

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL

Issue 2 | February 24, 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 Rules Meeting

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 Rules Meeting is not viewed prior to **Thursday, March 26 at 11:59 pm**, there will be a \$50 late fee applied to few the Baseball Rules Meeting. The FINAL deadline to view the Baseball Rules Meeting is **Monday, April 27 at 11:59 pm**. 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.

Important Baseball Dates

February 24 Coaching Begins
March 28 1st Contest Permitted
March 26 Rules Meeting Deadline



WELCOME, 2020 BASEBALL SEASON!

The baseball season is here! Today, Monday, February 24, marks the first day that practice and tryouts may begin, in preparation for the first season contest permitted on March 28, 2020. A reminder that NO contests may be played prior to March 28. You may schedule scrimmages prior to this date, but no contests.

NO DECERTIFIED BAT LIST

People often reach out to me requesting a list of decertified bats. The NFHS no longer provides a list of decertified bats, they simply request that you make sure your bats are compliant by the following rules. *Bats not made of a single piece of wood shall:*

- Be BBCOR certified;
- Be 2 5/8" or less in diameter at thickest part and 36 inches or less in length;
- Not weigh more than 3 ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces);

A bat made of a single piece of wood shall:

- Be BBCOR certified;
- Be 2 3/4" or less in diameter at the thickest part and 36 inches or less in length;
- Not weigh more than 3 ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces).

Please see 2020 NFHS Baseball Rule 1-3-2 for more details on the bat requirements.

RULES APPLY TO GRADES 7-12

As an OHSAA member school, all NFHS Rules and Ohio administrative rules apply to grades **7-12, at all levels of play**. This includes having the compliant equipment determined by the NFHS. We ask that you communicate this with any junior high or middle school coaches, and they are more than welcome to reach out to me with any questions. Please be aware that there are several junior highs and/or middle schools across the state, that are *not* OHSAA member schools—if they are not an OHSAA member school, those rules would not apply to them. However, if you are competing against a non-OHSAA member school (which is permitted), you must be following the NFHS Rules and Ohio administrative rules.

DISCUSS RULES AND REGULATIONS WITH PARENTS

Are your parents aware of the rules and regulations that relate to high school baseball? We hope that we provide enough information on our website for the parents to reference. We think it is important you work with your Athletic Administrator(s) to make sure all of the rules and regulations are communicated with them. A few that come to mind, but are not limited to, are:

- Making sure the student athletes have compliant equipment (bats, helmets, gear, etc.);
- Making sure they know our out-of-season regulations to insure there are no violations;
- Are fully aware of our Ohio administrative rules, like the daily individual playing and pitching limitations;
- Having conversations with them about promoting positive sportsmanship and creating a positive environment at your baseball games. This includes being respectful towards the umpires, opposing team, opposing fans and displaying positivity before, during and after the game. The NFHS wrote an excellent article titled "Dear Mom & Dad: Cool It", which can be found on our webpage at: <https://ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/from-the-nfhs-a-message-to-parents-of-ohio-high-school-athletes-1>

If you need one document for them to reference, I would recommend having them review the 2020 Coaches Manual posted on the Baseball webpage. We are also working on adding the Baseball Rules Meeting to our YouTube page, so you would be able to provide a link for your parents to view the Rules Meeting if you think that would be helpful. I will let you know when that is posted!

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