

OHSAA SPORTS REGULATIONS

Introduction

Article 5-6-1 of the Constitution grants authority to the Board of Directors to determine the contest rules and regulations for each sport.

The Board of Directors has adopted the following playing rules and contest regulations effective August 1, 2025, except as specified within this section. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary by the Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

These regulations apply to all interscholastic teams and contests, including but not limited to varsity, junior varsity, reserve, junior, sophomore, freshman and 7th & 8th grade teams. **For additional regulations specifically for grades 7 and 8, see General Sports Regulation 9.**

GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. Official Playing Rules and Rule Books

The official playing rules and rule books as published by the listed organization have been approved by the Board of Directors for all interscholastic athletic contests in the following sports.

SPORT	PLAYING RULES	STATUS
CROSS COUNTRY	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
FIELD HOCKEY	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
FOOTBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
GOLF	UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION	RECOGNIZED
SOCCER	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
TENNIS	UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION	RECOGNIZED
VOLLEYBALL (GIRLS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
BASKETBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
BOWLING*	UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS	RECOGNIZED
GYMNASTICS*	U.S.A. GYMNASTICS	RECOGNIZED
ICE HOCKEY	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
SWIMMING AND DIVING	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
WRESTLING* (BOYS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
WRESTLING* (GIRLS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
BASEBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
LACROSSE (BOYS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
LACROSSE (GIRLS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
SOFTBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
TRACK AND FIELD	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED
VOLLEYBALL* (BOYS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION	RECOGNIZED

*Per Bylaw 1-4-3, "Interscholastic competition shall be conducted using playing rules adopted by the Board of Directors and/or modifications or changes in sport rules are not permitted except those provided in the rule book and approved by the Board of Directors." Denoted sports have rule modifications outside of those permitted within the Rules Book that have been approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors.

2. Mandatory Attendance at or Participation in OHSAA-Sponsored Rules Interpretation Meetings

- 2.1) Any school sponsoring a sport recognized by the OHSAA in which a state tournament is held must have the head varsity coach, assistant varsity coach or athletic administrator attend or participate (online) in an OHSAA-sponsored state rules interpretation meeting in that sport by the communicated deadline date.
- 2.2) A late fee will be assessed to access an online meeting or to participate in an in-person meeting after the first day a regular season contest is permitted in the respective sport.
- 2.3) Failure to attend or participate in the sport's state rules interpretation meeting by the established deadline shall result in ineligibility to participate in the OHSAA-sponsored tournament in that sport.
- 2.4) Those attending a meeting in person will be responsible to be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain until the conclusion of the meeting to receive credit for attendance.

3. Mandatory Requirement for Tournament Officials Selection

To assist in the process in determining which contest officials will be assigned to OHSAA tournament contests the following school year, schools are required to vote for officials, and coaches are highly encouraged to rate officials. Voting by athletic administrators and ratings by coaches are combined with votes from local officials associations and officiating leaders to create

a composite score which develops a pool of tournament-eligible officials for the next school year. The sports in which voting is required and ratings are needed; the deadlines in which voting and ratings must be completed, and the procedures on how to vote for and rate officials are published on the OHSAA website, in the sport-specific OHSAA coaches/officials manual and provided in memos disseminated to athletic administrators.

3.1) Voting by Athletic Administrators

By the established deadlines, athletic administrators are responsible for submitting a ballot listing a maximum of 15 officials in each required sport, preferably after consulting with their coaches.

Failure to participate in the required voting process will result in the school being fined \$50 per occurrence and may prohibit the school from participating in all future tournament competition in the sport for which the fine was issued.

3.2) Ratings by Head Coaches

Following each varsity contest, head coaches are highly encouraged to rate the contest officials from that day's or evening's contest on a scale of 1-5. Coaches may rate as many as 50 officials throughout the season.

Note: The OHSAA reserves the right to modify the rating and voting procedures based on the technology that is available.

4. Penalties for Failure to Acquire Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit (PAPP)

Coaches, paid and/or volunteer, in grades 7-12, who do not possess the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit, which is part of the State Board of Education requirements to coach in Ohio, shall not be permitted to coach at any level at an OHSAA member school. Individuals who have applied for a Permit but who have not yet been issued a valid credential shall not be permitted to interact with athletes, even under the supervision of a credentialed coach, until his/her Pupil Activity Permit number is formally issued. However, per Ohio Administrative Code 119.06, coaches who have already obtained their permit and are going through the renewal process are permitted to continue coaching during the pendency of ODE's review as long as the coach filed an application for their renewal within the specified time and in the manner required. Action by ODE rejecting any coach's renewal shall not be effective prior to fifteen days after notice of the rejection is mailed to the coach.

All Board-approved and properly credentialed coaches shall be listed on the Emergency Contact form for each sport. Further, any high school coach who does not possess this Permit at the first level of the tournament shall not be permitted to coach at any level of the tournament until such time that the Permit is obtained and verification of such permit is provided to the OHSAA. Falsification of this information shall result in a coach's removal from the OHSAA tournament.

Note: It is the intention of the OHSAA to perform random audits of the coaching permits throughout the school year and to fine schools that have not complied with Bylaw 6-1-2 in the amount of \$250 per coach. In addition, the penalty for a coach not listed on the Emergency Contact form is removal from coaching in the OHSAA tournament.

5. Penalties for Failure to Conduct Pre-Season Meetings

When it has been verified that the member school has failed to conduct a pre-season meeting(s) in accordance with Bylaw 3-1-4, the school shall be fined \$500 for each violation.

Note: Please refer to the OHSAA website for a checklist of items that must be covered and sample agendas and other resources to assist with compliance. Each member school shall record on the OHSAA designated system the date and time of each meeting as well as the person responsible for each meeting.

6. OHSAA-Sponsored Tournaments Entry/Withdraw Procedures and Draw/Seed Meetings

6.1) In order for a member school to participate in an OHSAA tournament, the school principal or athletic administrator shall indicate and authorize their student-athletes' tournament participation in the OHSAA designated system prior to the established deadlines.

6.2) A tournament entry/withdraw deadline will be established for each OHSAA tournament. The tournament entry/withdraw deadlines for each OHSAA tournament for the upcoming school year are listed later in Regulation 6.

6.2.1) Schools may change their tournament participation prior to the established deadline without penalty. Changes to OHSAA high school tournament participation after the established deadline will result in a penalty up to and including tournament ineligibility.

6.2.2) Schools that desire to enter an OHSAA tournament after the deadline may do so by filing a "Petition Letter of Late Entry" with the OHSAA Executive Director's Office only. Late entry may be approved provided the tournament allows entry after the established deadline; the "Petition Letter of Late Entry" is received in the OHSAA Executive Director's Office prior to noon on the Friday before the established draw/seeding date, and the school has met all tournament eligibility requirements prior to noon on the Friday before the established draw/seeding date. The OHSAA Executive Director's Office shall have the authority to approve or deny such "Petitions of Late Entry." Tournament managers and District Athletic Boards do not have the authority to approve such "Petitions of Late Entry." Decisions to deny a late entry petition may be appealed.

6.2.3) Schools needing to withdraw from an OHSAA tournament after the established deadline may do so by filing a "Petition Letter of Withdraw" with the OHSAA Executive Director's Office. Tournament managers and District Athletic Boards do not have the authority to approve such "Petitions of Withdraw."

- 6.3) A school coach, administrator or authorized school representative shall attend a mandatory coaches/draw/seed meeting for each sport for which a meeting is held. District Athletic Boards will provide schools with seeding information and will notify schools of the exact locations and times of the meetings. The specific dates for each sport’s coaches/draw/seed meeting dates during the upcoming school year are listed later in Regulation 6. Common tournament draw/seed procedures shall be used as approved by the Board of Directors and listed within each sport’s tournament regulations.
- 6.3.1) Schools that fail to send a coach, administrator or authorized school representative to a mandatory coaches/draw/seed meeting and/or fail to submit required seeding information or a seeding ballot will be assessed a penalty for each offense as shown later in Regulation 6. See the specific tournament regulations for additional procedures and/or penalties.
- 6.4) Schools that fail to participate in a tournament (individual or team) after indicating that they will enter a tournament may be ineligible to participate in that particular sport’s OHSAA-sponsored tournament the following year.
- Additional penalties may be assessed and may include: 1.) a monetary fine issued by the OHSAA Office; 2.) payment of officials’ fees for the missed contests; 3.) payment of the opponent’s travel expenses for the missed contests, and 4.) additional penalties as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director in collaboration with the respective District Athletic Board. See General Sports Regulation 16.4 for additional information on “Failure to Appear.” The penalties rendered by the OHSAA Office may be appealed.
- 6.5) Tournament fines and penalties shall be assessed by the OHSAA Office. District Athletic Boards do not have authority to determine or set fines. All fines shall be uniform across all sports of the OHSAA.
- 6.5.1) Fines and penalties are adopted and designed to: 1.) mitigate unnecessary costs in conducting a tournament when a school team does not attend according to the schedule adopted by the Executive Director, and 2.) provide a financial disincentive from a school making a decision to not participate in the OHSAA tournament.
- 6.5.2) All violations of General Sports Regulation 6 for a sectional or district tournament shall be communicated to the OHSAA Office. The OHSAA Office and the District Athletic Board shall coordinate the entry and withdrawal of teams and individuals from the tournament.
- 6.5.3) The Executive Director’s office shall prepare and invoice the school being issued the monetary penalty.
- 6.5.4) All fines for activities in General Sports Regulation 6 may be waived by the OHSAA Office only for extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances are defined as unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence.
- 6.5.5) Failure to pay fines prescribed in General Sports Regulation 6 may prohibit the school from participating in all future tournament competition until the fine is paid and/or have their membership status reviewed.
- 6.5.6) Fines for tournament withdrawal after the deadline shall not be imposed in addition to other penalties listed within this sports regulation.
- 6.6) The appeals procedure shall be established and communicated by the OHSAA Office.
- 6.7) The table of fines and penalties for tournament activities is as follows:

ISSUE	PENALTY
Late entry petition to participate in tournament	\$50
Withdraw petition submitted after deadline to withdraw	\$50
Failure to submit seeding information when prescribed by OHSAA regulation	\$50
Failure for coach, administrator or authorized team representative to attend the tournament draw	\$150
Failure to pay specific sport fees required for tournament participation by the deadline (e.g., golf greens fees, bowling lineage fees or wrestling weight management fees).	Tournament ineligibility until fees are paid
Failure to show up for a scheduled tournament contest	\$150 (Team Sports), \$50 (Individual Sports), plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost of officials scheduled to officiate; plus, • cost of any site expenses incurred by the OHSAA; plus, • team expenses incurred by the opposing team, except for presale ticket revenue.
Failure to pay a fine could result in forfeiture of any enrichment fund payment.	

GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS 2025-2026

6.8) Important Tournament Dates for 2025-26 (note that these dates will change each year):

2024-25 Sport	First-Round Tournament	Tournament Entry/Withdraw	Late Tournament Entry (with Penalty)	Draw/Seed Meeting Date (all at 2:00 unless noted)	State Tournament Dates
FALL SPORTS					
Golf	9/18-9/28	7/1-9/2	9/3-9/6 at 12:00 noon	9/7	10/6-10/7 (DII) 10/12-10/14 (DI, DIII)
Girls Tennis	9/30-10/5	7/1-9/9	9/10-9/16 at 12:00 noon	9/21	10/16-10/17
Soccer	10/14-10/19	7/1-9/23	9/24-9/30 at 12:00 noon	10/5 (G-3:00 p.m.)	11/7-11/10 (Finals)
Girls Volleyball	10/14-10/19 (DIII-VII) 10/21-10/26 (DI-II)	7/1-9/23	9/24-9/30 at 12:00 noon	10/5	11/6-11/8
Girls Field Hockey	10/14-10/26	7/1-9/23	9/24-9/30 at 12:00 noon	10/5	11/5 (Finals)
Cross Country	10/19	7/1-9/23	9/24-9/30 at 12:00 noon	10/5	11/1
Football	11/1	7/1-10/7	10/8-10/14 at 12:00 noon#	NA	12/4-12/6 (Finals)
WINTER SPORTS					
Swimming and Diving	2/3-2/8	7/1-1/13	1/14-1/20 at 12:00 noon	2/1	2/24-2/28
Girls Gymnastics	2/12-2/24	7/1-1/20	1/21-1/27 at 12 noon	2/15	3/7-3/8
Bowling	2/9-2/16 (DII), 2/16-2/23 (DI)	7/1-1/20	1/21-1/27 at 12 noon	2/1	2/27-2/28 (DII) 3/6-3/7 (DI)
Girls Basketball	2/10-2/15 (DIII-VII) 2/17-2/22 (DI-II)	7/1-1/20	1/21-1/27 at 12 noon	2/8 - DIII-DVII 2/15 - DI-DII	3/12-3/14 (Finals)
Ice Hockey	2/10-3/1	7/1-1/20	1/21-1/27 at 12 noon	2/12	3/14 (Finals)*
Girls Wrestling	2/17-2/22	7/1-1/27	1/28-2/3 at 12 noon	2/8	3/13-3/15
Boys Wrestling	2/17-2/22	7/1-1/27	1/28-2/3 at 12 noon	2/8	3/13-3/15
Boys Basketball	2/17-2/22 (DIII-VII) 2/24-3/1 (DI-II)	7/1-1/27	1/28-2/3 at 12 noon	2/15 - DIII-DVII 2/22 - DI-DII	3/19-3/22 (Finals)
SPRING SPORTS					
Girls Softball	5/12-5/17 (DIII-VII) 5/19-5/24 (DI-II)	7/1-4/21	4/22-4/28 at 12:00 noon	5/3	6/3-6/7
Boys Tennis	5/12-5/17	7/1-4/21	4/22-4/28 at 12:00 noon	5/3	5/28-5/29
Track and Field High School	5/19-5/24	7/1-4/21	4/22-4/28 at 12:00 noon	5/3	6/4-6/7
Track and Field 7th/8th	State Championship 5/17	NA	NA	NA	5/17
Boys Volleyball	5/10-5/17	7/1-4/21	4/22-4/28 at 12:00 noon	5/4	5/29-5/30*
Baseball	5/19-5/24 (DIII-VII) 5/26-5/31 (DI-II)	7/1-4/28	4/29-5/5 at 12:00 noon	5/10	6/11-6/14
Boys Lacrosse	5/15-5/30 or 5/23-6/1*	7/1-4/28	4/29-5/5 at 12:00 noon	5/6 (3:00 p.m.)	6/6 (Finals)*
Girls Lacrosse	5/15-5/30 or 5/23-6/1*	7/1-4/28	4/29-5/5 at 12:00 noon	5/6 (3:00 p.m.)	6/7 (Finals)*

*Indicates dates are subject to change or tentative.

#Indicates no penalty for schools withdrawn from the tournament per OHSAA regulations for not meeting the eight-game minimum for tournament qualification.

7. Non-Interscholastic Participation and Individual Skill Instruction

7.1) Non-Interscholastic Participation Definitions

- 7.1.1) **Definition of a Non-Interscholastic Program or Team** – A non-interscholastic program, also known as a non-interscholastic team, is one in which a student-athlete participates in team play or as an individual, and that program or team is not under the direct or indirect control of the OHSAA member school. This means the OHSAA member school does not sponsor (one that is Board of Education- or other governing board-approved), supervise or have financial responsibility for that non-interscholastic program or team.

The non-interscholastic program or team, in which participation occurs outside the school season, may be composed of participants in grades 7 through 12 and may be operated within or outside the OHSAA member school facility. Admission may be charged, and fees or expenses may be collected for training and/or competitions sponsored by that non-interscholastic program or team. It is not necessary for a coach to be present or for instruction to be given for a program or team to be considered a non-interscholastic program or team.

Examples of or names associated with non-interscholastic programs or teams are: church, intramural, rec (recreation), YMCA, CYO, AAU, USAVB, USSF, USASwimming, all-star, club, non-interscholastic or any combination of players involved in team play.

Note: See Sports Regulation 7.3.1.a) for the number of team members permitted on the non-interscholastic team who came from the same school or who participated in that sport as a team member at another school in the preceding season. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire non-interscholastic team that would practice together or participate together. “Rotating players” from the same interscholastic team is not permitted in the non-interscholastic team player limitation.

- 7.1.2) **Definition of a School Program or Team** – A school (interscholastic) program or team is one in which a student-athlete participates in team play or as an individual, and that program or team is under the direct or indirect control of the OHSAA member school. This means the OHSAA member school sponsors (one that is Board of Education- or other governing board-approved), supervises or has financial responsibility for that program or team. See Bylaw 3 for administrative responsibilities as they relate to a school program or team.

Member schools may sponsor more than one varsity or sub-varsity team for interscholastic competition, but each team must have its own schedule and may not exceed the contest limitations for that sport.

Note: See the specific sport regulations for participation limits for individuals.

- 7.1.3) **Definition of a School Contest** – An “interscholastic athletic contest,” as used throughout the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA, is defined as a sports event which takes place during the defined sports season in which student-athletes representing at least one school are engaged in sports-related activities with students representing at least one or more schools or non-interscholastic programs. This includes, but is not limited to, scheduled contests/meets/matches, previews, scrimmages, jamborees, electronic contests, invitational contests, and alumni games. Practices involving two or more schools shall also count as a contest unless those squads share the same board-approved coach or unless otherwise permitted in the specific sport regulations, for individual sports. See Bylaw 9 regarding contests requiring special attention.

For purposes of this definition, “defined sport season” shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the last date the school participates in a regular or postseason contest.

- 7.1.4) **Definition of a Member of an Interscholastic Team/Team Member (Bylaw 4-1-4)** – A student is a member of an interscholastic squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. Such status as a squad member continues until the start of the next school season in that sport. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is a game, preview or a scrimmage.

- 7.1.5) **Definition of Coaching** – Coaching is providing instruction or being present with a team or individual during contests, tryouts, training and practices. If a school coach, whether paid, volunteer or designated, is approved for his/her coaching position by a Board of Education or similar governing board prior to June 1, the coach is accountable to all OHSAA rules and regulations beginning June 1. For additional regulations on school coaches, see Bylaw 6.

7.2) Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team’s Season

- 7.2.1) **Team Sports** – A member of an interscholastic team in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may not participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of interscholastic team or group training or practices (including open gyms/fields) with a non-interscholastic team in that same sport during the interscholastic team’s season.

Note: This regulation applies to students invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practice at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-interscholastic program or team.

- 7.2.2) **Individual Sports** – A member of an interscholastic team in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling may not participate in an athletic contest with a non-interscholastic team or in non-interscholastic competition in that same sport during the interscholastic team’s season.

However, athletes in these individual sports are permitted to participate with a non-interscholastic program in a tryout or a practice(s) during the school season.

7.3) Regulations Permitting Students to Participate on Non-Interscholastic Teams Outside of the Interscholastic Team’s Season

7.3.1) **Team Sports** – A member of a school program or team in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may participate with a non-interscholastic program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the interscholastic team’s season under the following condition:

- a) The number of team members on the non-interscholastic team who are enrolled at the same school and/or participated in that sport at that same school in the preceding season, or team members on the non-interscholastic team who participated in that sport at another school in the preceding season and transferred or matriculated to the same school, is limited to the number of team members outlines below. Rotating players from the same team is not permitted within the player limitation.

Note: Students who did NOT play for an interscholastic team the previous year do not count in the team limitation of that sport.

The team limit is as follows:

Limitation on Sport	Number of team members
Baseball	6
Basketball	3
Field Hockey	6
Football	7*
Ice Hockey	5
Boys Lacrosse	6
Girls Lacrosse	6
Soccer	6
Softball	6
Volleyball	3

*In football, all activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats

Notes:

- a.) The team limit is not in effect for the sports of basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball beginning the Monday of the week of May 15 through July 31 when the non-interscholastic team is coached by a coach not employed by the school in which the team members are participating.
- b.) The team limit is not in effect for the sports of baseball, boys volleyball, lacrosse and softball as soon as a team member has completed his/her interscholastic team’s season through July 31 when the non-interscholastic team is coached by a coach not employed by the school in which the team members are enrolled and participating.
- c.) If the non-interscholastic team is being coached by a school coach, whether paid, volunteer or designated, the team limitation shall remain in effect at all times (with the exception of the 13-day rule as outlined in GSR 7.5).
- d.) For purposes of this regulation, team members who matriculate to the same school do not count toward the team limitation for that school until they are enrolled and attending that school.
- e.) For purposes of this regulation, “rotating players” is defined as utilizing a member of a school program who was not on the original roster of the non-interscholastic team in place of another member of the same school program due to an absence or injury.
- f.) A member of an interscholastic team may continue to participate with a non-interscholastic team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated from the tournament but no later than Labor Day.
- g.) Graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester are exempt from the team limitation once their school season in the same sport has been completed.
- h.) These regulations do not apply if the “members” of the non-interscholastic squad are all siblings (by blood or adoption) and no other player from the same interscholastic squad is a participant on behalf of the non-interscholastic squad.
- i.) Students from interscholastic teams shall not be required to attend the coaching/instruction. A paid or unpaid school(interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board violates this reg-

ulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student’s chance to be selected for an interscholastic team is contingent upon this participation.

j.) If a student-athlete quits or is dropped from an interscholastic team and joins a non-interscholastic team during the interscholastic team’s season, he/she may not rejoin that interscholastic team for the remainder of the season

7.3.2) **Individual Sports** – A member of a interscholastic team in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling may participate with a non-interscholastic program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school’s season with no restriction when coached by either a school coach or a non-interscholastic coach.

Notes: Students from interscholastic teams shall not be required to attend the coaching/instruction. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student’s chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.

If a student-athlete quits or is dropped from an interscholastic team and joins a non-interscholastic team during the interscholastic team’s season, he/she may not rejoin that interscholastic team for the remainder of the season.

7.4) This former regulation has moved to another section, but the number 7.4 is being left as a placeholder.

7.5) Regulations Permitting Coaches to Coach Their Own Student-Athletes on Non-Interscholastic Teams Outside of the Interscholastic Team’s Season

7.5.1) **Team Sports (13-Day Rule)** – Members of a school team’s coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may coach and/or provide instruction to (including, but not limited to, video or film study) any number of students from their teams in excess of the team limit set forth in General Sport Regulation 7.3 for a maximum of 13 days beginning the Monday of the week of May 15 through July 31 except that participation cannot be mandatory. In addition:

a.) Sport specific events coordinated by a school shall count as one of the 13 days when the number of students from that school’s team exceeds the team limit set forth in General Sport Regulation 7.3, or seven in the sport of football, even if the event does not involve a member of an interscholastic team’s coaching staff coaching.

b.) The 13-day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff. Each individual coach is not entitled to 13 different days for coaching. The days refers to any amount of time utilized during the 13 days (i.e. the regulation does NOT permit 312 total hours of coaching . . . 13 days of 24 hours each).

c.) Participation during the 13 days shall not be mandatory.

7.5.2) So long as the team limitation is observed (See 7.3.1), a paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach approved by a Board of Education or other governing board may coach students from his/her interscholastic teams in team play at any time except during the mandatory no-contact period. See General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 for more details on the non-interscholastic team limitation.

7.5.3) **Individual Sports** – Members of a interscholastic team’s coaching staff in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling may coach students from their interscholastic teams outside the school (interscholastic) season. In addition:

a.) Students from interscholastic teams shall not be required to attend the coaching instruction.

7.6) Regulation on All-Star Games (Coaching or Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams Outside of the Interscholastic Team’s Season)

7.6.1) School coaches may coach players from his or her school in special “All-Star” contests. Coaches may also coach in “All-Star” contests during the no-contact period.

7.6.2) Individuals shall not participate in “All-Star” contests until after they have completed their final contest for their school.

7.6.3) All-Star contests are considered non-interscholastic and the limitations outlined in General Sport Regulation 7 shall apply to underclassmen.

7.7) Exceptions to Participation on Non-Interscholastic Teams for Students

7.7.1) **Special Olympics or Paralympics** – After a student becomes a member of a school (interscholastic) team sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board, the student may participate in tryouts and/or a contest(s) sponsored by either the Special Olympics or the United States Paralympics provided:

a.) A request for waiver is submitted to the Executive Director’s Office that includes that student’s name, nature of the disability and the date of the event(s) in which the student desires to compete. The waiver must be submitted by the school’s principal or another senior administrator.

