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### Enclosures

COACHES	OFFICIALS
2012 NFHS Softball Rule Book	2012 NFHS Softball Rule Book
	2012 NFHS Softball Case Book
	2012 NFHS/OHSAA Softball Guide
	2011-12 NFHS Softball Umpires Manual

TO: Softball Coaches and Officials

FROM: Roxanne Price, Assistant Commissioner

RE: OHSAA Softball Regulations and Related Materials

This softball manual is intended as a guide to assist with the coaching, officiating, and administration of interscholastic softball. Included in this manual are the sports regulations for softball as adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors, and the NFHS Rule Changes and Points of Emphasis. Also, you will find information on the rules interpretation meetings scheduled for the 2012 season. Additional information regarding the OHSAA bylaws and constitution can be found in the current edition of the OHSAA Handbook or on our website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). Please refer to our handbook or website for information regarding scholarship, residency, transfers, recruiting, non-interscholastic participation and other issues that may affect a student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics. In addition, you will find the general sports regulations that apply to all recognized sports of the OHSAA on our website.

**The 2012 Preseason Manual also includes information regarding OHSAA Points of Emphasis, such as Game Ending Procedures and Field Markings, as well as the Non-Interscholastic Rule.** Please note that OHSAA Game Ending Procedures may vary from NFHS Rules.

**It is mandatory that each school that sponsors softball send a representative to a rules interpretation meeting.** *For the 2012 season, meetings will also be conducted on-line.* More information regarding on-line meetings can be found in this preseason manual. The head varsity coach, assistant coach, or an athletic administrator from each school that sponsors a softball team is required to attend at least one meeting—in person or on-line. **Attendance is required in order to be eligible to enter the OHSAA-sponsored tournament.** In order to receive credit for attending a face-to-face meeting, you must be present within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and stay until the conclusion of the meeting. **Please bring the attendance card included in this mailing to the rules interpretation meeting that you attend. If you do not have the attendance card, you can complete a coach/officials attendance card at the meeting. You must submit an attendance card if you attend a face-to-face meeting.**

The NFHS Softball Rules Book and the OHSAA Softball Regulations will serve as the official rules of Softball. The OHSAA may have modified some NFHS rules so that they are in alignment with OHSAA sports regulations. The NFHS Rules Book is provided to each member school sponsoring softball as a courtesy by the OHSAA. Each OHSAA softball official will receive a case book as well as an umpire's manual.

You are being mailed this manual because your school has indicated that it will sponsor softball on myOHSAA. Your school may have also indicated that it will enter the state softball tournament. If your school has indicated that it will participate in the state tournament and does not enter a team in the state tournament, there will be a penalty of \$150 assessed if the OHSAA does not receive correspondence through MyOHSAA by April 23 that your school will not enter a softball team in the postseason tournament.

Again, these materials have been provided to assist you with the coaching, officiating, and administration of softball. *Take the time to read and review the materials.* If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (614) 267-2502, ext. 114 or email me at [rprice@ohsaa.org](mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org). Email correspondence is preferred. **If you have questions in regard to playing rules, such as courtesy runners, dead ball situations, and substitution rules, please contact Jerry Fick, Director of Officials Development at [swdoc@fuse.net](mailto:swdoc@fuse.net) or George Gulas at [geoshe@zoominternet.net](mailto:geoshe@zoominternet.net)**

## OHSAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

## CALENDAR OF RULES MEETINGS

Schools sponsoring interscholastic contests in girls fast pitch softball must be represented by the head varsity girls softball coach, assistant girls softball coach or athletic administrator at one of the meetings listed below. Any school failing to meet the requirement will be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition. In addition to the face-to-face meetings listed below, there will be the option to complete the rules meeting requirement on-line.

Those coaches or umpires who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting or the scheduled make-up meeting may request a special make-up meeting from one of the interpreters listed below. The fee for a special make-up meeting is \$50.00.

Softball umpires who fail to attend one of these meetings will be suspended the following year and will be ineligible for tournament assignments in the current year.

Individuals attending a face-to-face rules meeting must be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain until the conclusion of the meeting to receive attendance credit.

INTERPRETERS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Jerry Fick	513-563-2755	<a href="mailto:swdoc@fuse.net">swdoc@fuse.net</a>
George Gulas	330-321-1858	<a href="mailto:geoshe@zoominternet.net">geoshe@zoominternet.net</a>
Roxanne Price	614-267-2502 Ext. 114	<a href="mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org">rprice@ohsaa.org</a>

The 2012 schedule of softball rules meetings is listed on the next page. Please check the OHSAA website at <http://myohsaa.ohsaa.org/public/stateMeetings.aspx> frequently to check for changes/updates to the meeting schedule. Rules meeting dates and times may need to be adjusted due to inclement weather.

The first softball rules' meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2012 at Springfield High School in Holland, Ohio. **Please note that there will not be a face-to-face rules meeting held at the OHSFSCA clinic in January.** The implementation of on-line rules meetings, no longer makes it necessary to conduct a meeting at the clinic.

## ONLINE METHOD OF COMPLETION

**Officials** should access their myOHSAA account. Once in the system, there will be a link for the OFFICIALS on-line Rules Meeting. Log in, completing the required fields and complete the softball PowerPoint. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed and the quiz completed for credit to be provided.**

**Coaches** can access the on-line version by navigating the OHSAA softball webpage. There will be a coach's link on the softball page. The online rules meeting should be available on **January 30, 2012** as well, to coincide with the first in person rules meeting.

