



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Fick

Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

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swdoc@fuse.net

- Thanks again to all of you for your patience as we go through these unprecedented times. You may have heard that the OHSAA has now cancelled the winter sports tournaments that could not be completed earlier this month. Aside from a few events during World War II these are the first tournaments cancelled in the history of the OHSAA – all the way back to 1907. There have been no additional updates to the spring sports schedules with the first day of play still set for April 11. Obviously, this date is contingent on the re-opening of schools around the state. Currently, schools are closed until next Monday, April 6. Any updates will be published on the OHSAA website – www.ohsaa.org.
- **State Meeting Extended** - Note - if you have not yet completed the OHSAA online state rules meeting the timeline has been extended and this will be available at no cost until Saturday, April 11.
- **Rules Test Extended** - 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 deadline has been extended and is now **April 11**. We hope you take this opportunity to participate.

94-100%- 3 points

86-92%- 2 points

80-84%- 1 point

- Congratulations to Kim Johnson of Cincinnati. Kim is a twenty-one year OHSAA umpire who was recently selected to umpire the 2020 World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) U-18 Women's Softball World Cup held in Lima, Peru. Kim has worked our state tournaments, is active in his local association as an instructor and is an observer/instructor on our Softball Umpire Improvement Team. Keep up the good work Kim– we will be watching this summer along with the rest of the hemisphere!
- Hold this date – Our pre-tournament clinic covering the three umpire system, as well as other topics, is scheduled for Sunday, May 3 at Reynoldsburg HS Livingston Campus. This free clinic is intended for umpires working the three umpire system in postseason play but is open to all

OHSAA umpires. No preregistration is needed. Registration will be at noon with the clinic running from 12:30-4PM.

- Looking for some other ways to stay up to date on rules and mechanics – The National Federation is offering free access to officiating course on the NFHS Learning Center – www.NFHSLearn.com. Here is the release from NFHS detailing this program – and note that this applies to ALL officials and ALL sports – and also to those who are considering getting started in officiating! This could be a great early recruiting tool for our instructors and associations.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (March 24, 2020) — Current high school sports officials, as well as individuals interested in joining the officiating ranks, will be able to access online education courses on the NFHS Learning Center for free through July 1. Since many individuals are at home for an indefinite period of time due to the current worldwide health crisis, the NFHS has decided to make its 11 sports officiating courses available for free on the Learning Center at www.NFHSLearn.com.

“Everyone is looking for positive things to do at home during this difficult period of time, so we thought it would be a good opportunity for officials to take courses on the Learning Center to brush up on their skills,” said Dr. Karissa Niehoff, NFHS executive director. “As a means of encouraging more people to take advantage of this time at home, the NFHS is offering officiating courses for free until July 1.

“In addition to current officials, those individuals interested in pursuing officiating can access these courses. We know that a number of high school seniors will be unable to participate in spring sports this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Officiating could provide an opportunity for high school seniors to stay involved in sports and taking some of these courses during this down time for free could help to determine their interest level.”

After taking any of these courses, individuals interested in becoming an official could access the website at www.HighSchoolOfficials.com for more information. In the past three years, more than 35,000 individuals have signed up to become officials through the NFHS’ #BecomeAnOfficial campaign to recruit high school officials.

Officiating courses are available on the Learning Center in the sports of basketball, football, soccer, swimming and diving, volleyball, wrestling and softball, in addition to a general course titled “Interscholastic Officiating.” Multiple courses are offered in basketball, soccer and volleyball, and all these courses are available free of charge through July 1.

The Learning Center was founded as the online Coach Education Program in 2007 with two courses – “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health and Safety” – and now has more than 70 online courses. Earlier this year, the NFHS surpassed 10 million courses taken by coaches, officials, administrators, students, parents, performing arts educators and others.

“We all are trying to find the best ways possible to deal with this unprecedented crisis facing our country,” Niehoff said. “We are pleased to be able to make the Learning Center available to more people interested in officiating.”