7.7.2) **National Governing Body Selection or Other Waivers** – After a student becomes a member of a school (interscholastic) team sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board, the student may

participate as a member of a national team, as determined by the National Governing Body in that sport, or in a national or international competition by virtue of his/her past performance in an OHSAA sport.

Note: Students who wish to participate in contests/events that are not national competitions approved by a National Governing Body may, if applicable, request a waiver for such participation in accordance with the specific regulations of that respective sport.

7.8) Individual Skill Instruction Definitions

- 7.8.1) **Definition of Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction** – Instruction or coaching provided by a board approved coach to a member of that same interscholastic team in which the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught and the activity does not involve team instruction or play.
- 7.8.2) **Definition of Providing Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction** – It is considered to be providing individual skill/coaching instruction by a school coach when the techniques and skills of the sport are taught in a one-on-one or individual setting. This means instruction or coaching comes directly to a student-athlete from a coach or instructor. A student-athlete watching video/film with a coach or instructor is also an activity defined as individual skill/coaching instruction.
- 7.8.3) **Definition of Team Play** – activity of individuals with more than one player opposing one player (2-on-2, 2-on-1, 3-on-2, 3-on-3, 4-on-4, 5-on-5, etc.).

7.9) General Individual Skill Instruction Regulations

- 7.9.1) Students from interscholastic teams receiving individual skill/coaching instruction from a school coach shall not be **required** to participate in sessions where individual skill/coaching instruction is provided. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or similar governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.
- 7.9.2) There is no limit on the number of school coaches that may be present when individual skill/coaching instruction is provided to student-athletes as long as the contact between the coaches and athletes adheres to the regulations outlined in 7.10.1.
- 7.9.3) Non-interscholastic coaches or instructors may provide individual skill/coaching instruction to a member of an interscholastic team at any time provided the individual skill/coaching instruction does not violate any Board of Education (or similar governing board), school administrators' or school coaches' policies or the Ohio Revised Code.
- 7.9.4) Students from interscholastic teams may be used for out-of-season demonstration purposes if approved in advance by the Executive Director's Office.

7.10) Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction – Team Sports of Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball

- 7.10.1) **From August 1 through May 14 From School Coaches** – In the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team or individuals at any time prior to and after the school season and **outside the defined no-contact periods** (see General Sports Regulation 11) from school coaches provided the number of individuals per group per school coach providing instruction **does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3**. During such instruction, the coach and their individual groups may be in the same facility; however, the groups must be clearly defined and shall not combine for instruction at any time or participate in "team play." Please refer to General Sports Regulation 7.8.3 for the definition of "team play." It is permissible to have groups rotate to different coaches for specific skill instruction being delivered by that coach, however, the students in each group must remain the same.
- 7.10.2) **From the Monday of the week of May 15 through July 31 From School Coaches** – In the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided the number of individuals present per group per school coach providing instruction **does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3**. During such instruction, the coach and their individual groups may be in the same facility; however, the groups must be clearly defined and shall not combine for instruction at any time to participate in "team play" without utilizing one of the team's 13 days permitted within General Sports Regulation 7.5.1. Please refer to General Sports Regulation 7.8.3 for the definition of "team play." It is permissible to have groups rotate to different coaches for specific skill instruction being delivered by that coach, however, the students in each group must remain the same.

7.11) Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction – Individual Sports of Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field and Wrestling

- 7.11.1) Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team at any time from either school or non-interscholastic coaches or instructors.

7.12) Penalties for Violation of Regulations in This Section

7.12.1) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations by a member of an interscholastic team shall be ineligibility for interscholastic athletics for a maximum of one year.

7.12.2) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations by a paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or similar governing board shall be suspension from participation in camps, clinics, workshops and programs where individual skill/coaching instruction is provided to members of the interscholastic team were employed for a maximum of one year and any other penalties in Bylaw 11-1-2, Penalties, as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director's Office.

7.13) Penalties for Violation of Regulations in This Section

7.13.1) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations for any non-senior member of an interscholastic team may be ineligibility in that sport for the remainder of the season or the ensuing season.

7.13.2) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations for a senior may be ineligibility for all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the school year.

7.13.3) The penalty for a coach for a violation of these regulations may include suspension, probation, public reprimand, a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence or any other penalty as the Executive Director may deem appropriate.

8. Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Deadline

A period of time has been created between the start of the OHSAA sport season and a later sport-specific deadline in which an individual may compete non-interscholastically prior to joining his/her OHSAA school team in that sport and still be eligible to compete in the OHSAA tournament. The sport-specific deadline (e.g. non-interscholastic date) to cease all non-interscholastic competition in order for that student to be eligible for the OHSAA tournament is listed in the specific sport's regulations published elsewhere in this handbook.

Note: Students are not eligible to participate non-interscholastically and on the OHSAA school team in the same sport at the same time. Should the student cease non-interscholastic participation by the sport-specific deadline, all other applicable bylaws and regulations must be followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in an individual sport (bowling, cross country, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling) and who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in that sport in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

9. Conditioning, Weight Training and/or Physical Fitness Programs

9.1) **Definition of a Conditioning, Weight Training or Physical Fitness Program** – These programs include specific training for strengthening the body, developing the cardiovascular system, improving flexibility and agility and do **not** include specific sports skills training or instruction.

9.2) Specific Regulations

9.2.1) These programs may be conducted at any time and are not a violation of OHSAA Bylaws and Regulations so long as no coaching and instruction of sports techniques and skills is provided. Students from school teams shall not be required to attend these programs. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.

9.2.2) These programs may have oversight by any individual approved by the Board of Education or governing body including coaches.

9.2.3) Equipment used in playing a sport is prohibited in these programs.

10. Open Gymnasiums or Facilities

Member Schools Facilities

10.1) Regulations

10.1.1) A school may open its athletic facilities for unstructured free play provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.

10.1.2) The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but may not limit participation to a select group of students from within the school. The school may also designate the grade levels involved and may limit participation to students enrolled in the school.

10.1.3) There may be no designation from coaches of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only the students participating may be involved in selecting or substituting players.

10.1.4) Coaches may not extend individual invitations, written or oral, to any student who is not enrolled and in that school district. However, school coaches may send an invitation to other school coaches to invite their students to an open gymnasium or facility.

GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS 2025-2026

- 10.1.5) A coach, paid or unpaid, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- 10.1.6) Mandatory attendance at open gymnasiums or facilities is not permitted.
- 10.1.7) It is not a violation for the coach or supervisor to participate in unstructured free play in the open gym or facilities.
- 10.1.8) Member schools may restrict individuals from observing the open gym activity.
- 10.1.9) Open Facilities are intended to be a stand-alone activity. Open Facilities may not be part of a structured camp or clinic.

10.2) Penalty for Violation

- 10.2.1) Any individual who violates any of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations is subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.
- 10.2.2) A school which permits use of athletics facilities in violation of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations is subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.

Non-School Facilities

10.3) Regulations for School Squad Members (Bylaw 4-1-3)

A school squad member may participate in unstructured free play at non-school athletic facilities without jeopardizing athletic eligibility providing there are no violations of the following regulations:

There may be no designation from coaches of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only the students participating may be involved in selecting or substituting players.

- 10.3.1) Coaches may not extend individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted to any student who is not enrolled and in that school district. However, school coaches may send an invitation to other school coaches to invite their students to an open gymnasium or facility.
- 10.3.2) A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic team is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- 10.3.3) Mandatory attendance at non-school facilities is not permitted.

10.4) Penalty for Violation

- 10.4.1) A squad member who participates at a facility where there is one or more violations of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations may be penalized not to exceed one year of ineligibility for interscholastic athletics.
- 10.4.2) A school coach who is responsible for causing a violation of any of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations by a squad member is subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.

11. Mandatory No-Contact Periods — Coaches

- 11.1) Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education shall not coach or provide skill instruction (including, but not limited to, video or film study) to team members in their sport of the sports of basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer or girls volleyball for the period of time starting with the first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition, or any skill instruction facilitated or organized by any coach, paid or volunteer, by the Board of Education.
- 11.2) Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education shall not coach or provide skill instruction (including, but not limited to, video or film study) to team members in their sport of the sports of baseball, boys volleyball, boys and girls lacrosse or softball for the period of time between August 1 and August 31. The period for basketball and ice hockey shall be between August 1 and August 24. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition, or any skill instruction facilitated or organized by any coach, paid or volunteer, by the Board of Education.

Exceptions — Activities which may be conducted by a coach with members of a school team in their sport during the mandatory no-contact period include: **all-star contests**; awards ceremonies; fundraisers; providing oversight during weight training; conditioning or physical fitness programs; verbal contact with underclass athletes for the purpose of reviewing the season that just concluded and goal setting for the next season; verbal contact with a senior athlete for the purpose of facilitating the college recruitment process; contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum (ex.: physical education courses such as weight training, fitness, etc.); contact as a certified athletic trainer involved with athlete rehabilitation and treatment, pick up and return of school-issued equipment, and attendance at OHSAA tournaments.

Penalty — Any coach who violates the mandatory no contact periods regulations may be prohibited for one calendar year from out-of-school season contact with athletes from the school where employed. Violations of the mandatory no-contact periods are subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.

12. Regular Season Participation Limitation Penalty

A team that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests in the respective sport is subject to the penalties outlined in Bylaw 11, **which may include denial of any school team in the respective sport from participation in the OHSAA tournament.** Athletes from sub-varsity teams may not be used to replace the varsity team in the OHSAA tournament.

An athlete who exceeds the regular season participation limitation (periods, quarters, halves, or contests) as specified in the individual sports regulations becomes an ineligible athlete. The athlete is ineligible for further regular season competition if the violation occurs prior to the end of the season or tournament competition if the violation occurs during the last regular season contest in the sport concerned. The forfeiture bylaws apply as written in Bylaw 10.

Should a team in an individual sport exceed the regular season participation limitation but a specific individual athlete on that team did not exceed the individual participation limitation, that specific individual athlete may be eligible for participation in the OHSAA tournament.

Should a team in an individual sport participate in a regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests but a specific individual athlete on that team did not participate in a contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests, that specific individual athlete may be eligible for participation in the OHSAA tournament.

13. Ejection Procedures for Schools

13.1) Ejections by OHSAA Contest Officials

After a contest official provides electronic notification of an ejection, the OHSAA shall electronically notify the school's athletic administrator, who shall have seven days to respond to the notification and outline the subsequent contests in which the ejected individual(s) shall fulfill their mandatory suspension(s). If no response has been received after seven days, the OHSAA shall electronically notify the school's athletic administrator a second time, and the athletic administrator shall be given seven additional days to respond to the notification.

If no response has been received after the second 7-day period lapses, the OHSAA shall electronically notify the school's principal, who shall have seven additional days to respond to the notification.

If no response has been received after the third 7-day period lapses (21 total days), the OHSAA shall electronically notify both the principal and athletic administrator one final time, and the school shall have seven additional days to respond to the notification.

If no response has been received after the fourth 7-day period lapses (28 total days), the OHSAA shall assess the school a \$150 fine per unanswered report. Failure to adhere to this procedure shall result in the school being subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

13.2) Ejections by Non-OHSAA Contest Officials (Out-of-State Ejections)

It is the responsibility of each member school to notify the OHSAA Office each time a coach or player(s) has been ejected from a contest played out of state within seven days once the team has returned to the school. Failure to adhere to this procedure shall result in the school being fined \$150 and subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

14. Ejection for Unsporting Conduct (Disqualification for unsporting conduct or flagrant violation)

14.1) Players

14.1.1) Standard Ejection Penalty

Any player ejected or disqualified from a contest (including scrimmages and previews) for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until the student has sat out two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) at the same level as the ejection or disqualification and may be subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate under Bylaw 11 by the Executive Director's Office. Students disqualified from a contest for non-unsporting conduct reasons are not subject to the additional ineligible contest(s) described here (the 5th personal foul in basketball is an example). These types of disqualifications will be documented in the sport specific regulations."

Note 1: The Executive Director's Office is strictly prohibited from reviewing any extraneous evidence such as video/audio recordings or entertain any/all challenges to the propriety of one or the other of these two ejections except insofar as a challenge to the identification/misidentification of the ejected player and/or a misapplication of a rule that directly results in the ejection of a player or coach (e.g. a basketball coach incorrectly ejected for two indirect technical fouls).

Note 2: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.1.7.

