

# This Week in Baseball

August 2020 Issue | August 18, 2020



## OHSAA BASEBALL SURVEY

To aid in a proposal from the Ohio High School Baseball and Softball Coaches Association in relation to our Individual Instruction Regulation, our office would appreciate you taking the survey (found at the link below). This survey is provided to all OHSAA baseball and softball head coaches. We realize the OHSBCA previously conducted a similar survey a few months ago but are looking for the most recent data. You must have your myOHSAA login credentials to complete the survey, as you will need to login to myOHSAA after clicking on the link for access.

**The deadline to complete the survey is Sunday, August 23 at 11:59 pm**

To participate in the survey, please follow the link below. We thank you in advance for your participation.

<http://officials.myohsaa.org/Outside/PresentationDisplay?UniqueMeetingId=325010>

## SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 REMINDER

As a reminder, the 2020 August No-Contact Period was lifted and an additional month was provided with no 50% limitation for the student-athletes, which ends on August 31. Beginning on September 1, the regular out of season regulations are in effect. Meaning, you may only work with 4 of your athletes in individual skill workouts and only 4 athletes may participate together in non-interscholastic play.

**As noted in the April 30 update, the definition of a member of a school team is suspended for 2020 spring athletes.** For previous and future years and with the exception of 2020, a student-athlete was considered a member of a school team once he/she participated in a scrimmage or contest for the school; however, for 2020 spring sport athletes, **a student-athlete is considered a member of the school team as soon as they made the school team.** Please keep this in mind after August 31 when the 50% limitation goes back into place.

**Note:** once the 2021 season begins, the suspension of the definition of a member of a school team will be lifted and go back to the previous definition.

### FAQS

**Q: Since spring sports were cancelled, the 4-player limitation is not in effect, so can I have 6 of my school players participate together on a non-school team?**

**A:** NO. For 2020 spring sport athletes, if you made the 2020 school baseball team, those players would count in the 4-player limitation.

**Q: I have a parent stating that "the school did not determine which squad (Freshman/JV/Varsity) my son would be on prior to the spring season being cancelled, so he was not on a roster, so he should not count as a member of the school team".**

**A:** False. If a student-athlete made the 2020 school team, they are considered a member of the school team and fall into the guidelines of General Sport Regulation 7. It does not matter if they were listed on a specific squad roster yet, as long as they made a school team and were practicing, they are considered a member of the school team.

## PARTICIPATION OUTSIDE OF THE SEASON

General Sport Regulation 7 outlines player and coach participation outside of the school season. Player limitations are based on the 2020 school team—the out-of-season regulations are always based on the previous sport season.

### PLAYERS

Please make sure to remind your players that they may continue to participate in non-interscholastic activities. However, beginning on September 1, 2020, there may only be 4 from the same school team participating together on a non-interscholastic team. Please see the only exceptions listed below.

#### EXCEPTIONS:

- If there was no school team offered at their school;
- If they tried out for the school team and did not make it;
- If there was a school team and they did not try out;
- Graduating seniors

#### ROTATING PLAYERS

There can be NO rotating players on the non-interscholastic team(s)—for example, you cannot have 4 players for one fall ball tournament and another 4 players for another tournament the following weekend. There may only be 4 players from the same school for the entire non-interscholastic season.

#### INCOMING FRESHMEN

How do incoming freshmen count towards my 4-player limitation for non-interscholastic baseball? There are a few components to determine how they would be classified:

1. If they made the 2020 8<sup>th</sup> grade school baseball team, they would count in the 4-player limitation from the same school. But they could be an additional 4 beyond the 10-12 graders you are looking at having on the fall team. In this case, an example would be you could have 4 freshman and 4 sophomores from the same high school. *Please see further information below, as we classify grades 9-12 separately from grades 7-8.*

2. If there was no 8<sup>th</sup> grade school team offered or they did not make the team (did not tryout or did not make the team), these individuals would not count in the 4-player limitation. In this case, an example would be you have 10 incoming freshmen—4 of them played for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade school team and the other 6 went to a school that did not sponsor a school baseball team. You could have all 10 play together, because those 6 that were not on a team are exempt.

### **GRADES 7-8 AND 9-12**

The OHSAA considers grades 7-8 separate from grades 9-12. Since the 4-player limitation is based on the previous sport season until the 2021 season begins, incoming freshmen are determined by their 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation. For example, if Ohio High School has 4 current sophomores and 4 incoming freshmen that all played for a school team in 2020, a non-school team would be able to have all 8 of these players from Ohio High School participate together.

**Scenario #1:** As of September 1, Ohio High School has 4 sophomores and 4 freshmen that want to participate on the same fall ball team. All 8 student-athletes participated on a school team in the 2020 season. All 8 would be permitted to participate together because the 4 sophomores are based on their 9<sup>th</sup> grade participation and the 4 freshmen are based on their 8<sup>th</sup> grade participation, and we consider grades 9-12 and 7-8 separate.

**Scenario #2:** As of September 1, Ohio High School has 4 sophomores and 8 freshmen that want to participate on the same fall ball team. All 4 sophomores participated on a school team in the 2020 season and only 2 of the freshmen were on a 2020 school team—the other 6 went to a middle school/junior high that did not offer a school baseball team. All 12 would be permitted to participate together, as the 4 sophomores and 2 freshmen are considered separate (grades 8 and 9 are separate) and the other 4 freshmen meet an exception and are not included in the 4-player limitation.

### **COACHES**

Coaches are permitted to coach non-interscholastic teams outside of the season. Coaches are also permitted to coach their *own* school-team players on non-interscholastic teams outside of the season, as long as the 50% limitation is followed—there shall be 4 or less members of their school team on the non-interscholastic team. As previously mentioned, there cannot be rotating players from the same school on a non-interscholastic team.

### **FAQS**

**Q: What about players receiving private instruction outside of the season?**

**A:** Student athletes are permitted to receive private instruction anytime throughout the year, both in and out-of-season, from both private and school coaches. It is important to remember that the instruction must be individual skill instruction if this occurs during the season or if there are more than 4 players from the same school receiving the instruction. If there are more than 4 players from the same school receiving outside instruction, there may be NO team play involved—only individual skill instruction.

Thank you!

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