



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

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Bulletin 26 -4

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In this issue –

RULE BOOK MAILING INFORMATION UPDATE – All books have been mailed – see details below

MECHANICS CLINIC SCHEDULE - REGISTRATION INFORMATION – THIS WEEKEND’S CLINIC IS SATURDAY AT LIBERTY-BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, FINDLAY

THE OHSAA HAS ANOTHER EASY OPTION TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR THESE THROUGH THE OHSAA TICKETING SOFTWARE – DIRECT LINKS TO REGISTER FOR THE CLINICS AT THE VARIOUS SITES – THANKS FOR THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THIS EASY WAY TO REGISTER!

[Northwest Softball Clinic - Findlay](#)

[Northeast Softball Clinic - Berea](#)

[Southwest Softball Clinic - Westchester](#)

[Central Softball Clinic - Columbus](#)

STATE MEETINGS CONTINUE – THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 12 – FINDLAY DONNELL MS

COLUMBUS MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED – FEBRUARY 24 - UPDATE BELOW

ONLINE SRIs, LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS, USING THE RIGHT RESOURCES AND RECRUITING

- Preseason packets have been mailed from the Columbus office. Thanks to our production team in the office for getting these mailings out earlier this year! **REMINDER** – not all book mailings are sent at the same time and these are **not** sent by First Class Mail so they may be delivered at various times to umpires. Look for these to arrive in late January or the first half of February. **SPECIAL NOTE – DUE TO WEATHER DELAYS AT SOME POSTAL LOCATIONS WE EXPECT EVEN LONGER DELIVERY TIMES THAN NORMAL. WE HAVE ALSO HAD SOME QUESTIONS CONCERNING ACCESS TO THE WHITE BOOK – THIS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT -**

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/dod/Softball/2026OHSAAWhiteBook.pdf>

- Our Mechanics Clinics continue **SATURDAY AT LIBERTY-BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, FINDLAY. The improved registration process is listed below. We encourage early registration for the clinics as that allows us to have proper staffing with plenty of individual instruction, enough pitchers and catchers for our plate stations, adequate supplies, and enough lunches.** The clinics are designed to help umpires improve their skills and attain their advancement goals. Staff will be from the OHSAA Softball Umpire Instructional Team and will include OHSAA softball tournament observers. Umpires attending will receive one local rules meeting credit and **also receive SIX points added to their TOURNAMENT SELECTION SCORE.** The cost is still only \$60 which includes all instruction, lunch, and a registration gift. 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. 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 online RefPreps classes offered to our newest umpires. **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 BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE LEVEL.**

Questions should be directed to Clinic Director Jerry Fick, OHSAA Director of Officials Development – Softball, at jfick@ohsaa.org.

2026 SOFTBALL MECHANICS CLINICS REMAINING SCHEDULE

All sessions are from 9 AM to 4PM

___ Saturday, February 14 – Northwest – Findlay – Liberty-Benton Middle School Middle School – 9190 County Road 9. – Enter MIDDLE SCHOOL – Main entrance

___ Sunday, February 22 – Northeast – Berea – Midpark High School – 165 E. Bagley Rd. - Enter at side gym doors in back of school off Eastland Rd.

___ Saturday, February 28 – Southwest – Westchester – Lakota West Freshman School – 5050 Tylersville Road – Enter at West Side of Building near Athletic Fields

___ Sunday, March 1 – Central – Hilliard – Bradley High School – 2800 Walker Rd.

**To register for these events please follow the instructions -
REGISTRATION FORM**

Select Location:

___ Saturday, February 14 – Northwest – Findlay – Liberty-Benton Middle School Middle School – 9190 County Road 9. – Enter MIDDLE SCHOOL – Main entrance

___ Sunday, February 22 – Northeast – Berea – Midpark High School – 165 E. Bagley Rd. - Enter at side gym doors in back of school off Eastland Rd.