14.1.2) Sub-varsity Ejections

Ejections that occur at sub-varsity levels must serve the same ejection consequence as stated above or until the passage of 10 calendar days following the ejection, whichever occurs first.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.1.7.

14.1.3) Football Ejections

In the sport of football, a player disqualified for flagrant personal fouls other than fouls in Rule 9, Section 4 Articles 1, 2 and 3-j, shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. Such fouls will not carry the automatic one game suspension. The disqualification for these fouls may be extended through the next scheduled game at the same level of the disqualification by the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee. Video of these fouls is required to be sent (preferably via an email) to the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee within 48 hours of the contest. The OHSAA Football Administrator may add a one game suspension upon review.

14.1.4) Wrestling Ejections

In the sport of wrestling, any player ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all wrestling contests for the remainder of that day and event. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in wrestling until two regular season/tournament contest points or two event days at the same level as the ejection or disqualification have been completed.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.1.7.

14.1.5) Soccer Disqualifications

In the sport of soccer, a player is considered “disqualified” upon receiving a subsequent caution, or “double yellow” (NFHS Rule 12-8-2(b)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest as well as one subsequent contest of the same level.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.1.7.

14.1.6) Ejections for Fighting

Any player ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until four regular season/tournament contests (two in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. In the sport of wrestling, any player ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for all wrestling contests for the remainder of that day and event. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in wrestling until four regular season/tournament contest points or four event days at the same level as the ejection or disqualification have been completed.

The definition of fighting is found in the NFHS playing rules and reads as follows: “Fighting is any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage a player or non-player in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with the arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact.”

If video is presented to the Director of Officiating, or their designee, and the video clearly shows the ejection action did not meet the NFHS definition of fighting (as written above), the suspension length may be reduced. The player(s) in question is ineligible until such time as the designee rules on the submitted video or the four-game penalty (two in football) has been fulfilled.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.1.7.

14.1.7) Guidelines for Ejected Athletes

A student who has been declared ineligible for two games (one in football; see wrestling policy above) may be on the sidelines/team bench, accompany and/or travel with the team but may not participate in pregame warmups and may not wear a team warmup or game uniform while on the sidelines/team bench, accompanying and/or traveling with the team. See Bylaw 4-1-3 for additional regulations regarding what ineligible athletes are permitted to do during their period of ineligibility. When ejection or disqualification of a player results from illegal substitution in baseball, softball or basketball, the two contest ineligibility does not apply.

14.1.8) Ejections Occurring at the End of Season

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates and may be subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate under Bylaw 11 by the Executive Director’s Office.

14.1.9) Ejection for a Second Time

A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time in a scrimmage, preview, regular season contest or OHSAA tournament contest shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport and may be subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate under Bylaw 11 by the Executive Director’s Office. A student who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Executive Director. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

Note 1: The Executive Director’s Office is strictly prohibited from reviewing any extraneous evidence such as video/audio recordings or entertain any/all challenges to the propriety of one or the other of these two ejections except insofar as a challenge to the identification/misidentification of the ejected player and/or a misapplication of a rule that directly results in the ejection of a player or coach (e.g. a basketball coach incorrectly ejected for two indirect technical fouls).

Note 2: For ejections occurring in soccer, a double yellow card ejection cannot be paired with a red card ejection to create the “second ejection of the season.” The two ejections referenced in 14.1.9 must be red card ejections.

14.1.10) Enforcement of Ejection Policy

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Executive Director as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

Note: When national playing rules (see the specific national playing rules) refer to a disqualification for unsporting conduct or a flagrant violation, this is considered an ejection as referenced in this regulation.

14.2) Coaches

14.2.1) Standard Ejection Penalty

Any coach ejected or disqualified from an interscholastic contest (including scrimmages and previews) for unsporting conduct shall be suspended from coaching in all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the coach shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until the coach has sat out two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.

Further, the coach shall be fined \$100, with the fine payable to the OHSAA no later than 30 days after the OHSAA's 'Season Ends' date, and the coach shall take the National Federation of State High School Association's "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course, which must be completed no later than 30 days after the OHSAA's "Season Ends" date and can be taken at www.nfhslearn.com. Additionally, the coach may be subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate under Bylaw 11 by the Executive Director's Office.

Note 1: The Executive Director's Office is strictly prohibited from reviewing any extraneous evidence such as video/audio recordings or entertain any/all challenges to the propriety of one or the other of these two ejections except insofar as a challenge to the identification/misidentification of the ejected player and/or a misapplication of a rule that directly results in the ejection of a player or coach (e.g. a basketball coach incorrectly ejected for two indirect technical fouls).

Note 2: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.2.7.

14.2.2) Sub-varsity Ejections

Ejections that occur at sub-varsity levels must serve the same ejection consequence as stated above or until the passage of 10 calendar days following the ejection, whichever occurs first.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.2.7.

14.2.3) Wrestling Ejections

In the sport of wrestling, any coach ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all wrestling contests for the remainder of that day and event. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in wrestling until two regular season/tournament contest points or two event days at the same level as the ejection or disqualification have been completed.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.2.7.

14.2.4) Soccer Disqualifications

In the sport of soccer, a coach is considered "disqualified" upon receiving a subsequent caution, or "double yellow" (NFHS Rule 12-8-2(b)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest as well as one subsequent contest of the same level.

Note 1: Coaches that receive a double yellow do not have to pay the \$100 fine and take the NFHS class.

Note 2: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.2.7.

14.2.5) Ejections Due to Fighting

Any coach ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the coach shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until four regular season/tournament contests (two in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. In the sport of wrestling, any coach ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for all wrestling contests for the remainder of that day and event. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in wrestling until four regular season/ tournament contest points or four event days at the same level as the ejection or disqualification have been completed.

The definition of fighting is found in the NFHS playing rules and reads as follows: "Fighting is any attempt by a player or non-player to strike or engage a player or non-player in a combative manner unrelated to the sport. Such acts include, but are not limited to, attempts to strike an opponent(s) with the arm(s), hand(s), leg(s), or foot (feet), whether or not there is contact."

If video is presented to the Director of Officiating, or their designee, and the video clearly shows the ejection action did not meet the NFHS definition of fighting (as written below), the suspension length may be reduced. The player(s) in question is ineligible until such time as the designee rules on the submitted video or the four-game penalty (two in football) has been fulfilled.

Note: For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.2.7.

14.2.6) Guidelines for Ejected Coaches

On the day of the ejection, a coach who has been disqualified shall be ejected from the vicinity of the playing area and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, including electronic communication with team members, managers and other coaches during the remainder of the contest. The coach must return to the locker room or team bus or leave the premises. The coach shall not go to the spectator area. After the initial ejection and suspension, a coach who has been suspended from coaching for the next contest(s) may attend the next contest(s), but must be seated in the spectator area and may not give instructions to the players or to the individual who has been assigned to coach the team any time prior to or during the contest including halftime or any intermission. A suspended coach shall not travel with the squad to an away contest.

14.2.7) Ejection Occurring at End of Season

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the coach shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the same sport during the following season in the next school year and may be subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate under Bylaw 11 by the Executive Director's Office.

14.2.8) Failure to Comply with Ejection Regulations

The penalty for failure of the coach to comply with the ejection regulation shall result in the forfeiture of the contest.

14.2.9) Ejection of Coach When No Other Coach Present

If a coach is ejected/disqualified from a contest and no other coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education from that school is present (Bylaw 3-2-1), the contest shall be forfeited.

14.2.10) Ejection for a Second Time

A coach who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in a scrimmage, preview, regular season contest or OHSAA tournament contest shall be suspended indefinitely and required to attend a mandatory conference with the Executive Director at the OHSAA headquarters. The principal of the school shall be required to attend this conference as well. Any penalty shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 11.

Note: The Executive Director's Office is strictly prohibited from reviewing any extraneous evidence such as video/audio recordings or entertain any/all challenges to the propriety of one or the other of these two ejections except insofar as a challenge to the identification/misidentification of the ejected player and/or a misapplication of a rule that directly results in the ejection of a player or coach (e.g. a basketball coach incorrectly ejected for two indirect technical fouls).

14.2.11) Enforcement of Ejection Policy

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When a suspended coach is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Executive Director as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

15. Participants Leaving The Playing Area — Spectators Entering the Playing Area

15.1) No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'playing area' in which a contest is being conducted and enter the 'spectator area' of the facility to engage in any type of conflict—verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the 'playing area' and enters the 'spectator area' of a facility to so engage a person, the maximum penalty may include ineligibility for up to one calendar year.

15.1.1) The school shall immediately report the situation to the Executive Director's Office and conduct an investigation to report what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what 'safeguards' have been implemented by the school to prevent future occurrences. The school and/or student-athlete shall be subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

15.2) No spectator at any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'spectator area' in which a contest is being conducted and enter the 'playing area' of the facility to engage in any type of conflict—verbal or physical. If a spectator leaves the 'spectator area' and enters the 'playing area' of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

15.2.1) The OHSAA shall recommend to the member school sponsoring the contest that the individual shall be denied admission to any contests sponsored by the member schools of the OHSAA for a period of time to be determined in consultation with school administration and the Executive Director's Office.

15.2.2) The school shall immediately report the situation to the Executive Director's Office and conduct an investigation to report what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what 'safeguards' have been implemented by the school to prevent future occurrences. The school shall be subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11

16. Recognized Sports, Emerging Sports and Sponsored Events**16.1) Recognized Sports**

Recognized sports for the 2025-26 school year are baseball, basketball, bowling, cross country, girls field hockey, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, volleyball, wrestling.

16.2) Emerging Sports

Per Bylaw 1-5-2, an “emerging sport” is a recognized sport that does not have wide-spread sponsorship by and among member high schools but for which there exists a growing or expanding interest in sponsorship by member schools. The Board of Directors shall adopt sport specific regulations and tournament regulations for participation in the tournament sponsored by the OHSAA but they may suspend the strict compliance to specific general sport regulations for that emerging sport.

Note: Sports that the Board of Directors had approved as “recognized sports” as of August 1, 2022, shall be grandfathered in as recognized sports regardless of the percentage of member schools that sponsor that sport.

- 16.2.1) There are no Emerging Sports for the 2025-26 school year.
- 16.2.2) A process for training and registering contest officials shall be developed and a director of officiating development shall be hired.
- 16.2.3) A process for assigning officials to tournament contests shall be developed and adopted.
- 16.2.4) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to suspend compliance with General Sports Regulation 17.1, Divisions Determination.
- 16.2.5) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to assess membership dues that are different than those assessed for Recognized Sports.
- 16.2.6) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to provide financial assistance for sites to host tournament contests that is different than those provided for Recognized Sports.
- 16.2.7) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to determine the implementation year of an Emerging Sport.
- 16.2.8) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to determine at any time if a sport shall remain an Emerging Sport, move to a fully Recognized Sport or be discontinued.
- 16.2.9) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to adopt additional stipulations for Emerging Sports that have not been listed.

16.3) Sponsored Events

Per Bylaw 1-5-3, A “sponsored event” is an interscholastic contest(s) contracted through/for the Executive Director’s Office for which special rules must be created in conjunction with an outside entity to establish a format for statewide competition. Further, the Executive Director’s Office shall determine which OHSAA student eligibility bylaws, if any, are applicable to the athletes involved.

- 16.3.1) Sponsored Events for the 2025-26 school year are pending and subject to Board of Directors approval.
- 16.3.2) Should the OHSAA align with an outside entity, all policies, procedures and regulations related to the organization and administration of the Sponsored Event shall be memorialized in writing and agreed to by the OHSAA Executive Director, or their designee, and a representative of the outside entity.
- 16.3.3) Among the items a signed agreement between the OHSAA and an outside entity shall provide clarity on for a Sponsored Event include, but are not limited to, what OHSAA bylaws and general sports regulations shall be adhered to; what are the Sponsored Event’s regular season and/or championship or tournament regulations; what are the financial arrangements; what insurance coverage is in place; how is officiating handled, and who has oversight of legal issues, including site agreements, certifications, sponsorships, merchandise, media, licensing and trademarks.
- 16.3.4) The Board of Directors shall have the discretion to adopt additional stipulations for Sponsored Events that have not been listed.

