



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Fick

Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

January 15, 2025

Bulletin 25 -1

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- Our first softball bulletin comes early again this year as we have information that we would like to get to our umpires. **OUR TOPICS FOR THIS MAILING INCLUDE STATE MEETING INFORMATION, MECHANICS CLINIC SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION, AND RULE BOOK MAILING INFORMATION.** Our bulletins again come to you from the OHSAA office but this year through the DragonFly system.
- **Some umpires ask why we are placing emphasis on umpire mechanics year after 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 – also an area that observers report to need attention - 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 8 – East/Southeast – New Concord – East Muskingum Middle School - 13120 John Glenn School Rd. – across street from John Glenn High School

____ Saturday, February 15 – Northwest – Findlay - Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St.

____ Saturday, February 22 – Southwest – Westchester – Lakota West Freshman School – 5050 Tylersville Road.

____ Sunday, February 23 – Northeast – Berea – Midpark High School – 165 E. Bagley Rd. - Enter at side gym doors in back of school off of Eastland Rd.

____ Sunday, March 2 – Central – Reynoldsburg - Waggoner Rd. Junior HS – 360 South Waggoner Rd.

- **Softball packets will mailed by the OHSAA office to all officials during the week of January 20-24.** This year’s packet will include rule book, case book, and White Book. 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 DragonFly. Also, these mailings are not forwarded by the postal service. Umpires need to update their address in DragonFly when they move or have other updates.
- **STATE MEETING INFORMATION – FIRST MEETING IS JANUARY 27** - 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 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.** These meetings are also listed online on the DragonFly calendar. There is no need to “pre-register” for any face-to-face State meetings. The schedule is listed below with all meetings starting at 6PM.

Monday, January 27 – Columbus – Franklin Heights High School – 1001 Demorest Rd.

Wednesday, January 29 - New Concord – John Glenn High School - 13115 John Glenn School Rd.

Thursday, February 6 – Cleveland - Berea-Midpark High School - 165 E Bagley Rd. - **Enter at side gym doors in back of school off of Eastland Rd.**

Wednesday, February 12 – **West Chester - Lakota West High School, 8940 Union Centre Blvd. - Cafeteria - Enter through cafeteria doors east end of building – Door #24**

Thursday, February 13 – Findlay – Donnell Middle School – 301 Baldwin Ave.

Tuesday, February 18 – Piqua – Upper Valley Career Center – 8811 Career Dr.

Thursday, February 20 –Canton –Stark County Educational Service Center, 6057 Strip Ave NW

The online state meeting for softball will be available by the week of February 3. Details will be emailed to all officials and will include both login instructions and the deadlines for completing the meeting.

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2025 SOFTBALL UMPIRE MECHANICS CLINICS

All sessions are from 9 AM to 4PM

____ Saturday, February 8 – East/Southeast – New Concord – East Muskingum Middle School - 13120 John Glenn School Rd. – across street from John Glenn High School

____ Saturday, February 15 – Northwest – Findlay - Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St.

____ Saturday, February 22 – Southwest – Westchester – Lakota West Freshman School – 5050 Tylersville Road.

____ Sunday, February 23 – Northeast – Berea – Midpark High School – 165 E. Bagley Rd. - Enter at side gym doors in back of school off of Eastland Rd.

____ Sunday, March 2 – Central – Reynoldsburg - Waggoner Rd. Junior HS – 360 South Waggoner Rd.

The OHSAA will sponsor five Softball Mechanics Clinics in 2025. 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 online 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 jfick@ohsaa.org.

For Registration - Send form on the next page to: OHSAA – 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

2025 SOFTBALL UMPIRES MECHANICS CLINICS

REGISTRATION FORM

Select Location:

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____ Saturday, February 15 – Northwest – Findlay - Glenwood Middle School – 1715 N. Main St.

____ Saturday, February 22 – Southwest – Westchester – Lakota West Freshman School – 5050 Tylersville Road.

____ Sunday, February 23 – Northeast – Berea – Midpark High School – 165 E. Bagley Rd. – Enter at side gym doors in back of school off of Eastland Rd.

____ Sunday, March 2 – Central - Reynoldsburg - Waggoner Rd. Junior HS – 360 South Waggoner Rd.

Name: _____

OHSAA Permit # _____ 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 by 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

Billing Street Address

Card Number

Billing City

**Expiration Date
(MM/YY)**

**CVV Code (3-4
digits)**

Billing State

Billing Zip Code

Amount to be charged
\$

Phone Number

Product Description

Email Address