You will need your **SCHOOL ID NUMBER**, which your athletic administrator or principal can give to you. Please note that **all screens of the presentation must be viewed and the quiz completed** for attendance credit. The last day for completion of the on-line version is **Monday, March 5, 2012**. A \$50 late fee will be assessed after this date to complete the on-line rules meeting. The last date to review an online meeting **with penalty is Wednesday, March 21, 2012.**

On or around **Monday, March 12**, all umpires and an administrator at a member school that has not attended a rules meeting will be notified. The athletic director will be notified if there has been no attendance by a school coach. **There is no need to double check "attendance" until after the notification date.** Please do not contact the OHSAA Office in regard to "credit" for rules meeting attendance prior to March 12, 2012. Umpires will have their profile page updated

reflecting their attendance periodically. Officials please do not call the OHSAA for verification of your completion of the on-line version of the rules meeting without waiting a few days after completion of an on-line rules meeting.

**2012 FAST PITCH SOFTBALL RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS- In Person**

\*See [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) for regular updates to the Rules Interpretation Meetings\*

Date	Time	Location	Contact
1/30/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Springfield High School</a> 1470 S. McCord Rd. Holland, OH 43528	<a href="#">DANIEL DURIS</a>
2/1/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Ashland High School</a> 1440 King St., Cafeteria, Ashland, OH 44805	<a href="#">DAN BURTSCHER</a>
2/2/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Beavercreek High School</a> 2660 Dayton-Xenia Rd., Auditorium, Beavercreek, OH 45434	<a href="#">JERRY FICK</a>
2/7/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Bath High School</a> 2850 Bible Rd., Cafeteria, Lima, OH 45801	<a href="#">ANTHONY HATTERY</a>
2/8/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Mason High School</a> 6100 Mason-Montgomery Rd., Auditorium, Mason, OH 45040	<a href="#">JERRY FICK</a>
2/9/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Brooklyn High School</a> 9200 Biddulph Rd. Brooklyn, OH 44144	<a href="#">THERESA RICE</a>
2/13/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Athens High School</a> 1 High School Dr., Auditorium, The Plains, OH 45780	<a href="#">PHILLIP LIGHTFOOT</a>
2/15/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Ohio University-Zanesville</a> 1425 Newark Rd., Auditorium, Zanesville, OH 43701	<a href="#">RAYMOND BESS</a>
2/16/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Portsmouth High School</a> 1225 Gallia St. Portsmouth, OH 45662	<a href="#">RUSSELL HOPKINS</a>
2/21/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Whetstone High School</a> 4405 Scenic Dr., Auditorium, Columbus, OH 43214	<a href="#">DANIEL STEINER</a>
2/22/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Copley High School</a> 3807 Ridgewood Rd., Auditorium, Copley, OH 44321	<a href="#">EDWARD GALLOWAY</a>
2/23/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Buckeye Career Center</a> 545 University Dr. NE, Cafeteria, New Philadelphia, OH 44663	<a href="#">DAVID GILMORE</a>
2/29/2012	- 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Upper Valley JVS</a> 8821 Career Dr., Hartzell Aud.(In back of Bldg.), Piqua, OH 45356	<a href="#">JERRY FICK</a>

Those coaches or umpires who do not attend a regularly scheduled rules interpretation meeting or the scheduled make-up meeting, or who do not complete an on-line rules meeting, may request a special make-up meeting from one of the interpreters listed above. Such meeting must be held no later than Monday, April 2, 2012. The fee for a Special Make-up Meeting is \$50.00. Requests after the above date must be addressed to Assistant Commissioner, Roxanne Price. See the information printed above for the deadline regarding on-line meetings.

Please check our website, [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) for regular updates to the rules interpretation meetings. Inclement weather may result in the postponement or cancellation of rules meetings.

## 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

2012 OHSAA Softball Calendar	
February 20	<u>First Day of Coaching/Instruction for all prospective members of the school team</u>
March 16	First Day H.S. Preview Permitted
March 24	First Day Regular Season Contests Permitted
April 16	Non-Interscholastic Competition No Longer Permitted (see <b>Softball Regulation 4.9</b> for additional information)
May 5- May 12	Sectional Tournament
May 14 – May 19	District Tournament
May 23 – May 26	Regional Tournament
May 31 – June 2	State Tournament
June 9	Coaching and School Season Ends
August 6- September 3	Coaches' No Contact Period

## OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION

OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 – 614-267-2502 – 614-267-1677 (fax)

Name	Title	Responsibilities	E-Mail
Roxanne Price	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees the sport & coordinates the tournaments	<a href="mailto:rprice@ohsaa.org">rprice@ohsaa.org</a>
Henry Zaborniak	Assistant Commissioner	Oversees officials programs & tournament assignments	<a href="mailto:hزابorniak@ohsaa.org">hزابorniak@ohsaa.org</a>
Renee Moore	Administrative Assistant	Assists in the coordination of the sport & tournaments	<a href="mailto:rmoore@ohsaa.org">rmoore@ohsaa.org</a>
Jerry Fick	State Rules Interpreter & Director of Officials Development	Conducts state rules interpretation meetings and fields rules inquiries	<a href="mailto:swdoc@fuse.net">swdoc@fuse.net</a>
George Gulas	State Rules Interpreter	Fields Rules Inquiries	<a href="mailto:geoshe@zoominternet.net">geoshe@zoominternet.net</a>

## SOFTBALL LINKS

National Association of Sports Officials	<a href="http://www.naso.org">www.naso.org</a>
National Federation of State High School Associations	<a href="http://www.nfhs.org">www.nfhs.org</a>
National Fast Pitch Coaches Association	<a href="http://www.nfca.org">www.nfca.org</a>
Ohio High School Athletic Association	<a href="http://www.ohsaa.org">www.ohsaa.org</a>
Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association	<a href="http://www.ohsfscsca.org">www.ohsfscsca.org</a>
American Softball Association	<a href="http://www.asasoftball.com">www.asasoftball.com</a>

## COACHES

### OHIO HIGH SCHOOL FAST PITCH SOFTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION (OHSFSCA)

[www.ohsfsc.org](http://www.ohsfsc.org)

The Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association (OHSFSCA) is a non-profit organization designed to help promote high school softball in the state of Ohio. Membership in the OHSFSCA is open to all high school coaches in the state. The OHSFSCA is run by an Executive Committee and assisted by the local district officers.

