

# 2022



## **BASEBALL COACHES MANUAL**

## A Message from OHSAA Senior Sport Administrator, Emily Mason



Coaches,

Please take the time to review the information within this manual and continue to check the Baseball webpage on our website, where you will find many resources as well. Please make sure your email is listed correctly on your school's myOHSAA profile, to ensure your email is up to date to receive the *This Week in Baseball* memos I send throughout the year. These memos are also archived on the Baseball webpage.

This is a reminder that our State Rules Meetings remain **mandatory** for Varsity head coaches, which can be accessed from your myOHSAA profile. This is addressed in the early pages of this manual.

OHSAA baseball rules are comprised of rules and regulations determined by both the OHSAA and the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS). NFHS Rules govern all of the baseball playing rules, while the OHSAA Handbook addresses the administrative rules specific to Ohio, in particular the OHSAA General Sport Regulations and OHSAA Baseball Regulations. The OHSAA Board of Directors approve the OHSAA Regulations annually, and cover all OHSAA sanctioned sports.

This is wishing each of you a successful season. I commend you for your time and effort working with the student-athletes in the sport of baseball in Ohio!

Sincerely,

***Emily Mason***

Senior Sport Administrator  
Baseball Sport Administrator

### OHSAA Mission Statement

**The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.**



## OFFICERS

### **President**

Drew Kirby, *Dublin Coffman High School*

### **Past President**

John Bakalar, *Chagrin Falls High School*

### **Vice President**

Michael Valesko, *Unio High School*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Gene Bumgardner, *Harrison Central High School*

### **Secretary**

Scott Manahan, *Capital University*

### **Treasurer**

Dave Barrow, *St. Charles High School*

### **Public Information Director**

Ray Benjamin, *St. Charles High School*

### **OHSAA Consultant**

Frank Gamble, *Jackson High School*

### **Historian**

David Burkett, *Tuslaw High School*

### **Business Manager**

Jeff Mielcarek, *Toledo Central Catholic*

### **Website Coordinator**

Dave Hall, *Perrysburg High School*

### **All Star Series Director**

Craig Kyle, *Johnathan Alder High School*

## DISTRICT REPS

### **Central, Jr.**

Mike Weaver, *Oletangy Berlin High School*

### **Central, Sr.**

Adam Acuri, *Licking Valley High School*

### **East, Jr.**

DJ Butler, *Barnesville High School*

### **East, Sr.**

Nathan Prati, *Maysville High School*

### **Northeast, Sr.**

Brian Hiscox, *Berkshire High School*

### **Northeast, Jr.**

Dan Ransom, *Firelands High School*

### **Northeast, So.**

Jim Hanek, *South Range High School*

### **Northwest, Jr.**

Eric Fishpaw, *Lincolnvew High School*

### **Northwest, Sr.**

Jeff Keck, *Vermillion High School*

### **Southeast, Jr.**

John Combs, *Whiteoak High School*

### **Southeast, Sr.**

Jeff Noble, *Waverly High School*

### **Southwest, Jr.**

Ray Hamilton, *Lakota East HS*

### **Southwest, Sr.**

Mark Pelfrey, *Springboro High School*

## The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association

The purpose of the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association is to unify all baseball coaches in the state of Ohio, to promote high school baseball, to create an official line of communication with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), to foster higher standards of professionalism and ethics, and to maintain a strong contact with national, state, and local coaches organizations of baseball.

## Benefits of the OHSBCA

1. Conducts the annual OHSBCA Convention & Clinic
2. Conducts four Board Meetings per year
3. Produces web-based newsletters
4. Maintains the OHSBCA website at [www.ohsbca.org](http://www.ohsbca.org)
5. Conducts the Augusta All-Ohio Series in June honoring 80 Senior players
6. Conducts the State Coaches' Poll
7. Selects All-State Teams in each Division
8. Maintains and selects the Hall of Fame and Induction Banquet
9. Provides scholarships to graduating sons/daughters of member coaches
10. Selects an annual Academic All-Ohio team
11. Honors coaches with service and victory awards
12. Financially contributes to Team Ohio who play in the Sunbelt Classic
13. Sponsors the BCA Awards Banquet in Tucson, Arizona at the NHFSBCA Clinic
14. Sponsors a college "Coaches' Corner" at the OHSBCA clinic
15. Honors Past Presidents and Hall of Fame members
16. Attends all monthly OHSAA Board of Director meetings in Columbus
17. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year"

## Joining the OHSBCA

1. The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association accepts memberships through February 15
2. Annual membership fees are only \$15.00
3. Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at <http://associationdatabase.com/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/membership>

## Congratulations to the 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees!

*The following coaches will be honored at this year's OHSBCA Clinic as inductees into the Class of 2022. Congratulations to these deserving coaches!*

Ray Benjamin, *St. Charles High School*  
 Donald Jones, *Twinsburg High School*  
 Tom Monroe, *Waverly High School*  
 Brian Harlamert, *Coldwater High School*



## Important Baseball Dates

<b>February 21</b>	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
<b>March 26</b>	First Contest Permitted
<b>May 8</b>	Tournament Seed/Draw Date
<b>May 14 – 21</b>	Sectional Tournament
<b>May 21 – 28</b>	District Tournament
<b>June 2 – 3</b>	Regional Tournament
<b>June 9 – 11</b>	State Tournament
<b>June 18</b>	Season Ends

## Baseball Web Resources

OHSAA Baseball Webpage	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
OHSAA Baseball Regulations	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
NFHS Rules Books	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
NFHS Coaches Education	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>
OHSBCA Website	<a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>

## OHSAA Baseball Contact Information

**Emily Mason**, Senior Sport Administrator  
*Administrates the sport of baseball and oversees the postseason tournament.*  
[emason@ohsaa.org](mailto:emason@ohsaa.org)

**Dan McGinnis**, Director of Development for Baseball Umpiring  
*Responsible for overseeing baseball umpires in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS and oversees the education and recruitment of umpires in Ohio.*  
[dan.mcginis@hotmail.com](mailto:dan.mcginis@hotmail.com)

## State Rules Meeting

All **State Rules Meetings for coaches and officials will be required online**. This is explained on the following page. Rules meetings go live on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 9:00 am on the myOHSAA State Rules Meeting page. The deadline to view the rules meeting without penalty is **Sunday, March 27 at 11:59 pm**. On Monday, March 28 at 12:00 am, there will be a \$50 late fee to view the rules meeting. The final deadline will be Monday, May 2 at 11:59 pm. **On May 3 at 12:00 am, the Baseball Rules Meeting will no longer be available and penalties will be assessed if not viewed by this date.**

## Important Non-Interscholastic Note

*General Sports Regulation 7* prohibits a member of the school team from participating (i.e., trying out, practicing, training, or competing) with any non-intercholastic program while a member of the school team. Please remind your student-athletes of this rule, as penalties shall apply if this Regulation is violated. Anything outside of high school season—practice, workouts or contests (including college tryouts/workouts) are considered **non-intercholastic**.

## The Non-Interscholastic Date

Though participation in any form of non-intercholastic baseball while a member of a school team is prohibited, any participation in a non-intercholastic contest **on or after this date** for a student who has not yet joined your interscholastic program results in the individual being ineligible for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other suspensions issued.

For the 2022 baseball season, this date is: **April 6, 2022**

***Please put this date on your calendar and remind the players on your team!***

# Communicating with the OHSAA

It is understandable with over 800 high schools in Ohio and the number of teams in Ohio from grades 7-12, communication to our office is in large volume. Most questions can and should be answered by the athletic administrator at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school administrators to communicate directly with us.

Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information on our website. We encourage you to check the website (both the main page and Baseball specific page).

# RULES INTERPRETATION MEETING INFORMATION

State Rules Meetings are mandatory for all head coaches and OHSAA umpires.

**NOTE:** *If you are both a coach and umpire, please know that there are separate Rules Meetings for coaches and officials—you will be required to complete both meetings.*

## To Access Online Rules Meetings

All coaches and officials will access the State Rules Meeting through their myOHSAA account. Once you have logged in (full directions below) and have accessed the Rules Meeting, please follow the prompts to complete the meeting to receive meeting credit.

**Coaches** should login to their myOHSAA account and use the Rules Meeting icon to access the list of meetings. *Coaches should contact their athletic administrator if they do not have an account\**. Please see further directions below if you are a coach and do not have a myOHSAA account. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed for attendance credit to be provided.

**Officials** should login to their myOHSAA account and use the Rules Meeting icon to access the list of meetings. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed for attendance credit to be provided.

### TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETINGS

1. Login to your myOHSAA account (<http://officials.myohsaa.org/Logon>)
2. Click on the “Rules Meeting” icon
3. Click on “Find a State Rules Meeting”
4. Search for the Baseball meeting using the ‘Sports’ and ‘Meeting Type’ drop-down menus
5. Click on the ‘View Meeting’ button once the State Rules Meeting has gone live
6. Once directed to the Rules Meeting, please follow all prompts to complete the meeting and receive credit.

### \*IF YOU ARE A COACH AND DO NOT HAVE A MYOHSAA ACCOUNT

1. Contact your athletic administrator immediately to add you to the school’s Staff Management in myOHSAA
2. This will generate an email invitation from [info@myohsaa.org](mailto:info@myohsaa.org) to the coach—*please look for this email in your inbox, junk or spam folders*
3. Once the email is received, click on the link in the email and follow the prompts to create an account and clear any dashboard items. (verify email address and complete your contact information)

**Please do not use a Chromebook device to view the Rules Meetings—this device does not support the capabilities of our presentations. Please know that this is not the same as the Chrome web browser.**

## Deadlines & Dates

The online Baseball State Rules Meeting will be available beginning on **Tuesday, February 8 at 9:00am**.

The deadline for completion of Rules Meeting is **Sunday, March 27 at 11:59 pm** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the Rules Meeting. The final deadline is Monday, May 2 at 11:59 pm. Beginning on Tuesday, May 3 at 12:00 am, the Baseball Rules Meeting is no longer available and the penalty shall apply.

**PENALTY:** *If coaches do not complete the Rules Meeting by May 2 at 11:59 pm, your school will be removed from the post-season tournament and officials will be ineligible for the 2022 postseason tournament.*

### AFTER COMPLETION:

1. Your myOHSAA profile will be updated to reflect your attendance.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance will be reflected in your profile.

## Pupil Activity Permits & Concussion Legislation

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches of Middle School/Jr. High and High School teams must possess a “Pupil Activity Validation Certificate” to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. The actual regulations AND the certificate can be downloaded from the OHSAA’s Sports’ Medicine page or directly at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine> . To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:



- Have completed a Sports’ First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course
- Complete one of two approved Concussion Recognition courses
- Complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest video & information bulletin
  - Lindsay’s Law <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>

You can look up all requirements in detail on the ODE’s website at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=1328>

Schools are required to submit coaches’ names along with valid permit numbers on the Official OHSAA Tournament Entry Form. Entry forms are audited on a random basis at the conclusion of each season.

### Concussion Legislation as it relates to Coaching Requirements

Though the entire law is explained later, all coaches today must complete one of two (2) approved Concussion Education programs online upon renewal of their Pupil Activity Permit any time **after April 26, 2013**. Individual student-athletes removed from contests with a suspected concussion are no longer permitted to return to play on the same day of the contest, regardless of the diagnoses. If they are removed by one of the individuals given this authority, they simply cannot return to play the same day. Written authorization is required to return anytime thereafter and must be kept on file with the school athletic administrator indefinitely.

## Lindsay’s Law – Sudden Cardiac Arrest

ODE Website: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>

Lindsay’s Law, Ohio Revised Code [3313.5310](#), [3707.58](#) and [3707.59](#) became effective on August 1, 2017. In accordance with this law, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other stakeholders jointly developed guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students and youth athletes participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

The following resources were developed to implement Lindsay’s Law:

*For **parents/guardians** and **student-athletes** in grades 7-12 in Ohio schools:*

- [Required video](#)
- [Required SCA Informational Handout](#)
- [Required Signature Form](#)

*For **coaches**:*

If you are a coach for an interscholastic sport and are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education (all paid and volunteer coaches in Ohio), please visit their [website](#) for information about their training requirements around Lindsay’s Law <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsays-Law.aspx>. The required video, informational handout and a post assessment test will be available shortly through the ODE’s website. We will inform you when that component is available. If, however, you want to have your coaches view the video and review the information immediately, you may access those items below. Please be advised that as a school district, your superintendent must be able to verify that coaches have seen this video and read the informational handout if you choose to implement this requirement before it is available through ODE’s LMS.

- [Required video](#)
- [Required SCA Informational Handout](#)

These educational materials are all free of charge and are the only materials authorized for compliance with this new state law. No other course or training material is acceptable.



## OHSAA REGULATIONS

### OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS

General Sports Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under *Sports & Tournaments* select Baseball. The General Sports Regulations are listed under *Regulations, Policies & Manuals* on the left side of the webpage.

### BASEBALL SPORT REGULATIONS

Baseball Regulations are specific to the sport of baseball and are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Under *Sports & Tournaments* select Baseball. The Baseball Regulations are listed under *Regulations, Policies & Manuals* on the left side of the webpage.

### TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Tournament Regulations and the State Tournament Draw will be available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). On the website, under *Sports & Tournaments* select Baseball. They will be listed under *Tournament Information* on the left side of the Baseball page.

## OHSAA General Sport Regulations

General Sport Regulations apply to all sports governed by the OHSAA. Most areas of concern can be addressed simply by reading through these Regulations or contacting your Athletic Administrator. We **strongly encourage** you to take the time to read these to familiarize yourself and your staff with the various rules approved by our Board of Directors that govern all sports.

Though there are far too many to list in this manual, a few of the more common ones that affect baseball squads are:

### Protests | Bylaw 8

Protests are not a part of high school baseball and will not be considered. *Bylaw 8, Section 3(1)* of the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reads in part, “Protests arising from the decisions of interpretations of the rules by officials during the contest will **not be considered**. Their decisions and interpretations are final.” This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the contest and within the time established by playing rules.

### Traveling Out of State | Bylaw 9

Per *Bylaw 9-2-1*, baseball teams may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance. This would include the states of Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia and the province of Ontario in Canada. In addition, a team may travel out of state *one-time per season*, to a state or province not contiguous to Ohio, with approval by the OHSAA office. To receive approval, schools must submit the *Travel to a Non-Bordering State Form* ([here](#)).

Teams **may not travel out of state only to practice but may practice while in that state awaiting a contest.**

*More information listed on page 14.*

### Pre-Season Parent Meetings | Bylaw 3-2-1

**Pre-season meetings with parents are mandated by OHSAA Bylaws** and will most likely occur at your school along with other spring sport teams. This is determined by each school’s athletic administrator **and must be held no later than 2 weeks after the start of the season** (February 19 – March 5, 2022). This is the time to cover topics like eligibility requirements, individual school policies, individual sport policies, sportsmanship issues and expectations, travel plans for away contests, etc. We encourage coaches to use this time to their advantage and provide as much education as possible to parents. There are great resources available for coaches to use at these meetings at the *Locker Room*, an NFHS online education center. You can access this directly at:

<http://www.nfhslearn.com/LockerRoom.aspx>

### No Contact Period | GSR 11

Any coach, **paid or volunteer**, is prohibited from athletic or athletic-related contact with squad members in the same sport for the period of time, **starting August 1 and ending August 31**. This includes any contact in tryouts in or out of school, physical fitness/conditioning, open gyms, etc. Exceptions to this are all-star contests, awards ceremonies, overseeing weight training, contact with seniors to facilitate college recruiting and contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum, pick up school-issued equipment and attendance at OHSAA tournaments.

## Ejections | GSR 13 & 14

Any ejection that takes place during a scrimmage or contest will be reported on the Officials' Report and will require all players to be suspended in accordance with the OHSAA's Ejection Policy.

**Important Note on Ejections:** Consequences of an ejection are required to be followed whether appropriate paperwork is filed by the official or not.

## What is Coaching? | GSR 7.1.5

The definition of coaching is providing instruction or being present with a team or individual during contests, tryouts, training and practices—*this applies to any school coach, volunteer or paid*. Specific activities include, but are not limited to, practice or other instructional situations in which the coach conducts specific drills, teaches skills, supervises competition-like activities or in any other way supports the instructional environment; competition situations in which the coach sits on the team bench, is in the direct vicinity of the competition in areas reserved for coaches and/or delivers instruction to athletes while they are competing.

**Note:** It is not a violation to be a spectator at a competition and sit in those areas reserved for spectators; however, the coach must be certain not to engage in those behaviors that are specific to the coaching task.

## Players Receiving Outside Private Instruction | GSR 8.2.3

While it is not the position of the OHSAA to encourage outside instruction during the school Baseball season, individual skill instruction by an outside party, may be received in Baseball by a squad member at any time, provided that these individual skill instructions do not violate any Board of Education, school administrators' or coaches' policies. There may be no type of team play involved.

## Player Participation with Non-Interscholastic Teams/Programs | GSR 7.

A member of an interscholastic baseball squad (*grades 7-12*) sponsored by the Board of Education **cannot participate in a non-interscholastic baseball program** (such as club or travel), which includes tryouts, practice and contests, as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of baseball, at any time during the school team's season. This is detailed in *General Sport Regulation 7.2.1*.

