



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Fick

Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

January 8, 2024

Bulletin 24 -1

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- Our first 2024 softball bulletin comes early again this year as we have information that we would like to get to our umpires. Our bulletins again come to you from the OHSAA office.
- **Some umpires ask why we are again placing emphasis on umpire mechanics this year?** As I talk to our observers around the state it's obvious that this area needs some attention – as one of our top observers told me – “A major problem observed is plate umpires are altering their stances, thus changing their positioning at the plate, batter-to-batter and sometimes even pitch-to-pitch. These inconsistencies give those umpires a slightly different view of the strike zone and the path of the pitch.” By working on mechanics issues as simple as this, or on improving positions on the bases we are able to achieve better play calling and accuracy – certainly that is a lot of what umpiring is all about. **To address this topic, we are excited to be holding five Mechanics Clinics being offered around the state – and with our additional emphasis on mechanics will be offering all attendees SIX bonus points on your tournament composite score. I think that shows the strong feelings we have on mechanics improvement and the value of these clinics. For the past several years we have seen many umpires advance in tournament play, including to the state level, after attending these clinics, being identified and improving their mechanics. We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity!**

With our first clinic coming up early in February now is the time to register - (see end of this bulletin for more details and registration form). Dates and Sites for Mechanics Clinics are-

■ Saturday, February 10 – East/Southeast – New Concord — East Muskingum Middle School—
13120 John Glenn School Road—across from John Glenn High School

■ Saturday, February 17 – Northwest – Findlay — Glenwood Middle School—1715 North Main St.

■ Sunday, February 18– Northeast – Tallmadge – Tallmadge Recreation Center – 46 N. Monroe Rd.

■ Saturday, March 2 — Southwest — Lakota West Freshman School, 5050 Tylersville Rd., Westchester 45069. Park and Enter on the Westside of school next to Baseball and Softball Fields. This location is an update from the original printed version of the White Book.

■ Sunday, March 3 – Central - Waggoner Rd. Junior High School — 360 South Waggoner Rd., Reynoldsburg

- **Softball packets are mailed by the OHSAA to all officials.** This year’s packet will include rule book, case book, White Book and a new and enhanced version of the Umpire Manual. This is very timely for our renewed emphasis on mechanics – watch future bulletins and state meetings that will point you to some of the real improvements in this manual. Remember these are **not** sent First Class so they may be delivered at various times to umpires. 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 myOHSAA. Also, these mailings are not forwarded by the postal service. Umpires need to update their myOHSAA profile and address when they move or have other updates.
- **STATE MEETING INFORMATION – FIRST MEETING IS JANUARY 30** - As in the past, all softball umpires must complete four education credits (local meetings, etc.) and one state rules meeting. The state meeting will be available both online and in person. The BEST WAY to start your preparation for the coming season is to attend a “face-to-face” State Rules Interpretation Meeting. There will be eight in-person meetings. Each meeting will feature sessions of about two hours and in addition to the state meeting will review the most important items that we want to cover prior to the season. By attending the entire session, you will receive credit for a local meeting in addition to the state softball meeting. There is no need to “pre-register” for any face-to-face State meetings. The schedule is listed below with all meetings starting at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30 - New Concord – East Muskingum Middle School - 13120 John Glenn School Rd. – across street from John Glenn High School

Wednesday, January 31 – Columbus – Upper Arlington High School – 1625 Zollinger Rd.

Tuesday, February 6 – West Chester - Lakota West High School, 8940 Union Centre Blvd. - - Cafeteria - Enter through cafeteria doors east end of building – Door #24

Thursday, February 8 – Cleveland - Garfield Heights High School – 4900 Turney Rd.

Tuesday, February 13 – Jackson - Jackson High School – 500 Vaughn St.

Thursday, February 15 – Findlay – Donnell Middle School – 301 Baldwin Ave.

Tuesday, February 20 – Piqua – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr.

Thursday, February 22 –Canton –Stark County Educational Service Center, 6057 Strip Ave NW

The online state meeting for softball will be available by the week of February 5. Details will be emailed to all officials and will include the deadlines for completing the meeting. To access the meeting, log in to your myOHSAA profile and click the “Rules Meetings” icon in the top right, then click “Find a State Meeting” from the left side menu, then select “Softball” from the “Sports” dropdown menu, “Official” from “Meeting Type” dropdown menu, and then click “Search”. This search will display the online meeting option as well as any face-to-face meeting options. You may view the online meeting on any device except for a Google Chromebook. A Google Chromebook is a type of laptop computer, entirely different from the popular internet browser Google Chrome. You may view the online meetings using the internet browser Google Chrome.

