



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Softball Coaches and Directors of Athletics

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: September 2, 2022

SUBJECT: Softball Out of Season Updates

OHSAA UPDATE

OHSAA Divisional Assignments

The OHSAA uses enrollment data provided by the Ohio Department of Education to determine each school's base enrollment numbers for girls and boys sports, which will be used for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. Divisional breakdowns for the sports that utilize competitive balance data, are reconfigured every year, while non-competitive balance sports are reconfigured every two years using only base enrollment numbers. More information about this process can be accessed [here](#).

2023 Softball Divisional Assignments: [Division I](#) [Division II](#) [Division III](#) [Division IV](#)

IMPORTANT DATES AND REGULAR SEASON REMINDERS

Important Future Dates

Feb. 8, 2023	State Rules Meeting will be available
Feb. 20, 2023	First Day of Coaching
March 25, 2023`	First date of competition
March 25, 2023	Non-Interscholastic Date

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](#)).

Forms may be returned to [Kate Barnett](#).

OFFICIATING

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

The OHSAA is facing a shortage of officials in all sports, not only softball. If you have any former players, staff, or any others who have interest in staying involved with the sport of softball, please share more information about becoming an official through the link [here](#).

REVIEW OF GENERAL SPORT REGULATION (GSR) AND SOFTBALL SPORT SPECIFIC CHANGES

GSR 7 – Non-Interscholastic Participation and Individual Skill Instruction

Previous General Sports Regulation 7 (Non-Interscholastic Participation) with General Sports Regulation 8 (Individual Instruction Regulation) were combined. The purpose of this combination was to simplify the two subjects since there tended to be a large amount of confusion between the two.

A large part of this confusion was that there were previously two numbers being utilized – the “50% limitation” of how many players could participate together on a non-interscholastic team and the individual instruction number (4 for majority of sports, 6 for baseball and softball, etc.) detailing how many players a school coach could provide individual instruction to at one time.

Therefore, there is now **one number, which is six (6)**, that is the same for both scenarios – how many can participate together on a non-interscholastic program and how many can receive individual instruction from a school coach at one time.

Baseball – 6
Field Hockey – 6
Ice Hockey – 5
Girls Lacrosse – 6
Softball – 6

Basketball – 3
Football – 7
Boys Lacrosse – 6
Soccer – 6
Volleyball – 3

GSR 20.2 – Head Decorations/Headwear/Religious Apparel – **Waiver no longer required**

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.

Softball Sport Regulations 2.3 – Indoor Softball

Indoor softball is defined as the game of softball, adapted to play in a indoor facility. Participation in indoor softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7, for student-athletes if played indoors from November 1, 2022 – February 1, 2023. Interscholastic coaches may coach their own interscholastic players on an indoor softball team.

GSR AND SOFTBALL SPORT REGULATIONS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How are incoming freshman counted toward the non-interscholastic limitation for fall softball leagues?

- A. If the school has an 8th grade team and the incoming freshman played for the 8th grade team, then she triggered member of a team status and would count toward the non-interscholastic limitation. If the school does not have an 8th grade team, and/or if they did and she did not play on it, then she would not count.

2. How many 8th graders and 9th graders are permitted to be on a fall softball team (non-interscholastic team)?

- A. The OHSAA views middle/junior high school, 7th and 8th grade, separate from high school, 9th-12th grade. Therefore, there may be six (6) or less 7th and 8th graders on a non-interscholastic team with six (6) or less 9th-12th graders.

EX: There may be six (6) 9th graders from the school team and six (6) 8th graders from the same school on the same non-interscholastic team.

3. Can my high school coach conduct individual skill instruction with 8th and 9th graders?

- A. Yes. GSR 19 specifies that 7th and 8th graders are not permitted to practice with 9th-12th graders. However, this does not include individual skill instruction.

4. How many high school players from the school team are permitted to be on a fall softball league (non-interscholastic team)?

- A. Six (6). Players who trigger member of a team status count toward the maximum non-interscholastic limitation number. Players trigger member of a team status by competing in a scrimmage, preview or contest.

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