone or having other conversations. Be a member, be involved, network with the leadership of the organization and you'll be amazed at the success you may find.

If you are unable to find a local association, please contact your district administrator which can be found at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Officiating/localassociations>

- **Double First Base** – OHSAA will **NOT** be using the double first base for 2026. This is not an option for teams to use. If you get asked if it's ok to use, teams should not be using it. We will cover this in more detail during the state rules meetings. We will cover the rules changes for use of the double first base in the winter/spring of 2027 to prepare for implementation for that season.
- **Fitness and pre-season readiness** – I want to encourage all of you to start getting your body ready for the season. Every year we hear about umpires getting injuries that might have been prevented with a little preseason conditioning and stretching. If you've been sedentary during these winter months, it's time to get out and start moving. It doesn't take much, a 20-minute walk to start with or some body weight squats and pushups. I've personally taken on a challenge during the month of January to do a minimum of 30 minutes of body movement for 30 days. So far in January I'm 22 for 22!

- **Recruiting** – In recent years our total number of umpires has declined each year. Our best recruiters are those who are current umpires. I encourage each of you to talk about the benefits of umpiring with your friends, neighbors, or whomever you think may enjoy it. It's never been easier to get licensed. A prospect just needs to go to officials.myohsaa.org, create an account in Dragonfly and register for a course. It has never been easier to get started! More information can be found on the ohsaa.org website.
- **Video** – I am always on the lookout for usable video of high school baseball. If you have video that may be of interest for training purposes (mechanics, difficult plays, etc), please send me those clips or links to those clips to fgrubb@ohsaa.org.
- **Social Media** – There is a phrase that I try to live by that resonates with me as I manage a team in my regular job and parent my two daughters. "Beware of the Shadow you cast." The perception that people have of us are formed by our actions. This applies to how we handle ourselves at the schools we serve both on and off the field, at our jobs, with our families, and how we interact on social media. Having been involved with official leadership at the local level for many years, I've been involved with more than one conversation with fellow officials about their online presence and how they represent themselves when it comes to officiating. Please be cognizant when you post on social media, everyone is watching, even when you think it's private. Sometimes it's best to keep comments to yourself instead of fishing for likes. As it has been said before, we have a freedom of speech, but it is not always without consequences. The official OHSA social media policy for officials can be found on page 27 of the Officials Handbook.