



Baseball Bulletin 2025-8

May 4, 2025

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

We have entered May! We are just a couple of weeks before the beginning of the OHSAA state tournament for the varsity level. For many of the senior athletes, these last weeks will be the last time they participate in the sport of baseball or organized sports. Our effort and focus on the field must be high. Give these participants the same level of umpiring that you would if you were assigned to the state tournament. Enjoy this time of year, the next six weeks of OHSAA baseball are some of the most fun there are!

- **Local on-line meetings** – The final online local meeting was published on Monday, April 28th with notice being sent out via Dragonfly. The meeting is available until Thursday, May 8th at 11:59pm. Please take a moment to watch, even if you don't need an additional meeting! To Access the meeting:
 - 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 2024-25 Official Eligibility"** underneath the OHSAA. Click on that box (make sure you are selecting the correct athletic year), and in the requirements list you will find the row titled **"OHSAA Baseball Online Local Meeting #2"**.
 - 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. You will know when you have been credited when there is a green "Approved" box where it once said "Start".
 - **Loading Error Note:** If you are experiencing a loading error when trying to access the 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.
 - For any questions, please contact me at kjones@ohsaa.org.
- **Save the date – Pre-Tournament - 3 and 4 umpire clinic:** The Pre-tournament 3 and 4 umpire clinic will be held on May 17, 2025, at Grove City HS, 4665 Hoover Rd, Grove City, OH 43123.

This clinic is designed for those who are working the OHSAA tournament, however, all are invited to attend. The tentative plan is to do 3 and 4 umpire presentations starting at 10:30 through 12:30. Lunch from 12:30-1:15 and then an on-field scrimmage and situational work with those in attendance.

Please register here if you plan on attending: <https://forms.gle/rFpimCLvVXhGxRvh7>

I recognize that there are many regular season games being played on this day and this may impact attendance. With the season being pushed back a week this year, we would normally hold this clinic the weekend before the district tournament starts. That weekend happens to be Memorial Day weekend this year. I made the decision to avoid trying to have a clinic that weekend to avoid impacting those who wish to be around family and friends during the Memorial Day weekend.

- **OHSAA exception for Rule 3-1-3** – I’ve received numerous questions about the sub-varsity exception that OHSAA has implemented. There have been some that have oversimplified this exception and others that have overcomplicated it.
 - **What the exception allows:** unlimited reentry of starters and non-starters, when a player reenters, he must reenter in the same spot in the lineup that he was substituted out of.
 - **What the exception does not allow:** Extra-hitter (i.e. EH) – some coaches have been adding an extra hitter to the lineup which is not supported by the approved exception. This creates 10 batters in the lineup and is not permitted.
 - Additionally, this is not free substitutions. Subs should be reported and recorded when they come into the lineup as a substitute for a player in the game. There are no limits on the number of players that can come in and out of the lineup in a singular batting order spot. The players in the spot cannot be in the game at the same time. There are no amount of substitutes that would eliminate a player from reentering once he’s out of the game.
 - **Situation:** In a JV game, Team A’s Smith is in the lineup in the 3rd batting spot playing 1st base. In the top of the second inning, Team A comes to bat and Jones bats for Smith in the 3rd spot. In the bottom of the 2nd inning, Abel enters the game for Jones at 1st base. In the top of the 5th inning, the 3rd spot in the lineup comes back up and a.) Smith is reported to reenter to bat or b.) Jones is reported to reenter to bat. Ruling: In both a. and b. these are legal reentry substitutions under the OHSAA exception to rule 3-1-3. In a. this isn’t really an exception as Smith would be allowed to reenter as a starter at this point.
- **Torpedo bats:** I’ve been asked a few times regarding torpedo bats that have become all the rage in MLB by a few teams. If a bat meets the requirements of rule 1-3-2, it would be legal. As of now, there are no non-wood bats with a BBCOR certification that would also be considered a torpedo style bat.
- **Detached player equipment:** [Here](#) is a fun video from an OHSAA game this year. What’s your call on this play. Review rule 8-3-3, 8-3-4, and 8-3-5 regarding detached player equipment.

- **Pitch hits a runner** – [Here](#) is another video of something you rarely see! In this video, the situation is 3-2 count, bases loaded and 2 outs. What do you rule? Rules to review 5-1-1a, 8-3-1a and Casebook Situation 8.3.1 Situation A.
- **Video:** Just a reminder, nearly every game is now being video taped or streamed. Professionalism is always on display. If you have a play that you can get the coach to send you that you would like reviewed or that you think would be a good video for education of other umpires, please send it my way! fgrubb@ohsaa.org.