A student-athlete becomes a member of the school team when he/she participates in a scrimmage, preview or regular season or tournament game as a substitute or as a starter. With that being said, OHSAA Regulation would permit a student athlete to participate with a non-interscholastic program up until that student plays in their first scrimmage, preview or contest for the school. As soon as they participate in a scrimmage, preview or contest for the school team, they may no longer participate with a non-school program.

A member of an interscholastic baseball team sponsored by the Board of Education **may** participate in non-interscholastic baseball (such as travel, etc.) prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:

- The number of interscholastic baseball players from the **same school** on a non-interscholastic team is limited to **four on the roster** of that non-interscholastic team. This number includes all players that played on the school team in the previous season from grades 9-11\*.
- A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament only in excess of the 4-player limit until the squad is eliminated, but no later than Labor Day.
- A player may play in non-interscholastic baseball only when the student has completed their school season.
- Please keep in mind that from the Friday prior to Memorial Day (May 27, 2022) to July 31, there are no player limitations from the same school on a non-interscholastic team. If there an excess of four players from the same school, please keep in mind that their own school coach may not coach them until June 1.

*\*Graduating seniors are exempt from this 4-player limitation.*

Please see further explanations under *Frequently Asked Questions* later in the manual!

## Coaching Own Student-Athletes on Non-School Teams | GSR 7.5

School coaches are permitted to coach their athletes on a non-school team outside of the school season, as long as there are 4 or less players on a non-school program, with the exception of the no-contact period (August 1 – August 31) or from June 1 – July 31. During July 1 – July 31, a school coach is permitted to work with more than 4 of their baseball athletes for a maximum of 10 days. Please know this 10-day maximum applies to the entire coaching staff.



## Individual Instruction | GSR 8

The Individual Instruction Regulation permits a school baseball coach to have instructional contact with **no more than six players at a time in any one facility**, provided such instruction does not take place during the mandatory no-contact period. The definition of individual skill instruction is “instruction or coaching provided to a member of a school team in which the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught and the activity does not involve team instruction”.

## Open Gyms/Fields | GSR 10

A school may open its’ athletic facilities for unstructured free play to a sport’s student-athletes. All activity must be unorganized, and attendance shall not be mandatory. A school coach, paid or unpaid, shall not require, suggest or in any way imply that that a student’s chance to be selected for the school team is contingent upon participation at an open gym/field. A school coach and/or employee may supervise the open gym (and participate in the unstructured free play!) but may not provide any instruction. Please visit *General Sport Regulation 10* for further details.

## OHSAA Baseball Regulations

Each spring, Regulations for the upcoming school year are approved by the Board of Directors for every sport sponsored by the OHSAA. Coaches should familiarize their entire staff with the importance of these regulations as they directly affect the eligibility of student-athletes.

## Individual Player Limitations

Each player may play in games on a maximum of **32 dates**. This provides more flexibility for using Varsity and JV players interchangeably and provide more opportunity. Moving players up and down to utilize their maximum number of dates also creates a need to track this carefully by coaches. A player that exceeds the number of dates becomes *ineligible*. Using an ineligible player in a contest results in forfeiture of the contest.

## End of Season Date

Teams may schedule games beginning March 26, 2022 and no later than **June 18, 2022**. This means that even though you are in tournament or eliminated from tournament, you may still schedule, or make-up, a contest up until this date. Keep in mind that playing this late also eliminates any opportunity for a player to play non-interscholastic baseball until the school season is complete.

## Doubleheaders

Doubleheaders are permitted, but keep in mind that no team or individual may play in more than two games per day. There are also no restrictions on playing doubleheaders on school nights, as determined by the local school/athletic board.

**Note:** Completion of a suspended game along with a regularly scheduled game(s) is not considered a doubleheader (*Penalty – see Sports Regulation 20*).

## Umpires

**All umpires used for Varsity games must be Class 1 umpires.** A Class 2 official may be used in emergency situations only with permission from the Executive Director’s Office. If a Class 2 official is used in a varsity game, the Class 1 shall be the lead Official and determine which official will work the plate.

**Non-varsity games require a minimum of one Class 1 or Class 2 umpires to officiate the game.** Umpires used for JV and Varsity contests must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 umpires. Class 1, 2 or 3 are recommended for Freshmen games.

## School & Individual Limitations

### SCHOOL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 9-12*)

<b>Maximum number of contests permitted</b>	<b>27 contests</b> (on no more than 27 playing dates) plus OHSAA postseason tournament
<b>Total number of contests per day permitted</b>	No team or individual may play more than two games per day
<b>Scrimmages/previews</b>	Maximum of <b>4</b> scrimmages, or 3 scrimmages plus one preview
<b>Scrimmage note</b>	Scrimmages may be held at any time during pre-season, post-season or during the season, but must count the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a scrimmage while Team B counts the competition as a contest.
<b>Alumni games</b>	Must be counted as a scrimmage, preview or contest
<b>Practicing with other schools</b>	Any practice with another school must be counted as one of the 4 permitted scrimmages

### INDIVIDUAL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 9-12*)

<b>Individual scrimmages permitted</b>	No Individual may participate in more than 4 scrimmages, or 3 scrimmages plus one preview
<b>Individual contests permitted</b>	No individual may participate on more than <b>32 playing dates</b> (plus OHSAA postseason tournament) per season
<b>Total number of contests per day permitted</b>	No team or individual may play more than two games per day

### SCHOOL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 7-8*)

<b>Maximum number of contests permitted</b>	<b>17 contests</b> (on no more than 17 playing dates) plus one postseason tournament not to exceed 4 games
<b>Total number of contests per day permitted</b>	No team or individual may play more than two games per day
<b>Scrimmages/previews</b>	Maximum of <b>2</b> scrimmages
<b>Scrimmage note</b>	Scrimmages may be held at any time during pre-season, post-season or during the season, but must count the same for both competing teams. In other words, Team A cannot count it as a scrimmage while Team B counts the competition as a contest.
<b>Alumni games</b>	Must be counted as a scrimmage or contest
<b>Practicing with other schools</b>	Any practice with another school must be counted as one of the 2 permitted scrimmages

### INDIVIDUAL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 7-8*)

<b>Individual scrimmages permitted</b>	No Individual may participate in more than 2 scrimmages
<b>Individual contests permitted</b>	No individual may participate on more than <b>21 playing dates</b> (plus OHSAA postseason tournament) per season
<b>Total number of contests per day permitted</b>	No team or individual may play more than two games per day

# OHIO PITCH COUNT RULE

## The Pitch Count

**1.7 of the Baseball Regulations reads:**

*Pitching restrictions in grades 9-12 shall adhere to the following pitch/rest limitations:*

Level	Daily Pitch Limit	0 Days of Rest	1 Day of Rest	2 Days of Rest	3 Days of Rest
<b>Grades 7-12</b>	125 pitches	1 – 30 pitches	31 – 50 pitches	51 – 75 pitches	76 + pitches

- 1.71) A pitcher may finish the current batter if the daily pitch limit is reached during that at bat.
- 1.72) At the end of each contest, coaches will submit pitcher number and pitches thrown in the designated data collection system.
- 1.73) All pitches thrown in a suspended game or a “no contest” game SHALL COUNT toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.
- 1.74) All pitches thrown in a scrimmage or Preview SHALL COUNT toward the daily pitch limit and the total number of pitches thrown.
- 1.75) Each school/team must keep a record of all pitches thrown by each of their players in each game and make this available to the OHSAA upon request.
- 1.76) Any player pitching during a period in which rest is required is considered to be pitching as an ineligible player.  
**Note:** Any victorious contest in which an ineligible player is participating will result in forfeiture of the contest.

## A Few Facts Regarding this Regulation

1. This is a National Federation Rule (NFHS) that requires each state to adopt a pitch count limitation;
2. The OHSAA Constitution requires us to follow the sport rules (NFHS) for each adopted sport;
3. The regulation is in effect for all 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> school sponsored baseball teams in Ohio.

# END OF GAME (*SUSPENDED/COMPLETE GAME*) PROCEDURES

PRINT AND KEEP THIS PAGE WITH YOU DURING GAMES

PROVIDE IT TO JV and FRESHMAN COACHES

It is important that **all schools** are informed of this Regulation as it must be followed. Penalties for non-compliance range from fines to removal from the OHSAA Tournament. These procedures are part of the OHSAA Adopted Baseball Regulations and must be followed. The information below outlines game ending and suspending/interrupted game procedures in Ohio.

