



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

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**TO:** Softball Coaches and Athletics Directors

**FROM:** Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

**DATE:** January 5, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Pre-Season Update

## **OHSAA SOFTBALL UPDATES**

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### Important Dates

Feb. 9, 2022	Online State Rules Interpretation Meeting is available
Feb. 21, 2022	Coaching and Tryouts Begin
March 26	Season Begins
March 26	Non-Interscholastic Date
May 1	Tournament Draw/Seed Date
May 7-14	Sectional Tournament
May 16-21	District Tournament
May 25-28	Regional Tournament
June 2-4	State Tournament
June 11	Season Ends

### NFHS 2022 Softball Rule Books

The 2022 NFHS Softball Rule Book is schedule to ship this month. If you are interested in purchasing additional NFHS publications, please visit the NFHS website [here](#).

### State Rules Meeting and Officiating

Jerry Fick serves as the OHSAA Softball Director of Officiating Development. He is also our NFHS rules interpreter and happy to assist with any questions regarding the sport rules. His contact information is: [swdoc@fuse.net](mailto:swdoc@fuse.net).

Each year, all head softball coaches are required to participate in a State Rules Interpretation Meeting. This meeting will be completed online and accessed through myOHSAA. The meeting will be made available beginning **Wednesday February 9, 2022**. Coaches and administrators will be notified when the meeting is live.

If you are a new coach, please consult your Athletics Director to assist with getting your account set up in myOHSAA. Confirmation of completing this meeting is required. Failure to complete this meeting prior to Saturday March 26, 2022 at 11:59pm ET will result in a late fee.

## Out of State Travel

Per Bylaw 9-2-1 below, a form is required for a team to travel out of state to any location that does not border Ohio.

**Bylaw 9-2-1:** Schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that border Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states are Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The province is Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in contests in any location that does not border Ohio subject to approval from the Executive Director's Office. (Obtain the required form to request this travel permission [here](#)).

## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

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### Guidance for COVID-19

With positive cases surging nationally due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the OHSAA is reminding administrators to assess risk factors and continue to work with local health authorities when a positive test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified.

The OHSAA does not have any mandated protocols. If there is no local mandate from the health department, local schools may determine whether masks shall be worn while attending contests or if a limited capacity shall be mandated for athletic venues.

## **SPORT REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS**

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- **GSR 8.3.1: Individual Skill Instruction From School Coaches - August 1 through May 31**

In the sports of baseball and softball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team or individual at anytime prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no contact period from school coaches provided that no more than six members of a school team or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place.

**NOTE:** Incoming freshman who have not competed for the school's middle school team do not count toward the six members of the school team. However, if an incoming freshman was a member of the middle school team, then she would count toward the maximum six members permitted.

- **Softball Regulations 2.: Participation in Indoor Softball from Nov. 1, 2022 – Feb. 1, 2022**

2.6) Participation in indoor Softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2022 – February 1, 2022, for student-athletes.

**INTERPRETATION:** Based on the language provided in the OHSAA Softball Sport Regulations, there are no preclusions to the number of student-athletes from the same school that may participate on an indoor softball team. Further, the language does not preclude school coaches from coaching his or her player on an indoor softball team.

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