



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Softball Coaches and Athletics Directors

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: March 23, 2022

SUBJECT: Pre-Season Information

OHSAA GENERAL UPDATES

OHSAA to Host Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Summit April 8th

The OHSAA will be hosting Better Together: A Summit on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging on April 8, 2022, at the Quest Conference Center, 9200 Worthington Road, Westerville. The summit is aimed to assist school administrators and coaches in creating environments where ALL students feel honored, supported and accepted. The event is free to attend, and the link for registration can be found [here](#).

OHSAA Member School Enrollment Process Explanation for Athletic Divisions

The male and female enrollments of our member schools are used to determine OHSAA governance classifications (AAA, AA, A) and the OHSAA tournament divisions for each sport. For more information on the timeline of this process, please check our website [here](#).

OHSAA SOFTBALL UPDATES

2022 Season and Tournament

- **Regular Season:** The regular season begins Saturday March 26, 2022. Teams may play a maximum of twenty-seven (27) contests and individuals may compete in a maximum of thirty-two (32) playing dates.
- **Non-Interscholastic Date:** Softball student-athletes must cease non-interscholastic competition by March 26, 2022 in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.
- **Tournament Regulations:** The Tournament Regulations have been posted [here](#).
- **Tournament Ball:** The optic yellow Rawlings C12RYL-OH softball will be used for all tournament games.
- **Tournament Draw:** Coming Soon! Please note that Regional Final games may be conducted on Friday May 27th at 5:00PM OR Saturday May 28th at 12:00PM depending on the host.

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](#)).

Scrimmages

This is just a reminder that teams are permitted four (4) scrimmages, or three (3) scrimmages and one (1) preview. Scrimmages must be considered the same for both teams and shall not count toward the win/loss record. Scrimmages and previews count as dates of competition; therefore, teams may scrimmage multiple teams in one day and the day count toward one scrimmage date of competition.

NFHS RULE INTERPRETATIONS AND REMINDERS

- **NFHS Rule 3-1-3 – Line up cards regarding suspended games**

The team's lineup card shall include first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order of each starting player and shall include each eligible substitute. PENALTY: After the lineup card has been submitted to and verified by the umpire and a change is subsequently made to a player/substitute name or number, or if a player/substitute is added to the lineup card, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved. Any further changes made to a player/substitute name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.

EXCEPTION IN OHIO: If a game is suspended and resumed on another date the head coach may make any number of additions to the list of players and substitutes or uniform number changes to the lineup card provided such changes are reported to the umpire immediately prior to the resumption of play on the new playing date.

Rationale: Due to weather conditions and darkness, suspended games with resumption of play on another date can be a common occurrence. This exception allows for lineup card numbering changes and player additions to be made in these situations without penalty. These changes and additions are often necessary for a variety of valid reasons – damaged uniforms, players moving from JV to varsity or vice versa, etc.

- **NFHS Rule 1-8-1 – Non-traditional equipment in reference to bat sensors**

Bat sensors are attachments to the bat knob and are used to measure swing speed. They are not legal for NFHS play (Rule 1-8-1) and the NFHS has updated the penalty for use this season.

- **NFHS Rule 6-2-2- - Drying Agents (i.e. Gorilla Gold)**

Drying agents comparable to powdered rosin and designed for use in softball are permissible and by rule do not require the player to wipe off the hand before making contact with the ball. Comparable drying agents are allowable unless they discolor and/or transfer material to the ball. Once the umpire notices discoloration or material that has been transferred to the ball from the drying agent being used, this material is no longer permitted (6-2-2). Since this is a violation of Rule 6-2-2 an illegal pitch is called if a pitch has been thrown when

the ball has such a substance on it.

Note: These products are designed to dry the player’s hand without transferring material that would result in the ball becoming discolored or making it “tacky”. Drying agents are allowed to be used unless/until it is noted that they have discolored the ball or transferred material onto the ball. If either of these conditions are noted at any point during the game, their use will no longer be permitted.

- **NFHS Rule 3-2-12 – Jewelry or medical devices**

Players in the game are prohibited from wearing jewelry such as rings, watches, earrings, bracelets and necklaces (including cloth or string types). Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible.

Note: Daith Ear Piercings and other jewelry needed for medical reasons are permitted provided they are accompanied by a physician’s note. Please submit a waiver request to Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org) for approval. The waiver must be available on site for the umpire to review.

- **NFHS Rule 1-5 - Bats**

NFHS Softball recognizes and utilizes USA Softball’s certification process. In order for a bat to be legal for use in NFHS softball it must be marked with the ASA 2000, 2004 or the USA Softball All-Games Certification Mark. All bats that are approved by USA Softball, formally ASA, for use in fast pitch play shall bear one of the markings shown below.



A list of non-approved bats can be found [here](#).

- **NFHS Rule 1-3-3 - Softballs**

The ball specifications shall be as stated below. The new ball specifications are currently permissible and will be required January 1, 2025, for high school competition. Balls manufactured with the current specifications will be permitted for use through 2024.

Play	Size	COR	Compression	Weight/Circumference
Fast Pitch	12"	.47 max	375 lbs. max	6 1/4 to 7 ounces
			*325 lbs, +/-50	*6 1/2 to 7 ounces 11 7/8 to 12 1/4 inches

Mandatory January 1, 2025

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