Most baseball games end when the team behind in the score completes its turn at bat in the seventh inning (or an extra inning) or when the home team scores the go-ahead run in the seventh inning (or an extra inning). The following exceptions to this are:

- Coaches and the plate umpire may mutually agree to end a game early. This could be in situations where there is a tremendous lead after 2 or 3 innings and both coaches simply agree to end the game. **The score stands and the game are over.**
- Anytime a team has a 10-run lead and the team behind in the score has completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning OR the home team takes a 10-run lead in the fifth inning, **the game ends.**

Though a game also ends when it is forfeited under *NFHS Rule 4-3*, no OHSAA contest can be forfeited until **after it has started.**

- A game that is not started is considered a no contest, regardless of reason.

## Suspended Game Procedures

**No game is ever called and started over at a later date.** When a regular season game is interrupted or suspended for any reason and the game cannot be resumed that date, the game will be **suspended** if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning.

When a game has gone beyond the fifth inning, it is a complete game, subject to these two exceptions:

1. **THE GAME IS TIED.** The OHSAA does not permit any baseball game to end in a tie. All games are considered as won, lost, or suspended. Therefore, a tied game is a suspended game.
2. **THE GAME HAS GONE FIVE INNINGS AND THE VISITING TEAM HAS SCORED ONE OR MORE RUNS TO TIE THE SCORE OR TAKE THE LEAD AND THE HOME TEAM HAS NOT RE-TAKEN THE LEAD AND THE GAME IS CALLED WHILE AN INNING IS IN PROGRESS BUT BEFORE IT IS COMPLETED.**

## Examples of Completed/Suspended Games

1. In a regular season game, the home team is ahead 2-0 after FIVE innings and:
  - The game is called prior to the start of the sixth inning due to darkness: **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
  - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count on the batter and the game cannot be completed: **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
  - The first batter in the top of the sixth inning reaches base and the game is called. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
  - The visiting team scores one run in the top of the sixth inning and the game is called at any time during the sixth inning. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**
  - The visiting team scores two runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not complete, nor does the home team re-take the lead in the bottom half of the sixth inning. **Ruling: SUSPENDED GAME**
  - The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the home team retakes the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game is called later in the bottom half of the sixth inning or after six complete innings. **Ruling: COMPLETE GAME**

**When a suspended game is completed, it shall be continued from the point of suspension with batting orders and lineups the same. Substitutions may be made. Any player that may have been suspended from the original contest is suspended and not able to play in the resumed game. Suspended games that are never completed simply go down as a "No Contest".**

## VARSITY B TEAMS

What is a Varsity B team? A Varsity B team would be an additional Varsity team at a school. Please keep in mind, however, that only **one** Varsity team from each school may enter the OHSAA Tournament. A Varsity B team is just like any other squad that is permitted at a school, like a Freshman, JV, or JV-B team. A Varsity B team is no different. The Varsity B team must have a separate schedule, just like your JV and Freshman teams have their own schedules. *The purpose of a Varsity B team is not to add 5 games to your Varsity schedule, even if the intent is to allow more playing time for some of the non-starters.*

When considering implementing a Varsity B team, the following must be applied:

- No team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates;
- No individual player may play on more than 32 playing dates;
- No team or individual may play more than two games per day;
- The team must have its own roster;
- The team must have its own schedule.

**PENALTIES SHALL BE APPLIED IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ARE VIOLATED**

Please review the Varsity B Issue of *This Week in Baseball* posted to the This Week in Baseball section on the Baseball webpage for further information and FAQ's and scenarios regarding this topic.

## GAME BALL INFORMATION

During tournament time only, Rawlings is the official baseball for the OHSAA and the Rawlings R100 game ball is used throughout the tournament series. Please know that you are *not* required to use the Rawlings R100 baseball during the season if you do not prefer to do so.

Any baseball used must meet the requirements specified in *NFHS Rule 1-3-1*. NFHS Rules require that the baseball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard, requiring that the baseball have the NOCSAE mark/stamp on them. ***All baseballs used in OHSAA competition shall require the NOCSAE and NFHS mark/stamp on the baseball.*** Please know that the OHSAA stamp is not required during regular season.

These requirements apply to *all* levels of play, grades 7-12.

## COACH CERTIFICATION & EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All coaches of Middle School, Junior High and High School teams **must** have a Pupil Activity Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education to coach in the state of Ohio. The application for this certificate is available through local schools' (usually the Athletic Director). The application requires:

- Completion of the NFHS *Fundamentals of Coaching* course
- The applicant to possess a valid CPR Card
  - CPR courses approved by the school or district
  - Online CPR is not accepted
- Completion of approved Sports' First Aid Course
  - 4 options available on ODE website (link below)
- Completion of approved Concussion Recognition/Management Courses
  - 3 options available on ODE website (link below)
- Completion of the ODH/ODE Sudden Cardiac Arrest Certification (*Lindsay's Law*)
- Completion of the required BCI Background Check

Please visit <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits> for full details and access.

## THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL MEMOS

Throughout the year, particularly during the school season, coaches receive an emailed memo called *This Week in Baseball*, highlighting current information and important reminders. These are emailed directly to the head coach via the email entered into the school's myOHSAA profile by the Athletic Administrator. We encourage you to provide this memo to your assistant/sub-varsity coaches. Each newsletter is archived to allow coaches to view past postings at any time. These memos can be accessed directly on the OHSAA Baseball webpage.

## SCHEDULING OUT OF STATE CONTESTS

The first date for games is **Saturday, March 26, 2022**. This could influence any team that was planning on a southern trip to a non-bordering state.

- You may not play any regular season contest prior to Saturday, March 26, 2022.
- If you scrimmage another opponent, it must be part of the other team's allotted scrimmages also. In other words, it cannot be a scrimmage for your team and a regular season contest for the other team. The event (scrimmage or contest) must be classified the same by both competing teams.
- Teams may not travel out of state *just* to practice but may practice while out of state for a contest.
- All competition must be officiated by licensed umpires in the state of competition and NFHS Baseball Rules must be followed.
- Teams may travel to a non-bordering state one time per season and must receive approval by sending in the Travel to a Non-Bordering State Form (on the Baseball webpage) and sending it to Emily Mason at [emason@ohsaa.org](mailto:emason@ohsaa.org).

**The adopted and approved penalty for violations of the above is ineligibility for the OHSAA postseason tournament.**

## SCHOOL TRANSFERS

Each school is required to complete an eligibility certificate (*Bylaw 3-6-1*) outlining the eligible athletes for each sports roster. Please ensure you get clearance from your school's athletic administrator before your first contest clarifying which athletes are eligible to participate. Please note that transfer students may be subject to a period of ineligibility beginning with contest #15 in the sport of baseball. Your school's athletic administrator will work with the OHSAA Office in order to determine if any exception can be met for a transfer student to play the entire season.

# Looking Ahead to Tournament Time

The OHSAA sponsors the OHSAA Baseball Tournament in 4 divisions. Each of the state's District Athletic Boards are empowered by the OHSAA Constitution to organize and conduct baseball tournaments at the Sectional and District levels. They are conducted according to the tournament regulations adopted by the Board of Directors at their January meeting. Typically, EMIS numbers will be utilized for a 2-year period with Competitive Balance Roster Numbers used annually from the previous season's required submissions. As a result, enrollment numbers will change annually, and divisional alignments will change annually instead of the 2-year cycle used for several years. Divisional alignments listed below utilize Competitive Balance numbers from the 2019-20 roster submissions and are in effect for the 2022 Tournament.

*For the 2022 Baseball Tournament, the same numbers utilized in 2021 will be used.*

<u>Division</u>	<u>Boys Enrolled</u>	<u>Total Schools</u>
I	345 and more	193
II	200 – 344	192
III	123 – 199	193
IV	122 and less	194

## Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2022 is **Sunday, May 8 at 2:00 pm.**

## State Tournament Dates & Order of Games

June 9 – 11, 2022

Canal Park – Akron, OH

Division IV, Division III, Division I, Division II

## Athletic Districts

Representation to the Regional tournament from District winners is determined by a formula based upon the number of teams participating in the previous year's tournament.

The complete tournament regulations that were adopted by the Board of Directors at its December meeting will be able to be read in their entirety by logging on to [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and navigating to the Baseball webpage under the *Sports & Tournaments* drop-down menu. With a few exceptions, most schools in the counties listed below are assigned sites from the respective District Athletic Boards. You are encouraged to visit their websites for additional information.

