



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Baseball

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- **First and foremost, I hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy during this trying time.** We continue to get many questions about the status of the baseball season. There are still many uncertainties about the season for softball and other spring sports. The season has not been cancelled. At the present time schools are scheduled to re-open on May 4 and if that happens they can start practice on that date. Schools would be permitted to start regular season play on May 9 with tournament play starting around the end of May and the state finals being played on June 19-21. Although the regular season will be much shorter, schools can continue scheduling contests until the end of the season – if they wish they can actually go until June 27th.
- **It's important to understand that this is the current situation and subject to change.** The OHSA does have a plan for the 2020 season and I think we all hope that the situation will improve and allow schools to re-open on May 4. At the same time, we must all understand that without school it is obvious there can be no after school activities, games, coaching, use of facilities and in turn something for all of us to umpire. Please stay healthy and follow the guidelines mandated by the state. That is the best way that we can contribute to an improved health situation for everyone.
- **State Meeting Extended** - Note - if you have not yet completed the OHSA online state rules meeting the timeline has been extended and this will be available at no cost until Saturday, May 9. Please note that if you took the state meeting a couple of months ago it may not all still be fresh in your mind. As our potential start date of May 9 approaches, umpires are able to repeat the state meeting as part of their preparation for "opening day."
- **Let's all give our assigners a chance!** Many of you have questions concerning your assignments. We ask that you please give your assigners time to make adjustments to schedules as they receive them from schools. Most schools and conferences are trying to work through plans to create a new schedule that works in the shorter season. This takes a lot of time and discussion. I have heard of only a few schools that have finalized a new schedule and sent it to assigners. I can assure you that the assigners have their hands full and will communicate with you, probably through Arbiter, as quickly as possible. I know that they will appreciate your patience as they work through this time. If we are able to get going I'm sure that many schools will try to squeeze as many games as possible into the compressed season so be prepared to accept assignments and work when things get started. Note that our regulation was changed three years ago to permit doubleheaders to be played any day of the week. **You can help you**

assigners by updating your Arbiter account to show your correct availability through at least the end of June. It takes just a few minutes to do this.

- **Remembering Ernie** – Many of you, especially in Northeast Ohio but also around the state, had the opportunity to know Ernie Johnson. Ernie passed away suddenly on Thursday after a very brief hospitalization. Ernie was a person who absolutely had nothing but friends – everyone he knew was his friend and he would do anything to help a friend or to help the OHSAA. He was involved in officiating four sports and started his OHSAA career 48 years ago. Please take time to remember Ernie, his wife Kathleen, and his entire family.
- **Our pre-tournament clinic covering the three and four umpire system, as well as other topics, has been cancelled-** With the condensed season that is in the works, with most teams scheduling doubleheaders on Saturday, we are unable to provide the working clinic this year. I would ask those who are working the tournament to go online and download the OHSAA 3 and 4 person mechanics that is on the DOD website (<https://ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD>). When studying, work on only the position that you will be working. We have found in the past when people who are new to the advanced mechanics try to learn every position at one time, they get confused and the rotations messed up. Remember when your partners misses a rotation, fill in. We only work multi umpire games occasionally and if you aren't thinking on every pitch, we fall back to 2 person mechanics!
- **The OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame Banquet scheduled for June 20 has been cancelled.** The Hall of Fame Committee will meet soon to come up with a plan recognize the Class of 2020 and other officiating award winners.
- **Will keep you updated on any changes.**