

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL



Issue 1 | January 28, 2020

Baseball Coaches Manual

The 2020 Baseball Coaches Manual is now available on the Baseball page on our website. This manual is a great reference for all coaches and administrators, with information on the NFHS rules, explanation and reminders on OHSAA administrative rules, FAQ's, etc! This can be found at <https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/baseball/>.

Baseball Sport Regulations

The 2020 Baseball Regulations are also posted on the Baseball page of our website. This document is the same information posted in the 2019-20 OHSAA Handbook, but a helpful document for your upcoming baseball season!

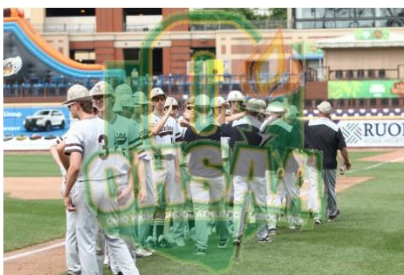
Guidelines for Concussion Management

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



Respect
THE
GAME

It was great to see many of you at the 2020 OHSBCA Clinic the other week. I hope these memos continue to serve as a useful resource and know that they are always posted on the Baseball webpage on our website for easy reference.

Baseball State Rules Meeting

The required Baseball State Rules Meeting, for both coaches and officials, will be available this **Wednesday, January 29 at 9:00 am on your myOHSAA profile**. As a reminder, the State Rules Meeting is a mandatory requirement for every head baseball coach to view in the state of Ohio. If the Baseball State Rules Meeting is not viewed prior to **Thursday, March 26 at 11:59 pm**, there will be a \$50 late fee to view the Baseball Rules Meeting. The FINAL deadline to view the Baseball Rules Meeting is **Monday, April 27 at 11:59 pm**. Please view the meeting prior to March 26 to avoid paying a late fee, but once the April 27 deadline has passed, the Baseball Rules Meeting will no longer be available. **The penalty for not completing the Baseball Rules Meeting by the final deadline is removal from the OHSAA Baseball Tournament.**

From January 29 at 9:00 am until April 27 at 11:59 pm, you may view the Baseball Rules Meeting by logging into your myOHSAA profile, clicking on Rules Meeting tab and then Find a State Meeting.

Open Gyms/Fields

A reminder that open gyms/fields cannot be made mandatory, they must be 'unstructured free play', so **no coaching** may take place. Under no circumstance may open gyms/fields be a disguise for an early start to practice. Open gyms/fields are defined in their entirety in General Sports Regulation 10.

Student Athletes Playing on Non-School Teams

General Sports Regulation 7 prohibits student athletes from participating in programs of the same sport, such as travel or recreational baseball, during the high school season of play. *A student athlete is considered a team member once they have competed in their first scrimmage, preview or contest for their school.* We recommend that coaches go to great lengths to explain this to their players and remind them periodically that they are not permitted to play on a non-school team during the baseball season, as participating in any non-school baseball, while a member of the school team, makes the individual immediately ineligible. A student athlete may participate on a non-school team as soon as his school baseball season is complete.

NOCSAE Stamp on Baseball

I have received a few questions if the NOCSAE stamp on the baseball must look exactly like the one in the picture provided by the NFHS in the Equipment Issue of *This Week in Baseball*—the answer is no! As long as the baseball has a mark that reads "NOCSAE" and one that reads "NFHS", this baseball will be compliant. Another quick note—this compliant baseball is to be used in competition for all levels of play, including Freshman and JV teams.

Out of State Travel

Traveling out of state during the sport season is seen most in the sport of baseball. As you prepare for your spring trips, please remember the following:

- No school time may be missed.
- The contest must be classified the same for both teams involved—it cannot be a scrimmage for one school and a game for the other.
- The contests must count in your 27 game-season limitation or the four-scrimmage limitation.
- All Ohio administrative rules must be followed, including the Ohio pitch count rule.
- A game may not take place prior to March 28, 2020—if any type of competition takes place prior to this, it must be a scrimmage.

If you have questions about traveling out of state, please do not hesitate to ask me if the travel would be permitted.

Emily Gates

Director of Sport Management - Baseball

egates@ohsaa.org

(614) 267-2502 x 107