

This Week in Baseball

2021 Pre-Season Issue | January 22, 2021



COLLEGE ID CAMP WAIVER – NEW FOR 2021 ONLY!

The OHSAA has provided approval for student-athletes in the sports of baseball and softball to be permitted to use a **one-time** waiver during spring 2021 to attend an identification camp after the student-athlete has participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest*. An identification camp refers to an individual workout and/or camp being offered by colleges or universities. This does NOT include any other type of team showcase or non-school competition or practice by any non-school program. All events must take place prior to the start of the 2021 postseason tournament. The recommendation comes after changes were made to the NCAA recruiting periods. The waiver form will be posted to the baseball webpage soon!

**This waiver does not need to be filled out if the college ID camp takes place prior to the student-athlete participating in a scrimmage or contest, whichever comes first, for the school.*

PROPOSAL TO ADJUST INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION REGULATION – APPROVED

A reminder that in September 2020, the Board of Directors approved a proposal from the Ohio High School Baseball and Softball Coaches Associations to adjust General Sport Regulation 8, to provide an exception for baseball and softball. General Sport Regulation 8 references school coaches providing individual skill instruction to no more than four (4) members of their school team outside of the season and defined no-contact period, at one time in all combined facilities. ***The Board of Directors approved an exception for baseball and softball, to allow coaches to work with no more than six (6) members of their school team at one time in all facilities.***

Please do not confuse school coaches providing individual instruction to 6 members of the baseball team with General Sport Regulation 7, which addresses that only 4 (or less) student-athletes from the same school team may participate together in non-school programs. Please see the “Non-Interscholastic Participation” section below.

For more detailed information, please visit the October 2020 issue of *This Week in Baseball*, which can be found [HERE](#).

NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

As stated in General Sport Regulation 7.3, baseball student-athletes may participate with non-school programs outside of the school season, with no more than 4 players from the same school team.

- Schools coaches are permitted to coach their own student-athletes on a non-school program/team.
- There may only be 4 or less players from the same school on the same non-school program/team. This applies to both school and non-school coaches.
- Any student that made the roster of your 2020 spring school team counts towards the 4-player limitation. For more details, please reference the August issue of *This Week in Baseball*, which can be found [HERE](#). This includes details on how incoming freshmen count in the 4-player limitation.
- There may be no rotation of players on non-school programs/teams—they cannot switch out players from the same school throughout the non-school season.

2021 COACHING & SEASON START DATES

Coaching for the sport of baseball may begin on **Monday, February 22**—we are exactly one month away! Please remember that this includes tryouts—there may be NO baseball tryouts prior to February 22.

Contests may begin on **Saturday, March 27**. There may be NO contests of any kind prior to this date—only scrimmages may occur prior to March 27. As stated in General Sport Regulation 20, the penalty for participating in a contest(s) prior to the designated start date is subject to penalties outlined in Bylaw 11, which will include denial of participation in the OHSAA tournament.

COVID-19 NFHS RULES & RECOMMENDATIONS

In both the fall and winter sport seasons, the OHSAA has worked with the Ohio Department of Health and the NFHS to establish sport specific recommendations for returning to play safely during the pandemic. These sport specific recommendations have not yet been established for spring sports, but we do anticipate similar recommendations to be implemented. This includes possible rule modifications from the NFHS and general recommendations to conduct the sport of baseball safely in relation to the pandemic. If you are curious about some of the changes that were made for fall and winter sports, those can be found on our COVID-19 Correspondence page [HERE](#).

Thank you!

Emily Gates

Director of Sport Management

egates@ohsaa.org

(614) 267-2502 x 107