

# This Week in Softball

Issue 3 | February 20, 2020

## 2020 Season Start Date

With the start of the season right around the corner, please remember that you can't make any participation mandatory until the first day of practice on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This also means tryouts can't begin until that date.

## Online Rules Meeting

Make sure to complete the required state rules meeting prior to **Friday, March 27 at 11:59 pm** to avoid the \$50 late fee. If you've already completed the meeting, you can verify that you received attendance credit by logging into your myOHSAA account, clicking on the Rules Meetings tab and clicking My State Meeting Attendance on the left-hand side. You should see a date and time stamp of completion.

## Rules Meeting Resource

If you have already watched the rules meeting and would like to go back and view any slides, I have posted it on our YouTube page here: [https://youtu.be/KUKaLezC\\_a4](https://youtu.be/KUKaLezC_a4) You **will not** receive credit for watching it from this link, this is simply a resource if you've already watched it. **You must watch it through your myOHSAA account to receive attendance credit.**

## Indoor Softball

The window to compete as a team in indoor SB ended on February 1. After that date, team members could no longer participate in excess of the 4-player limit. I heard of several universities hosting tournaments that invited full teams to play. Please remember that February 1 was the last date to do so with more than 4 players from the same team.

## Scrimmages

Scrimmages can be used at any time throughout the season. If you are not able to get your allotted scrimmages in at the start of the season, you may use them during the regular season or during the tournament. Just make certain that if you count it as a scrimmage – it is a scrimmage for your opponent team as well. You are allotted 4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages and 1 preview.

## Regional/State Draw

The softball regional/state draw has been conducted and is posted on the softball webpage at this link: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/SBReigonalStateTournamentDraw.pdf>

## Involvement with Travel Teams

There are always many questions on this during the early part of the season. Everyone is aware that participating with a player's club/travel team is not permitted during the season. The actual language of the regulation prohibits the player's involvement **while they are a member of the school team**. A player becomes **a member of the school team** when she participates in her first scrimmage or game for the school team. Let's take this scenario – practice began on Feb. 24. Your first scrimmage is March 3. The player does not become a member of the school team until she plays in the scrimmage on March 3. This means that she does not violate the non-interscholastic rule if she participates with her club/travel team until March 3. However, we also give the authority to all school programs **to prohibit** any outside instruction the day you begin practice if you make that policy known and clear to all players/parents.

## Individual Instruction During the Season

Student athletes may receive outside individual instruction during the softball season, as long as the instruction received is individual skill only (hitting, pitching, etc.)—the instruction cannot be any type of team play or team drills. You are permitted to make a school policy against this if you choose.

## Reference Documents

- Coach Manual: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/sbmanual.pdf>
- Bat Information: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/2020/BatInfo.pdf>
- Tournament Regulations: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/SoftballTournamentRegs.pdf>
- Divisional breakdowns: <https://ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Divisional-Breakdowns-2019-20-School-Year#625822-softball>

## Out of State Travel

- 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.