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Baseball Bulletin 2025-2

February 3, 2025

From: Frank Grubb, Director of Officiating Development

* **Rule/Case Book mailings** -  Preseason packets are now being mailed from the OHSAA office.  Remember these are **not** sent First Class so they may be delivered at various times to umpires.  I’m sure that these will continue to arrive over the next week or two.  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!  This can be checked on DragonFly.  Also, these mailings are not forwarded by the postal service.  Umpires need to update their DragonFly profile and address when they move or have other updates. For the record, I have not received mine either!
* **On-line State Rules Meeting –** The Baseball State rules interpretation meeting will be posted in Dragonfly the week of February 3rd. Instructions will be sent via email on how to access this meeting in Dragonfly.
* **State Rules Interpretation meetings** – There are five (5) in-person State rules meetings left for 2025. These are a great opportunity to discuss the rules changes with me and your fellow umpires as well as get a local meeting in at the same time. I highly encourage you to attend an in-person SRI meeting! If you prefer to attend an in-person state rules interpretation meeting, the schedule is as follows:
  + **Thursday, February 6 – Cleveland** – Berea-Midpark High School, 165 E. Bagley Rd, Berea (Enter at side gym doors in back of school off of Eastland Road)
  + **Wednesday, February 12** – West Chester – Lakota West High School, 8940 Union Centre Blvd, West Chester (Cafeteria - Enter through cafeteria doors east end of building – Door #24)
  + **Thursday, February 13 – Findlay** – Donnell Middle School – 301 Baldwin Ave., Findlay
  + **Tuesday, February 18 – Piqua** – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr., Piqua
  + **Thursday, February 20 –Canton** – Stark County Educational Service Center, 6057 Strip Ave NW, Canton

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, 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, 2 local meetings baseball and softball, or 1 state SRI and 1 local of the same sport)

* **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 to late April.
* **Clinics** – We have organized two clinics 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.

To register for the clinics, please use the links below and submit payment per the instructions on the registration form:

* **Saturday, February 15, 2025, 11:30 – 3:30** – Cleveland – St. Ignatius High School, 1911 West 30th Street, Cleveland [Register here](https://forms.gle/iYtcQgSrYEhS4G7s6)
* **Saturday, March 8, 9:00-1:00 –** Rossford High School, 28720 Lime City Rd, Perrysburg, OH 43551 [Register here](https://forms.gle/SERiKHVpq2W45o7D6)

The cost of each clinic will be $35 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. A local meeting credit will be issued for attending.

Additional clinics are being held locally that you can also join. The ones that I’m aware of are as follows:

* March 8 – 10:00 – 1:00 (registration starts at 9:00) – Chieftain Center @ Logan High School, 14470 State Route 328, Logan, OH 43138; Cost – Free; Contact Phillip Lightfoot, [ncaablu@yahoo.com](mailto:ncaablu@yahoo.com) to register or for questions
* March 9 – 9:00 am – 1pm (registration begins at 7:30)-– Norton High School, 1 Panther Way, Norton, OH 44203 – Cost - $35.00, Contact Ron Fuller, [rfuller7024@aol.com](mailto:rfuller7024@aol.com) to register
* **Local Association Meetings –** If you are not a member of a local association, I HIGHLY recommend you join one. 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>.

You can find local association meetings by using the Dragonfly calendar feature.

* Login to Dragonfly – max.dragonflyathletics.com
* Select the calendar link in the left-hand column
* In the upper right section is a filter box to set your calendar view
  + Under OHSAA, select Baseball which will show you all local association meetings scheduled.
  + Click on each one to view the details
* **Rule Review – Lineups and the DH rule 3-1-4**
  + We can have 3 options for line ups:
    - **“Straight Nine”** – All players in the lineup are batting for themselves
    - **“Traditional “ DH** – The designated hitter is batting for one starting defensive player
    - **Player/DH** – The designated hitter is in the game as both a defensive player as well as the DH
  + It is important to review and be familiar with the impact of the DH when substitutes enter the game under each type of lineup
  + The lineup is determined at the start of the game when the lineups are presented to the UIC
  + Test your knowledge:
    1. If a team starts with a “straight nine” lineup, later in the game can they decide to add a DH?
    2. Can the “traditional “ DH position have a substitute?
    3. Can the “traditional DH play a defensive position and remain the DH?
    4. Can the player who has the DH hitting for him enter the game in another position in the batting order?
    5. Can the player for whom the DH is batting for pinch-run for the DH without impacting the DH position?
    6. After the DH position has been eliminated, is there still a way the original DH can legally have another at-bat?
    7. If a team started with a “traditional” DH, can they later switch to a player/DH or vice versa?
    8. Can a courtesy runner run for the DH?
    9. Does the player/DH have to be the pitcher?
    10. Can someone substitute for the starting player/DH as a substitute player/DH?
    11. Can multiple eligible substitutes substitute in the defensive role without impacting the DH role?
    12. Can someone substitute for the player/DH as a hitter or runner without impacting the DH role?
    13. When a player/DH has a substitute in the defensive role and late returns in the defensive role, does that count as the player/DH’s re-entry for purposes of re-entry rights?
    14. In the second inning, another player bats for the starting player/DH, thus ending the DH role. Is it still possible for the starting player/DH to re-enter?
    15. What if a player/DH is replaced because of injury – can that substitute continue as the player/DH?
    16. Is it ever possible for the starting player/DH and a substitute in the defensive role to play defensively at the same time?
    17. Under the player/DH rule, can anyone else ever become the DH?
    18. Can a player/DH who starts as the pitcher, and is replaced as the pitcher in the third inning, return to pitch in the fourth inning?
    19. Can a catcher or pitcher who Is the player/DH have a courtesy runner?

Answer key: 1. No, 2. Yes, 3. No, 4. No, 5. No, 6. Yes, 7. No, 8. No, 9. No, 10. No, 11. Yes, 12. No, 13. Yes, 14. Yes, 15. No, 16. No, 17. No, 18. Yes, 19. No.