

# This Week in Baseball

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## PROPOSAL TO ADJUST INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION REGULATION – APPROVED

At the September Board of Directors Meeting, the OHSAA 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. This vote was approved 9-0. 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. *Effective immediately, 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.* There are several elements that are unique to the sport(s) of baseball and softball that allowed for approval of this exception for General Sport Regulation 8, most importantly the increase in opportunity and value to all baseball and softball student-athletes and coaches across the state.

Per General Sport Regulation 8, the purpose of the Individual Instruction rule is to provide coaches the opportunity to offer individual skill instruction outside the season and the no-contact period. The main parameters to this regulation are:

1. Instruction is defined as when the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught.
2. **There can be no more than 6 players present at one time in any facility where the instruction is taking place.** For example, you could not have 6 players receiving instruction out on the baseball field and 6 separate players receiving instruction in the gym.
3. There are NO exceptions to the limitation of 6 players like there may be in General Sport Regulation 7. **There may only be 6 players present in all facilities, regardless of their previous season participation, regardless of grade, regardless of age—there may ONLY be 6.** Please do not confuse the two Regulations.
4. There is no limit to the number of coaches that may be present.
5. Individual Instruction *cannot* be required of your student athletes.

The exception for baseball school coaches to provide individual skill instruction to no more than 6 of their student-athletes is for General Sport Regulation 8 only. All other out-of-season regulations apply!

*I want to quickly mention to please thank the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association representatives for this proposal, as the voice of the baseball coaches in the state of Ohio. This proposal was in favor by 99% of coaches that participated in the survey!*

## 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.

## OPEN FIELDS

As indicated in General Sport Regulation 10, open fields may take place outside of the season as well. A few reminders regarding open fields:

- All activity must be unstructured free play and established by the participating students.
- Coaches are permitted, but not required, to supervise open fields; however, they may not provide any type of instruction.
- Participation may not be limited to a select group of students.
- Participation may not be made mandatory and may not be implied as a factor in a student-athlete's chance of making the school team.
- No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted to any student who is not enrolled and in that school district.

If any of the above are violated by student-athletes or coaches, penalties shall apply, including a maximum penalty of up to one year of ineligibility.

**REMINDER:** the intent of open fields is to provide opportunities to your student-athletes to participate together in an unstructured setting. Please make sure your open fields are following all items listed in General Sport Regulation 10.

Thank you!

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