Please visit their website for additional information regarding the softball clinic, the Hall of Fame, All-Ohio honors, membership forms, executive board contact information, etc.

#### 2011-12 OHSFSCA Executive Board Directory

Title	Name	E-Mail	Phone
President	Brenda Radabaugh	<a href="mailto:bradagaugh@oregoncs.org">bradagaugh@oregoncs.org</a>	419-693-0665 (W)
President-Elect	Barbara Sleek	<a href="mailto:absleek@aol.com">absleek@aol.com</a>	740-516-4201 (C)
Past President	Bill Amero	<a href="mailto:billamero@yahoo.com">billamero@yahoo.com</a>	330-501-7506 (C)
Secretary	Charles Tackett	<a href="mailto:cetackett@tippcity.k12.oh.us">cetackett@tippcity.k12.oh.us</a>	937-667-8448 (W)
Treasurer	Nick Joseph	<a href="mailto:Njoseph3@columbus.rr.com">Njoseph3@columbus.rr.com</a>	614-595-8831 (C)
Clinic Director	Bill Matthews	<a href="mailto:bill_matthews@amherstk12.org">bill_matthews@amherstk12.org</a>	440-988-4433 (W)
Asst. Clinic Director	Sharon Monas	<a href="mailto:nedsecretary@roadrunner.com">nedsecretary@roadrunner.com</a>	440-417-2322 (C)
OHSAA Representative	Kevin Moody	<a href="mailto:Kevin_moody@hboe.org">Kevin_moody@hboe.org</a>	614-582-7717 (C)

Please review the OHSFSCA website for a complete list of executive board members, [www.ohsfsc.org](http://www.ohsfsc.org)

## COACHES CODE OF ETHICS

(From [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) and the NFHS Softball Rules Book)

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student-athlete should be treated as though he or she was the coaches' own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFCA Board of Directors.

**The coach** shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

**The coach** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student-athletes, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

**The coach** shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

**The coach** shall avoid the use of alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with players.

**The coach** shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

**The coach** shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

**The coach** shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

**The coach** shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after contests, **coaches** for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

**A coach** shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration. A coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.



## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **Professionalism**

Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the game and the officials, your athletes and fans are more likely to be respectful. If you are disrespectful of the game and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your athletes and fans. Officials aren't perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.

- **Pre-Season Preparations**

During your pre-season preparations, invite a local official(s) to meet with your team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.

- **Scheduling Conflicts**

Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that game, but also other games they are scheduled to work. Thanks so much for your assistance!

- **Importance of Coaches Rating Umpires**

Each year coaches are required to rate umpires that work their varsity contests. Please take advantage of this opportunity and take the time to rate the umpires. Rating is done online and information regarding the procedure will be sent electronically to school athletic administrators. Your involvement is critical to ensuring that we can provide the best officials for our tournament. Please note that school athletic administrators can provide the OHSAA with a list of up to 15 umpires that have received favorable ratings.

- **Inquiries**

The OHSAA office is here to help as needed but, depending on the time of the year, it can be difficult to reach us. However, there are other sources of assistance. Our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) includes a great deal of information that covers many of the inquiries we often receive. The website provides softball regulations, general sport regulations, tournament regulations, uniform regulations, etc. Your OHSFSCA Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information is provided on page 7 of this manual and can be found on their website ([www.ohsfscsca.org](http://www.ohsfscsca.org)).

- **Coaches' Comments to the News Media**

OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and shall be mutually agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. Coaches are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action.

- **Equipment – Worth**

Worth is the "Official Softball" of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. For 2012, our tournament ball will be the WorthC12RYL-OH softball.

## GAME PROCEDURES

### EJECTION REPORT FORM PROCEDURES

- Officials shall file a written report with the school and the OHSAA office whenever a coach or player is ejected from an athletic contest. Use the "Officials Report" form. An Official's Report Form can be viewed and printed by clicking on the Officiating Link at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). The report shall be filed with the reported school and the OHSAA within 48 hours of the ejection. Whenever an ejection occurs, the ejecting official shall speak with the offender's principal/athletic director no later than the first school day following the ejection. An official failing to follow the ejection protocol and/or failing to file the Official's Report may be penalized in accordance with the OHSAA Handbook for Officials.
- The "Official's Report" form is also used to report good or poor sportsmanship, severe injuries, facility problems, or equipment problems. Ejections other than players or coaches and other items of which the Commissioner should be made aware must be provided
- Please use only one form per school. Each offending school will need its own copy. The reporting official will receive notification of resolution upon receipt of the reported school's reply.
- Please include the ejected person's first and last names. Make sure that the form is complete at the bottom with the date and name of the administrator that you spoke with at the school.

#### General Ejection Procedures

General Sports Regulation 13.2 requires any coach (paid or volunteer) ejected from a contest to complete the **Teaching and Modeling Behavior** course through the NFHS and submit payment of a \$100.00 fine within 30 days of the ejection.

