

2024



**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.

The Baseball Manual covers rules and regulations determined by both the OHSAA and the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS). The 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.



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.

OFFICERS

President

Michael Valesko, *Harrison Central High School*

Vice President

Brian Hiscox, *Berkshire High School*

2nd Vice President

Chad Jensen, *Buckeye Central High School*

Secretary

Scott Manahan, *Capital University*

Treasurer

Drew Kirby, *Dublin Jerome High School*

Public Information Director

Ray Benjamin, *St. Charles Prep*

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*

Poll Director

John Bakalar, *Chagrin Falls High School*

Benefits of the OHSBCA

1. Conducts the annual OHSBCA Convention & Clinic
2. Conducts multiple Board Meetings per year
3. Produces web-based newsletters
4. Maintains the OHSBCA website at 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 a college "Coaches' Corner" at the OHSBCA clinic
14. Honors Past Presidents and Hall of Fame members
15. Attends all monthly OHSAA Board of Director meetings in Columbus
16. Honors Assistant Coaches through the "Assistant Coach of the Year"

DISTRICT REPS

Central, Sr.

Mike Weaver, *Olentangy Berlin High School*

Central, Jr.

Mike Sandman, *New Albany High School*

East, Sr.

Nathan Prati, *Coshocton High School*

East, Jr.

DJ Butler, *Barnesville High School*

Northeast, Sr.

Dan Ransom, *Firelands High School*

Northeast, Jr.

Jim Hanek, *South Range High School*

Northeast, So.

Aaron DeBord, *Stow High School*

Northwest, Sr.

Jeff Keck, *Vermillion High School*

Northwest, Jr.

Rick Bowerman, *Seneca East High School*

Southeast, Sr.

Jeff Noble, *Waverly High School*

Southeast, Jr.

John Combs, *Whiteoak High School*

Southwest, Sr.

Curt Bly, *Mason High School*

Southwest, Jr.

Ty Welker, *Troy High School*

Joining the OHSBCA

1. The Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association accepts memberships through March 15
2. Annual membership fees are \$40.00
3. Memberships are available through the OHSBCA website at <http://www.ohsbca.org/aws/OHSBCA/pt/sp/membership>

Congratulations to the 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees!

The following coaches will be honored at this year's OHSBCA Clinic as inductees into the Class of 2024. Congratulations to these deserving coaches!

Sean Durkin (Late), *Ursuline High School*
 Mark Pelfrey, *Springboro High School*
 Mike Shade, *Gahanna Lincoln High School*
 Chris Veidt, *Whiteoak High School*



Important Baseball Dates

February 19	Coaching & Tryouts Begin
March 23	First Contest Permitted
May 5	Tournament Seed/Draw Date
May 11 – 18	Sectional Tournament
May 18 – 25	District Tournament
May 30 – 31	Regional Tournament
June 7 – 9	State Tournament
June 15	Season Ends

Baseball Web Resources

OHSAA Baseball Webpage	CLICK HERE
OHSAA Baseball Regulations	CLICK HERE
NFHS Rules Books	CLICK HERE
NFHS Coaches Education	CLICK HERE
OHSBCA Website	CLICK HERE

OHSAA Baseball Contact Information

Emily Mason, Senior Sport Administrator | emason@ohsaa.org
Administrates the sport of baseball and oversees the postseason tournaments.

Frank Grubb, Director of Development for Baseball Umpiring | fgrubb@ohsaa.org
Responsible for overseeing baseball umpires in Ohio. Serves as liaison with NFHS Baseball playing rules.

State Rules Meeting

All **State Rules Meetings for coaches and officials will be required online**. This is explained on the following page. The Baseball Rules Meeting is available starting on Wednesday, February 7 at 9:00 AM through your myOHSAA profile. The deadline to view the rules meeting without penalty is **Saturday, March 23 at 11:59 PM**. On Sunday, March 24 at 12:00 AM, there will be a \$50 late fee to view the rules meeting. The final deadline will be Monday, April 22 at 11:59 PM. **On April 23 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-interscholastic 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-interscholastic**.

The Non-Interscholastic Date

Though participation in any form of non-interscholastic baseball while a member of a school team is prohibited, any participation in a non-interscholastic 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 2024 baseball season, this date is: **April 1, 2024**

Please 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 list 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.

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 **Wednesday, February 7 at 9:00 AM.**

The deadline for completion of Rules Meeting is **Saturday, March 23 at 11:59 PM** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for access to the Rules Meeting. The final deadline is Monday, April 22 at 11:59 PM. Beginning on Tuesday, April 23 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 April 22 at 11:59 PM, your school will be removed from the postseason tournament and officials will be ineligible for the 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.

