



Baseball Bulletin 2026-3

February 12, 2026

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

- **In-person State Rules Interpretation meetings** – There are four more opportunities to attend an in-person SRI meeting this year. I highly encourage you to attend an in-person SRI meeting. These are highly interactive and the discussions during the meeting are invaluable. The in-person meeting schedule is as follows (subject to change due to weather and school closures):
 - **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
 - **Tuesday, February 24 (Rescheduled from Monday, January 26) - Columbus** – Franklin Heights HS – 1001 Demorest Rd, Columbus

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, at 7:00 PM 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, two local meetings baseball and softball, or one state SRI and one local of the same sport)

- **Online SRI Meeting** - The online state rules meeting was released on DragonFly on February 3, 2026. To access it, please visit your 2025-26 registration page on DragonFly. This is the same page on which you have paid your renewal fees on. Once there, click on the requirement that is titled “**2026 SRI Meeting OHSAA Points of Emphasis**”. You will be able to watch the video on that screen.
 - To access this screen, you can click on **your name** on the left side of your DragonFly page, and then select “**My Info.**” From there, you will see a box labeled “**Prep for 2025-26 Official Eligibility**”. That is where you can find the meeting!
 - You will select “**Fill out form Electronically,**” and it will take you to a screen where the video is available. After watching the video, you will select “Yes” to the question asking if you have watched the video, as well as signing your name at the bottom.
 - **Please note: You MUST sign your name and hit “done” on the screen to receive the credit. If you do not sign your name, your credit will not populate.**
 - **After March 24th,** there is a \$50 late fee to take the SRI meeting!

- **Loading Error Note:** If you are experiencing a loading error when trying to access the State Rules Meeting, try these steps: If your page continues to spin without loading anything, and eventually a box with an "Exit Page" and "Wait" option, select the "Exit Page" option. It will take you to a "dead" page with a "reload" button in the middle. Select that button, and the meeting page should appear quickly.
- **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.
- **State Clinics** – We have three 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 via 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](#)
- **Just added!! - Saturday, March 14, 9am-2pm**, St. Ignatius High School, The Carfagna Family Magis Athletic Center, 3100 Chatham Ave, Cleveland, OH. [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 Clinics** – Here are a list of local clinic opportunities that I have been aware of around the state. These have various costs and are of various lengths but any opportunity to get practice is a good day! Newer umpires, please make sure you go to at least one clinic, this will be invaluable to your development and will greatly improve your experience on the field!
 - Saturday, February 21, 9:00-3:00, Franklin Heights High School, 1001 Demorest Rd, Columbus, OH. Cost is \$10. More information can be found [here](#). To register see the information on the link provided.
 - Sunday, March 1, 9:00-1:00, Norton High School, 1 Panther Way, Norton, OH. Cost is \$25. Register by emailing Ron Fuller (rfull1108@gmail.com). Organized by the Tri-county Umpires Association.
 - Saturday, March 7, 9:00 – 1:00, Logan High School – Chieftain Center, 14470 State Route 328, Logan, OH. Register by emailing Phillip Lightfoot at ncaablu@yahoo.com by March 5, 2026. Organized by the Athens County Umpires Association.

- Thursday, March 19, 4:00-6:00, Wapakoneta High School, 1 W. Redskin Trail, Wapakoneta, OH. No Cost, live scrimmage action. Contact Todd Bullinger with questions (toddrbullinger@gmail.com). Register [here](#).
- **Rule book mailings:** The majority of the preseason packets have been mailed from the Columbus office. Thanks to our production team in the office for getting these mailings out earlier this year! REMINDER – not all book mailings are sent at the same time, and these are not sent by First Class Mail so they may be delivered at various times to umpires. Look for these to arrive in late January or the first half of February. If an umpire does not receive a packet the first thing to do is check and make sure that they have renewed their permit for this year!
- **Coach-to-player communication equipment (experimental rule for Ohio for 2026):** As discussed in the SRI meetings, we are experimenting with allowing the pitcher, in addition to the catcher, to wear electronic communication equipment where the coach would be permitted to communicate directly to either one or both players via one-way equipment. This is an experimental rule for 2026 for Ohio. It has been approved by OHSAA, the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches association, and the NFHS. The rules impacted are 1-6-2 and 3-2-5. The adjustment is simply adding “and/or pitcher” after the word “catcher” in each rule. All other enforcements are the same as it would be with the catcher. A coach is still limited to communicate via one-way communication from the dugout only to either the catcher and/or pitcher.
- **Local Association membership and meetings – JOIN A LOCAL ASSOCIATION!!!** – I have 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 umpires asking are the same umpires 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 will 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>

- **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.