



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Fick

Softball Bulletin 21-1

Director of Officials Development – Softball

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swdoc@fuse.net

- First and foremost, thanks to all of our umpires as we work towards this goal - “Let’s Have a Season” which has been the rallying cry for OHSAA student athletes over the past year. I know this goal applies to all of our softball umpires as well. This will be a challenging year and we are going to have to be flexible – schedules will be changing, rules modifications will be in place and may change at any time, health and safety concerns will more than ever be at the forefront. We thank you in advance for all your efforts. Our reward will be that kids get to play and umpires get out on the field as well. At the same time we will be asking you to do a little more to prepare for 2021.
- State meeting – this is now online in myOHSAA. There are many ways to access this mandatory meeting – probably the easiest is to click on the Rules Meetings icon in the upper right portion of your screen. Follow the instructions and note the deadline is March 27 – after that a late fee applies.
- Local Meetings - Associations are permitted to offer meetings either online or in-person but many are unable to do so because of facility/site restrictions. The OHSAA will offer six online local meeting opportunities between mid-February and early April. When each of these meetings is available you receive an email notice from the OHSAA office. The first meeting should have arrived in your inbox on Wednesday afternoon. Special thanks to the umpires from around the state who volunteered to develop and present these programs.
- For 2021 there are no rules changes, no new rule books or other publications, and no postal mailing of materials from the OHSAA. As I’m sure you can imagine the association is doing everything possible to reduce its expenses as nearly all its revenue stream has been cut drastically without significant paid admissions to tournaments. If you have misplaced your printed 2020 White Book it can be accessed online at the link below – and a list of key review items is printed elsewhere in the 2021 White Book Supplement described in the next item.
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/dod/Softball/SoftballWhiteBook.pdf>
- In order to make sure that everyone has access to the 2021 Softball Rules Modifications and all the related requirements and recommendations those items have been included in (and make up the majority of) our 2021 White Book Supplement which can be accessed on the OHSAA website. Go to this page - <https://www.ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD>, scroll down to Softball and

then click on the 2021 White Book Supplement. We encourage you to spend some extra time reviewing this document. Please note that the possibility of changes and updates to these modifications exist – both prior to and during the season. We will send a bulletin whenever we need to notify you of a change – again remember that this year flexibility will be important.

- It's been almost two years since we played a high school softball game. One way to get back in the rule book is to use the OHSAA online softball rules test! The test is totally voluntary, but taking the exam can provide Class 1 officials with extra points on your composite postseason score for the 2022 tournament. Only your first attempt at the exam will count towards the bonus points, so take your time. The test will be released about March 1 and will be available until [March 31st](#). Instructions to access the test and login will be provided by email from the Columbus office. We hope you take this opportunity to participate.

94-100%- 3 points

86-92%- 2 points

80-84%- 1 point

- Reminder – the deadline for late renewals of spring sports officiating permits was extended this year only to February 28. If you know of an official who has not renewed this is the last chance. There is a late renewal fee but it can still be done – this week only.
- Also February 28 is the deadline for applying to work the 2021 spring tournaments. Class 1 officials can go to their myOHSAA account – look for OHSAA Tournaments on the list on the left and below that is Tournament Questionnaires. Note that this is again an extended deadline for 2021 so it is the final opportunity to apply.
- Each season we receive a lot of great questions on the rules and mechanics. Your local association interpreter is your first resource for these questions and answers. Many of these end up in our bulletins. In order that we can properly file these and have them in a format that can be available for the bulletins interpreters are asked to send all of their inquiries directly to me at the email above. Sending these to the Columbus office just delays the response time as the staff there forwards them on to me. Please, no texts or phone calls for these requests as once again they are better kept on file at a single place. This will make the responses more efficient and allow the OHSAA to serve you better. We have a number of these plays and rulings ready to send but as you can tell this edition of our bulletin was designed to provide other types of information.