



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Softball Bulletin

Director of Officials Development – Softball

April 27, 2020 Bulletin 20-4

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- **First, I hope that all of you and your families are staying safe and healthy during this trying time.** Although I've not heard from any of our umpires that the coronavirus has directly struck you or your family the statistics I see lead me to believe that some of you have been impacted. As part of the OHSAA officiating community let's all keep our fellow officials in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Please do everything you can to stay well and hopefully we will be able to start the return to "normal" in the near future.
- **This will be the shortest bulletin of the last ten years but at the same time it is the most difficult to write.** Even for those not physically affected by the virus we are all impacted by the cancellation of the spring sports season. Just as I feel for the student-athletes, especially the seniors who won't get another chance on the softball field, it's emotional to think about our umpires who prepared diligently for the season and in most cases did not even get a scrimmage in as the pandemic hit just as we were ready to go on the 2020 season. **Thanks to all of you for your efforts in preparing for a season that was not to be – for most all of us we get another chance next year.**
- **On a more positive note we congratulate Rebecca Cooper of Lima who was selected as the 2020 NFHS Officials Association Ohio Softball Umpire of the Year.** Becky has umpired for fifteen years and is a very active member of the Lima Umpires Association as well as an OHSAA Officiating Instructor. She has been selected as a tournament umpire at all levels. When you see Becky at a meeting or on the field please take a moment to congratulate her on her much deserved award. She is truly dedicated to being the best she can be and is a real student of the game.
- **Obviously, our Tournament Umpires Mechanics Clinic scheduled for May 17 in Columbus has been cancelled.** This is always one of our best attended and most successful events of the year and has helped greatly to improve our umpiring in both the three and four person systems. Likewise our annual staff meeting for the volunteer observers who are part of our Softball Umpire Improvement Team will not be held that day.
- **Class Two Umpires** - There is a change in the advancement process for this year only. Softball officials with two or more years of service, including this year, can take the upgrade rules and mechanics exams. The exams will be posted on <https://exams.nfhs.org> from **May 5 - May 20**. Your username and password to access these exams are your permit number. It is not necessary to complete the application form – just go to the site and pass the tests to earn your Class 1 permit. Remember these tests are open book so put in some time on your advance study but also have your rules, case, and mechanics books handy and take your time in working through the questions.