Northwest District: [ohsaa.org/NWDAB-Home](http://ohsaa.org/NWDAB-Home)

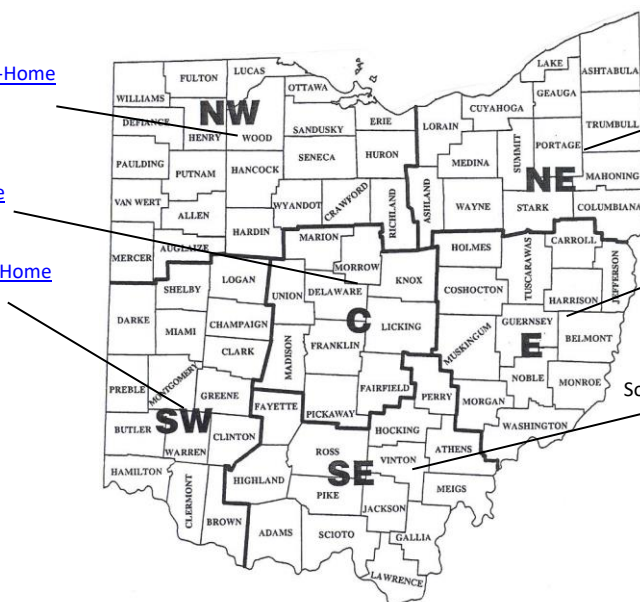
Northeast District: [ohsaa.org/NEDAB-Home](http://ohsaa.org/NEDAB-Home)

Central District: [ohsaa.org/CDAB-Home](http://ohsaa.org/CDAB-Home)

East District: [ohsaa.org/EDAB-Home](http://ohsaa.org/EDAB-Home)

Southwest District: [ohsaa.org/SWDAB-Home](http://ohsaa.org/SWDAB-Home)

Southeast District: [ohsaa.org/SEDAB-Home](http://ohsaa.org/SEDAB-Home)





## *Coaches' Code of Ethics*

### **From the NFHS Baseball Rules Book**

*The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.*

**The Coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The Coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. IN all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The Coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**The Coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

**The Coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The Coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The Coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

**The Coach** should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

**The Coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

**The Coach** shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.





## The Officials Program

### OHSAA Staff

Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating  
Charles Anderson, Manager of Officiating  
Tyler Brooks, Senior Manager of Officiating  
Angie Lawler, Officiating Technology Specialist

### Officials Development Coordinators

Dan McGinnis, Baseball  
Dennis Morris, Basketball  
Travis Burwell, Field Hockey  
Bruce Mauer, Football  
Lori Powers-Basinger, Gymnastics  
Gary Wilkins, Ice Hockey  
Lee Spitzer, Boys Lacrosse  
Lissa Fickert, Girls Lacrosse  
Don Muenz, Soccer  
Jerry Fick, Softball  
RJ Van Almen, Swimming & Diving  
BJ Duckworth, Track & Field  
Diane Plas, Volleyball  
Toby Dunlap, Wrestling



## A Message from Dan McGinnis, OHSAA Baseball Officials Development Director

Welcome to another baseball season in Ohio. This Pre-Season Manual has been compiled for coaches **and** officials to serve as a reference from pre-season to post-season.

The OHSAA has assigned individuals directly responsible for officiating oversight in each specific sport. On the left column of this page, you will read the various directors hired to serve in this important role, as a Director of Officiating Development.

**Education and recruitment** are the basic cornerstones for the Official Development Directors and as we make strides to improve these areas; the entire sport will stand to reap the benefits. I continue to work hand in hand with Emily Mason, the OHSAA Sport Administrator for baseball to bring forward the best officiating practices available. The utilization of each local association is critical in the communication necessary to meet our goals for providing quality, continuing education while also emphasizing the recruitment of new, young officials into the umpire ranks. As you know, we began communicating with local associates in "Plays of the Day", etc. last season and the help of local secretaries to disseminate this information is of critical importance.

I continue to look forward to the limitless opportunities this position provides. *Everyone's* efforts, from coaching to administering to umpiring ultimately benefit our greatest resource: the student-athletes in Ohio.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve the officials in Ohio!

Yours in High School Sports,

*Dan McGinnis*

Officiating Development Director



## 2022 Rules Information

### NFHS Rules Changes

#### 6-1-1 Clarifies how the pitcher shall receive the sign from the catcher while in contact with the pitcher's plate.

The pitcher shall pitch while facing the batter from either a windup position (Art.2) or set position (Art.3). The position of his feet determine whether he will pitch from the windup or the set position. He shall take **or simulate taking** his sign from the catcher with his pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate. The pitching regulations begin when he intentionally contacts the pitcher's plate. Turning the shoulders after bringing the hands together during or after the stretch is a balk. He shall not make a quick-return pitch in an attempt to catch a batter off balance. The catcher shall have both feet in the catcher's box at the time of the pitch. If a pitcher is ambidextrous, the umpire shall require the pitcher to face a batter as either a left-handed or right-handed pitcher, but not both.

**Rationale:** The pitcher acquiring the sign from the catcher is one of the fundamental rules of baseball. It not only signals the defensive team that action is about to be initiated, but it also establishes when an offensive base runner(s) can take a lead-off from his/her base. That simple act has evolved over the last decade but was not supported by an accompanying rule. This change validates the pitcher taking the sign from the dugout/bench via "call" signs, numbers, colors, or an arm wristband/placard that contains printed cards where the defensive set up/pitching repertoire is located. This aspect of the game has become more sophisticated to match the skill level and ability of today's high school baseball player.

### 2022 NFHS Points of Emphasis



1. Excessive Celebration
2. Proper Use of Equipment
3. Sitting on Buckets
4. Lodged Ball Procedure
5. Sportsmanship

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors address areas of the game of interscholastic of baseball that need to be given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, and some areas need more attention than others, which is why they might appear in the Rules Book for consecutive editions. Please see the 2022 Points of Emphasis below, from page 66 of the NFHS Baseball Rules Book.

#### EXCESSIVE CELEBRATION

Any walk-off game winning base hit or home run generates immediate excitement for the player who hit the ball, his teammates and fans. Unfortunately, we have evolved from celebratory high-fives and cheers to a more choreographed celebration that now includes props and players being assigned specific roles. It has almost become a theater quality production performed at the expense of the opponents and their feelings. There is no educational value in that "one-upmanship" or showboating. Education-based athletics is so much more than winning. It is about hard work, commitment, dedication, sacrifice, teamwork and perspective. While winning and losing are a perfect "teachable moment" opportunity, disrespectful behavior severely erodes the basic premise of educational-based athletics. Coaches should be a huge advocate in preventing this type of behavior from occurring. We need their help to make sure that the excessive celebrations do not sabotage all the good that comes out of sports. However, if coaches are unable to manage the emotions of their players or the theatrics of celebration, then the game umpires have existing rules that provide warnings, possible restrictions and ultimately ejections from the contest. We need to return the game to its purest form.

#### PROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT

Equipment manufacturers spend millions of dollars to ensure that their products are held to high industry standards. When a player modifies or misuses the equipment in a way that it was not meant to be used, it places the equipment manufacturer in a precarious position. Everything is tested as it is supposed to be worn or used. When someone alters that product, it violates the equipment's warranty and leaves the end-user uncertain that the product will perform, or protect the wearer from injury or harm.

### **SITTING ON BUCKETS**

Coaches, players, substitutes, attendants or other bench personnel, shall not leave the dugout during live ball for any unauthorized purpose. Coaches or team personnel may not sit outside the dugout/bench on buckets or stools. It is risk minimization at its purest form. If the coaches are out of the dugout on buckets, then the players will feel emboldened to come talk with them and ultimately sit outside of the dugout/bench area as well. High school sports have always been about teaching skill and work ethic while modeling appropriate behavior. Staying in the dugout/bench area is another example of showing our students the right way to do things.

### **LODGED BALL PROCEDURE**

When a lodged ball situation occurs, there is a lot of energy behind if the ball is truly lodged or is the defensive player practicing in gamesmanship. We have seen at different levels that when a ball gets lodged in a glove the quick-thinking fielder removes his glove and throws it to the respective base to register the force out. While it is an exciting play that takes skill and a little bit of luck to accomplish, we do not have that many lodged balls in high school baseball. A baseball that remains on the playing field but has become wedged, stuck, lost, unreachable, is defined to be a lodged ball. If the ball impacts something, stops abruptly, and does not fall or roll immediately, it is considered lodged. We have existing rules to deal with a batted or thrown ball that enters a player's uniform, catcher's equipment or umpire's equipment. However, if a ball becomes stuck in the webbing of the fielder's glove, it remains in play. The glove/ball combination is treated as a live ball and enjoys all the benefits of a live ball.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Players are not allowed to stand or kneel outside their dugout/bench and make "catcalls" or any other disparaging remarks to the other team. Rooting for your team is an integral part of high school baseball. Supporting your teammates is extremely important and encouraged, however, making disparaging remarks toward your opponent is not part of the game, in fact it detracts from the contest. The purpose of interscholastic sports is educational. Chants/intentional distractions/loud noises (natural or artificial) directed at the opponent's pitcher prior to his pitching, the batter preparing to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play is not good sportsmanship and should not be accepted. We should strive to have our young people play to the best of their ability and let their natural talent be the barometer of their success. Unsportsmanlike behavior shall not be tolerated in interscholastic baseball. Umpires and coaches need to work together for the benefit of the students they officiate and teach. It is these game situations that provide coaches and umpires excellent "teachable moments" to reinforce proper behavior and perspective. The positive values that are learned at the baseball diamond will serve the young people long after their high school careers have ended.



