



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

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THIS ISSUE OF THE SOFTBALL BULLETIN OPENS WITH SOME REMINDERS AND THEN CONTINUES WITH SOME ADDITIONAL UPDATES INCLUDING PLAY SITUATIONS AND RULINGS

- **Online Local Meetings** – There will be one scheduled more online meeting later in April. Thanks to George Gulas and Tom Hathaway our meeting presenters.
- **Rules Test** - The OHSAA is offering an optional exam for umpires who wish to improve their rules study and knowledge. The purpose of this test is to help umpires get in the rule book and improve their knowledge. This will also provide umpires with an opportunity to earn extra points for their tournament composite rating for the 2024 season. Information concerning this exam, along with instructions, was sent on Thursday morning, March 30. Please note the exam must be completed by April 21 and this date will not be extended. The link to the test is - <https://forms.office.com/r/qTmXN169h2>
Umpires who complete the optional rules test will receive additional point credit for their tournament officials rating based on their score as follows:
 - 94% and above - 3 points
 - 86% - 92% - 2 points
 - 80-84% - 1 point
- We are using new software for this test. Some of the programs used in the past are no longer available to us. Note that there is no “save” function with this software so plan to complete the test in one “sitting.” The first three questions cover, for obvious reasons, your name, permit number, and email address. Unfortunately, you will get no credit for answering these questions correctly! Questions 4-53 are the actual test and you will get two points for each correct answer. There will be no scores or answers released until after the test deadline. As can be expected there are some growing pains with the new software and test procedures. On Question #26 the second answer assumes a batted ball in flight over foul ground. On Question #29 the final sentence in the question portion was left off and is - The defensive coach now appeals that Batter B3 has batted out of order. On Question #32 it’s obvious that the words “the plate” should follow the word “toward”. For Question #38 the first option should have these

words added – “before passing a fielder (except the pitcher)”. Thanks to those who pointed out these items. We hope to be adding you to our test writing team next year.

- Hold the date – Our Pre-Tournament Clinic will be held Sunday, May 7 at Waggoner Rd. Junior High School, 360 South Waggoner Rd. in Reynoldsburg. Registration will begin at noon and the clinic will conclude around 4PM. All OHSAA umpires our welcome. In addition to other information we will highlight the three umpire system used in our Regional and District games. This is always one of our highlight training programs with a big crowd – no reservations are needed.
- I am getting questions on the C Flap jaw protector used in baseball - some coaches trying to tell umpires that it is permitted in softball. This is not permitted as Rule 1-6-6 requires a NOCSAE approved face protector. The C Flap is not NOCSAE tested or approved. Note that a face protector is not required in baseball.
- We are receiving emails concerning a specific baseball/ softball wristband that contains plays and signals for offensive or defensive players. This particular product is advertising and stating that it was intended to be worn on the belt buckle or the wrist. This declaration is in direct opposition to Rule 3-2-7c Exception which allows a wristband with a playbook or play card as equipment. Note that these items can't be worn on the belt – the rule clearly allows a wristband only. A manufacturer who chooses to improve position and sales in the marketplace by using advertising tactics to circumvent a national rule is inappropriate. This product can be worn and used...on the wrist.
- USA Softball, the national governing body utilized by NFHS Softball to certify bats, has informed the NFHS that the **Suncoast Model SBFPB-10** bat has been placed on the Non-Approved Bat List with Certification Marks. This bat is not compliant for use under NFHS softball rules, effective immediately. After roughly seven years of no new bats being added to this list we have had two this spring. The complete list of fifty-one non-approved bats is found at this link: <https://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp> Umpires should carry a copy of this list. Please note the penalty for use of a non-approved bat (one without the USA Softball certification mark OR on the non-approved list continues to be the same as for an illegal bat (batter out and runners not otherwise retired return) plus the ejection and both the batter and head coach.
- Question - Pitcher between pitches, takes the ball and rubs it in the ground. Do we have anything? Ruling - Rubbing the ball directly into the ground or picking up a handful of dirt and rubbing it on the ball would violate the first sentence of Rules 6-2-2. Placing one's hand on dirt to dry the hand and then touching the ball would not be applying a substance to it. One way to resolve a first offense might be to switch out the ball and instruct the pitcher not to do this. This is one reason that umpires should rub up the game balls prior to the start of the contest.

- Question – Are teams using a batting net to warm up behind the dugout during the game? Ruling - Rule 3-6-6 allows players to go to a designated warm-up area. Rule 2-15 allows those areas to be either enclosed or clearly marked. The thought is that this would prevent others from entering a marked area and being injured.
- **Situation:** With R1 on first base with no outs, B2 hits a deep fly ball to centerfield. R1 concerned it might be caught is standing just a few steps off first base when B2 rounds first base as the ball clears the outfield fence in flight. B2 passes R1 as R1 is still watching the ball. The umpire rules that since B2 did not pass R1 until after the ball cleared the outfield fence that B2 is not out for passing R1 since the ball is dead once it cleared the outfield fence in flight. **RULING:** Incorrect ruling. All bases must be run legally including awarded bases. Even though the ball is dead on the home run, R1 and B2 must legally run the bases. B2 should be ruled out once they pass R1, and R1 is allowed to continue legally running the bases and score. (8-3-11, 8-6-4)
- **Situation:** With one out, R1 on second base and R2 on first base, B4 hits a high fly ball. R1 is on second base waiting to tag and R2 is almost to second base when F9 catches the ball. As R2 is returning to first base, F9 throws the ball over F3's head and it enters dead ball territory. The umpire awards R1 home and R2 third base. R2 misses second base as they are advancing to third base. After R1 has touched home and R2 is standing on third base, F4 appeals that R2 missed second base. The umpire rules that R2 is out for missing second base for the third out of the inning, but R1's run scores since it occurred prior to the appeal of R2 missing second base. **RULING:** Correct ruling. All bases must be legally touched or runners will be called out if properly appealed. This appeal is a timing play and since R1 had scored prior to the appeal for the third out their run would score. (2-1-1a, 2-1-3b, 8-3-11, 8-6-7, 9-1-1)
- **Situation:** With two outs and R1 on second base, B4 hits a home run. As R1 is rounding third base they are celebrating and missed the base. The third base coach reaches out and grabs R1 by the arm pulling them back to touch third base. The umpire rules R1 out for being physically assisted by the base coach, since this is the third out of the inning neither R1 nor B4's runs count. **RULING:** Correct ruling. Once R1 is physically assisted, they are called out and since the third out of the inning occurred prior to anyone touching home no runs can score. (8-6-5, 9-1-1 EXCEPTION f)
- **Situation:** With no outs and R1 on first base, B2 hits a high fly ball that F8 is under waiting for the ball to come down. R1 is a few steps off first base returning back toward the base as B2 rounds first base passing R1. F8 then loses the ball in the sun and it falls to the ground uncaught, allowing R1 to advance to second base. The umpire rules B2 out for passing R1 but allows R1 to stay at second base. **RULING:** Correct ruling. B2 is out when passing R1, the ball remains live and while R1 is no longer forced, they are allowed to advance at their own risk. (2-24-2, 8-6-4)