

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL

PRE-SEASON ISSUE | FEBRUARY 21, 2023



While I realize it is a bit lengthy, please review the Pre-Season Issue of *This Week in Baseball* for some reminders for the 2023 baseball season and a change to General Sport Regulation 7.5. Please reach out to me, Emily Mason, with any questions!

COACHING BEGINS FOR 2023 BASEBALL SEASON

Coaching, instruction and tryouts may now take place, as of yesterday, **Monday, February 20**. Scrimmages may now take place as well, but a reminder that games are not permitted to begin until Saturday, March 25.

Per OHSAA *Bylaw 4-1-4*, a student-athlete is not recognized as an official member of the school team until they participate in a scrimmage, preview or contest for the school team, whichever comes first. With that said, student-athletes may continue participating with a non-interscholastic baseball program or team up until they participate in a scrimmage, preview or contest for the school team, even if they have started practicing with the school team.

NOTE: If a school would like to enforce a stricter policy and not permit a student-athlete to participate with their non-interscholastic team/program once they have made the school team and have started practicing, they are permitted to enforce a stricter policy. However, by OHSAA policies, we do not classify a student-athlete as an official member of the school team until they participate in a scrimmage, preview or contest for the school team, whichever comes first.

CHANGES TO GENERAL SPORT REGULATION 7.5 | SUMMER COACHING DAYS

The following change to *General Sport Regulation 7.5* is to go into effect immediately, as approved by the Board of Directors on February 16, 2023.

At the February Board of Directors Meeting, the Board of Directors voted to approve a change to *General Sport Regulation 7.5.1 – Team Sports (10-Day Rule)*, to go into effect immediately. Previously, *GSR 7.5.1* stated members of a school team's coaching staff in team sports may coach any number of students from their teams in excess of the team limit set forth in *GSR 7.3* (6 for the sport of baseball) outside of the school season, for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31 and participation may not be mandatory. The Board of Directors approved to change this to a **maximum of 13 days from May 15 through July 31**. There was increase to the number of days (from 10 coaching days to **13 coaching days**) a coaching staff may work more than 6 athletes at one time and also an extension of the time period at the beginning (from June 1 to **May 15** through July 31). Previous stipulations within the Regulation will not change.

The language of *General Sport Regulation 7.5.1* would now read:

Members of a school team's coaching staff in the team sports of baseball (etc.) may coach any number of students from their teams in excess of the team limit set forth in *General Sport Regulation 7.3* (6 for the sport of baseball), for a maximum of **13 days from May 15** through July 31, and participation cannot be mandatory.

For the sport of baseball, please keep in mind that the 13-day coaching period either begins on May 15 or as soon as your school season has ended, whichever one comes last. The 2023 baseball season does not officially end until June 17, so schools may continue scheduling scrimmages or contests until June 17, even if you are no longer advancing in the postseason tournament.

EXAMPLES:

Scenario #1: What if I advance in the OHSAA postseason baseball tournament past May 15—do I need to count it as a coaching day if I am working with 7 or more baseball players during that time?

Ruling #1: No, this would only apply to you once your season is complete. If you are knocked out of the tournament *prior* to May 15, you would not be permitted to work with more than 6 of your baseball players prior to May 15. If you are knocked out of the tournament *after* May 15, the 13-day coaching window would not begin for your coaching staff until your team participates in their final scrimmage, contest or postseason tournament contest.

Scenario #2: What if our team loses in the Regional Final game scheduled for Friday, June 2? Do I need to start counting any time I am working with 7 or more baseball players from May 15 to June 2?

Ruling #2: No, you would only start counting towards your 13 coaching days starting on June 3 through July 31.

A few reminders of *General Sport Regulation 7.5*:

- The 13-day maximum applies to the entire coaching staff and not towards each individual coach (for example, each coach of a team is not entitled to 13 different days of coaching).
- The 13-day maximum does not translate to hours—for example, 13 coaching days does not mean you have 312 total hours of coaching.

- *General Sport Regulation 7.5* is different than a school coaching providing individual skill instruction, which is outlined in *General Sport Regulation 7.8*. Again, *GSR 7.5* would address providing team instruction and not individual skill instruction.
- Student athlete participation shall not be mandatory when coaching outside of the school season and from May 15 – July 31.

ADDITIONAL Q & A'S:

Q: What if I am only working with 5 of my athletes—do I need to count that as one of my 13 days?

A: No. You only need to count working with your athletes as 1 of your 13 days if you are working with 7 or more of your athletes at one time during this time frame.

Q: What if I want to schedule our head baseball coach to work with 9 baseball players for 13 days and schedule our assistant baseball coach to work with 9 players for an additional 13 days (for a total of 26 days)?

A: This would not be permitted, as the 13-day maximum applies to the entire coaching staff and not the coach individually.

Q: It is July 31 and I did not utilize 13 coaching days during the time frame, I only used 10. Would I be able to schedule 3 additional coaching days in August to reach my 13-day maximum?

A: No, this would not be permitted. The 13 coaching days must be used from May 15 – July 31. The no contact period for baseball coaches begins on August 1.

TRAVEL TO A NON-BORDERING STATE FORM

Baseball teams are permitted to travel out of state to participate in scrimmages or contests, per *Bylaw 9-2-1*. If traveling to compete in a bordering state (IN, KY, MI, PA, WV and province of Ontario), this is permitted an unlimited number of times throughout the season. **If traveling to a non-bordering state, this is permitted only one time per season, and must be approved by the OHSAA office.** If traveling to a non-bordering state, you need to fill out the *Travel to a Non-Bordering State Form* on the Baseball webpage, [HERE](#) and submit it to me at emason@ohsaa.org.

If traveling to compete out of state, please remember that:

- No contests may occur prior to March 25, 2023
 - Any competition prior to March 25 must be a scrimmage
- Competition must be the same for both schools
 - EX: if you schedule a scrimmage, it must count as a scrimmage for the opponent as well
- OHSAA administrative rules must be followed
 - Ohio Pitch Count Rule
 - Player/team limitations

2023 BASEBALL STATE RULES MEETING

Per *General Sport Regulation 2*, the State Baseball Rules Meeting is required to be viewed by the head coach by the following deadlines. The State Baseball Rules Meeting is now live on the myOHSAA State Rules Meeting page and is available 24/7. The deadline to view the rules meeting without penalty is **Saturday, March 25 at 11:59 pm**. On Sunday, March 26 at 12:00 am, there will be a \$50 late fee to view the rules meeting. The final deadline will be Monday, May 1 at 11:59 pm.

On May 2 at 12:00 am, the Baseball Rules Meeting will no longer be available, and penalty is removal from the OHSAA Tournament.

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 to add you to the school’s Staff Management in myOHSAA
2. This will generate an email invitation from 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)

Thank you!

Emily Mason

Senior Sport Administrator – Baseball

E: emason@ohsaa.org **B:** (614) 267-2502 x 107