Coaches' Tool Chest

Coaches' Tool Chest was created to provide an efficient, simple method of ensuring you are compliant with all of your PAP requirements. The Coaches' Tool Chest houses all requirements and certificates in one location—one certificate covers all PAP requirements, rather than having to go between multiple third-party websites. For more information, please visit their website: <https://coachestoolchest.com/>

OHSAA REGULATIONS

OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS

General Sports Regulations are available at 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. 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. 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 3-1-4

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** (no later than March 4, 2024). 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 7.9.3

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. The instruction provided must be limited to individual skill instruction and 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 Regulations 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 until the end of the school season.

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 **six** 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 6-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 end of the student-athletes' school baseball season through July 31, there are no player limitations from the same school on a non-interscholastic team. If there an excess of six players from the same school, and a school coach is coaching them, they must count it as 1 of their 13 coaching days.

**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 6 or less players on that team, with the exception of the no-contact period (August 1 – August 31) or from the end of the school season – July 31. During the end of the school season – July 31, a school coach is permitted to work with more than 6 of their baseball athletes for a maximum of 13 days. Please know this 13-day maximum applies to the entire coaching staff.

Individual Instruction | GSR 7.8

The Individual Instruction Regulation permits a school baseball coach to have instructional contact with **no more than six players in a group together at one time**, 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”. There may be multiple groups of 6 (or less) in the facility at the same time, but the groups may never combine to where there are more than 6 athletes working together.

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 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 23, 2024 and no later than **June 15, 2024**. This means that you can continue scheduling contests and scrimmages throughout the regular and postseason tournament, through June 15. 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*)

Maximum number of contests permitted	27 contests (on no more than 27 playing dates) plus OHSAA postseason tournament
Total number of contests per day permitted	No team or individual may play more than two games per day
Scrimmages/previews	Maximum of 4 scrimmages, or 3 scrimmages plus one preview
Scrimmage note	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.
Alumni games	Must be counted as a scrimmage, preview or contest
Practicing with other schools	Any practice with another school must be counted as one of the 4 permitted scrimmages

INDIVIDUAL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 9-12*)

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

SCHOOL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 7-8*)

Maximum number of contests permitted	17 contests (on no more than 17 playing dates) plus one postseason tournament not to exceed 4 games
Total number of contests per day permitted	No team or individual may play more than two games per day
Scrimmages/previews	Maximum of 2 scrimmages
Scrimmage note	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.
Alumni games	Must be counted as a scrimmage or contest
Practicing with other schools	Any practice with another school must be counted as one of the 2 permitted scrimmages

INDIVIDUAL CONTEST LIMITATIONS (*Grades 7-8*)

Individual scrimmages permitted	No Individual may participate in more than 2 scrimmages
Individual contests permitted	No individual may participate on more than 21 playing dates (plus OHSAA postseason tournament) per season
Total number of contests per day permitted	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
Grades 7-12	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 7th – 12th 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 23, 2024**. 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 23, 2024.
- 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 *only* 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.

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 2021-22 roster submissions and are in effect for the 2024 Tournament.

Division	Boys Enrolled	Total Schools
I	356 and more	188
II	200 – 355	190
III	123 – 199	190
IV	122 and less	186

Tournament Draw Dates

The draw date for tournaments is established by the Board of Directors. The official date for 2024 is **Sunday, May 5 at 2:00 PM.**

State Tournament Dates & Order of Games

June 7 – 9, 2024

Canal Park | Akron, OH

Division II, Division I, Division III, Division IV

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 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

Central District: ohsaa.org/CDAB-Home

Southwest District: ohsaa.org/SWDAB-Home

Northeast District: ohsaa.org/NEDAB-Home

East District: ohsaa.org/EDAB-Home

Southeast District: 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.



2024 Rules Information

NFHS Rules Changes

1-6-1 Clarifies that wristbands that are non-electronic shall be worn on the wrist or forearm of a player and certain colors are restricted.

Rationale: With the increase in popularity of these style of communication systems, confusion has occurred when the players wear them other than on their arm. This change will prohibit these types of products from being worn other places.

1-6-2 Modified that one-way electronic communication devices are permitted from the dugout/ bench to the catcher.
3-2-5

Rationale: Allows for the coach to communicate with the catcher using an electronic communication device for the purpose of calling pitches. The device would only be able to be one-way, meaning the player cannot use an electronic device to respond or communicate back to the coach. Various technologies, earpiece, electronic band or a smartwatch could be used to provide schools several options at varying costs. No other player would be able to wear or use this device nor would the coach be able to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.

10-2-3h Clarified the authority of the umpire as it relates to spectators.

Rationale: Umpires have jurisdiction over the confines of the field, players, coaches and team/bench personnel. If there are issues with spectators, it is the responsibility of game management to deal with spectators and to ensure that the facility is safe for all involved.

Speed-Up Rule #3 The item is deleted due to it being a non-relevant baseball rule.