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2024 SOFTBALL UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINICS

All sessions are from 9 AM to 4PM

- Saturday, February 10 – East/Southeast – New Concord — East Muskingum Middle School—13120 John Glenn School Road—across from John Glenn High School
- Saturday, February 17 – Northwest – Findlay — Glenwood Middle School—1715 North Main St.
- Sunday, February 18– Northeast – Tallmadge – Tallmadge Recreation Center – 46 N. Monroe St.
- Saturday, March 2 — Southwest — West Chester — Lakota West Freshman School, 5050 Tylersville Rd., Westchester 45069. Park and Enter on the Westside of school next to Baseball and Softball Fields. This location is an update from the original printed version of the White Book.
- Sunday, March 3 – Central - Waggoner Rd. Junior High School — 360 South Waggoner Rd., Reynoldsburg

The OHSAA will sponsor five Softball Mechanics Clinics in 2024. These clinics, designed to help umpires improve their skills and attain their advancement goals, will emphasize plate and base mechanics. Staff will be from the OHSAA Softball Umpire Instructional Team and will include OHSAA softball tournament observers. Umpires attending will receive one educational credit (local rules meeting). Attendees will also receive SIX points added to their TOURNAMENT SELECTION SCORE. The cost of each clinic will be \$60 which includes all instruction, lunch, and a registration gift. Immediate registration is encouraged as the number of attendees at each location will be limited.

This clinic will be a working clinic – attendees should come prepared for both plate and base drills in an indoor setting. Please bring your plate equipment - OHSAA umpire uniform is recommended. Please also bring gym shoes as the weather will likely require that these be indoor events. Stations will be rotated in order that attendees can work with each instructor.

We have learned that many of our newer umpires were as anxious as our veterans to take advantage of our Mechanics Clinics. These clinics provide a great supplement to the RefPreps classes offered to our

newest umpires. IN THIS YEAR'S CLINICS GROUPS WILL BE DIVIDED BASED ON EXPERIENCE LEVEL – THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR BOTH NEWER AND VETERAN UMPIRES TO WORK ON IMPROVING THEIR MECHANICS IN A SETTING THAT HELPS THEM BASED ON THEIR AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE.

Questions should be directed to Clinic Director Jerry Fick, OHSAA Director of Officials Development – Softball at swdoc@fuse.net.

For Registration – Use form below – follow instructions on the form.

Note – Clinic registration will start at 9AM and program will begin at 930AM. In case of inclement weather participants will be notified by email and the clinic will be rescheduled.

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2024 SOFTBALL UMPIRES MECHANICS CLINICS

REGISTRATION FORM

SELECT LOCATION:

_____ Saturday, February 10 – East – New Concord — East Muskingum Middle School—13120 John Glenn School Road—across from John Glenn High School

_____ Saturday, February 17 – Northwest — Findlay — Glenwood Middle School—1715 N. Main St.

_____ Sunday, February 18– Northeast — Tallmadge – Tallmadge Recreation Center – 46 N. Monroe

_____ Saturday, March 2 — Southwest — West Chester — Lakota West Freshman School, 5050 Tylersville Rd., Westchester 45069. Park and Enter on the Westside of school next to Baseball and Softball Fields. This location is an update from the original printed version of the White Book.

_____ Sunday, March 3 – Central - Reynoldsburg — Waggoner Road Jr High—360 South Waggoner Rd

Name: _____

OHSAA Permit # _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Primary Phone _____ Years as an OHSAA Softball Umpire _____

Attendees will also receive SIX points added to their TOURNAMENT SELECTION SCORE. Payment of \$60 may be made via check or credit card. Checks must be made payable to OHSAA. If paying by credit card scan and email completed registration form and payment form below to jfick@ohsaa.org or mail to OHSAA as indicated in next line. If paying by check mail to: OHSAA, Attn: Accounting, 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Full Name on Card

Card Number

Expiration Date
(MM/YY)

CVV Code (3-4
digits)

Billing Street Address

Billing City

Billing State

Billing Zip Code

Amount to be charged

\$

Product Description

Phone Number

Email Address