## NFHS State Adoptions in Ohio



The NFHS Rules carefully permit each state the right to adopt certain rules that are specific to that state and are known as **State Adoptions**. These State Adoptions do not cause any fundamental change in the game from state to state. These permitted State Adoptions and Ohio's decision on the adoption are as follows:

### **Rule 1-2-9 permits a state to use a double first base.**

A double first base is permitted (by state association adoption)

**Ohio's Stance:** **NOT ADOPTED** in Ohio

### **Rule 1-4-4 permits each state to permit a commemorative or memorial patch on the uniform.**

To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.

**Ohio's Stance:** **ADOPTED** in Ohio

### **Rule 2-33-1 permits for certain speed up rules.**

Suggested speed-up rules.

**Ohio's Stance:** **NONE** of the suggested speed-up rules have been adopted in Ohio for all games. However, in non-league games, coaches may agree to use any, all or any part of suggested speed-up rules (courtesy runners and after putouts). Agreement must be reached prior to the start of the contest.

### **Rule 4-2-4 permits states an option on how they agree to end a shortened game.**

Game ending procedures may be determined.

By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief a game may be shortened or the game terminated at any time. If there is no mutual agreement a game will be ended according to Rule 4 Section 2 and the following:

***A game may end any time after 5 innings or after 4 1/2 innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.***

***If a game is called prior to the completion of a full inning after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game in the following situation:***

The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead.

**Ohio's Stance:** **Adopted for regular season only in Ohio**

If a suspended game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game (substitution may be made). Any suspended game, if it is to be resumed, will be picked up from the point of interruption. **Once a game has started, it will not start over.** Any suspended game, regardless of where it was interrupted, will be re-started from the point where play was suspended.

*Please see other examples throughout the manual.*

**Ohio's Stance:** **ADOPTED** in Ohio

### **Rule 4-3-1 permits a state to determine how it counts a suspended game**

By state association adoption, a regulation called game, where a winner cannot be determined, shall be counted as 1/2 game won and 1/2 game lost for each team.

**Ohio's Stance:** **NOT ADOPTED** in Ohio.

**During OHSAA Tournament:** Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion per the playing rules. (The 10-run rule would be applicable)

**Ohio's Stance:** **ADOPTED** in Ohio.

### **Rule 4-4-1a permits each state to how to determine a forfeit**

State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of its teams.

**The following has been adopted in Ohio:**

No interscholastic contest is subject to forfeiture unless the contest has been started. Any scheduled regular season contest that is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as, failure of a team to arrive, strikes, school closings are "No Contest." Contests not played are not included in won-lost statistics.

### **Rule 6-1-6 requires each state to determine a pitch count limitation**

See Ohio's pitch count rule on *page 11*.

## NFHS Bat Regulations

Per *NFHS Rule 1-3-2*, each legal wood, aluminum or composite bat shall:

- Be one-piece, multi-pieces and permanently assembled, or two pieces with interchangeable barrel construction.
- Not have exposed attachments, rivets, pins rough or sharp edges or any form of exterior fastener that would present a potential hazard.
- Be free of rattles, dents, burrs, cracks and sharp edges. Bats that are broken, altered or that deface the ball are illegal. Materials inside the bat or treatments/devices used to alter the bat specifications and/or enhance performance are prohibited and render the bat illegal.
- Have a knob, handle, barrel, taper (optional transition area) and end cap.

*Bats that are not made of a single piece of wood must be marked with the **BBCOR certification mark**.* This standard, known as the “Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution”, is the only standard bat permitted and recognized.

**The BBCOR mark is the only standard permitted for non-wood bats. Requirements of the BBCOR mark:**

- Rules require it to be minimum of one inch on each side
- Rules require it to be on the barrel of bat
- Rules require mark to be contrasting color to bat
- Rules require the BBCOR mark to be contrasting color to bat
- Rules require the mark to read “BBCOR .50”

Wood bats are legal. To be classified as a wood bat, the bat must be a single solid piece of wood. If the bat is *not* a solid wood bat, it must meet all the requirements of the BBCOR certification, including the BBCOR mark. Each bat not made of a single piece of wood shall:

- Have a safety grip made of cork, tape (no smooth/plastic tape) or commercially manufactured composition material. The grip must extend a minimum of 10 inches, but not more than 18 inches, from the base of the knob. Molded grips are illegal.
  - Resin, pine tar or any drying agent to enhance the hold are permitted *only on the grip*.
- Be 2 5/8 inches or less in diameter at thicket part and 36 inches or less in length.
- Not weigh more than three ounces less than the length of the bat (e.g., a 33-inch-long bat cannot be less than 30 ounces).

**Examples of non-wood bats:**

- Bamboo Bats
- Bats with Metal Handles and Wood Barrels

**Bat tampering is illegal and can be subject to civil, and under certain circumstances, criminal action.** Bat warmers or warming of the bat with any artificial device is considered illegal as well.

## DECERTIFIED BATS

Despite the BBCOR certification mark, certain practices led the NFHS to decertify a few bats. It is not necessary to get into the process of this, however, it is important to note that the following bats have been **decertified** and will not be permitted for use:

- Reebok Vector TLS 33 inch length
- Marucci Cat 5, 33” length
- Reebok Vector TLS 32” length

**Use of any of the above listed bats during OHSAA contests is subject to the penalties outlined in *Rules 4-1-3b* and *7-4-1a* of the NFHS Rules Book.**

## Rating & Voting for Officials

To make this process work it requires coaches and Athletic Administrators to do their part. Officials take this process seriously and it is in everyone's best interest to have the correct input for the assignment of officials. A few important things to note:

1. Coaches **rate** officials. There are 3 other categories that **vote** for officials. Those 'three categories are: Athletic Administrators, each local Officials' Association and a stakeholders group that includes OHSAA Staff, certified assignors and approved observers.
2. Ratings are best done at the conclusion of a game but need to be done by the end of the season. Officials **are not able** to see how a coach rated.
3. "Pools" of officials are created as a result of ratings and votes. These pools are arranged into a "State Pool", "Regional Pool" and "Sectional/District Pool". Each pool has more officials than are needed at that level. Pools are created by mathematically calculating the following:
  1. Total of each of the 4 categories = Score
4. District Athletic Boards utilize the various pools to assign officials to **Sectional and District Tournaments** in their respective Athletic Districts. The process of assignment from approved pools is at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.

**Note:** The total score is not made available to those making assignments; merely the pool itself is made available to them.
5. The OHSAA Office utilizes the pools to assign officials to the **Regional and State Tournament**.

*Please remember that rating is done by coaches and is not mandatory.*

### Instructions for Rating Officials

1. Access the myOHSAA system at <http://officials.myohsaa.org> or from the home page of the [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)
2. Login to myOHSAA.
3. If you are a coach, click the orange "Rate Game Officials" button near the upper left corner. If you are an Athletic Administrator, click the *Rate Game Officials* link in the left navigation.
4. Once you are on the Rating Game Officials page, click the star (green or red) to access the rating form for that sport. Stars that are gray are sports that are currently out of season.
5. Follow the instructions at the top of each sport specific rating page and click on the green *Add Officials to Rate* button.
  - Type the first few letters of the official's last name or their permit number and wait for the list of matching officials to appear below the input box.
  - Select the official from the list to add them to the input box.
  - Once the official is added to the box, select the appropriate rating and click the "Save" button
6. The official's name and rating will be added and displayed on the *Rate Officials* page.
7. Continue adding officials using the *Add Official to Rate* button.
8. Officials can be added to the rating form at different times throughout the season until the deadline of December 1 for fall sports. A maximum of 50 officials can be added to the rating form.
9. Ratings can also be changed using the "Edit" link after the official's rating entry on the rating form until the deadline of June 15 for spring sports.

**Athletic Administrators receive separate instructions for VOTING** for officials at the conclusion of the season. Additional individuals that VOTE for officials include:

1. Approved OHSAA assignors
2. Local Officials' Associations
3. Approved observers
4. OHSAA staff

**Note:** Officials ratings/voting are used for the next season. The officials you rate during the season this year, will be assigned pools for next year's tournament.