16.4) Process for Consideration for Emerging Sports and Sponsored Events

- 16.4.1) Organizations, entities and school groups interested in the OHSAA adopting an Emerging Sport or Sponsored Event should contact the Executive Director’s Office. Once details are shared, those organizations, entities or school groups may be directed to work with the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- 16.4.2) Organizations and school groups interested in the OHSAA adopting an Emerging Sport shall only be considered after completing the OHSAA Emerging Sport Checklist, available upon request from the Executive Director’s Office.

16.5) Non-Recognized Sports

A non-recognized sport is one which is not listed as Recognized or Emerging. There is no obligation for a school to comply with any OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations when conducting interscholastic athletics programs in sports which are not recognized. However, schools are asked to register a non-recognized sport with the OHSAA for record-keeping purposes. A local school district may reserve the right to require participants in non-recognized sports to meet certain eligibility standards and conform to certain sports regulations.

Catastrophe insurance under the OHSAA plan for Recognized and Emerging sports will not be available for non-recognized sports, with the exception of sideline cheer during OHSAA sponsored events. Schools are offered an opportunity to purchase catastrophe insurance coverage for non-recognized sports under a separate plan.

17. Tournaments

17.1) Tournament Assignments

OHSAA high school tournaments will be sponsored and conducted in divisions according to the number of schools sponsoring a team in the recognized sport.

Team Sports—Those that require a certain number of players to form a team. For the 2025-26 school year, those sports are baseball, boys and girls basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls soccer, softball and boys and girls volleyball.

Individual Sports—Those that involve primarily participation and scoring by individuals and in which team scoring could be obtained by totaling the efforts of individuals. For the 2025-26 school year, those sports are boys and girls bowling, boys and girls cross country#, boys and girls golf, gymnastics, boys and girls swimming and diving, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls track and field and boys and girls wrestling.

The minimum number of individuals required for a team designation* follows:

Bowling	5	Swimming and Diving	6
Cross Country#	5	Tennis	4
Golf	4	Track and Field	9
Girls Gymnastics	3	Wrestling	7

*The number for a team designation has been selected to reflect either the minimum number of participants needed to score in a contest or the number of participants needed to compete in at least half of the contest’s events.

#In the sport of cross country, team designations (used for determining scoring for the current year’s tournaments, advancement to the regional tournament, and “team” participants in subsequent years’ tournaments) shall **NOT** be the number of students entered into or beginning a district tournament, but rather the number of students from that school that **FINISH** the district tournament (i.e. a minimum number of five) and score for their team.

Divisions Determination—The number of divisions in OHSAA high school tournaments in a sport shall be determined by the number of school teams that participated in the tournaments the preceding year or years, depending upon the sport. The Board of Directors shall have the final authority in determining the number of Divisions per sport and **MAY** use the following table as a guideline.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS & LACROSSE, BOYS VOLLEYBALL, FIELD HOCKEY, ICE HOCKEY	
Number of Teams	Number of Divisions
200 or less	I (1)
201-450	I, II (2)
451-700	I, II, III (3)
701 or more	I, II, III, IV (4)
FOOTBALL, SOCCER, GIRLS VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, SOFTBALL	
Number of Teams	Number of Divisions
199 or less	I (1)
200-299	I, II (2)
300-399	I, II, III (3)
400-499	I, II, III, IV (4)
500-599	I, II, III, IV, V (5)
600-699	I, II, III, IV, V, VI (6)
700 and more	I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII (7)

Sports tournament changes relative to adding or discontinuing a division **may** be made only after the number of schools has been higher or lower for two successive years.

Exceptions:—The Board of Directors may schedule tournament play in divisions other than specified in the table above for all emerging sports and for the recognized sports of boys and girls lacrosse, and boys and girls wrestling, and boys volleyball.

Note: Bylaw 2-1-1 indicates that in team sports, schools are permitted to enter only one team in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments and that in individual sports, schools are only permitted to enter the maximum number of individuals in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments as prescribed in the respective sports’ playing rules and/or tournament regulations.

17.2) School Assignments—Divisions

After the number of divisions is approved by the Board of Directors, schools are assigned to high school tournament divisions based upon the specifications in Bylaw 2-1-2 and Bylaw 2-2-1. In all sports, except football, a school sponsoring a sport is eligible for tournament participation regardless of regular season performance.

The number of schools assigned to each division shall be determined by the number of school teams that participated in the tournament either the previous year or two years earlier. The Board of Directors shall have the final authority in determining how many teams are placed into each division and MAY use the following table as a guideline:

Guidelines to Place Teams into Tournament Divisions	
Football	The top 72 percent of football-playing schools based on enrollment (including Competitive Balance roster data) will be placed in Division I of the football tournament. The remaining schools will be divided as evenly as possible and placed into six additional football divisions based on enrollment (including Competitive Balance roster data). All divisions shall qualify 48 teams (12 per region) to the OHSAA Tournament.
Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball	The largest 64 schools based on enrollment (including Competitive Balance roster data) shall be placed into Division I. The next largest 72 schools based on enrollment (including Competitive Balance roster data) shall be placed into Division II. The remaining schools shall be divided as evenly as possible based on enrollment counts (including Competitive Balance roster data).
Boys and Girls Cross Country	The top 14 percent of cross country teams based on enrollment will be placed in Division I of the cross country tournament. The remaining schools will be divided as evenly as possible and placed into three additional cross country divisions based on enrollment.
Boys and Girls Track and Field	The top 12 percent of track and field teams based on enrollment will be placed in Division I of the track and field tournament. The remaining schools will be divided as evenly as possible and placed into four additional track and field divisions based on enrollment.
All Other Sports (<i>boys and girls bowling, field hockey, boys and girls golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls swimming and diving, boys volleyball, and boys and girls wrestling</i>)	All schools shall be placed into tournament divisions as evenly as possible based on school enrollment counts.

*If a school is permitted to utilize the exception to Bylaw 2-1-1 to move up to Division I from its originally assigned division, the Board may consider adjusting the number of teams assigned to a division to keep the participation opportunities outlined above as the minimum standards.

17.3) Failure to Appear and School Closures – OHSAA Tournament Contests

Teams and competitors are required to play tournament contests at the scheduled time, date and location.

“Closure,” “closed” or “school closing” shall mean that a local school or school district’s board of education/governing board or superintendent/head of school has canceled all high school classes and/or school-sponsored extracurricular activities due to inclement weather; a strike; a natural or technological/man-made disaster; an issue deemed catastrophic or an emergency*, or the local health authority has canceled all high school classes and school-sponsored extracurricular activities due to a specific public health/safety concern.

For head-to-head tournament contests which involve a school that was closed on the day of the scheduled contest, the District Athletic Board and/or the Executive Director’s Office shall work with the impacted schools to reschedule the contest, if desired, as long as the contest can be completed before the next level tournament game is scheduled. For tournament contests which include three or more teams (meets, etc.), the tournament shall proceed as scheduled unless the District Athletic Board and/or the Executive Director’s Office reschedules the event because of a natural disaster, a national/state emergency, inclement weather or another force majeure. However, an individual school closing shall not automatically cause the meet to be rescheduled.

***Note:** A local school or school district may be open but a local school or school district’s board of education/governing board or superintendent/head of school may also determine that it is unsafe for its school’s team to travel to the site of the tournament contest. If so, the above guidance would apply.

The following tournament regulations apply to team and individual sports unless national playing rules address “failure to appear” or school “closures”:

17.3.1) **Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball**

If a team “fails to appear” without notifying the opposing team, officials and/or site management or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament contest, a ‘no contest’ shall be declared and the opposing team shall advance to the next round of competition. See Bylaw 10 and Sports Regulation 21 for additional details that may be applicable.

In the event of a school “closure” within 48 hours of a tournament contest in which the school is scheduled to participate, the Executive Director’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the competing school with rescheduling the contest (time, date and/or location), provided that such rescheduled dates do not adversely affect the next round of the tournament competition/tournament schedule and contest officials can be obtained.

In the event of a “closure” at the site of the tournament contest within 48 hours of a tournament contest(s) in which schools are scheduled to participate, the Executive Director’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall reschedule (time, date and/or location) the tournament contest(s) for the schools thus affected.

Note: In the event a school is not closed but unforeseen or extenuating circumstances arise within 48 hours of a tournament contest in which the school is scheduled to participate, the Executive Director’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the competing school with rescheduling the contest (time, date and/or location), provided that such rescheduled dates do not adversely affect the next round of the tournament competition/ tournament schedule.

17.3.2) **Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Individual Wrestling**

If a team or individual participant “fails to appear” without notifying the opposing team, officials and/or site management or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament contest, a ‘no contest’ shall be declared and the opposing team/individual shall advance to the next round of competition. See Bylaw 10 and Sports Regulation 21 for additional details that may be applicable.

In the event of a school “closure” within 48 hours of a tournament contest in which the school is scheduled to participate, the tournament shall proceed as scheduled.*

***Note:** The Executive Director’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, reserves the right to delay or reschedule a tournament competition when all factors related to the severity of the situation are considered and provided it is practical to delay or reschedule such competitions.

In the event of a “closure” at the site of the tournament competition within 48 hours of a tournament competition in which schools are scheduled to participate, the Executive Director’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall reschedule (time, date and/or location) the tournament competition for the schools thus affected.

17.4.3) Information on any changes **related to dates, times and/or sites for OHSAA tournament contests** will be posted on the Association’s website (www.ohsaa.org).

18. OHSAA-Sponsored Tournaments Curfew Regulations

The priority when making the decision to delay, suspend, continue or postpone a contest is the safety of the student-athletes, coaches/school administrators, parents/fans and officials.

18.1) No tournament contests/events shall start later than 11:00 p.m.

18.2) When deciding whether to delay, suspend, continue or postpone a tournament contest/event, the tournament manager must consult with the school administrator/designee. Items to consider in the decision:

- The estimated time to complete the contest.
- The travel time of all schools involved.
- The current and expected weather conditions.
- The availability of the officials.
- Other events scheduled at the host site and the participating schools.

18.3) In the case of unforeseen circumstances or an emergency, the following factors shall be used to develop a tournament contest/event contingency plan:

- Overnight accommodations.
- A list of all parties involved and local emergency telephone/cellular numbers.
- Plans established by the participating schools’ emergency plan.

Note: A sample tournament contest/event contingency plan is posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

The OHSAA recommends that all member schools develop an athletic contest/event contingency plan for use during the regular season.

19. Grades 7 & 8 Participation for OHSAA Member Schools

- 19.1) A student shall not participate in more than one interscholastic contest in the same sport on any one day unless permitted by specific sports regulations. **Exceptions:** baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis. (See specific sport regulations.)
- 19.2) Sports Season Waiver — Schools, leagues or conferences may adjust seasons to accommodate school teams because of the lack of availability of physical facilities or personnel or due to other reasons as deemed appropriate by the league or conference. Proposed changes in seasons shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director and include the proposed dates of the 7th & 8th grade season not to exceed the length of the interscholastic season for the sport concerned. All other regulations regarding contest limitations, required practice time and coaching requirements shall be followed.
- 19.3) 7th & 8th grade students shall not practice with 9th through 12th grade students, and vice versa, unless specified in the sport specific regulations. And per Bylaw 1-1-2, “students enrolled in grades 7 or 8 are ineligible for interscholastic competition on the same squad with students in grade 9 or higher.” Please note Bylaw 1-7-1 for competition between sexes.
- Note:** 7th & 8th grade students in the sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling may practice at the same facility, at the same time as 9th through 12th grade students and under the supervision of the same coaching staff so long as there is no head-to-head competition or physical contact.
- 19.4) It is strongly recommended that 7th & 8th grade teams/individuals avoid competition against 9th through 12th grade students, and vice versa. Please see individual sport regulation for any specific rules and note Bylaw 1-7-1 for competition between sexes.
- 19.5) Per Bylaw 1-1-2, students below the 7th grade may not practice with or participate with 7th through 12th grade students.
- 19.6) It is strongly recommended that the coaches of 7th & 8th grade sports complete the OHSAA rules interpretation meetings for the sports they are coaching.

20. Athletic Uniforms

20.1) Uniforms

The purpose of an athletic uniform is to identify participants. Uniforms worn by participants in a high school athletic contest must conform to the playing rules adopted by the OHSAA for that sport. High school uniforms shall not be used as a medium to express an individual/team’s opinion/platform on any given topic.

