

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL

PRE-SEASON ISSUE | FEBRUARY 6, 2024



Please review the Pre-Season Issue of *This Week in Baseball* for some reminders for the 2024 baseball season and a change to General Sport Regulation 7.5. Please reach out to me, Emily Mason, with any questions!

2024 BASEBALL STATE RULES MEETING

Per *General Sport Regulation 2*, the State Baseball Rules Meeting is required to be viewed by the head coach by the following deadlines. The State Baseball Rules Meeting will be available starting on Wednesday, February 7 at 9:00 AM, through your myOHSAA profile. While the Baseball Rules Meeting goes live on February 7 at 9:00 AM, the Rules Meeting will be available 24/7, so it can be viewed at any time. 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 penalty is removal from the OHSAA Tournament.

TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETINGS

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

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

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

NOTE: please make sure that the email address you use to access the Rules Meeting on myOHSAA, is the same email address that your AD has listed for you in the school's Staff Management list in myOHSAA. If the two email addresses do not match, the Rules Meeting credit will not appear.

COACHING BEGINS FOR 2024 BASEBALL SEASON

Coaching, instruction and tryouts may begin on **Monday, February 19**. Scrimmages may now take place as well, but a reminder that games are not permitted to begin until Saturday, March 23.

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

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

NEW BASEBALL DIRECTOR OF OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT

The OHSAA has a Director of Officiating Development (DOD) for each sport, and they are responsible for the training and education of those sport officials. The DOD assists with meeting topics, classes and virtually every aspect of officiating enhancement. Additionally, they serve as the rules interpreters for the NFHS playing rules. Dan McGinnis served as the baseball DOD for a long time and did a wonderful job working with the umpires and coaches in the state of Ohio and we cannot thank him enough for his time!

We would like to welcome our new baseball DOD, Frank Grubb. While Frank will mostly work with umpires, if you have any questions regarding NFHS playing rules, including equipment, uniforms, field dimensions, etc., or general issues or questions regarding umpires and/or officiating the sport of baseball, please contact Frank. Frank's email address is fgrubb@ohsaa.org.

TRAVEL TO A NON-BORDERING STATE FORM

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

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

- No contests may occur prior to March 23, 2024
 - Any competition prior to March 23 must be a scrimmage
- Competition must be the same for both schools
 - *EX:* if you schedule a scrimmage, it must count as a scrimmage for the opponent as well
- OHSAA administrative rules must be followed
 - Ohio Pitch Count Rule
 - Player/team limitations

Thank you!

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