## *Officials' Code of Ethics*

(From [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the OHSA Handbook for Officials)

Our member schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. This requires officials to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is an established **Code of Ethics** and **Code of Conduct** for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

**An Official** must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner.

**An Official** must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.

**An Official** must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the athletes we serve.

**An Official** must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the athletes under one's jurisdiction.

**An Official** will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress accordingly to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.

**An Official** shall avoid the use of **tobacco and related products** at the contest site.

**An Official** must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.

## Message From OHSAA Sportsmanship

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, the OHSAA wishes to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in the promotion of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others who may be involved.

### ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning. Coaches and officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

### COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

### OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a contest. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

### STUDENT-ATHLETES

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated—with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

## OHSAA RESOURCES

On our website [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) – click on “Sportsmanship” on the right side of the screen) you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents' role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award, the newly adopted “Respect the Game Challenge” and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.

**Respect  
THE  
GAME**



## Lightning and Inclement Weather

Emphasis on Lightning and Inclement Weather is addressed as an OHSAA Sports Regulation (pg 82). Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it would be wise to review with them prior to the game. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports.

### **RECOGNITION**

*Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles anytime that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:*

**Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

**National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

### **MANAGEMENT**

**Evacuation:** If lightening is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

**Thirty-minute rule:** Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

**Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Though this is not inclusive, a few guidelines are listed below to assist you and your middle school and sub-varsity coaches. Please go through your Athletic Administrator for questions related to the OHSAA's Bylaws and Sports' Regulations. All are contained within the OHSAA's Handbook, pictured to the right and are also available online at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

**Q: *When is baseball's no-contact period?***

**A:** The no-contact period for baseball is August 1 – August 31, 2022.

**Q: *Can middle school/junior high players practice or play with high school players?***

**A:** No. OHSAA Bylaws prohibit student-athletes in grades 7 & 8 from practicing *or* competing with high school student-athletes (grades 9-12) during the season of play in all sports.

**Q: *Can middle school/junior high players participate in open gyms/fields at the high school level?***

**A:** Yes. OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations do not prohibit anyone from participating in open gyms/fields/facilities.

**Q: *Can middle school/junior high players participate with high school players during summer or fall ball?***

**A:** Yes. Any competition that occurs outside the defined season of play is not considered OHSAA sponsored and therefore not under any regulations that limit 7-8 from playing with 9-12 individuals.

**Q: *Can middle school players be included with high school players during individual instruction (provided by a school coach)?***

**A:** Yes. Since it is outside the season, there is no restriction on age groups. Any individual receiving instruction must be counted as one of the six (6) permitted in *all combined facilities where the instruction is taking place*.

**Q: *What can we as coaches do during an open field?***

**A:** Coaches may supervise the open field. Open fields cannot be made mandatory. Open fields must be 'free and unstructured play', so no coaching may take place during an open field. Open fields/gyms are defined in their entirety in *General Sport Regulation 10* in the OHSAA Handbook. Under no circumstances may open fields be a disguise for an early start to practice.

**Q: *What can coaches do during conditioning programs?***

**A:** First, conditioning programs (defined as "Physical Fitness Programs" in the OHSAA Handbook) cannot be made mandatory. *General Sport Regulation 9* defines Physical Fitness/Conditioning Programs. Conditioning programs cannot be used as a disguise for conducting out of season practices.

**Q: *Who can volunteer to be a member of the coaching staff?***

**A:** To work with student-athletes in any school program, an individual must receive his/her Pupil Activity Permit through the Ohio Department of Education *and* be approved by the school's Board of Education. Once achieving these requirements, a volunteer falls under all Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA which limits them to the same out of season coaching limitations as paid staff members.

**Q: *Can a volunteer school coach, coach players from the school team during the June 1 – July 31 period of time?***

**A:** Yes. Any school coach is permitted to coach their own school players, on the same team, from June 1 – July 31.

**Q: *Can a school coach coach players from the school team during off-season baseball such as travel or fall ball (or other non-school baseball)?***

**A:** Yes, as long as there are no more than 4 players (50% rule) from their school team and not during the no-contact period. However, from June 1 – July 31, there may be an unlimited number of players from the same school team, on the same non-interscholastic team.

**Q: *If my son or daughter plays on a non-interscholastic team, can I coach them if I am a school coach?***

**A:** Yes, as long as there are no more than 4 players (50% rule) from their school team and as long as it is not during the no-contact period. From June 1 – July 31, there may be an unlimited number of players from the same school team, on the same non-interscholastic team.

***Q: Can a player on my team participate in a non-interscholastic program during the school season?***

**A:** No. *General Sport Regulation 7* prohibits student-athletes from participating in any non- interscholastic programs (i.e., ACME, travel, club) during the season of play. Coaches should go to great lengths to explain this to players on their teams and remind them periodically throughout the season.

***Q: When can a player on my team participate in non-interscholastic baseball?***

**A:** As soon as their school season is complete. This means a Varsity player may participate as soon as their last game (including tournament) is played. Any sub-varsity player may play non-interscholastically when their season is complete, *but* it must be kept in mind that they cannot return to dress/participate in any OHSAA tournament game. Many school administrators will safeguard this by allowing no level of player to participate in non-interscholastic baseball until the Varsity's last tournament game. Though not entirely necessary, this does safeguard all athletes.

***Q: How many players can participation together on a non-interscholastic team or program?***

**A:** Four (4). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic roster during all months **except May 27, 2022** (the Friday prior to Memorial Day) **and July 31, 2022** to no more than 50% of those that make up a starting lineup of a team. In baseball that magic number is 4.

***Q: How are players classified when middle school/junior high players play with high schools' players in the off-season?***

**A:** Players are always defined by the previous school season. For example, four 8<sup>th</sup> graders could participate on a non-interscholastic along with four 9<sup>th</sup> graders from the same school/district. They are considered separate, as grades 7-8 are separate from grades 9-12.

***Q: During the summer, how many days are we permitted to coach our players?***

**A:** From June 1 – July 31, there is no restriction on how many days the coaching staff may coach their team. These guidelines should be established by the school Athletic Department. Please keep in mind the intent of the summer is to provide the athletes a break.

***Q: Are players permitted to receive private instruction from individuals such as outside/private pitching instructors or hitting instructors during the season of play?***

**A:** Yes, if your school Athletic Department approves it.

***Q: One of my players was selected to play in a basketball or football All-Star game during the baseball season. Is he/she permitted to play in that contest?***

**A:** Yes. The Regulations prohibit players from playing non-interscholastic baseball during the baseball season. They do not prevent a player from playing in another sport.

***Q: Given the above, does that mean a baseball player is permitted to play on an AAU Basketball team during the baseball season?***

**A:** Yes. The player would not be violating any OHSAA Sport Regulations.

***Q: Given the above, does this also mean that a player could be on our school's track team while also being on the school's baseball team?***

**A:** Yes. Any limitations on that would be imposed by individual schools.

***Q: Can players participate in hitting leagues during the off-season?***

**A:** Yes, however, they are limited to the 50% limitation of 4 players from the same school on the same hitting league team.

***Q: Since weather issues often force games to be made up late in the season, how late can we play a game?***

**A:** The last day for a game to be played is the Saturday after the State Tournament, which is June 18, 2022.

***Q: If we have to make up games late in the season, can our players play for their summer teams while still completing our regular schedule?***

**A:** No. All non-interscholastic rules are in effect during the season, regardless of how late the season goes.

***Q: What is meant by the "Non-Interscholastic Date" listed in the Handbook and when is it?***

**A:** The "Non-Interscholastic Date" for baseball is **April 6, 2022**. Though baseball players are not permitted to tryout, practice or compete for any non-interscholastic team during the season of play, any player that has not yet become an official member of the school team (by participating in a scrimmage, preview or game), that does so on or after this date renders a player ineligible for the OHSAA tournament in addition to any other penalties.

**Q: Can I travel out of state to play a contest?**

**A:** Yes, with certain restrictions (see *Bylaw 9*). Teams may travel out of state to a bordering state (contiguous state) an unlimited number of times to play. Teams may travel to non-bordering (contiguous states) **one time** per sport per season to compete, provided they have received approval from the OHSAA office by filling out the *Travel to a Non-Bordering State Form* on the Baseball webpage.

**Q: Can I take my team out of state just to practice?**

**A:** No.

**Q: Can my team practice while out of state to a permitted tournament?**

**A:** Yes. OHSAA *Bylaw 9* permits a team to practice out of state while part of an approved out of state scrimmage or contest.

**Q: Can I have a scrimmage during the season or during tournament time?**

**A:** Yes. As long as a team has a scrimmage remaining, they may use it at any time. It is important to note that any scrimmage with another school must be a scrimmage for that school also; it cannot be a game for one school and a scrimmage for another school.