## Information on Concussion Management

### IMPLEMENTATION OF NFHS PLAYING RULES CHANGES RELATED TO CONCUSSION AND CONCUSSED ATHLETES AND RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

**It is important for all adults involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students.**

In its various sports playing rules, the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) has implemented a standard rule change in all sports dealing with concussions in student-athletes. The basic rule in all sports (which may be worded slightly differently in each rule book due to the nature of breaks in time intervals at contests in different sports) states:

Last year the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the NFHS rules change. This regulation reads:

*Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared **with written authorization** by an appropriate health care professional. In Ohio, an "appropriate health care professional" shall be a **physician**, as authorized under ORC Chapter 4731 and includes both doctors of medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) and an **athletic Trainer, licensed** under ORC Chapter 4755*

In January, 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors has further defined the following parameters to guide OHSAA licensed officials, medical personnel and member school representatives in implementing this change.

1. **What are the “signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion”?** The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following lists of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS	SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appears dazed or stunned</li> <li>• Is confused about assignment</li> <li>• Forgets plays</li> <li>• Is unsure of game, score, or opponent</li> <li>• Moves clumsily</li> <li>• Answers questions slowly</li> <li>• Loses consciousness</li> <li>• Shows behavior or personality changes</li> <li>• Cannot recall events prior to hit</li> <li>• Cannot recall events after hit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Balance problems or dizziness</li> <li>• Double or fuzzy vision</li> <li>• Sensitivity to light or noise</li> <li>• Feeling sluggish</li> <li>• Feeling foggy or groggy</li> <li>• Concentration or memory problems</li> <li>• Confusion</li> </ul>

2. **Who is responsible for administering this new rule?**  
All adults who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest official, administrators and medical personnel.
3. **What is the role of coaches in administering this new rule?**
  - Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
  - Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student's parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional
4. **What is the role of contest officials in administering the new rule?**
  - Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms,
  - An official shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition without written medical authorization presented to the head official.
  - If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition without written authorization from a physician or licensed athletic trainer, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the Ohio High School Athletic Association
  - Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
5. **Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?**
  - Only an MD (Medical Doctor), DO (Doctor of Osteopathy), or LAT (Licensed Athletic Trainer) is empowered to make the onsite determination that an athlete has not received a concussion.
  - If any one of these individuals has answered that “yes” there has been a concussion, **that decision is final.**
6. **Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she receives a concussion?**
  - No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day.
  - When in doubt, hold them out.
  - If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.
  - However, if the health care professional (MD, DO or LAT) has evaluated the athlete, who has been removed from competition due to exhibiting the signs and symptoms of a concussion, and has determined that the **athlete did not sustain a concussion**, that student may return to play with the submission of the written authorization by the health care professional.
  - The written authorization shall be submitted to the school administration; however, if there is no administrator on site at the competition, the authorization may be held by the host site manager or the head coach.

7. **Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice / competition in the sport?**
  - Once a concussion has been diagnosed by one of the above listed on site providers, only an MD, DO or LAT can authorize subsequent return to play, and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written RTP authorization shall be kept at the school until the statute of limitations expires, which is four years from the date of the student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.
8. **What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?**
  - After a clearance has been issued, the student's actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.
  - The National Federation has included the following graduated protocol in its *Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports*: (This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

#### Medical Clearance RTP Protocol

1. No exertion activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as skating or running, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin Non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition
  - **ATHLETE MUST REMAIN ASYMTOMATIC TO PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL.** (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
  - **IF SYMPTOMS RECUR, ATHLETE MUST RETURN TO PREVIOUS LEVEL AND SHOULD BE REEVALUATED BY AN APPROPRIATE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.**
  - **MEDICAL CHECK SHOULD OCCUR BEFORE CONTACT.**(Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity)
9. **Fundamental Reminder about this change**
  - It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that players are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing; however, all adults involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

#### Other resources

- The NFHS has developed a new **20-minute online coach education course – Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know**, the NFHS *Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports* brochure, the NFHS *Sports Medicine Handbook*, materials from the CDC "Heads Up" program and other materials should all be made available to officials, parents, students and schools.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a publication entitled "**Heads up to Schools: Know your Concussion ABC's" – A Fact Sheet for Teachers, Counselors and School Professionals**, available on its web site. Click onto [www.cdc.gov/concussion](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion) to obtain this valuable publication that will assist teachers and other school personnel in making accommodations for students returning to school after a concussion.
- **The following form may be used by schools to educate parents and students about this issue:**

(INSERT SCHOOLNAME HERE)

#### Concussion Information Form

A concussion is a brain injury and all brain injuries are serious. They are caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. They can range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain normally works. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. In other words, even a "ding" or a bump on the head can be serious. You can't see a concussion and most sports concussions occur without

loss of consciousness. Signs and symptoms of concussion may show up right after the injury or can take hours or days to fully appear. If your child reports any symptoms of concussion, or if you notice the symptoms or signs of concussion yourself, seek medical attention right away.