Unless precluded in the sport rulebook, any lettering or emblems on uniforms must pertain to the school name, school nickname, individual’s name, the sport, drug use prevention, sportsmanship, ethics or integrity, promotion of a health/wellness cause (suicide prevention/cancer awareness, etc. or be an American flag, provided it does not violate the rules of the sport in regard to location. Any visible manufacturer’s logo on a uniform or undergarment must conform to the rules adopted by the national rules committee for that sport. However, if there is no specific rule, the maximum size is 2¼ square inches with no dimension exceeding 2¼”. Additional regulations are indicated within the playing rules of the sport and may be included in the sport’s specific regulations.

20.2) Head Decorations/Headwear/Religious Apparel

Regardless of NFHS playing rules, Ohio state law requires that officials/contest administrators not prohibit, require a waiver, or create any obstruction to wearing religious apparel when competing or participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities, unless a legitimate danger to participants is identified due to wearing religious apparel. If such a danger is identified, the administrator or official of the event or activity shall offer all reasonable accommodations to the participant wearing religious apparel.

20.3) Medical Devices

Unless the specific rules code stipulates otherwise, athletes in sports of a collision/contact nature should not be permitted to wear devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitoring equipment and/or other diagnostic or therapeutic appliances while participating in interscholastic contests. In the event that a medical professional prescribes a student-athlete to wear or carry a medical device during competition in a non-contact sport, such medical necessity shall be specified in writing and signed by the prescribing physician. The device shall be attached to the body in a manner fitting with the device that is safe for the athlete and does not cause danger to other athletes. Items may be carried by hand or in a pouch/fanny pack if they cannot be safely attached to the body in another manner. The medical statement shall be shown to the head contest official prior to the athlete’s being permitted to participate; this statement can be shown on paper or electronically. Examples of approved medical devices include but are not limited to EpiPens, inhalers, insulin pumps, glucose monitors and heart monitors. Athletes participating with these devices are still subject to NFHS Rules if their medical device is dropped or becomes dislodged from the body and interferes with other athletes.

21. No Contests/Forfeitures, Interrupted/Suspended Contests and Tournament Forfeits

21.1) No Contest

Any scheduled regular season or tournament contest which is not started shall be considered ‘no contest’ unless specified in the sport specific regulations. A ‘no contest’ shall not be included in won-lost records, shall not count towards a stu-

dent/coach fulfilling any ejection consequence, shall not count towards a student fulfilling his/her transfer consequence and shall not count towards the number of maximum allowable regular season contests permitted. Additionally, if a regular season contest is scheduled to be played but the assigned officials fail to fulfill their contract, the contest can still be played, subject to agreement by both schools, but it shall be counted as a “no contest” and shall not count in the win-loss record for either team. However, the event shall still count towards the team’s maximum allowable regular season contest total.

21.2) Interrupted/Suspended Contest

If an interscholastic contest (game, match, meet, etc.) is interrupted/suspended for any reason beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority, the contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless there is a specific procedure for determining the outcome of an interrupted contest (e.g., baseball, football, lacrosse, soccer and softball). If there are no game-ending procedures outlined in the sport and if the contest is not resumed, the contest shall be counted as a no contest and shall not be included in won-lost records, shall not count towards a student/coach fulfilling any ejection consequence, shall not count towards a student fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, and shall not count towards the number of maximum allowable regular season contests permitted. Unless denoted in other OHSAA regulations, forfeitures of regular season or tournament contests may occur if a team refuses to resume a contest which has already started and which teams are still present (e.g. it has then been suspended and has not concluded)

21.3) Tournament Forfeits

Please see Bylaw 10 for regulations regarding tournament forfeitures. Should a forfeiture occur not involving an ineligible student, the forfeit shall be included in won-lost records. Many national playing rules stipulate the exact score of forfeited contests. In accordance with Bylaw 10, forfeitures in OHSAA team sports tournaments shall mean the forfeiting team shall be disqualified from the tournament and the opponent in the contest of the forfeited tournament contest, or the next highest ranking team, may take its place in the tournament. See football tournament regulations regarding qualifiers to the OHSAA state football tournament.

22. Interscholastic Scrimmage

- 22.1) An interscholastic scrimmage is defined as a contest in sports in which the rules of the sport are not required to be followed in all respects. In all sports with the exception of golf, the length of the scrimmage is limited to a maximum of three hours per squad or individual per day for grades 9-12, and two hours per squad or individual per day for grades 7-8.
- 22.2) A scrimmage may involve any number of teams from various schools. A scrimmage does not count in the won/lost record for any school involved in the scrimmage.
- 22.3) Admission may be charged for a scrimmage at the discretion of the school.
- 22.4) This regulation prohibits two or more school teams from practicing together unless it is a scrimmage or unless both schools have the same board-approved coach.
- 22.5) A scrimmage must be considered the same for all schools involved.
- 22.6) See each sports’ specific regulations to determine if that sport permits scrimmages. The regulations for those sports in which scrimmages are permitted will specify whether scrimmages must be completed prior to the first regular season contest or scrimmages may be held after the first regular season contest.

23. Preview

- 23.1) A preview is an athletic contest played according to the adopted rules for a sport except that one-half the length of a regular season contest is permitted. Previews are permitted only in those sports in which scrimmages are allowed. Refer to the specific sport relative to length of preview and when it may be scheduled.
- 23.2) A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching. A preview does not count in the won/lost record.
- 23.3) Admission may be charged for a preview at the discretion of the school.

Note: See specific sport-by-sport regulations for additional guidance on previews.

24. Exhibition Competition

Any event or competition involving students representing member schools may involve only students who are eligible in all respects insofar as age, enrollment and attendance, scholarship, residence and individual sports limitation. So-called “scratch” or “exhibition” competition permitted or conducted by any school could result in ineligibility for athletes and additional penalties assessed to in accordance with Bylaw 11.

Exception: Sport-specific regulations/playing rules may permit the unscored participation of eligible student-athletes, but such competition must count towards the maximum allowable number of contests limitations established by the OHSAA in terms of both team contest limitations and individual player limitations.

25. Sunday Contests

Sunday contests are permitted by the Board of Directors. Local Board of Education/league/conference polices shall govern regular season schedules but, per GSR 17.3, teams/individuals are required to play OHSAA tournament contests at the scheduled time, date and location, including any scheduled Sunday contests. Any team/individual electing not to participate on the scheduled date will result in a forfeiture.

26. Transportation To and From Interscholastic Contests

It is the responsibility of the Board of Education or other governing board of a member school to provide for the safe transportation of student-athletes and other contest participants to and from athletic events. The OHSAA Catastrophe Accident Insurance Policy covers team or group travel directly to and from a covered event. A covered event is defined by the OHSAA (the authorized policy holder) as any regular-season (includes scrimmages and previews) or tournament competition in an interscholastic athletic event in an OHSAA-recognized sport, sponsored by the Board of Education or governing board of a member school. Travel must be supervised by staff members or designated representatives of the member school.

Therefore, it is recommended that schools require student-athletes and other participants in interscholastic athletic events to travel with their school squads in school-authorized carriers. It is not recommended that students be released to travel with parents or other persons; however, permission to make alternative travel arrangements remains the purview of the Board of Education/governing board of the member school. In the event that such alternative arrangements are approved, it is strongly recommended that the Board of Education secure proof of insurance from those who will be providing the transportation.

27. Cheerleading Pyramids and Acrobatic Routines

27.1) All cheer and spirit sideline activities and game performances during regular season contests shall be in accordance with the safety standards prescribed by the National Federation High School Spirit Rules.

Note: By NFHS Spirit Rules, “stunting” or “building” is the act of building stunts by spirit groups and is permitted.

27.2) Additional Regulations for OHSAA Tournaments:

27.2.1) In addition to the NFHS Spirit Rules, the following “stunting” skill restrictions are in place at OHSAA sponsored tournaments, including the OHSAA Spirit State Championships:

- No basket, sponge or elevator tosses allowed
- No inversions
- No twisting release dismounts from stunts
- Single leg extended stunts are limited to liberties and liberty hitches

27.3) Penalty

In OHSAA-sponsored tournaments, individual sideline spirit participants violating the regulations shall be removed from the field or court immediately.

28. A Note on Public Health Issues

The Centers for Disease Control, Ohio Governor, Ohio General Assembly and/or Ohio Department of Health will offer guidance as to whether or not to close a school or university due to a public health issue. Local decisions can also be made by the local health authority or each board of education/governing board. Closures are not recommended except in extreme circumstances.

29. Penalties

Penalties for violations of these General Sports Regulations that are not otherwise stated shall be administered in accordance with Bylaw 11.

30. Lightning and Inclement Weather

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas, and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to the designated safer area:
 - a.) A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a.) When thunder is heard or lightning is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b.) 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.

- c.) Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
- d.) When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

*At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

- 4. Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
- 5. Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at the start of the season.

31. Assignment of Contest Officials

Member schools, their administrators and/or assigners acting on their behalf, shall utilize the assigning platform approved by the OHSAA (DragonFly) when contracting with contest officials. Furthermore, the acceptance by the contest official of the offer extended by the member school, school administrator and/or assigner acting on behalf of the school (or conference/league) shall constitute an offer and acceptance and shall become at that moment a legally binding contract.

MEDIA REGULATIONS

August 1, 2025

The Ohio High School Athletic Association develops the regulations for media coverage of all OHSAA tournament contests. Some policies shall also be in effect for regular season contests. General media regulations shall be approved annually by the Board of Directors and published separately from the *OHSAA Handbook*.

A. Videotaping and Photographing Regulations

Section 1. — Regular Season Contests

- a.) It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) of the team or individuals from one’s own school. Such videotapes or photographs may be used for “in-game” coaching purposes only if it is specified in the national playing rules of the sport or in the specific sport regulations.
- b.) It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests (including previews, scrimmages and/or practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one’s own school **only with the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s)**.

Section 2. — OHSAA Tournament Contests

Videotaping and Photographing by Participating Schools

- a.) Videotaping OHSAA tournament contests of the team or individuals from one’s own school participating in the contest is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager, and it is done at the expense of the school involved. A maximum of two individuals per school are permitted to videotape.
- b.) All photographs and videos taken by school representatives of the team or individuals from one’s own school at OHSAA tournament contests are for school use **ONLY**. The use of photographs or videos taken by school representatives for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. Such videotapes or photographs may be used for “in-game” coaching purposes only if it is specified in the national playing rules of the sport or in the specific sport regulations.
- c.) It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph tournament contests (including practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one’s own school **only with the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s)**.
- d.) It is permissible for a school or school representative to *utilize* video and photographs of tournament contests (including practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one’s own school **only with the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s)**.

Section 3. — Regular Season and OHSAA Tournament Contests

Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones)

- a.) For purposes of this policy, an unmanned aircraft systems (“UAS”), commonly known as a drone, is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.
- b.) The use of drones can only be authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). If a license is granted to an individual by the FAA for use of a drone and that authorization is verified, it is the responsibility of each local school district to establish additional policies for the use of drones during home regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) and practices.
- c.) The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at both OHSAA tournament contests, beginning an hour before the scheduled start time to an hour after the contest ends, and practices for tournament contests. At tournament contests, if management discovers that a drone is being used, management shall attempt to locate the operator to have the drone removed from the facility area, but the contest shall not be delayed. Management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed
- d.) An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for the OHSAA’s official television partner or official photographer, provided the operator of the drone is licensed by the FAA, that authorization can be verified and the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA.
Note: Such approval for certain stadium events means the FAA issued Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs), and aircraft operation has been authorized by Air Traffic Control (ATC).
- e.) For drone safety and security concerns at home sites/home facilities or OHSAA tournament contests, contact an FAA Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP) special agent (847-294-7521) or the Central Regional Operation Center, which is staffed 24/7 (817-222-5006).

Videotaping and Photographing by Spectators

- a.) Spectators taking videos or photos at OHSAA tournament contests shall not interfere with the view of a contest by other spectators, nor will spectators or their equipment take additional space in seats that have been purchased. No spectators shall be provided “media” access to videotape or photograph an event, nor will spectators and/or their equipment be permitted in any playing area. In addition, no sources of power will be provided for spectators’ video or photo equipment.

- b.) All photographs and videos taken by spectators at OHSAA tournament contests are for personal use ONLY. The use of spectator photographs or videos for **commercial purposes** is strictly prohibited.
- c.) The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment.
- d.) The OHSAA reserves the right to remove violators of these policies from a tournament contest, invoke additional penalties and seek maximum legal recourse.

B. Coaches' and Participants' Comments to the News Media

OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game.

Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding other officials, the players, coaches or schools. Coaches and participants are expected to follow the same procedure and make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding not only the officials, but also the players, coaches or schools. Failure to follow this request will result in penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

C. Use of the OHSAA Trade Names and Trademarks

The OHSAA owns certain trade names and trademarks that are registered and protected under state and federal law. Any unauthorized use of these trade names and trademarks is strictly prohibited. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the OHSAA does issue certain non-exclusive, non-transferable limited licenses for the use of its trade names and trademarks. The OHSAA's policies regarding these licenses can be found on the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) under "News and Media."

SPORTS MEDICINE

August 1, 2025

1. CONCUSSION REGULATIONS - Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion

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:

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

1.2) 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:

1.21) 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.

1.22) 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. Go to the "Sports Medicine" Section of the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) 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:

- a. In consultation with a physician;
- b. Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- c. In collaboration with a physician, or
- d. 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.

1.3) 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.

1.4) Contest Requirements

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 and must be entered on the official's *myOHSAA* profile.

1.5) 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.

1.6) Approved Online Concussion Education Courses

The following free online training courses have been approved by the Ohio Department of Health for coaches and contest officials:

National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>

This free online course is available through the NFHS. Complete a brief registration form to take the course.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports Online Training Program:

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html>

Note: Both courses offer a "certificate of completion" upon successful passage. The **NFHS course** allows organizations to search for and track coaches and other individuals such as contest officials who have completed the course, while the CDC course does not.

1.7) Frequently Asked Questions

1.71) *What are the "signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?"*

The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following list of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment
- Forgetfulness
- Uncertainty of game score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows mood, behavior or personality changes
- Cannot recall events prior to hit or fall
- Cannot recall events after hit or fall

SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
 - Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

1.72) *Who is responsible for administering this rule?*

All individuals who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest officials, administrators, students, parents and medical personnel.

1.73) *What is the role of coaches in administering this rule?*

- Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
- Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student's parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional.
- Coaches shall be aware that any student removed from a practice or a contest due to a suspected concussion or head injury shall not return to participation on the same day as the removal.
- Coaches shall possess a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit and shall take one of the approved online concussion courses upon renewal of the permit.

1.74) *What is the role of contest officials in administering the rule?*

- Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any student who displays these signs or symptoms. When informing the head coach about removal of an athlete, the official shall be accompanied by another (second) official if possible.

- An official shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition that same day.
 - If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition on the same day as removal, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the OHSAA.
 - Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
 - All Officials shall possess either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or shall complete one of the online concussion courses which are valid for three years from the date of completion.
 - At initial licensure or renewal of the OHSAA officiating permit, the official shall indicate that he or she has either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has completed one of the approved online concussion courses.
 - All officials should carry with them evidence of completion of one of these options at all times while officiating a contest.
 - Officials are required to submit to the OHSAA the “OHSAA Concussion Report” within 48 hours whenever a student has been removed from a contest under this regulation.
- 1.75) *What are the expectations of student-athletes in concussion management?*
- While all individuals involved in the interscholastic athletics program have a responsibility to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions, it is also the responsibility of student-athletes to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.
 - Student-athletes who exhibit symptoms such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, have the responsibility to report these immediately to their coach and/or health care professional. Teammates also share the responsibility to report these symptoms when they are exhibited by a fellow student-athlete.
 - Student-athletes shall review and sign, on an annual basis, along with their parents or legal guardians, the Ohio Department of Health’s Concussion Information Sheet found on the OHSAA website.
- 1.76) *Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?*
- **Only** an M.D. (Medical Doctor), D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), or another health care provider approved by the school’s Board of Education or other governing body who is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider’s authority to practice in Ohio:
 - a. In consultation with a physician;
 - b. Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
 - c. In collaboration with a physician;
 - d. Under the supervision of a physician is empowered to make the on-site determination that an athlete has **not** received a concussion. **Even if that determination has been made, however, the student may not return to practice or competition on the same day he/she has been removed from a practice or competition.**
 - If any one of these physicians or authorized medical providers has answered that “yes” there has been a concussion, that decision is final.
- 1.77) *Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she has been removed from a practice or competition for a suspected concussion?*
- No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day.
 - No coach or contest official shall allow a student to return to practice or to competition on any day after the initial removal until that student has been assessed and cleared for return with **written authorization** by a physician or licensed health care provider authorized by the school.
 - If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.
- 1.78) *Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice/competition in the sport for a student who has diagnosed with a concussion?*
- Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a physician or other approved health care provider, only a physician or approved provider can authorize subsequent Return To Play (RTP), and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written **RTP authorization shall be kept at the school indefinitely** as a part of that student’s permanent record. Go to the “Sports Medicine” section of the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) to access the OHSAA “Medical Authorization to Return to Play” Form.
 - School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.

1.79) *What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?*

- After a clearance has been issued, the student’s actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.
- The National Federation of State High School Associations has included the following graduated protocol in its Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports: (**Note:** This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

1.8) NFHS Suggested Medical Clearance Return To Play Protocol

- Engage in activities of daily living (i.e. walking)
- When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
- Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
- Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
- Full contact in practice setting.
- 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.)

1.9) Quick Links From The Ohio Department Of Health

Information for Coaches, Officials, Parents and Students, Plus Additional Resources –

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/youthconcussions/>

Ohio’s Return to Play Law –

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/resources/rtp-law>

1.10) Additional Concussion Resources

Nationwide Children’s Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit

<https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/specialties/concussion-clinic/concussion-toolkit>

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

<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/schools/index.html>

2. SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST REGULATIONS

Ohio law requires additional coaching requirements for all interscholastic coaches (paid and volunteer) and new educational standards for parents and student-athletes regarding Sudden Cardiac Arrest. This law, known as Lindsay’s Law, became effective beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

The OHSAA has collaborated with the Ohio Departments of Health and Education, along with other major Ohio healthcare organizations and the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology, to provide education that is relevant and easily accessible so that interscholastic coaches and the parents of our student-athletes can come into compliance with the statute.

With the leadership provided by ODH, ODE, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other major Ohio healthcare organizations, we have developed our own “Ohio” materials to be used to comply with this requirement. The materials include a short video for parents, which is posted to the ODH, ODE and the OHSAA (OHSAA.org) websites; an informational handout and a sign-off form (much like the current Concussion Form) which must be signed by parents and student-athletes and is included in the package of consent forms found in the OHSAA PPE and the paper forms; and a training video and informational handout for coaches which is posted on the ODE website and includes a completion certificate for verification. Additionally, Coaches’ Tool Chest (<https://coachestoolchest.com/>) offers an updated and approved Sudden Cardiac Arrest course that includes the requirements to satisfy Ohio’s Lindsay’s Law mandates.

The videos can be assessed through the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) under the “Sports Medicine” section. Likewise, the educational materials for parents and students, which include a short memo and video, and the sign-off forms for parents and students, are also available on the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org) under the “Sports Medicine” section.

It is strongly recommended that each member high school in the state have at least one functional automated external defibrillator (AED) on site at the school and/or facility at all times and easily accessible during any school related function, including athletic practices, contests and/or other events, for use during emergencies. A person or entity that acquires an AED shall comply with all regulations governing the placement within a facility of an AED. AEDs are to be made available under the advice and consent of a physician by individuals with proper training and certification.

AED Use and Location Recommendations:

- a. All Athletic Trainers, coaches, administrators and any other school personnel should have access to an AED on the school property.
- b. It is recommended that institutions sponsoring athletic events and/or activities have an AED on site, or access to one, at each athletic venue for practices, contests or other athletic events.
- c. In the event of cardiac arrest, the Emergency Action Plan should be activated, AED retrieved and EMS activated, simultaneously.
- d. It is recommended that an AED should be located within two minutes (American Heart Association) of the location and venue of any athletic activity and available at any time.
- e. The AED should be stored in a safe and accessible location and should be well marked, publicized and known.
- f. AEDs should be inspected to ensure they are in proper working order. This includes making sure the batteries are charged and wires and electrodes are in good condition.

Note: As of this printing, pending state law may modify this recommendation to make it a requirement. If a change occurs, the OHSAA will share updates with the membership.

3. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION AND EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION

- 3.1) The following information should be reviewed with coaching and sports medicine staff prior to any interscholastic practice this August. Please remember that there are four OHSAA sports that have a required acclimatization period prior to the commencing of any contests or physical contact, which is the case for football. The other sports are boys and girls cross country and 7-8th grade track and field, which require a minimum of 10 days of interscholastic practice prior to any competition for a student. The following is the regulation that addresses the mandatory five-day period in football.
- 3.2) Five Days of Acclimatization Required — Acclimatization is a period of time when players can become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Health professionals recommend at least a five-day period. All football candidates must participate in five days of pre-season, non-contact acclimatization prior to any physical contact. No pads may be worn on the first two days. Shorts, helmets, shoes may be worn. Shoulder pads may be added on day three and four, but no contact is permitted. Full equipment may be worn on the fifth day, but contact is prohibited. Candidates reporting late must participate in five days of non-contact acclimatization. This rule applies to all school teams from grades 7-12.
- 3.3) All coaching and medical staff personnel shall observe the following precautions for **all sports competed outdoors and/or in a hot, humid environment:**
 - 3.31) Stress to participants the importance of properly hydrating themselves during the day leading up to the contest, and also to drink 8-to-12 ounces of water or sport drinks 20 minutes prior to the contest. This practice can help prevent problems during practice and contests.
 - 3.32) Schools should have unlimited amounts of water and sport drinks on hand during a contest, and coaches in team sports should be prepared to play a lot of players rather than just the starters.
 - 3.33) Contest officials are permitted to establish predetermined breaks during a contest, such as halfway through each period. At that time players can drink water and remove their equipment, which should also take place at halftime (the more skin that is exposed, the more cooling that can take place). This provision applies to all sports.
 - 3.34) NFHS football playing rules allow the referee to shorten periods per mutual agreement by the opposing coaches. In addition, by mutual agreement a game may be terminated at any time.
 - 3.35) Contest managers are advised to monitor conditions for others affiliated with the contest, like cheerleaders, band members, coaches, officials and especially spectators.
 - 3.36) In football, if schools decide NOT to play a contest, it becomes an open date for both. If one school desires to play but the other does not, there are no forfeits involved. Again, it would become an open date for both schools. However, schools do have the option to reschedule contests, and OHSAA regulations do permit schools to play more than one contest per week. There also are no OHSAA regulations that prohibit games from being played on Sundays. The same concepts apply to all other OHSAA sports.
 - 3.37) Please review the OHSAA General Sports Regulation 30 on inclement weather and lightning. In short, upon the first indication that thunderstorm development is within 10 miles of the game site, the activity shall be suspended until 30 minutes after the storm has left this 10-mile zone. Individuals should move to a safe area until the storm has moved away.
 - 3.38) Know both the Temperature and Humidity. The greater the humidity, the more difficult it is for the body to cool itself. Test the air prior to practice or a game using a wet bulb, globe, temperature index (WBGT index) which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement.

The wet bulb temperature should be measured prior to practice, every 30 minutes at minimum during practice, and the intensity and duration of practice adjusted accordingly. Recommendations are as follows:

WBGT	Recommendation
<79.7°F	Normal activities Three separate 3 minute breaks per hour
79.8-84.6°F	Three separate 4 minute breaks per hour Helmets and other equipment should be removed when the athlete is not directly involved with the competition, drill or practice and it is not otherwise required
84.7-87.6°F	Maximum practice time of 2 hours Four separate 4 minute breaks per hour FB: Limit to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice Considering postponing practice to later in the day Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals
87.8-89.7°F	Maximum of 1 hour of training with four separate 5 minute breaks in that hour No additional conditioning allowed FB/LAX: No helmets, shoulder pads, or other equipment is permitted Consider postponing practice to later in the day Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals
89.8°F	No outdoor workouts No indoor workouts unless air conditioned

Note: This chart is not simply air temperature. It is an index using a wet bulb, globe, thermometer that measures heat and humidity.

3.39) The OHSAA advises careful monitoring of the weather and plans to modify training and competition including:

- Modification of equipment, if applicable to the sport;
- Allowance for more frequent rest breaks and the use of shaded areas for those breaks;
- Modification of practice time;
- Availability of water always;
- Availability of cold water immersion tubs for onsite cooling;
- If exertional heat stroke is suspected, immediate onsite cooling using cold water immersion before transport by EMS, and**
- Review and practice of the OHSAA's recommended Emergency Action Plan, "Anyone Can Save A Life," or similar plan for all sports teams with special emphasis on the heat illness section.

