In this bulletin – 1) Online State Meeting Deadline; 2) Questions on Equipment Rules; 3) Mechanics Clinic Info; 4) Recruiting New Umpires and weekend classes

- The deadline for state meeting attendance online is March 8. With just about a week away now is the time to complete the meeting and avoid the late fee. You will find the state meeting at the both the login page of myohsaa or at this link – http://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/StateRulesMtgs

- We have had a number of questions about the rule change in Rule 3-2-1 which reads: “Uniforms of all team members shall be of the same color and style. State associations may, on an individual basis, permit a player to participate while wearing a different style uniform for religious reasons, inclement weather, etc.” The OHSAA has always permitted the wearing of a different uniform style for religious reasons. The new part of this rule allows a state association to permit uniform exceptions for inclement weather – some states such as Maine, Minnesota, and Montana have very cold weather throughout the softball season. The new portion of Rule 3-2-1 has not been adopted in Ohio. What does this mean? Certainly, a pitcher has always been permitted to wear a jacket when running the bases and there is no change to this procedure. However, it is not permitted for other players to wear a jacket or sweatshirt outside the jersey while on defense or offense. These items may be worn in any number of layers under the jersey, subject to other uniform rules such as 3-2 and 3-6&7, which cover sleeve lengths and exposed undergarments. We have never permitted, nor have we been asked to permit, jackets and sweatshirts to be worn in such a way that the number of the jersey would be covered.

- One of the most common questions this spring has been “What do we do if a team does not have its equipment out for inspection?” Just as with any new rule we can work together on this as soon everyone will be used to this. So the answer is simple –
  1. Ask them to put it out if it is not out.
  2. Ask them a couple more times.
  3. Only issue a warning and a subsequent bench restriction to the head coach if they refuse to put out the equipment.
4. Remember this is an improvement to game administration which benefits everyone – umpires, coaches, and student-athletes. The game can never be started until the equipment is placed out and checked. Even if the coach has been restricted we still have to check it. There has been and will be no time frame established for this. With the flexibility needed with teams arriving late, etc. that will be impossible. Soon, everyone will get used to this and we’ll all be happy.

• MECHANICS CLINIC INFORMATION

There are two Softball Mechanics Clinics remaining and both are this weekend. Details are below. Please get this out to your umpires as soon as possible in order that they can register promptly and thanks to Larry Black for again serving as our registration coordinator. Early registrations help insure that we have an adequate supply of registration gifts, plenty of instructors and lunch for all participants.

2017 SOFTBALL UMPIRES MECHANICS CLINICS

Saturday, March 4 – Akron
Sunday, March 5 – Columbus

Sessions are from 9 AM to 4PM.

The OHSAA will again sponsor three Softball Mechanics Clinics in 2017. These clinics, designed to help umpires improve their skills and attain their advancement goals, will emphasize plate and base mechanics. Staff will be from the OHSAA Softball Umpire Instructional Team and will include OHSAA softball tournament observers. An OHSAA state rules meeting will also be available for registered clinic attendees only. Umpires attending will receive credit for their required state meeting and one local rules discussion meeting.

The cost of each clinic will be $60 which includes all instruction, lunch, and a registration gift. Immediate registration is encouraged as the number of attendees at each location will be limited. Some past clinics have sold out – we hated to cut off registrations and as a result have added additional clinics around the state.

This clinic will be a working clinic – attendees should come prepared for both plate and base drills in an indoor setting. Please bring your plate equipment - OHSAA umpire uniform is recommended. Please also bring gym shoes as the weather will likely require that these be indoor events. Stations will be rotated in order that attendees can work with each instructor. Questions should be directed to Clinic Director Jerry Fick, OHSAA Director of Officials Development – Softball at swdoc@fuse.net.

For Registration - Mail form found below to: Larry Black, OHSAA Softball Clinic Registration Coordinator, 768 West Main Street, Westerville, OH 43081

We will accept registration payments at the door but an email to both swdoc@fuse.net and jblack313@gmail.com is appreciated and will help insure that we have lunches and registration gifts for everyone.
Note – Clinic registration will start at 9AM and program will begin at 930AM. In case of inclement weather participants will be notified by email and the clinic will be rescheduled.

Ohio High School Athletic Association
2017 Softball Umpires Mechanics Clinics

Registration Form

___Saturday, March 4 – Walsh Jesuit High School – Cuyahoga Falls – 4550 Wyoga Lake Rd.

___Sunday, March 5 – Reynoldsburg High School Livingston Campus – Columbus - 6699 East Livingston Ave.

Name:________________________________________

OHSAA Permit #____________________ EMAIL ADDRESS______________________________

Primary Phone Number________________________________________________________

Years Registered as an OHSAA Softball Umpire________________________________________

Mail with payment of $60 to: Larry Black, OHSAA Softball Clinic Registration Coordinator, 768 West Main Street, Westerville, OH 43081

Make checks payable to OHSAA

• We continue to have a need for new umpires in nearly all areas of the state. We all know how difficult it is to recruit new umpires and get them enrolled in classes during the middle of the winter. In order to help with this, we have some weekend classes that allow new umpires to avoid the weeknight meetings and get started. In addition to the weekend classes participants work scrimmages in their home area and take the test. Classes are offered in March in Southwest Ohio (Dayton starting on March 11 and Cincinnati starting on March 18) – those interested can contact Jerry Fick at swdoc@fuse.net. In the past we have had umpires from all parts of the state attend these classes. Of course, registration for all classes can be done directly on the officials’ portal.