2024 NFHS Points of Emphasis

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors address areas of the game of interscholastic 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.

1. **Malicious Contact**
2. **Profanity (Direct or Indirect)**
3. **Pace of Play**
 - **20-Second Time Limit Between Pitches/Plays**
 - **Time Between Half-Innings**
 - **Batter Repeatedly Stepping Out of Batter’s Box**
 - **Umpire’s Time Management**
 - **Excessive Player Conferences**

MALICIOUS CONTACT

While not a new topic, malicious contact registers as the third most discussed Point of Emphasis (POE) behind good sporting behavior and pitching restrictions. Malicious contact was a POE in 2006-2008 and also in 2014. The frequency of emphasis is not surprising. It is a topic that begs for a complete and understandable definition, but is unable to find one that captures every possible scenario. The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate when the catcher is attempting to make a play on a base runner. Conventional wisdom from past NFHS Baseball Rules Committees would say that malicious contact can be initiated (and penalized) by either the offensive or defensive player(s), and that incidental contact is expected in baseball. An example is the infrequent but dramatic “train wreck” play, where the thrown ball, the fielder and the runner meet at the same time. It is always a violent convergence, but not intentional, nor is anyone trying to hurt the other. It is just a normal baseball play. Contact or a collision is considered to be malicious if (1) the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or (2) there is intent to injure. The absence of these two conditions does not preclude the presence of malicious contact but would provide a reasonable starting point for proper interpretation. Rules guidance can be found in Rules 2, 3, 5, 8, Dead Ball Table and Base Running Awards Table. The NFHS rules code is education-based not only for the coaches and players, but for the umpires as well. Umpires should have the flexibility to judge witnessed contact as malicious

or not. Their judgment should not be removed by rule but enhanced by education, video review, umpire board/chapter training, game experience and field locations/mechanics.

PROFANITY (DIRECT OR INDIRECT)

Education-based athletics is a direct extension of the classroom. When the educational component is removed, then everything changes, and it becomes a completely different game, devoid of accountability and structure. A student who blurts out a profanity either toward someone or simply out of frustration in school would be disciplined by the classroom teacher or the building principal. There is no excuse for foul language in school or on the baseball field. Regardless of what is portrayed at other levels, this is not acceptable and should be addressed by the umpire(s). The rule support for this behavior is clear, the penalties are: (1) a verbal warning to the offender, (2) issuance of a written warning to the offender which warrants being restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game, or (3) eject the offender for a major offense. The Bench and Field Conduct Section (NFHS Rule 3-3-1f1-4) provides several sub-articles addressing profanity and harmful behaviors. High school sports and other activities exist to lift people up, positively challenge them and their abilities, not to demean or tear people down. The goal is to treat everyone fairly and treat each other with respect. Any language that is profane, intimidating, insulting, demeaning or hurtful will not be tolerated. Coaches, school administrators and parent groups should work together to ensure that the game creates a positive environment for all involved. Profanity spoken loud enough to be heard is profanity that needs to be dealt with immediately.

PACE OF PLAY

High school athletics is education-based for an age group that ranges from 14 to 18 years of age. Baseball is an extension of the classroom. Unlike other sports, baseball is not “clock” driven. The average time of a high school varsity baseball game is around 2 hours and 9 minutes. At other levels of the sport, time is more crucial and has been the focus of those rules-writing organizations. At the advanced levels, some longtime existing plays and practices have been eliminated to shorten the game and in-part enhance the fan experience. High school baseball does not have these same issues and does not share the same challenges of production costs, satellite time, throngs of network media or maximizing the entertainment value or offerings for the fans. These goals are very simplistic. The NFHS encourages students to participate in high school activities, learn from play and be better citizens from playing. While high school baseball does not have overall game-time restrictions, the NFHS is cognizant that extended games are part of baseball. Baseball games can be more efficient with a focus on time and time management. Pace of play involves several factors, and the NFHS believes that giving special attention to these five areas will assist with the flow and pace of our game.

20-SECOND TIME LIMIT BETWEEN PITCHES/PLAYS

This rule has been in our rule book since the late 1970s as a tool to use when the pitcher is prolonging the delivery of the pitch because of gamesmanship or overall lack of game efficiency. Past rule committees did not intend to negatively impact a game that is being played at a reasonable pace and rhythm. The rule was meant to be utilized when preventative officiating fails to provide the necessary outcome. When talking to the pitcher regarding the length of delay between each pitch, or speaking with the catcher to “nudge” the other half of the battery to pitch in a more timely manner, or mentioning to the coach at the half-inning that the game is being affected by the pitcher’s delay does not change the pitcher’s behavior, then this is a problem and would result in the penalty being applied.