**Symptoms may include one or more of the following:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Headaches</li> <li>• "Pressure in head"</li> <li>• Nausea or vomiting</li> <li>• Neck pain</li> <li>• Balance problems or dizziness</li> <li>• Blurred, double, or fuzzy vision</li> <li>• Sensitivity to light or noise</li> <li>• Feeling sluggish or slowed down</li> <li>• Feeling foggy or groggy</li> <li>• Drowsiness</li> <li>• Change in sleep patterns</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amnesia</li> <li>• "Don't feel right"</li> <li>• Fatigue or low energy</li> <li>• Sadness</li> <li>• Nervousness or anxiety</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• More emotional</li> <li>• Confusion</li> <li>• Concentration or memory problems (forgetting game plays)</li> <li>• Repeating the same question/comment</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

Adapted from the CDC and the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference in Sport

**Signs observed by teammates, parents and coaches include:**

- Appears dazed
- Vacant facial expression
- Confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily or displays poor coordination
- Answers questions slowly
- Slurred speech
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Can't recall events after hit
- Seizures or convulsions
- Any change in typical behavior or personality
- Loses consciousness

**What can happen if my child keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?**

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of concussion shall be removed from play immediately. Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for student-athlete's safety.

**If you think your child has suffered a concussion**

Any athlete even suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of

how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child's coach if you think that your child may have a concussion Remember its better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports/>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-athlete Name Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Printed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) :

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found in the front of the NFHS Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
  - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
  - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
  - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
  - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

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## LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER (OHSAA Sports Regulation)

Beginning in the fall of 2009, the policy on lightning and inclement weather changed from recent policies. The current Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy states:

### WEATHER

#### Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, *ANYTIME* that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates

conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in any area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

**Management:**

- **Evacuation** – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule** – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is **mandatory** to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

## OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS

(From [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) and the NFHS Softball Rules Book)

**Officials** at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

**Officials** shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

**Officials** shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

**Officials** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

**Officials** shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

**Officials** shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

**Officials** shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

**Officials** shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

**Officials** shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

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## PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet the athletes and discuss new rules. It gives athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to game days. We also recommended inviting an official(s) to a pre-season meeting with team parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the game. Many of you already participate in such activities, but for those that do not, please get involved!



## ADDRESS CHANGES-Officials

**NOTE:** Address changes are now to be maintained by officials via [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) , click on myOHSAA. Renewal notices are emailed to the address you have entered in myOHSAA. No notices will be physically mailed to you. In order to renew, you may mail a check to the OHSAA with your permit number in the memo line, or you may renew on-line from June 1-June 30 of each year.

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## UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

The approved uniform for interscholastic softball umpires is the gray or heather gray color pants with an MLU navy shirt with the OHSAA **embroidered** logo on the right breast (Note: It is not permissible to wear a long sleeve garment under a short sleeve shirt). Undershirts or t-shirts shall be red. When needed, a navy blue jacket or coat shall be worn. Official OHSAA apparel shall be purchased from only OHSAA authorized dealers. All umpires on a crew **must be dressed alike**. Navy caps with OHSAA printed in block letters on the crown must be worn and shall be purchased only from licensed dealers. No jewelry may be worn except wedding band, medical ID, religious medal, or a timing device. Emblems, logos, and patches are not permitted on the officiating uniform (Exception- an American Flag patch/emblem is optional and if worn shall be on the left sleeve approximately two inches below the shoulder with the star field facing to the front).

The plate umpire shall wear all protective equipment required by rule and shall also wear one or two ball bags. Both ball bags shall be of the same color and that color shall be the same of the shirt or pants.

The new OHSAA logo will be required for the 2013 softball season.

Penalty for an improper uniform - Fine not to exceed \$100.

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## OHSAA LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

OHSAA Local Association Meetings are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) . Under "Officiating" select Local/State Rules Meetings. Select Local Rules Meetings on the left side, sport: fast pitch softball. Softball Officials must attend four local association meetings.

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## COACHES RATING PROCEDURES

Please watch our website and be prepared to receive notification through your athletic administrator concerning the rating system that coaches will use to evaluate contest officials who are being considered for tournament assignments.

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## SOFTBALL – GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day except the one time during the regular season when each school team may play three games on a non-school day.
- 1.2) An individual may play in a reserve game and a varsity game in the same day. Participation in both counts as two games in the contest limitation of 27 contests on 23 playing dates. Doubleheaders must be played on nonschool days or days when there is no school the following day. (Penalty – See Sports Regulation 19.) No student shall participate in more than 27 contests.
- 1.3) An individual may compete in both a varsity and non-varsity contest that is occurring simultaneously; however, that same individual may not re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred. Participation in both contests counts as two games toward the 27 game limitation for the individual.
- 1.4) Any scheduled regular season game in softball which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics.
- 1.5) Interrupted Games
  - 1.51) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF 4-2-3), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.
  - 1.52) When the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead, the game shall be suspended when the following circumstances prevail:
    - 1) The game has gone five innings and
    - 2) The game is called while an inning is in progress but before it is completed.
  - 1.53) There cannot be a tie game. Games are won, lost or suspended.
- 1.6) Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion.
- 1.7) A softball game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat (regular season games and tournament games).
- 1.8) Previews – A preview may be scheduled and played only during the period of time beginning with Friday (March 16, 2012) before the season begins and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Fast Pitch Softball Rules.
- 1.9) The high school pitching distance shall be 43 feet. For middle school, the distance shall be 40 feet.

#### 2. Out-of-State Travel

A softball team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a softball team may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, as otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner’s office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A softball team may not travel out of state only to practice. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.