**Q: Can teams practice with another school?**

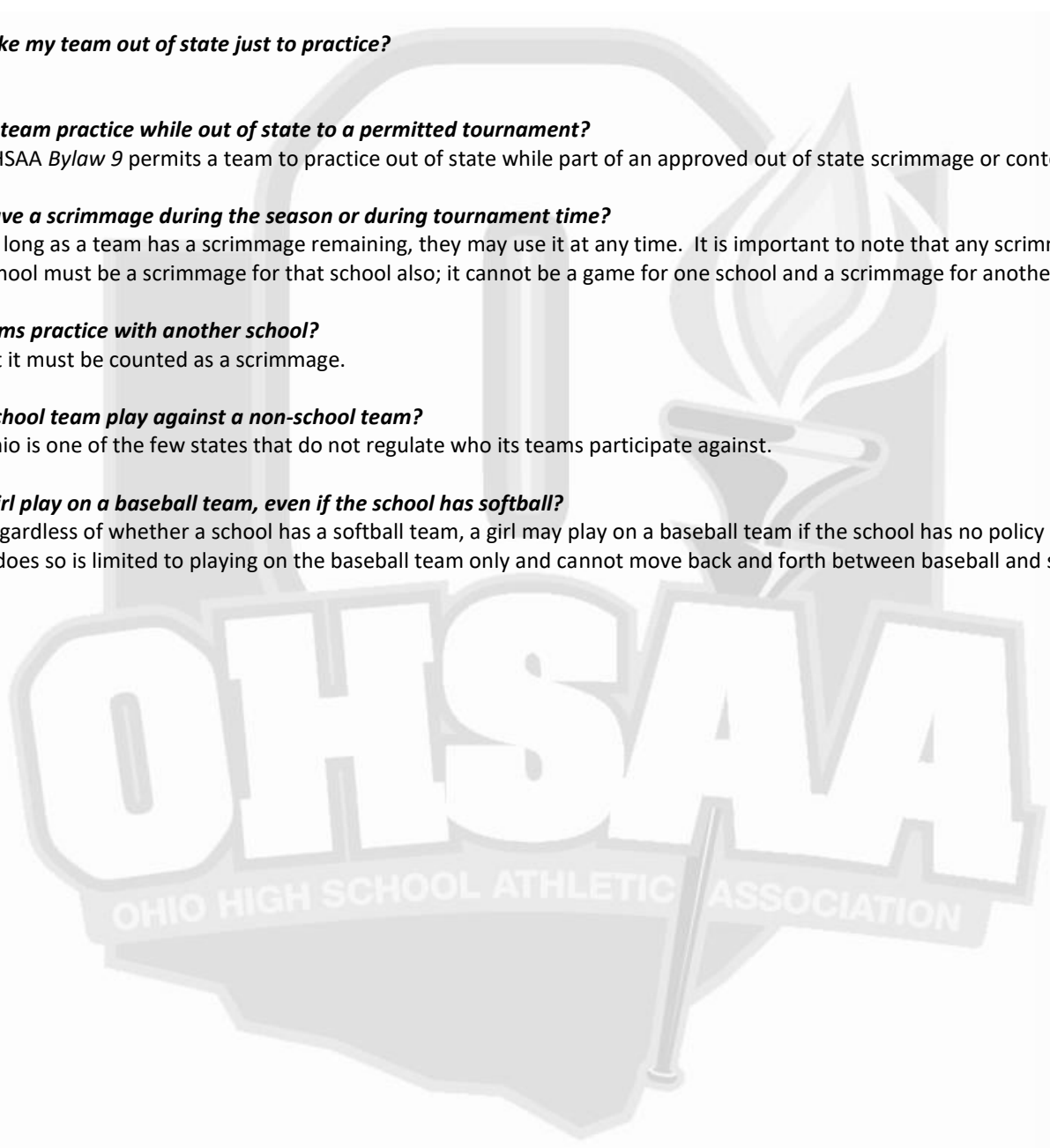
**A:** Yes, but it must be counted as a scrimmage.

**Q: Can a school team play against a non-school team?**

**A:** Yes. Ohio is one of the few states that do not regulate who its teams participate against.

**Q: Can a girl play on a baseball team, even if the school has softball?**

**A:** Yes. Regardless of whether a school has a softball team, a girl may play on a baseball team if the school has no policy against it. A girl that does so is limited to playing on the baseball team only and cannot move back and forth between baseball and softball.



**The Ohio High School Athletic Association**  
**Baseball**  
**Game Introductions**



Welcome to \_\_\_\_\_ High School. Ladies and Gentlemen to honor America, would you please rise, gentlemen remove your caps and join in singing our National Anthem; The Star-Spangled Banner.

**Play National Anthem**

**After National Anthem:** Good afternoon, on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ High School, welcome to today's baseball game between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The OHSAA takes great pride in the conduct of all student-athletes and working with schools to promote good sportsmanship and the values of school-based athletics. We encourage you to cheer for your team during today's game and to show both teams the same respect you'd like them to display. This keeps with those values and ideals. Spectators are reminded that unruly behavior may result in immediate ejection from the premises. The athletic departments of BOTH schools appreciate your cooperation.

**Visiting Team:**

**Home Team:**

	#	Name	Position			#	Name	Position
1.					1.			
2.					2.			
3.					3.			
4.					4.			
5.					5.			
6.					6.			
7.					7.			
8.					8.			
9.					9.			
P					P			

The Head Coach for \_\_\_\_\_ (Visiting team) is \_\_\_\_\_ and he is assisted by \_\_\_\_\_.

The Head Coach for \_\_\_\_\_ (Home team) is \_\_\_\_\_ and the assistant coaches are: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Immediately following each half inning:**

**In that inning for \_\_\_\_\_:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Runs  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Hits:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Errors:  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ LOB

## Concussion Management

### Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus, it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

**Note:** It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio's General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student's coach during that practice or competition.
- 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

### RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
  - a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
  - b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.
- 2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here <http://ohsaa.org/medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf> to retrieve the OHSAA's Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation **ONLY** if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

**Note:** A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

### COACHES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

### CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS

**New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition.** Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

#### **STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS**

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet” which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here: <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

#### **NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
  - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
  - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
  - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

## QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20200DH%20Revised%202.ashx>

### Online Concussion Management Training

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training>

### Ohio's Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx>

### Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

### Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

## ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES

### Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries

<http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx>

### CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports

Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

### CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>

### Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis

<http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

### Brain Injury Association of Ohio

[www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org)



## CONCUSSION REPORT

**Ohio High School Athletic Association**  
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214  
PH:614-267-2502; FAX:614-267-1677  
[www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

### OHSAA CONCUSSION REPORT

State Law, NFHS Rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from a contest and not permitted to reenter competition that same day. This form shall serve to document that a student has been removed from a contest in accordance with State Law, NFHS and OHSAA rules due to exhibiting signs, symptoms and/or behaviors consistent with a concussion. The contest official must complete this form and forward it to the OHSAA within 48 hours after the conclusion of the contest. It is recommended that the official keep a copy of this report. In addition, if required by NFHS rule, an appropriate entry shall be made in the scorebook or other document as prescribed.

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sport** \_\_\_\_\_

**Level of Contest (Circle One)**    7<sup>th</sup>                      8<sup>th</sup>                      9<sup>th</sup>                      JV                      Varsity

**Official's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **OHSAA Permit #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward to the OHSAA within 48 hours.**

## Communicable Disease Procedures

Though most schools have a Certified Athletic Trainer present at Varsity contests and all coaches are required to maintain a valid Pupil Activity Certificate through the Ohio Department of Education that includes a Sports' First Aid component, it is important to keep up to date on the remote risk that blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted during baseball practice and contests. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as other bodily fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential transmission of these infectious diseases should include, but should not be limited to the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous-membrane exposure when contact with blood and other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling dressings, mouthguards and other articles containing body fluids.

You are encouraged to log on to the OHSAA's website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and refer to the Sports' Medicine dropdown menu for additional information.

## H1N1 Influenza Policy

The OHSAA's Board of Directors approved the following policy with advice from the Ohio Department of Health and shall observe this policy at tournament time in the event of an H1N1 Influenza outbreak.

1. The Ohio Department of Health has advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio as to whether or not to close a school or university due to an influenza outbreak; however, at this time the Centers for Disease Control are not recommending closures except in extreme circumstances.
2. In the event schools remain open, competitors and teams shall be expected to play tournament contests on the dates scheduled.
3. In the event schools are closed, the OHSAA, in conjunction with our District Athletic Boards and tournament personnel, shall reschedule the tournament contest for the schools thus affected.
4. Please watch the OHSAA web site home page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.