

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL



Winter Issue | December 6, 2019

Baseball State Rules Meeting

The required Baseball Online Rules Meeting, for both coaches and officials, will be available on **Wednesday, January 29th at 9:00 am**. The deadline without penalty is Thursday, March 27 at 11:59 pm, and the final deadline with a \$50 late fee is Monday, April 27 at 11:59 pm. Once the final deadline has passed, the Baseball Online Rules Meeting will no longer be available. This is a reminder that the Rules Meeting is a **requirement** for every school (varsity/head coaches) and all registered officials and the penalty is no participation in the OHSAA Postseason Tournament.

Guidelines for Concussion Management

Coaches—please take the time to take a look at the suggested guidelines for concussion management. Knowledge is power, especially on such an important and prevalent topic in our student athletes:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/SuggestedGuidelinesforConcussionManagementinSports.pdf>

Important Baseball Dates

January 29 Rules Meeting Available
February 24 Coaching & Tryouts Begin
March 28 1st Game Permitted

Baseball State Coaches Clinic

The OHSBCA Clinic will take place January 16-18, 2020 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Columbus. Please visit the OHSBCA website (www.ohsbca.org) for further information and clinic registration.

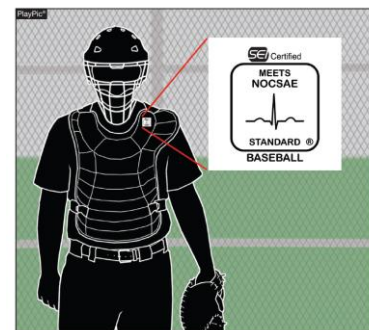
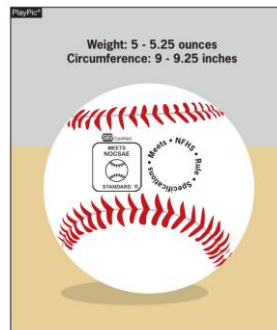
Happy Holidays to you all!

In preparation for the baseball season, I wanted to provide a few updates and reminders on player equipment, particularly from the NFHS. Please note the information below and make note of the dates some of these items go into effect. Unless listed as "new", these items were communicated to all baseball coaches last December and on the 2019 Rules Meeting. There will be further details on these items in the 2020 Baseball Rules Meeting, which will go live on January 29—please see more on the required rules meeting in the left-hand column.

Baseballs for 2020

As mentioned throughout the previous baseball season, beginning **January 1, 2020**, the ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs, which in turn will require all baseballs to have the NOCSAE mark by this date. January 1, 2020, all baseballs must have both the NOCSAE and NFHS mark—please see the picture below. A minimum of three umpire-approved baseballs shall be provided to start the game and no less than two baseballs shall be used to complete a game.

Please be aware that this does apply to all levels of competition. Since the NFHS Rules only address contests, you may use old balls without the NOCSAE mark for practice ONLY.



Catcher's Body/Chest Protectors for 2020

Also mentioned throughout the previous baseball season, effective **January 1, 2020**, the catcher's body/chest protectors shall meet the NOCSAE standard and will require the NOCSAE mark. Please see the accompanying mark in the picture above. Please see the new note below from the NFHS on the NOCSAE certified chest pad.

Catcher's Body/Chest Protector Pad – NEW

The NFHS recently identified that a NOCSAE certified chest pad that protects the heart and the cardiac silhouette is being offered by chest protector manufacturers to fit on top of an existing non-NOCSAE approved chest protector, making the chest protector compliant with NFHS rules. This pad meets the criteria of NFHS Baseball Rule 1-5-3. You now have three options for a chest/body protector for your catcher:

- 1) A new chest protector that meets the NOCSAE standard;
- 2) A body protector (compression shirt with heart guard built into the shirt) that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard under the traditional chest protector;
- 3) A chest pad that protects the heart/cardiac silhouette and meets the NOCSAE performance standard that fits on top of the traditional chest protector.

Please also be aware that chest pads that meet the NOCSAE standard are not proprietary to a specific chest protector manufacturer. For example, a Brodell brand chest pad can be worn on a Dolan brand chest protector.

Equipment Compliance with Umpires

With a larger amount of equipment changes and requirements from the NFHS in the sport of baseball for the 2020 season, it is important to remember that it is the responsibility of the head coach for knowing if their athletes' equipment meets the NFHS rules and standards. This should be affirmed with the umpire-in-chief prior to the start of the ball game, in accordance with 2020 NFHS Rule 4-1-3b. The only responsibility that the umpire has it to ask the coach if their players are properly equipped. This includes, but is not limited to, affirming that the catcher's chest/body protector, players' helmets, players' bats, the baseball, etc., are all NFHS compliant.