In this bulletin – 1) Online State Meeting Deadline; 2) Local Rules Meetings; 3) Tournament Umpires Clinic; 4) Questions and Answers from Association Meetings, Scrimmages and Early Games

• The deadline for state meeting attendance online was March 8. Those umpires who have not completed the state meeting may do so but must first call the OHSAA office to make arrangements to pay the $50 late meeting fee. The deadline for the “late meeting” is April 7.
• Four local meetings are required for all softball umpires – you can check your meeting attendance credits on your myohsaa profile. If you have not received credit for a meeting you attended contact the local association secretary to resolve the discrepancy. Do not call the OHSAA office for this. Umpires who work both baseball and softball are reminded that you must receive four meeting credits for each of these sports.
• The OHSAA will be holding its annual clinic for softball postseason umpires on Sunday, May 7. This year’s meeting will be at: THOMAS WORTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL - 300 W GRANVILLE RD - WORTHINGTON, OH 43085-3527. Registration will be at 12 Noon with the clinic starting at 1230PM and ending by 4PM. While umpires being invited to this clinic are those working the three and/or four umpire systems in our tournaments, any of our umpires are welcome to attend. There is no charge and no pre-registration is necessary. Attendance at this clinic is optional. There is no OHSAA meeting attendance credit. We look forward to our usual good turnout of tournament officials. Please park in the stadium/student parking lot which is between the school (west end), pools, football stadium, and baseball field. We will start our meeting in Room 185 near the southeast corner of the school and later move to the auxiliary gym for the activity portion of the meeting. The auxiliary gym is located near our assigned parking area.
• Here is an easier link to the Non-Approved Bat List - http://usa.asasoftball.com/e/BB1P2000.asp
1. Questions and Plays –
2. Does the run rule apply in scrimmages? No – nor does the number of innings being played. An interscholastic scrimmage is defined under OHSAA regulations as a contest in which the rules of the sport are not followed in all respects. The length of a scrimmage is limited to a maximum of three hours per squad or individual per day for grades 9-12, and two hours per squad or individual per day for grades 7-8. Therefore a scrimmage may be any number of innings as long as the time limitations are followed.
3. I had a coach ask me about pitching limitations for softball – are there any? There is no limit to the number of innings or pitches that a pitcher can pitch in softball. There is a limitation in baseball and there has been some confusion so please be prepared to answer this question.
4. Do batters & runners have to wear chin straps on helmets? Chin straps aren’t required Rule 1-6.
5. What are the rules on ribbons in the hair? Ribbons are considered headwear and must be black, white, beige, or school colors. The colors need not be the same for all team members. A logo on the ribbon may be any color. (Rule 3-2-5). Ribbons, like any other part of the uniform may not have reflective adornments - examples would be glitter or rhinestones. Unfortunately we have had reports of umpires not being observant of reflective adornments – please take time to check this each game.
6. From a coach - We have white jerseys as part of our uniform, but we also have team hoodies that are Kelly green with name and numbers on them and school logo. The umpire stated that if everyone was not wearing the same hoodie it was illegal. Can you give me some clarification please? Rule 3-2-1 states that uniforms of all team members shall be of the same color and style. OHSAA did not adopt the state association option allowing for wearing a different style uniform for inclement weather reasons. If everyone is wearing the same style and color sweatshirt that could constitute the "jersey" provided it has a six inch or more number on the back. There are some other requirements - logo size, etc. Also, the sweatshirt could be worn under the jersey however the team must all wear the same color of sleeves if exposed. Lastly, I’m not a fan of hoodies as I once saw a baseball player tagged in a rundown and it was an accidental "horse collar" tackle. There is no rule that prohibits them but I always suggest they be worn under the shirt with the hood tucked in.
7. Is it legal for a player to wear a video recording device during a game? Rule 1-8-6 states that electronic devices used (recording or transmission) in the confines of the field (that’s defined in Rule 2-15 and the area where umpires have jurisdiction) MUST BE limited to the dugout/bench area only. This covers everyone allowed on the field including coaches who can’t use them on the field (including the coaches box) and players who also can’t use them on the field. Simply put, the player can wear the recording device but if she does she may not leave the dugout. Rule 1-8-6 may not establish a clear penalty for this specific violation but the umpire should apply Rule 3-6-1 or 3-6-10 which would most closely match the violation and have similar penalties of team warning for the first offense and restriction of both the offender and head coach for subsequent violations. Repeated violations could be considered a violation of Rule 3-6-13 (Unsporting Acts).
8. Play - Catcher is not "lying" on the ground but is kneeling ready to apply the tag. Runner hurdles catcher to avoid a play. Is this Interference and runner is out? Must the fielder be prone? Ruling - I think the easiest way to answer your question is that kneeling and lying on the ground are two different things. Therefore, a runner who leaps, hurdles, or jumps over a kneeling fielder has interfered and violated 8-6-10.
9. Play – B1 hits a ground ball to F6. The throw to first brings F3 off the white part of the base and while she is on the orange side of the base F3 has a collision with B1 (a) after F3 has caught the ball or (b) while the throw is still in flight to F3. There is nothing malicious about the contact. Ruling – In play A, F3 catches the ball and is contacted by the B/R with both on the foul/colored side of the base - under 8-10-2 both teams can use either side here therefore unless you have malicious contact or intentional interference there is no violation by either team. Should this cause F3 to drop the ball that is a consequence of the errant throw and the original problem was caused by the defense. In play B, F3 does not have the ball and is not fielding a batted ball. Therefore, if she hinders the B/R that is obstruction on F3. It would have also been obstruction last year with the single base being used.
10. What do I do if my partner does not wear the proper OHSAA uniform? When an official fails to wear the proper uniform please send me an email with details - what was wrong, when, where, etc.