



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Fick

Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

February 9, 2023

Bulletin 23 -3

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As you may have heard the OHSAA BASEBALL Mechanics Clinics have been cancelled. This does not apply to our SOFTBALL Mechanics Clinics where registrations continue to come in on a daily basis. Note that the SOFTBALL Southeast District Clinic set for February 19 at South Webster has been cancelled due to a facility conflict. We have been able to relocate those who registered for this clinic to one of our other five locations.

Reminder – our first Mechanics Clinic is coming up on February 11 in the East District and we will be offering four more clinics. These clinics, designed to help umpires improve their skills and be identified for potential advancement, 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 credit for their required state meeting and one local rules meeting. **Attendees will also receive three points added to their TOURNAMENT SELECTION SCORE.**

I'm often asked why these clinics are so important – the simple answer is that solid mechanics are tremendous part of being a successful umpire and this is the place that many of our umpires come back year after year in a desire to be the best they can be and advance. Our Softball Umpire Improvement Team serves as instructional staff and many state and regional tournament umpires have been first "seen" at these events. I'm also asked why pre-registration is so important. We need to order registration gifts and lunches plus arrange for adequate facilities and a sufficient number of instructional staff to keep a low participant to instructor ratio at each location. Registration is easier than ever as we now accept credit card payments – see the information with the registration form below.

The cost of each clinic is still only \$60 which includes all instruction, lunch, and a registration gift. Immediate registration is encouraged – this allows us to have the proper number of instructors, lunches and gifts. **NOW IS THE TIME TO REGISTER FOR ALL CLINICS!**

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

- **With our clinics coming soon now is the time to register. Dates and Sites for Mechanics Clinics are-**

____ Saturday, February 11 – East – John Glenn HS - 13115 John Glenn Sch. Rd. New Concord

____ Saturday, February 18 – Southwest – Lakota West HS, 8940 Union Centre Blvd. West Chester

____ Saturday, February 25 – Northwest – Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St. Findlay

____ Sunday, February 26 – Northeast – Walsh Jesuit HS – 4550 Wyoga Lake Rd. Cuyahoga Falls

____ Sunday, March 5 – Central - Reynoldsburg HS SUMMIT CAMPUS – 8579 Summit Rd.
Reynoldsburg

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.

- I've been asked to include information in this bulletin on bat sensors and what was covered in the state meeting. A bat sensor is an attachment placed on the knob of the bat to measure swing speed. They are not legal for high school play. **PLAY** - B1 enters the batter's box with a legal bat which has had a bat sensor added to measure swing speed. Either the umpire sees the bat sensor or the defense notes the violation and calls this to the attention of the umpire. **RULING** - When discovered the bat must be removed from the game or be made legal (bat sensor could be removed), the umpire will issue a team warning, and the next violation of Rule 3-6-1 by that team will result in the offender and the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench for the remainder of the game, and since the batter entered the batter's box with the illegal bat, Rule 7-4-2 would also apply and the batter would be ruled out.
- **STATE MEETINGS** - As in the past, all softball umpires must attend four local rules meeting and one state rules meeting. The OHSAA requires umpires holding permits in both baseball and softball to attend four local meetings for each sport.

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. Remaining meeting locations and dates are listed below with all meetings starting at 6PM.

Thursday, February 9 – Cleveland - Garfield Heights High School – 4900 Turney Rd.

Wednesday, February 15 - New Concord – John Glenn High School - 13115 John Glenn Sch. Rd.

Thursday, February 16–Canton –Stark County Educational Service Center, 6057 Strip Ave NW

Tuesday, February 21 – Piqua – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr.

Thursday, February 23 – Findlay – Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St.

The online state meeting for softball is now available. Detailed instructions will be emailed from the central office 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.

- USA Softball of Ohio will be hosting a National Umpire School in Dublin March 11 and 12 with an opening session on Friday night, March 10. This event is provided by one of our education partners and is a great opportunity for umpires who truly aspire to advance and be the best they can be. Registration is limited! Details concerning registration can be found at –

http://www.usasoftballohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023_Ohio-Umpire-School.pdf

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2023 SOFTBALL UMPIRES MECHANICS CLINICS

REGISTRATION FORM – SELECT LOCATION:

_____ Saturday, February 11 – East – John Glenn High School - 13115 John Glenn Sch. Rd. New Concord

____ Saturday, February 18 – Southwest – Lakota West HS, 8940 Union Centre Blvd. West Chester

____ Saturday, February 25 – Northwest – Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St. Findlay

____ Sunday, February 26 – Northeast – Walsh Jesuit HS – 4550 Wyoga Lake Rd. Cuyahoga Falls

____ Sunday, March 5 – Central - Reynoldsburg HS SUMMIT CAMPUS – 8579 Summit Rd.
Reynoldsburg

Name: _____

OHSAA Permit # _____ EMAIL
ADDRESS _____

Primary Phone _____

Years as an OHSAA Softball Umpire _____

Attendees will also receive three 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 form 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