As we begin the No-Contact Period for baseball coaches, much of the information below is to remind you of a few very important items, with the predominance of fall ball taking place across the state. I hope you find this information helpful, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at egates@ohsaa.org.

**No-Contact Period for Baseball**

A reminder that the No-Contact Period for baseball runs through the entire month of August (August 1 – August 31). No contact means no contact—sport contact includes, but is not limited to, open gyms/fields, physical conditioning programs and viewing film. The No-Contact Period is for all school coaches, whether paid or volunteer.

*Note: Supervision* of the weight room is permitted during the No-Contact Period. Nothing but supervision is permitted, so no instruction or anything baseball related is allowed.

**Coaching Out-of-Season Baseball & “Fall Ball”**

Per General Sport Regulation 7.5, school coaches may now coach fall ball teams that include players from your own school. A few reminders:

1. You are not able to coach a fall ball team with players from your school during the No Contact Period (8/1 – 8/31).
2. There is still a 4-player limitation from your school on the fall ball team.
3. You cannot rotate the 4 players on your roster in separate games or tournaments. In other words, your permission to coach a team that consists of 4 players from your school does not give you the permission to use 4 different players one game, and 4 other players in the next game. This ruling stands whether you are coaching the non-school team or not, rotating 4 players is not permitted in out-of-season baseball.
4. The 4-player limitation is always based on the previous school baseball season.
5. If you have incoming Freshman that did NOT play for their junior high school baseball team, they do not count in the 4-player limitation. They would count for in the 4-player limitation once they have competed in a contest for your school.

*Scenario #1: I am a baseball coach at Ohio High School and want to coach a fall ball team. As of August 1, 2019, I have 4 players that are incoming sophomores and 4 players that are incoming freshman that I would like to play on my fall ball team. The 4 players that are incoming freshman did NOT play on a junior high school baseball team.*

*Ruling #1: This coach could have the 4 players that are incoming sophomores and the 4 that are incoming freshman, since the incoming freshman did not play for their junior high school baseball team.*

*Note: In Scenario #1, if the incoming Freshman did play for their junior high baseball team, they would count in the 4-player limitation.*

6. If a student athlete did not play for a school team the previous baseball season, they do not count in your 4-player limitation.

*Scenario #2: I am a baseball coach at Ohio High School. I have 6 players from Ohio High School that are hoping to play on my fall ball team. 4 of the players played school baseball in Spring 2019, but 2 of them did not.*

*Ruling #2: This coach is permitted to have the 6 players from Ohio High School play for his fall ball team, since there is no limitation to players that did not play for their school team the previous baseball season and only has 4 that played for him last year.*

**Individual Instruction Regulation**

Per General Sport Regulation 8, the purpose of the Individual Instruction rule was to provide coaches the opportunity to offer individual skill instruction outside of the season and the No-Contact Period. Please read the main parameters to this regulation:

1. Instruction is defined as when the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught.
2. It must be a one-on-one setting—it cannot be team play.
3. There can be no more than 4 players present at one time in any facility where the instruction is taking place. For example, you could not have 4 players receiving instruction out on the baseball field and 4 separate players receiving instruction in the gym.
4. There is no limit to the number of coaches that may be present.
5. Individual Instruction cannot be required of your student athletes.

**Open Field/Open Gym**
The main component of an Open Gym or Open Field is that it must be free and unstructured play. There can be no instruction, no hitting ground balls, no rotating into the batting cages, etc. If you wish to provide instruction during the off-season, please reference the Individual Instruction rule.

Showcases
Keep in mind that Showcases are no different than any other non-school baseball team or event. The 4-player limitation still exists if the Showcases involve team play. If they are hitting, throwing, etc., they are permitted to do these outside the season.

Non-Interscholastic Rule Q & A’s
Q: Can a football player play on a fall ball baseball team?
A: By OHSAA Regulation, yes, as these are two separate sport seasons. Please keep in mind that while the OHSAA allows this, this might be a local school decision in the end—for example, the school and/or football coach may not want their players playing an off-season sport during the football season.

Q: Can I have four 8th graders from the same school on the same fall ball team as four 9th graders from the same school?
A: Yes. 7-8 grade is separate from 9-12 grade when counting 4 players from the same school, and there are no restrictions on who plays with who outside of the season.

Q: If I am a volunteer coach for the school team, am I bound to the same OHSAA out-of-season restrictions?
A: Yes, all school coaches are bound to the same restrictions, whether you are a paid or volunteer coach.

Q: Would a graduating senior count in the 4-player limit on my fall ball team?
A: No, graduating seniors are exempt from the 50% limitation.

Q: Does a transfer student count in the 4-player total on the fall ball team?
A: If they played for their previous school baseball team, they would count in the 4-player limit for the school they are transferring to.

Q: A student played for my baseball team in Spring 2019 but is transferring to a new school. Does he count in my 4-player limit?
A: No, he would count in the 4-player limit for the school he is transferring to.

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