#### 3. Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 12 and 13 of the General Sports Regulations.

#### 4. Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 4.1) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or as a member of a team in the sport of softball **during the school’s season** (Sports Regulation 6.3)

- 4.2) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board may participate in non-interscholastic softball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
- 4.21) 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 of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.  
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.
- 4.22) There is no limit on the number of softball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend (May 25, 2012)-July 31, 2012 provided the players have concluded their school season.
- 4.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 4.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 4.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic softball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school softball squad, until the student's school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.
- 4.4) A girl playing on a school softball team MAY participate on a non-interscholastic slow pitch softball team at the same time with the permission of the school coach. This is not a violation since the OHSAA only recognizes fast pitch softball as a sport.
- 4.5) An intramural team is a non-interscholastic team (Sports Regulation 6.1), and all rules for non-interscholastic teams apply.
- 4.6) All-Star Games – There are many directors of non-interscholastic competitions that use the term "All-Star" in describing their events. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these "all-star" competitions outside the interscholastic season of their sports may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with Sports Regulations 6.3 and 6.5.  
The purpose of this special "All-Star" regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her own school in a competition that has the following components:
- 1) Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.
  - 2) All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.
  - 3) Participants shall play in no more than two All-Star games.
  - 4) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school (Sports Regulation 6.3).
- Penalty: For a senior, violation of this regulation may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the school year. For all other students, the penalty may result in loss of eligibility for the ensuing season in the sport in which the student participated in the All-Star contest.
- 4.7) Participation in indoor fast pitch softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 6.5 if played indoors from November 1, 2011, through February 1, 2012 for student-athletes.
- 4.8) In accordance with Sports Regulation 6.9, interscholastic softball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in non-interscholastic indoor softball except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.
- 4.9) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:  
A softball athlete who has not participated for a school team in softball that season must cease non-interscholastic softball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in softball in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.  
Date: April 16, 2012

**5) Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 7 of the General Sports Regulations.

**6) No Contact Period - Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period – Coaches* under Section 10 of the General Sports Regulations.

**7) Penalties**

- 7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 6.3 (participation with a non-interscholastic softball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic softball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic softball season or the ensuing softball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.
- 7.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 6 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin – February 20, 2012.
- 2) First game – March 24, 2012.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament – April 23, 2012.
- 4) Tournament seed/drawing meeting – April 29, 2012.
- 5) Coaching and Season end – June 9, 2012.

- 6) Scrimmages or Previews – Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.
- 7) Regular season games permitted – Maximum of 27 on 23 playing dates.  
Doubleheaders must be played on nonschool days or days when there is no school the following day.
- 8) Rules – National Federation Fast Pitch Softball
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity – Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 softball umpire required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1 or 2.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity – Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 softball umpire required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1 or 2.
  - 9.3) Freshman – OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 softball umpires required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1, 2 or 3 umpires in training.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS – Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin – February 20, 2012.
- 2) Date first game may be played – March 24, 2012.
- 3) Coaching and Season end – June 9, 2012.
- 4) Scrimmages permitted – A maximum of two scrimmages per year.
- 5) Regular season games permitted – Maximum seventeen and one postseason tournament not to exceed four games.
- 6) Rules – National Federation Fast Pitch Softball.
- 7) Officials – OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 softball umpires required. Regardless of number, all must be Class 1, 2 or 3 umpires in training.

Softball	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Coaching Begins	2/20	2/25	2/24	2/23	2/22	2/20
Season Begins	3/24	3/30	3/29	3/28	3/26	3/25
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/16	4/22	4/21	4/20	4/18	4/17
Sectional	5/5-5/12	5/11-5/18	5/10-5/17	5/9-5/16	5/7-5/14	5/6-5/13
District	5/14-5/19	5/20-5/25	5/19-5/24	5/18-5/23	5/16-5/21	5/15-5/20
Regional	5/23-5/26	5/29-6/1	5/28-5/31	5/27-5/30	5/25-5/28	5/24-5/27
State	5/31-6/2	6/6-6/8	6/5-6/7	6/4-6/6	6/2-6/4	6/1-6/3
Season Ends	6/9	6/15	6/14	6/13	6/11	6/10
Easter	4/8	3/31	4/20	4/5	3/27	4/16
Coach – No Contact Period	8/6-9/3	8/5-9/2	8/4-9/1	8/10-9/7	8/8-9/5	8/7-9/4

SOFTBALL – GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE

2012-2016-2020	2013-2017-2021	2014-2018-2022	2015-2019-2023
IV	I	II	III
III	IV	I	II
II	III	IV	I
I	II	III	IV

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## OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS-2011-12

(Applies to ALL sports – Can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and in the OHSAA Handbook)

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### TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Tournament Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after approval at the January Board meeting). On the website, under "Sports" select softball. Tournament Regulations are listed under Tournament Information on the left side.

## RULES INFORMATION

### NFHS Softball Rule Changes 2012

Rule	Change
1-3-1	The color "white" was removed from the list of permissible colors for softballs. All softballs used for competition must now be optic yellow.
1-5-2a	The requirement that the bat knob protrude at a 90-degree angle from the handle was removed.
3-2-5	Headwear requirements were revised and clarified
7-4-2 Penalty	A more severe penalty was added when a batter uses an altered or non-approved bat.

### Major Editorial Revisions 2012

Rule	Change
1-5-1c	Clarified that shaving, rolling or artificially warming the bat barrel are prohibited
2-4	The definition of legal and illegal bats were revised and updated
2-5-3; 3-5-6; 7-5 New; 7-4-12; 8-6-15; 8-6-16 New	Several rules were updated and reorganized to clarify offensive interference.
3-2-13 NOTE	The Note was revised to clarify that state associations may grant exceptions to NFHS playing rules for participants with disabilities, special needs and/or extenuating circumstances.
8-9-2 New Exception	The courtesy runner procedure was clarified.
10-1-2 New Note	A note was added clarifying the administrative responsibilities of umpires through the completion of required reports.