___ Saturday, February 28 – Southwest – Westchester – Lakota West Freshman School – 5050 Tylersville Road – Enter at West Side of Building near Athletic Fields

___ Sunday, March 1 – Central – Hilliard – Bradley High School – 2800 Walker Rd.

Name: _____

DragonFly # _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Primary Phone Number _____

Years Registered as an OHSAA Softball Umpire _____

Attendees will also receive SIX points added to their TOURNAMENT SELECTION SCORE.

Payment of \$60 may be made by our online registration/ticketing system or by check. We have a new simplified online registration process - to register online use the links listed below for each clinic – **IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO USE THE CTRL BUTTON WHEN CLICKING ON THE APPROPRIATE LINK.**

[Northwest Softball Clinic - Findlay](#)

[Northeast Softball Clinic - Berea](#)

[Southwest Softball Clinic - Westchester](#)

[Central Softball Clinic - Columbus](#)

If you chose to register using the paper form above checks are made payable to OHSAA and mailed with registration form to: OHSAA, Attn: Accounting, 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214.

There is also a QR code on page 33 of the White Book – you can use your phone to click on that and register directly from your phone.

- **STATE MEETING INFORMATION – THE COLUMBS MEETING AT FRANKLIN HEIGHTS HS HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24.** - 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 seven 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 face-to-face State meetings. The REMAINING schedule is listed below with all meetings starting at 6PM.

Thursday, February 12 – Findlay – Donnell Middle School – 301 Baldwin Ave.

Tuesday, February 17 – Piqua – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr.

Thursday, February 19 – Canton – Stark County Educational Service Ctr., 6057 Strip Ave NW

Tuesday, February 24 – Columbus – Franklin Heights HS – 1001 Demorest Rd. RESCHEDULED

The online state meeting for softball is now available. Reprinted below are the instructions which were emailed to all officials on February 3.

The state rules meeting is now live **on DragonFly!** To access it, please visit your 2025-26 registration page on DragonFly. This is the same page in 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.

This meeting is open **without a \$50 late fee** until **Tuesday, March 24th at 11:59 PM.**

The meeting window will be up **with a \$50 late fee** from **Wednesday, March 25th until Tuesday, April 14th at 11:59 PM.**

As a reminder, every official is required to attend at least one state rules meeting per year.

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.

For any questions, please contact Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org)

- **Local Association membership and meetings –**

JOIN A LOCAL ASSOCIATION!!! Membership and participation in a local association is imperative to your success as an umpire as well as the success of our collective efforts around the state. Your local associations are there to assist you with connecting you to assignors, answering questions related to rules and mechanics, conducting local clinics and training opportunities, and providing you with educational meetings to fulfill your required local meeting credits. Umpires often ask me and other leaders around the state, “how do I advance and get varsity games or tournament games?” I always ask the individual, “How involved are you in your local association?” I find a lot of the umpires asking are the same umpires that sit in the back of the meeting playing on their phone or having other conversations. Be a member, be involved, network with the organization and you will be amazed at the success you may find. 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>

- As in past years each association may hold one combined meeting for baseball and softball. The powerpoint for this meeting is available on the OHSAA website – Officiating – DOD page – both baseball and softball.

- Sourcing the right resources – this information is included in our state meeting and White Book but I am adding here due to questions received this week. The NFHS and OHSAA publications mailed to you, along with weekly bulletins, are your only official source of rules and mechanics information. Specifically, we have had questions concerning two hour online clinics costing about \$30 and offered by a company called MIBT. Unfortunately, these clinics cover a set of mechanics that we don't use and therefore can't be recommended. Also, there is no OHSAA meeting credit for these. Please stick to our approved resources!
- Recruiting – In recent years our total number of umpires has declined each year. Our best recruiters are those who are current umpires. I encourage each of you to talk about the benefits of umpiring with your friends, neighbors, or whomever you think may enjoy it. A prospect just needs to go to the Officiating page of the ohsaa.org website and click on Officiating/Become An Official. It has never been easier to get started!