



Baseball Bulletin 2026-6

March 27, 2026

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

- The regular season officially begins Saturday, March 28th! I am excited to begin my 33rd season as an umpire and my third season as the DOD. It is time to put all our pre-season preparations to work. Thank you for umpiring in the state of Ohio. Work hard and have a great season!

This bulletin has a lot of information and reminders, so please review thoroughly! For previously issued bulletins, please visit the Directors of Officiating page on the OHSAA website (<https://www.ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD>).

There are several documents that I want to share in this bulletin. Instead of linking them individually, they are available in a folder in my OneDrive account. You can access those documents at this link: [3-27-2026 bulletin documents](#)

- **Online SRI Meeting** – If you did not attend an in-person State rules interpretation (SRI) meeting or complete the online SRI meeting through dragonfly prior to March 24th, you will still need to complete the online SRI meeting by paying the late fee (\$50) prior to April 14th. For instructions on how to access the online SRI, please reference the email sent on 3/25 from Michael Cornathan.

Additionally, you probably received that email even if you already have credit for the SRI meeting. You do not need to do anything unless you have not completed the SRI meeting requirement. You can check your status in DragonFly, under the OHSAA section in your profile, if under the “Pay OHSAA...,” the Baseball-SRI Late fee – Baseball (Optional) is marked paid, you have completed your requirements.

- **Local on-line meetings** – The first of two local online meetings was published on Thursday, March 26, 2026, in Dragonfly. An email from Keaton Jones, via Dragonfly, was sent at approximately 10:00 am today with instructions on how to view the meeting in Dragonfly.

This meeting will be available until April 8th. The second on-line local meeting will be posted around April 14th.

- **3 and 4 Umpire Clinic** – The annual 3 and 4 umpire clinic will be held May 23rd at Grove City from 10:00 – 2:30. This is primarily for tournament umpires who are working Districts and beyond, but all are welcome! The first two hours will be classroom review of the mechanics We will

move to the field to practice scenarios from 12:30-2:30. To register for this (free) clinic visit the google form here: <https://forms.gle/LpcsDyHhg8FpSzct9>

- **Abandonment** – Do you know the difference between 8-4-1i and 8-4-2p? 8-4-1i talks about a dropped third strike, when the batter-runner is out for abandonment. 8-4-2p addresses abandonment when the runner has reached first base and beyond. It is important to know the difference as this does not come up often. It did come up in a State Final a few years ago and the wrong rule was applied to the situation. Please review these rules and case play 8-4-2 situation C.
- **Player-to-Player meetings** – The new rule, 3-4-6, regarding player-to-player meetings must be enforced consistently. Please make sure you revisit the rule and case plays to have a thorough understanding of what is and what is not considered a player-to-player meeting. When a player-to-player meeting occurs, it should be announced that it has been charged and recorded. The base umpire needs to also be aware to help prevent a second player-to-player meeting in a defensive inning. Develop a system that works for you to record these. Base umpires, it is ok to also take something on the field to record conferences. Ryan Thompson, of the Mid-West Buckeye Umpires Association recently sent out a great summary of the rule that I have saved and is available to view in the 3-28-2026 Bulletin Documents folder.
- **Sub-Varsity re-entry exception** – As a reminder, we have an exception to rule 3-1-3 for sub-varsity contests (JV and below) that allows for a play to reenter an unlimited number of times regardless of if the player is a starter or a substitute. Once a player has entered the lineup, they must remain in that spot of the lineup they were previously in when reentering the game. Last season we had some coaches roster batting (batting all players on the roster) or including extra-hitters (EH's creating a 10+ player batting order). These are not permitted under this exception. The batting order can still only contain 9-players with a potential DH or player/DH.
- **Double First base** – I have heard of a few examples of schools who have already installed the double first base. As I have said repeatedly, we are not utilizing the double first base in 2026. Please ask the schools to remove the double first base and replace it with a single base. If they cannot or refuse, please fill out a facility report in Dragonfly. If the base cannot be removed, we play the game as if the base does not exist.
- **Coach-to-player communication** – Reminder that for Ohio in 2026, we are allowing the pitcher to also receive communication from a coach in the dugout while on defense. Pitchers can receive communication on or off the pitcher's plate. Once the pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate, they must simulate taking a sign as to not quick pitch. If they are on the pitcher's plate, their movement to receive communication must comply with all pitching regulations so they do not start the pitching motions.
- **NFHS Baseball Interpretations** – The NFHS has begun providing interpretations and guidance on a weekly basis. I am linking those in the 3-28-2026 Bulletin Documents folder. There are three

since the last bulletin was issued: 3/11/26 – Top Ten Tips for Baseball Officials, 3/18/2026 – Leading off First Base, and 3/25/26-Batter in the batter’s box.

- **OHSAA Body Camera Policy** – The OHSAA prohibits officials from using body cameras and/or any similar type recording devices at any time before, during or after an interscholastic contest or event (including scrimmages and previews). This prohibition cannot be waived even if the participating schools agree to consent to the use of such recording devices.

Similarly, NFHS now prohibits players from wearing an audio or video recording device (1-6-3) while participating in the game.

- **Working with assignors** – Last bulletin I mentioned a “Working with Assignors” discussion series that was being published on the OHSAA Baseball Umpires Facebook page. That series is now complete and can be found in the 3-28-2026 Bulletin Documents folder. Thank you to Chris Prokes and all the assignors who contributed to this series!
- **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.