### NFHS 2012 Points of Emphasis

*The NFHS has identified the following as points of emphasis for 2012. Additional information can be found on pages 83-84 of the NFHS Softball Rule Book.*

- Pitching
- Legal Apparel and Equipment
- On –Deck Batter/Location

### 2011-12 OHSAA State Association Adoptions

The National Federation has identified the following items (page 81 of the rules book) that may or may not be adopted by each state association (those addressing slow pitch have been excluded as they are not applicable in Ohio). The OHSAA adoptions are indicated as such.

1-2-1 **NOTE:** A double first base is *permitted*. (8-10).- **Adopted in OH**

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3-2-1 State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons.

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4-2-3 By state association adoption, game ending procedures may be determined. **Adopted in OH (see game ending procedures outlined in OHSAA Points of Emphasis).**

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4-2-3 **NOTE 2:** By state association adoption, the number of innings for one or both games in a doubleheader may be scheduled for five innings. Current state association game- ending procedures still apply. **Adopted in OH**

**Game ending procedures adopted in Ohio are as follows:**

1. A game may end anytime after five innings, when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat for regular season and tournament games.
2. If a game is called prior to the completion of any full inning, after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game, provided the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead.
3. Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion (6 1/2 or 7 innings); however, the 10-run rule applies.

**NOTE:** By state association adoption, a game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e., artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such games will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so (OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.51).

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4-2-6 By state association adoption, the tiebreaker procedure may be instituted at a point in the game specified by the state association. **NOT adopted in OH**

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4-3-1-a State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit will be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams. **NOT adopted in OH—(A Game Not Started is a No Contest according to OHSAA regulations).**

**Rule 4-3-1a** is not applicable in Ohio. **OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.4** supersedes and reads as follows: "Any scheduled regular season contest in fast pitch softball which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as, failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings are 'No Contest.' Contests not played are not included in won-lost statistics." In fast pitch softball, no game is subject to forfeiture unless the contest has been started.

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4-4-1 It is optional on the part of a state association as to whether protests are permitted. **NOT adopted in OH**

**NFHS Rule 4-4-1** regarding a protested game is not applicable in Ohio. The OHSAA Handbook, Bylaw 8-3-1 states: "Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials during the contest

will not be considered and the Commissioner does not have the authority to order contest replayed. The decisions and interpretations of the officials are final.”

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5-2-1b

**Note** After 30 minutes, the umpire may declare the game ended or by state association adoption, suspended.  
**NOT adopted in OH**

## NFHS/OHSAA CLARIFICATIONS

- SEVERAL RULES WERE UPDATED AND REORGANIZED IN THE NFHS RULES BOOK TO CLARIFY THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE AND THE PENALTY ASSOCIATED WITH EACH:  
**--RULE BOOK CORRECTION**
- 8-6-16C-DELETE THE 10<sup>TH</sup> WORD, "INTENTIONALLY," FROM THE FIRST SENTENCE.
- **CLARIFIED**-the courtesy runner procedure for when the pitcher/catcher on the lineup card is unable to face the first batter in the bottom of the first inning due to injury/disqualification. Player who ran for her is retroactively her substitute and no longer a courtesy runner. All substitution rules apply and the pitcher/catcher has left the game (NFHS 8-9-2 New Exception)
- The NFHS Softball Rules Committee is still concerned over the enforcement of the 24-inch width pitching requirement. **Pitchers are starting and/or finishing outside the 24-inch width limitation without an illegal pitch being declared, giving a significant advantage to the pitcher and the defensive team.**
- **A pitcher is prohibited** from wearing or using any item that, in the umpire's judgment, distracts the batter. There have been reports of the pitchers wearing items with optic yellow in prominent locations. **Any use of equipment or part of the uniform that, in the umpire's view, would distract the batter, shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis and could require the removal of such equipment.**

## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (OHSAA) POINTS OF EMPHASIS-2012

- **Earlier Start to the OHSAA Softball Season**

The 2012 OHSAA softball season begins on **Saturday, March 24, 2012**. The season will start on Saturday, March 24 instead of Monday, March 26, which would have been the date indicated a year ago. This will give member school teams an additional weekend in which to schedule regular season contests.

- ***IT IS NOW PERMISSIBLE*** to instruct all members of the school team during the time *previously reserved* by the OHSAA for pitchers and catchers. **Coaching and Instruction may begin on February 20, 2012 for all members of the school team.**



- **OHSAA Softball Regulation 1.3 (New)**

An individual may compete in both a varsity and non-varsity contest that is occurring simultaneously; however, that same individual **may not** re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred. Participation in both contests counts as two games toward the 27 game limitation for the individual.

- **Softball Game Ending and Suspended/interrupted Game Procedures**

Most softball games end when the team behind in the score completes its turn at bat in the seventh inning (or an extra inning) or the home team scores the go ahead run in the seventh inning (or any extra inning). This rule is adjusted when both schools have agreed to play a five inning game when multiple regular season games (such as a doubleheader) are scheduled for the same day.