TIME BETWEEN HALF INNINGS

There are a lot of moving pieces in between half-innings. By rule, the time from the last out to the next pitch is 1 minute and 20 seconds. The role of the umpire is to facilitate the defense getting into place, the pitcher warming up and start the inning. There is no place for visiting with the fans or having an extended discussion with the other umpire(s).

BATTER REPEATEDLY STEPPING OUT OF THE BATTER’S BOX

The NFHS Rules Book is clear when the batter is allowed to step out of the batter’s box and when they cannot. It is understandable and part of the game for the batter to step out of the batter’s box to get the signal from the third base coach on how to approach the next pitch because it is very situational. The batter needs to be encouraged to get back in the batter’s box with a sense of expediency. However, repeatedly stepping out to alter the rhythm of the pitcher or delay the game is not acceptable and the penalty needs to be applied by the umpire.

UMPIRE’S TIME MANAGEMENT

Time management is crucial to how the game progresses. If the umpire is not consistent in motivating both teams to get off and on the field, expedite conferences, encourage the batter from excessively stepping out of the batter’s box, this will add unnecessary delay to the contest. The umpire cannot control the skill level of the players of both teams; however, there are other areas that the umpire can positively impact the pace and speed of the game. The players’ abilities will affect the speed of the game, but the other areas that the umpire has direct control over should be monitored and utilized in creating a sense of urgency during the contests.

EXCESSIVE PLAYER CONFERENCES

A player conference is very different than a charged conference. The NFHS supports teammates encouraging each other and developing that camaraderie. That is part of the lesson one learns from playing a team sport. However, when team bonding becomes excessive and it begins to delay the game, then the umpire needs to step in and expedite the conclusion of the meeting.



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.

Coaches Rating Instructions

Ratings may be submitted and edited throughout the season. Officials **cannot** detect how they were rated by an individual coach. To submit your ratings of officials, please access your school's myOHSAA account using the 'Schools' icon in the upper right corner. Once on the school account, please locate the orange 'Rate Game Officials' in the upper left corner. Once on the 'Rating Game Officials' page, click the star beside the sport; **red** means ratings have not been submitted and **green** means ratings have been submitted. Follow the on-screen instructions to add officials and provide a rating. Revisit this screen throughout the season to add or edit ratings.

Finding assigned officials: You can view officials assigned to regular season contests in DragonFly. If you do not have access, please request the information from your athletic director. Go to 'Game Schedules' on the left, use the filters at the top of the screen to filter by your sport and varsity level. In 'Date Range,' click the first date of regular season and the last date of regular season. View officials assigned to individual games by clicking on the game in the list, then the 'Officials and Workers' tab. Download a file of the entire season by clicking the  icon, then 'Download CSV.' Open the CSV file with your computer's spreadsheet software (i.e. Excel, Numbers). Each game will appear on a line, with the assigned officials in the far right columns.



Athletic Director Voting Instructions

Voting is submitted at the end of the season, ballot availability and submission deadlines are listed in myOHSAA. Other than their Local Officials Association submission, officials **cannot** detect from where they receive votes.

To submit your school's ballot, please access your school's myOHSAA account using the 'Schools' icon in the upper right corner. Once on the school account, please locate the 'Tournament Officials Voting by AD's' link in the left-hand pane. It is in the seventh section from the top, titled 'Tournament Officials Selection.'

Once in the 'Tournament Officials Voting by AD's' section, please select a sport from the drop down and click 'Go.' Follow the on-screen instructions to add 5 to 15 officials to the ballot. After you have added the officials, please click '**Submit Ballot**' to lock in your vote.

If you have any issues after following the above instructions, please contact officiating@ohsaa.org.

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 and the OHSAA 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 – 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 lightning 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.

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

A: The no-contact period for baseball is August 1 – August 31, 2024.

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 each individual instruction group.

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 from the end of their school season through July 31?*

A: Yes. Any school coach is permitted to coach their own school players, on the same team, from the end of their school season through 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 6 players from their school and not during the no-contact period. However, from the end of their school season – 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 6 players from their school and as long as it is not during the no-contact period. From the end of their school season – 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 participate together on a non-interscholastic team or program?

A: Six (6). OHSAA Sports Regulations limit the number of participants on any non-interscholastic roster during all months **except the end of the school's baseball season through July 31, 2024** to six players.

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 8th graders could participate on a non-interscholastic along with four 9th 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 the end of the school season – July 31, a coaching staff is limited to a maximum of 13 coaching days, if they are working with 6 or more athletes at one time. If there are 6 athletes or less present, it does not have to count as 1 of their 13 coaching days. 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 limitation of 6 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 15, 2024.

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 1, 2024**. 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-%20ODH%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

CONCUSSION REPORT

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
PH:614-267-2502; FAX:614-267-1677
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) 7th 8th 9th 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 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 and the specific sport page on the web site for more information.