



Baseball Bulletin 2026-5

March 9, 2026

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

- **Online SRI Meeting** – The in-person SRI meetings have concluded. If you attended one, please check your attendance records in Dragonfly. If you did not attend an in-person SRI meeting, you will need to complete the online SRI meeting by March 24th to avoid the late fee. 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 completed the first two of the state clinics in Rossford and Sidney. We’ve had over 100 umpires in attendance at those two clinics. There is one opportunity left this year to attend a state clinic. Due to unforeseen circumstances with the facility at St. Ignatius, the clinic is being moved from March 14th to March 21st. If you were previously registered for this clinic, please register again if you can attend the new date. If you cannot attend and are previously registered, you will be refunded.

To register for this clinic, please use the links below and submit payment via the instructions on the registration form:

- * **NEW DATE - Saturday, March 21, 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.

- **Bulletins** – Last week’s bulletin contained several links discussing the Runner’s lane interference rule and interpretation. Due to the number of links, it may have gone into your email’s spam folder (it went to mine). All bulletins are posted on the Director’s of Officiating Development page on the OHSAA website under the officiating tab. <https://www.ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD>
- **Rule book remailings** – The remailing of rulebooks occurred the week of February 23rd. I received my mailing on Saturday, February 28th. These do go through USPS’s bulking mailing so there are often delays in the priority of those mailings. Hopefully, many of you have now received at least one copy of the mailing.
- **NFHS Rules interpretations 2026** – NFHS has released their annual rules interpretations. This is a supplement to our rules and casebooks and a good thing to review and print out to keep with you. This year includes many case plays regarding player-to-player meetings! You can find the rules interpretations at <https://nfhs.org/resources/sports/baseball-rules-interpretations-2026>
- **Scrimmages:** As a reminder, a scrimmage is defined by OHSAA, as a contest in sports in which the rules of the sport are not required to be followed in all respects. The length of the scrimmage is limited to maximum of three hours per squad for grades 9-12 and two hours per squad for grades 7-8. This means that teams can scrimmage beyond 7-innings or run situations within the scrimmage. This also means as officials, we can use this time to hone our own skills while working a scrimmage. If partners want to switch from plate to bases mid-scrimmage, this is permissible. These scrimmages are also a terrific opportunity to work with a mentee or bring a newer official along to get them some work.
- **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.
- **Working with assignors** – Recently, there was a series of insights from assignors from around the state on the OHSAA Baseball Umpire’s Facebook page. The first 5 of 8 of this series are posted on the FB page. I will be sharing this collection once it has been completed. There is more to umpiring than just working games. Part of our responsibility is administrative whether we like it

or not. One of those administrative tasks which must be mastered by umpires is working with assignors and keeping your availability up to date. Keeping your Dragonfly calendar blocks current allows assignors to quickly find available umpires to assign. Although declining games assigned by assignors is allowed, as we are independent contractors, it can lead to frustration when umpires routinely decline games. Dragonfly allows for a variety of blocks. Please keep your availability up to date!

- **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.