- Under OHSAA rules any game also ends whenever a team has a ten run lead and the team behind in the score has completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning or the home team takes a ten run lead in the fifth inning. In the event the visiting team holds a ten run lead after the sixth inning or the home team takes a ten run lead in the bottom of the sixth inning, the ten run rule would apply (there is no ten run rule in a scheduled five inning game). In addition any game will also end when both head coaches and the plate umpire mutually agree to shorten and terminate the game. A game will also end when it is forfeited under NFHS rule 4-3-1, however, in OHSAA play no game can be forfeited until after it has started. A game which cannot be started for any reason is a "No Contest." All of these rules apply equally to regular season and tournament games.
- Under OHSAA rules, games are never called and "started over" at a later date. When a regular season game is interrupted or suspended for any reason, and the game cannot be resumed that day the game will be suspended if the team behind in the score has not completed its turn at bat in the fifth inning. **If a regular season contest has gone beyond this point (fifth inning) it is a complete game, subject to two important exceptions:**
  1. Tie game- the OHSAA does not permit contests to end in a tie. All games are won, lost, or suspended. *Therefore, tie games are suspended.* Any game is also suspended when it...
  2. Has *gone five innings* **AND** the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead **AND** the game is called while an inning is in progress but before it has been completed.
- When a suspended game is completed it shall be continued from the point of suspension with batting orders and lineups the same. Substitutions may be made. **Suspended games that are not resumed are a "No Contest."**

*Examples Of Completed Games Are As Follows:*

1. In a regular season game the home team is ahead 2-0 after five innings and:
  - the game is called prior to the start of the sixth inning. **Ruling: Complete Game**
  - the first batter in the top of the sixth inning is at bat with any count and the game is called. **Ruling-Complete Game**
  - the first batter in the top of the sixth inning reaches base and the game is called. **Ruling-Complete Game**
  - The visiting team scores one run in the top of the sixth inning and the game is called at any time during the sixth inning. **Ruling-Complete Game**
  - the visiting team scores two runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not completed, nor does the home team retake the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. **Ruling-Suspended Game**
  - the visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the sixth inning is not completed nor does the home team retake the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. **Ruling-Suspended Game**

-The visiting team scores two or three runs in the top of the sixth inning and the home team retakes the lead in the bottom of the sixth inning. The game is called later in the bottom of the sixth or after six innings.

**Ruling- Complete Game**

### POINTS OF EMPHASIS – FIELD MARKINGS

Please note during the 2011 softball season (and subsequent seasons), the pitching distance moved to 43 feet from 40 feet. For member middle school softball teams, the pitching distance is 40 feet.

- A circle 16 feet in diameter shall be drawn with its center at the midpoint of the front edge of the pitcher's plate
- The pitcher's plate shall be a rectangular slab of whitened rubber or suitable material, 24 inches by 6 inches. It shall be set in the ground with the top flush with the playing surface (see Rule 1, Section 2, Article 3 in the NFHS Softball Rule Book).

### POINTS OF EMPHASIS- NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC RULE

#### *COACHES*

- Coaches authorized by the Board of Education or other governing body (non-public school), whether volunteer or paid may only coach members of their school team during the school season and for 10 days starting June 1, 2012 and ending July 31, 2012. This 10 day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff, collectively. Each individual coach does not get 10 days.

**NOTE: School coaches may only coach/instruct during the school season and from June 1- July 31. YOU MAY NOT COACH ANY MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL TEAM, OUTSIDE OF THE TIME INDICATED ABOVE.**

#### *STUDENTS AND COACHES*

- Students who are matriculating to high school, who participated as 8<sup>th</sup> graders on a middle school team, count against the four player limitation for the high school beginning on August 1 prior to the student's freshman year in high school. Incoming freshman who did not participate on a middle school team do not count against the four player limitation as described in Softball Regulation 4.21
- Softball regulation 4.21 also applies to middle school teams. A student who will be entering her freshman year, who has participated on a middle school softball team, will continue to count against the four player limitation until August 1 of her freshman year. Prior to August 1, the student will count against the middle school limitation. Member schools that field both a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, students who participate on either team are considered to be part of ONE SCHOOL TEAM in regard to Softball Regulation 4.21. Member High Schools that have multiple softball teams (Freshman, JV, Varsity) have only ONE SCHOOL TEAM for purposes of this bylaw. There can be no more than four members from the same school team, except during the school season and from June 1-July 31. See the 2011-12 Softball Regulations regarding indoor softball.

## SOFTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In 2004 the OHSAA created a Softball Advisory Committee to provide a forum for an exchange of ideas among coaches, officials, and administrators. The committee met annually in June to discuss a variety of issues. As no issues have been presented to the OHSAA outside of those that may have been presented by the OHSFSCA, and there is an annual meeting between the OHSAA administrative staff and the Presidents of all the OHSAA Coaches Associations, the Softball Advisory Committee has been disbanded until further notice. Please address all of your concerns in regard to softball rule changes to the OHSFSCA.

## SPORTSMANSHIP



The OHSAA challenges everyone to take positive steps toward positive sporting behavior. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

### ADMINISTRATORS

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true life lessons and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning.

Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sportsmanship and positive behavior on the field. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sportsmanship and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

### COACHES

Your athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. ***Never underestimate the influence you have on your players!*** You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the game in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great finisher, a great centerback or a great goalkeeper. That is true. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

### OFFICIALS

Your job is not an easy one, but the official must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of your sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during games and within the referees' association to improve members' performances.
- Maintain at all times and when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a match. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-game conferences with the teams and other game officials will result in an improvement of sportsmanship by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETES**

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sportsmanship established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated.....with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

### **CONCLUSION**

Good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official's call or a coach's substitution, but no one can question the value of good sportsmanship.

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### **Note from Roxanne Price, Chair of the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee:**

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, we wish to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. The professional manner in which officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that. Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon the players, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season.

### **NFHS Sportsmanship Mission Statement**

Good sportsmanship is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sportsmanship apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

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## ONLINE RESOURCES

On our website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) – click on “Sportsmanship” on the right side of the screen) you will find **Fair Play Codes** for athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding **parents’ role in interscholastic athletics**. The sportsmanship page also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions.