



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Softball Coaches and Directors of Athletics

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: December 12, 2022

SUBJECT: Pre-Season Update

OHSAA SOFTBALL UPDATES

2023 Important Dates

Feb. 8	Online State Rules Interpretation Meeting is available
Feb. 20	Coaching and Tryouts Begin
March 25	Season Begins
March 25	Non-Interscholastic Date
April 30	Tournament Draw/Seed Date
May 6-13	Sectional Tournament
May 15-20	District Tournament
May 24-27	Regional Tournament
June 1-3	State Tournament
June 10	Season Ends

NFHS 2023 Softball Rule Books

The 2023 NFHS Softball Rule Book is scheduled to ship next 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.

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 each coach's individual myOHSAA account. The meeting will be made available beginning **Wednesday February 8, 2023**. Coaches and administrators will be notified when the meeting is accessible.

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 25, 2023 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](#)).

NOTE: Contests played prior to the March 25, 2023 must be counted as scrimmages (or a preview) for both teams participating.

OHSAA TOURNAMENT

Regional tournament sites

With Firestone Stadium, home of the OHSAA Softball Tournament State Finals, undergoing renovations to install field turf, high school sites with turf fields will be strongly considered for regional host sites. This is to help players prepare to compete on turf at the state finals. Due to factors such as but not limited to location, venue capacity, field lights, etc. not all sites at the regional level will be turf fields.

Official tournament ball

The official ball for the OHSAA Softball Tournament is the optic yellow Rawlings C12RYL-OH softball. Teams choosing to use this ball are encouraged to order them as soon as possible to ensure delivery by the start of the season.

SPORT REGULATION HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS

Softball Resources:

[OHSAA 2022-23 Handbook](#)

[OHSAA 2022-23 General Sport Regulations](#)

[OHSAA 2022-23 Softball Regulations](#)

OHSAA 2022-23 Softball Pre-Season Coaches Manual (Coming soon)

OHSAA 2022-23 Tournament Regulations (Coming soon)

***Note:** Tournament regulations are approved by the Board of Directors during the February 2023 meeting. The Pre-Season Coaches Manual will be available with the launch of the State Rules Interpretation meeting.

Scrimmages and Previews

Scrimmages and the previews count as dates of competition. Therefore, teams are permitted four (4) scrimmage dates of competition or three (3) scrimmage dates of competition and one (1) preview date of competition. The length of the scrimmage is limited to a maximum of three (3) hours per squad or individual per day for grades 9-12. Scrimmages may take place at any time during the season. Previews must be completed prior to the first regular season contest.

Indoor Softball from Nov. 1, 2022 – Feb. 1, 2023

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 OHSA 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.

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