

This Week in Softball

Issue 2 | January 16, 2020

Coach Manual

The 2020 coach manual is now posted on the Softball page:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/sbmanual.pdf>

Please take the time to read through this as it should answer many of your questions. A couple noteworthy changes for 2020 regarding transfer students and inclement weather are listed on page 6 so please read over those.

Online Rules Meeting

A reminder that the mandatory online rules meeting will go live on January 29. You have until March 27 to complete this. After that date, there will be a \$50 late fee to access the meeting. The meeting can only be accessed through your myOHSAA account. If you don't have a myOHSAA account, please talk with your Athletic Director to get that set up.

Catcher's Body Protector

There have been quite a few questions on this over the last couple weeks. Softball catcher's body protectors **do not** need to bear the NOCSAE seal. The NFHS made the change to require this in **baseball only**.

Bats

Due to multiple illegal bat issues last season resulting in ejections, Jerry Fick put together a document on the regulations, definitions and penalties that should clarify any confusion. That document is posted on the Softball page:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/2020/BatInfo.pdf>

Tournament Regulations

The Softball tournament regulations were approved by the Board of Directors and are posted on the Softball page:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/SoftballTournamentRegs.pdf>

The regulations contain the tournament representation. The only change in representation occurred in Division III.

The divisional breakdowns are posted here: <https://ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Divisional-Breakdowns-2019-20-School-Year#625822-softball>

2020 Season Start Date

A reminder that the 2020 start date for practice is February 24 and competition is March 28. School coaches are not permitted to make any participation in out of season instruction/play mandatory. Please see memo 1 if you're looking for clarifications on non-interscholastic teams/indoor softball/individual instruction/open gyms. Memo 1 is posted here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/2020/CoachesMemo1.pdf?sv=2017-04-17&sr=b&si=DNNFileManagerPolicy&sig=Gy7q9dnNoqEm21PCplgb3BsbFNM16x5yiTqok81itc4%3D>

Out of State Travel

Although this has been covered multiple times, I will continue to send reminders as the consequence for violating this regulation is severe and many of your spring breaks occur prior to the start of regular season competition.

- You may not play any regular season contest prior to Saturday, March 28, 2020.
- If you scrimmage another opponent, it must be part of the other team's allotted scrimmages also. In other words, it cannot be a scrimmage for your team and a regular season contest for the other team. I would suggest getting this in writing from your opponent(s)
- Teams may not travel out of state **JUST to practice** but may practice while out of state for a contest.
- Teams may travel to a non-bordering state ONE TIME ONLY per season only and may not miss any school time for travel or competition.

The adopted and approved penalty for violations of the above are INELIGIBILITY FOR THE OHSAA TOURNAMENT

Memos

As we get closer to the start of the season, these memos will be sent more frequently. However, if any questions come up, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Commonly asked questions will be included in future memos. If you have any topics you'd like to see covered, please send those my way as well.