



Ohio High School Athletic Association

TO: Softball Coaches and Directors of Athletics

FROM: Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator

DATE: March 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Regular Season Updates and Reminders

OHSAA SOFTBALL UPDATES

2023 Important Dates

March 25	Season Begins
March 25	Non-Interscholastic Date
April 24	Deadline for Tournament Entry
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

Non-intercholastic Date

The non-intercholastic date for softball is March 25, 2023. A softball player must cease participation with a non-school team by this date to be eligible for the OHSAA Tournament.

As a reminder, college ID camps/clinics are considered non-intercholastic in nature. Therefore, participation during the scholastic softball season will render a student-athlete ineligible.

Out of State Travel

Per Bylaw 9-2-1, a form is required for a team to travel out of state to any location that does not border Ohio. If your team is planning to take a trip please fill out the form found [here](#).

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

Official Tournament Ball

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has announced an extension of its partnership with Rawlings to continue to serve as the official basketball, baseball and softball of the OHSAA. The five-year agreement extends the partnership through the 2027-28 school year.

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.

Bat Information

Per NFHS Rules, bat sensors are not permitted in games, but may be used in practice. With regard to approved and non-approved bats, please review the bat information linked for your reference [here](#).

Coaches' Toolchest

The OHSAA has partnered with Coaches' Toolchest as a one stop shop for coaches to obtain certifications. The program helps ensure that coaches have the knowledge they need to best serve their student athletes and to position those athletes for success in sport, and in life. For administrators, it provides an efficient, simple method of ensuring all of the school coaches are compliant with their PAP requirements. More than just meeting the legally mandated minimum requirements the program adds in a professional development piece as well. For more information, please check out the link [HERE](#).



NFHS RULE HIGHLIGHTS AND SPORT REGULATION REMINDERS

NFHS Softball Rules

The NFHS published the 2023 rules changes including points of emphasis. More information regarding rules and regulations can be found at the following links:

- [NFHS Points of Emphasis](#)
- [NFHS Rules Changes](#)
- [OHSAA Softball Coaches Manual](#)

Summer Contact Days Begin May 15

The Board of Directors voted to expand the non-mandatory summer coaching period for all sports to include 13 days of coaching instead of 10 and to open the summer period on May 15 instead of June 1. In order for the contact day to count toward the 13 days, there must be 7 or more players present. If there are 6 or less, the contact day may be considered individual skill instruction which can take place at anytime (except the no contact period).

7th and 8th Grade

Per GSR 19.3, 7th and 8th grade students shall not practice with or participate on the same team with 9th through 12th grade students, and vice versa. However, this does not include individual skill instruction. For more FAQs, please review the September 2022 memo linked for your reference [here](#).

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