



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

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Bulletin 20-1

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- First and foremost, thanks to all of our umpires for their patience in what has been a very trying week. The purpose of this bulletin is to update you on a few things that we all need to know – please understand that this information is current as of this writing but as we have learned in the last week this situation is very fluid and change seems to be constant.
- Many of you have had questions concerning the status of the spring softball season. This information was sent to OHSAA member schools late Friday afternoon – please do everyone a favor and don't be part of the rumor mill spreading information that is incorrect.

*With the return to school date tentatively set by Governor DeWine for April 6, the following will **TENTATIVELY** be in place:*

April 6 – 10 MANDATORY Practices and/or Acclimatization (if required)
April 11 All Scrimmages/Regular Season Contests may begin
Tournaments will remain on dates as currently scheduled

Please note: Since the current situation is rapidly changing, any of these may need to be adjusted. IF they are, notification will go out immediately to schools. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

- While on the subject of this season's schedule. The OHSAA has implemented ***A MANDATORY no-contact period which is in effect for all school-sponsored sports March 17-April 5, 2020. Additionally, there will be a mandatory shut down of facilities used for the purpose of conducting athletics activities from March 17-April 5, 2020. This prohibits any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to provide coaching, instruction or supervising conditioning and physical fitness programs or open gyms to members of a school team in their sports.*** Yesterday I received a call from a local secretary whose umpires had been contacted by coaches about working inter-squad scrimmages this week. If this happens to you, please tell the coach that you would like to but can't and ask them to contact their athletic administrator or school building principal for the latest regulations. We don't want to contribute to a situation

where a school could violate an OHSAA regulation and we want to help schools avoid situations where they might have an inadvertent misstep.

- As you were notified on Wednesday the OHSAA is waiving local association meeting attendance requirements for this spring sports season. While this a great benefit for our umpires we also know that many of our umpires have always attended more meetings than required – we applaud you for that. You would be surprised how many of our umpires have already attended more meetings than required. While the format has not been finalized, we plan to offer some refresher training and have it available for those who would like to take advantage of it. The OHSAA takes pride in offering officials the best and most timely training programs available.
- Note - if you have not yet completed the OHSAA online meeting this is available at no cost until Friday, March 27. Note that myOHSAA will be down for planned maintenance this weekend (March 21, 22, 23) and the state meeting will not be available during this time.
- One way to stay in the rule book – 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 2021 tournament. You will need to access the exam at the following link, <http://exams.nfhs.org> Your username and password is your OHSAA permit number. Only your first attempt at the exam will count towards the bonus points, so take your time. The test is available until **March 31st**. We hope you take this opportunity to participate.

94-100%- 3 points

86-92%- 2 points

80-84%- 1 point

- Many of you have questions concerning your existing assignments. We ask that you please give your assigners time to make adjustments to schedules as they receive them from schools. I can assure you that the assigners have their hands full and will communicate with you, probably through Arbiter, as quickly as possible. I know that they will appreciate your patience as they work through this time. Once this problem has passed I'm sure that many schools will try to squeeze as many games as possible into the compressed season so be prepared to accept assignments and work when things get started. Note that our regulation was changed three years ago to permit doubleheaders to be played any day of the week.
- Each season we receive a lot of great questions on the rules and mechanics. 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 you are asked to send all 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 is designed to provide other types of information.

- Again, thanks for your patience and more importantly for all you do to help kids play school sports. When we get these up and running again, these games will be important than ever in the lives of Ohio's student-athletes. I hope that they are just as important for you. In the meantime, please follow all directives from government and medical experts as you work to insure your personal health. We value each and every one of you – BE SAFE!