



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Softball Coaches and Athletics Directors

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: July 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Post-Season Update

STAFF UPDATE

My name is Kate Barnett, and I wanted to introduce myself as the new sport administrator for softball at the OHSAA. Prior to moving to Columbus, I served as the Assistant Commissioner for Championships at the Ohio Valley Conference (NCAA Division I FCS) located in Brentwood, TN. I have spent most of my career within college athletics but am excited for this new opportunity to serve at the high school level. I am a northeast Ohio native and graduated from Lakeview High School in Cortland. I look forward to serving and working with all of you!

OHSAA BOARD APPROVED UPDATES

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](#)).

Tournament Divisions Remain the Same in 2021-22 (Competitive Balance)

Per action by the OHSAA Board of Directors on October 1, 2020, current 2020-21 enrollment data and tournament divisions will be utilized again in the 2021-22 school year. Constitution Article 6-1-9 allowed the Executive Director's Office to make this change, and it was subsequently approved by the Board. With some schools not offering sports along with many students transferring to nontraditional learning modules this past fall due to COVID-19, the Executive Director's Office deliberated on how to handle enrollment data, since October 2020 is when the OHSAA traditionally would have received that data (EMIS) from the Ohio Department of Education for use in tournament representation, tournament division breakdowns and classifications for OHSAA District Athletic Board elections. While understanding many schools had various unique enrollment situations this year, it was determined that utilizing the same data for a third and final year was the fairest for all OHSAA member schools since any new data collected would likely be severely skewed and/or an unreliable representation. **In fall 2022, division assignments will be based on fall 2021 EMIS data obtained from ODE combined with Competitive Balance roster data submitted from the 2021 season.**

NFHS ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

NFHS Virtual National Student Leadership Summit August 8-10

The National Federation of State High School Association will present the second year of its virtual National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS) on August 8, 9 and 10. There is no cost for students to participate, although registration is required. The virtual conference will begin each of those three days at 12:45 p.m., with presentations between 1:00 and 3:00. The NSLS will focus on relevant and contemporary issues facing students participating in interscholastic athletics. For more information, [click here](#).

NFHS Learning Center

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Learning Center is an education tool that offers online courses for coaches, contest officials, administrators, students and parents, many of which are free. Examples of courses include the following, and more information can be found [here](#).

- Protecting Students from Abuse
- First Aid, Health and Safety
- Fundamentals of Coaching
- Concussion in Sport
- Title IX
- Implicit Bias
- The Collapsed Athlete (a “must” for coaches as they begin their fall sports seasons)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Guidance for COVID-19

Ohio has lifted most statewide pandemic-related health orders, effective June 2, 2021. While these requirements have been lifted, Ohioans are still at risk for COVID-19 illness. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) urges all Ohioans to continue to follow safe protocols to protect themselves and others, especially those individuals who are not fully vaccinated. As of July 22, 2021, the OHSAA is not requiring the COVID-19 mandates that were in place for the 2020-21 season.

SPORT REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS

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

NOTE: GSR 7.5.1 below has been waived for summer 2021 and will be reviewed this fall by the Board to determine if the regulation shall be waived for the summer 2022 as well.

Team Sports (10-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 students from their school teams for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31. In addition:

a.) The 10-day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff. Each individual coach is not entitled to 10 different days for coaching. Ten days refers to any amount of time utilized during those 10 days (i.e. the

regulation does NOT permit 240 total hours of coaching... 10 days of 24 hours each).

b.) In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted.

c.) The Board of Directors may further limit the number of contact days during this period as specified in the specific sports regulations.

d.) See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for regulations pertaining to out-of-season instruction, which is different than this regulation on coaching.

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

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.

- **GSR 11.2 Mandatory no-contact period**

For coaches in the sports of baseball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse and softball begins August 1, 2021, and lasts through August 31 (Note: If you recall, this was NOT in effect in 2020). Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to coach in those sports is prohibited from providing coaching, providing instruction or supervising conditioning and physical fitness programs or open gyms to members of a school team in their sport in August. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition.

- **Softball Regulations 2: Non-Interscholastic Participation**

2.31) The number of interscholastic softball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together or participate together in any non-interscholastic event. Rotating players that would exceed this number (4) is not permitted and the use of any substitute players on a non-interscholastic roster would be counted as one of the 4 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.

NOTE: Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic softball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of softball are exempt from this limitation.

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