Note: It is strongly recommended that schools have cold water immersion tubs available for onsite cooling. The onsite cooling recommendation is if exertional heat stroke is suspected (core temperature greater than 105°F), the athlete be cooled immediately in cold water immersion and their core temperature reaches 102°F prior to transport by EMS. The athlete would then be removed from the cold water immersion when their core temperature reaches 102°F, if core temperature measuring devices are accessible.

Visit the OHSAA Sports Medicine webpage (<https://www.ohsaa.org/medicine>) for references on WBGT, cold water immersion and exertional heat stroke references.

4. COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) provides these guidelines to help member schools develop or refine their cold weather policies. These recommendations aim to prevent, recognize, and treat cold-related injuries and illnesses during athletic practices and competitions.

Understanding Cold Weather Risks

Cold-related illnesses and injuries are common when participating in outdoor activities in low temperatures. Even above freezing, the body can lose heat quickly, making physical activity uncomfortable and potentially life-threatening.

What is Wind Chill?

Wind chill is how cold it feels on the skin when wind is factored in with air temperature. Wind increases heat loss, rapidly reducing both skin and internal body temperature—making cold weather significantly more dangerous.

Recognizing Cold Exposure Symptoms

Early recognition of cold stress is critical. Common symptoms include:

- a. **Shivering** (early warning sign, leads to fatigue)
- b. **Numbness, pain, swelling, or redness** in fingers, toes, ears, and nose
- c. **Burning sensations** on exposed skin.
- d. **Headaches, dizziness, and watery eyes**
- e. **Slurred speech, clumsiness**, poor judgment, or disorientation

If an individual wants to lie down and rest during cold exposure, this is a medical emergency. Activate your Emergency Action Plan immediately.

Common Cold Exposure Injuries

Condition	Description	Symptoms	Treatment
Frostnip	Non-freezing injury, affects extremities	Redness, numbness, tingling	Gently warm with clothing or skin-to-skin contact. Do not rub
Chilblain	Swelling from ruptured blood vessels	Swelling, redness, numbness	Gently rewarm skin. Avoid rubbing.
Frostbite	Tissue destruction from freezing	Pale, hard skin, numbness	Rewarm in warm (not hot) water. Seek medical help.
Hypothermia	Dangerous drop in core body temperature (<95°F)	Slurred speech, confusion, slow breathing	Warm the body. Activate EMS immediately.

Risk Factors for Cold Injuries

- Dehydration
- Poor physical conditioning
- Wet or tight clothing
- Inadequate nutrition
- Altitude exposure
- Medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, anemia, sickle cell)

Prevention Strategies

- Wear layered clothing, especially over the core.
- Use windbreakers, insulated pants, gloves, hats, and wool socks (avoid cotton).
- Ensure athletes are adequately dressed or do not allow participation.
- Maintain hydration and caloric intake.
- Never allow athletes to train alone in cold weather.

Outdoor Practice Recommended Guidelines by Wind Chill

Wind Chill Temperature	Practice Guidelines
Above 35°F	Normal outdoor practice
32–35°F (no precipitation)	Max 1 hour; return indoors for 30 mins before resuming
20–31°F (with precipitation)	Max 40 mins; 20-minute indoor break; no return if clothing is wet
15–31°F (no precipitation)	Max 30 mins; 15-minute indoor break
≤20°F (with precipitation)	No outdoor practice
≤15°F (no precipitation)	No outdoor practice

Competition Recommended Guidelines by Wind Chill

Wind Chill Temperature	Event Guidelines
≤30°F	Monitor for cold injuries; notify coaches and officials
≤25°F	Provide extra clothing and rewarming opportunities
≤15°F	Modify activity and allow frequent rewarming breaks
≤0°F	Strongly consider canceling/rescheduling the event

Ensure all athletes wear dry clothing covering extremities, especially dry socks and gloves.

5. EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

Per state law, all schools shall ensure that there is a venue specific written athletic Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in place that describes steps to be taken in the event of an emergency. It is recommended that each athletic venue has specific language. It is recommended that the following items are included, at minimum, in the EAP:

- a. List all on-site emergency equipment that may be needed in an emergency situation;
- b. Include appropriate contact information for EMS;
- c. Steps to take in event of an emergency;
- d. Map of the venue with emergency access identified;
- e. Healthcare professional who will provide medical coverage during practices, games and/or other events.

Emergency Actions Plans shall:

- a. Be rehearsed annually, at a minimum. The rehearsal shall include pertinent school staff and onsite medical providers.
- b. Be reviewed each year, at a minimum. The review shall include pertinent school staff and the local EMS provider.
- c. Be distributed to all athletics staff members, as well as healthcare professionals who will provide medical coverage during practices, games and/or other events onsite.

6. TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS AND STEROIDS

6.1) Tobacco/Vaping

School participants (coaches, players, trainers, managers, statisticians, scorekeepers, cheerleaders, etc.) and contest officials in an athletic contest are prohibited from using any form of tobacco or electronic cigarettes or similar devices (e.g. vaping) at the playing site of an interscholastic contest. Penalty for violation by school participants is disqualification from that contest. Violations by contest officials shall be reported to the OHSAA.

6.2) Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

6.3) Steroids

A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.

Note: At its September 1998 meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors endorsed the position statement issued by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the National Federation of State High School Associations on the use of drugs, medicine and food supplements in interscholastic sports. The statement is as follows:

“School personnel and coaches should not dispense any drug, medication or food supplement except with extreme caution and in accordance with policies developed in consultation with parents, health-care professionals and senior administrative personnel of the school or school district.

“Use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer should not be authorized or encouraged by school personnel and coaches. Even natural substances in unnatural amounts may have short-term or long-term negative health effects.

“In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.”

7. ATHLETIC TRAINER SERVICES

Consistent with the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Practice, the American Academy of Neurology and others, it is strongly recommended that a licensed Athletic Trainer is present at all sporting events, including practices, where student-athletes are at a high risk of injury, or for contact or collision sports.

8. OTHER IMPORTANT LINKS

- Ohio State Medical Association - www.osma.org
- Ohio Athletic Trainers' Association - www.oata.org

1. BASEBALL

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day.

Note: Completion of a suspended game along with a regularly scheduled game(s) is not considered a double-header (Penalty – see Sports Regulation 12).

1.2) Teams – No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates.

Note: Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy.

1.21) Any scheduled game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc., is considered a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost records.

1.22) Any team that exceeds the regular season participation limitation shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament and maybe subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

1.3) Individuals

1.31) An individual in grades 9-12 may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus the OHSAA-sponsored tournaments.

1.32) An individual in grades 7-8 may play on a maximum of 21 playing dates plus one postseason or league/conference tournament.

1.33) If an individual plays a game at any level on separate dates, each game counts toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game on Monday and a varsity game on Wednesday. Participation in both games counts as two dates toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

1.34) If an individual plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game in the same day, each contest does not count toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game on a Thursday. Participation in both games counts as one date toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

1.4) Interrupted Games

1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NFHS Rule 4-3), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the 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. Pitches thrown during any suspended game count in the normal day to day limitation described in Baseball Sports Regulation 1.7. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.

1.42) A game which has gone five innings and is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed and the following situation prevails shall be a suspended game:

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.

A suspended game that is not completed at a later date due to the inability to reschedule is considered a “No Contest,” not counted in the won-lost statistics, and both teams are permitted to schedule another contest.

1.43) Games cannot end in a tie. Games are either won, lost or suspended.

1.5) 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 (10 run rule applicable).

1.6) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

1.7) Pitchers in grades 7-12 are limited to pitch count restrictions as stated below:

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 (125) 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, if such data collection system is determined by the OHSAA.
- 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) All pitches thrown shall count per player and not per arm, should you have an ambidextrous pitcher.
- 1.76) 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.
- 1.77) Any player pitching during a period in which rest is required is considered to be pitching as an ineligible player.

Any victorious contest in which an ineligible player is participating will result in forfeiture of the contest.

Note: The daily pitch limit days of rest are based on a full and complete days and not (24) hours.

End of the Contest: Both team Head Coaches shall meet at the end of the completed game to verify pitch count records with each other and resolve any discrepancies onsite.

Discrepancies: Should there be any pitch count discrepancies discovered during the contest, time shall be called and the two head coaches shall discuss on-site. Should there be a pitch count discrepancy discovered after the contest, the two schools shall discuss. If an agreement cannot be made, the official pitch count shall be the count in the book of the home team. The OHSAA Director may assist with discrepancies and apply penalties as outlines in Bylaw11.

- 1.8) Previews — A preview may be scheduled and played at any time throughout the regular season. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Baseball Rules.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) Reference the **Regulation for Non-Interscholastic Participation and Individual Skill Instruction** in General Sport Regulation 7 for what is permitted in and outside of a school season and penalties that shall apply if violated, as outlined in Bylaw 11.
- 2.2) As outlined in the Notes section of General Sport Regulation 7.3.1, please see the following exceptions for the sport of baseball:
 - 2.22) There is no limit on the number of baseball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning with the last day of their school season - July 31.
 - 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the six player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.3) All-Star Games — “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school baseball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

2.4) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A baseball athlete who has not participated for a school baseball team that season must cease non-interscholastic baseball competition by April 6, 2026 in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed. The penalty for violating this Regulation may be considered ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament and subject to additional penalties, as outlined in Bylaw 11.

DATE: April 6, 2026

- 2.5) Participation in indoor baseball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2025-February 1, 2026, for student-athletes.

3) Instructional Programs

See **General Sport Regulation 7 for Non-Interscholastic Participation and Individual Skill Instruction.**

4) No Contact Period — Coaches

See **General Sport Regulation 11 for information on the Mandatory No Contact Period.**

5) Penalties

Violation of any Baseball Regulations or General Sport Regulations are subject to penalties, as outlined in the Baseball Regulations and/or Bylaw 11.

6) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school baseball within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #15.

7) Other Bylaws and Regulations

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations at [OHSAA.org](https://www.ohsaa.org). For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at [OHSAA.org](https://www.ohsaa.org).

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 9-12

1) **Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 23, 2026**

2) **First game — March 27, 2026**

3) **Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 27, 2026**

4) **Tournament draw/seeding meeting — May 10, 2026**

5) **Coaching and Season end — June 20, 2026**

6) **Scrimmage or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages and/or previews.**

Note: May be a combination of both, but may not exceed four in total.

7) **Regular season games permitted (Team) — Maximum of 27 (on 27 playing dates). Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to school policy.**

8) **Rules — National Federation Baseball Rules Book**

9) **Uniform Rules — National Federation Baseball Rules Book**

10) Officials:

10.1) Varsity — All must be OHSAA Class 1 umpires.

Note: 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.

10.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 required.

10.3) Freshmen — All must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

10.4) Per NFHS Rule 10-1-1, it is recommended that game officials include the umpire-in-chief and one, two or three field umpires. Whenever possible, at least two umpires are required. If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches and the umpire mutually agree.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 7 & 8

1) **Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 23, 2026**

2) **Date first game may be played — March 27, 2026**

3) **Coaching and Season end — June 20, 2026**

4) **Scrimmages permitted — A maximum of two scrimmages per year.**

5) **Regular season games permitted — Maximum 17 and 1 postseason/league/conference tournament not to exceed 4 games.**

6) **Rules — National Federation Baseball.**

7) **Uniform Rules — National Federation Baseball**

8) **Officials — All must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training**

BASEBALL CALENDAR

Baseball	2026	2027	2028
Coach — No Contact Period	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31	8/1-8/31
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	2/23	2/22	2/21
Season Begins	3/27	3/26	3/24
Sectional	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22	5/15-5/20
District	5/25-5/30	5/24-5/29	5/22-5/27
Regional	6/3-6/4	6/2-6/3	5/31-6/1
State	6/11-6/14	6/10-6/13	6/8-6/11
Season Ends	6/20	6/19	6/17
Easter	4/5	3/28	4/16

BASEBALL — BOYS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

2029-2033-2037	2026-2030-2034	2027-2031-2035	2028-2032-2036
VII	IV	I	VI
III	VI	VII	II
V	III	IV	I
II	VII	VI	V
IV	I	II	III
VI	V	III	VII
I	II	V	IV