Ohio High School Athletic Association  
Lauren Prochaska, Director of Sport Management

Softball Coaches Memo #3 – April 10, 2019

Equipment
A reminder that the NFHS has determined that you as the head coach is the person most responsible for the safety and well-being of your players and are responsible to ensure that your players are legally equipped. You must verify that your players are legally and properly equipped. You should know the condition of each helmet and bat in the dugout and remove those that aren’t legal.

Bats
On the topic of equipment, there have been several issues this season regarding the use of illegal bats. All bats must have either the 2000 or 2004 ASA mark (shown below). Using a non-approved bat results in an ejection for both the coach and player. We had this happen recently due to a bat only containing a USSSA certification mark, so please be sure to check all bats prior to play.

![ASA Certified Bats](image)

Wristbands
And staying on the topic of equipment, wristbands allow a playbook/playcard to be attached as long as it is a single, solid color and not optic yellow. It does not have to match the color of the upper garment. For the pitcher, it must be worn only on the non-pitching arm (yes, only the pitcher has a non-pitching arm – we have had that question). Also, the wristband must be one color, the playcard will always be multiple colors - The background will be one color and the print must be another color(s). Lastly, the most frequent question we get on this, is the location of the wristband, which may NOT be on the belt.

Rating Officials
Coaches have the opportunity (not currently required) to rate game officials through your myOHSAA account. You may add up to 50 officials to be rated throughout the season on a scale of 1-5. These ratings are used to gather a composite score and are then combined with three other categories of composite scores to assign tournament official pools the following year. To do this, log in to your myOHSAA account, choose the Schools tab, click on your school name and you should then see an Orange “Rate Game Officials” Tab in the upper left-hand corner.

Transfer Bylaw
With respect to inclement weather, please keep in mind that only the contests which are actually started count towards a student’s transfer consequence. So, a student under the new transfer consequence (i.e. transferred on or after May 16, 2018) is eligible to compete for the first half of the season (first 13 games), regardless of when that contest actually takes place in comparison to the original schedule. After that, the student will become ineligible for the remainder of the season and the OHSAA tournament. We urge your athletic administrator to direct any questions he/she might have about the application of the transfer consequence to a member of the OHSAA compliance team.

Rules Meeting
On last check, there were 23 schools who still need to complete the online rules meeting. There is now a $50 late fee to do so and the last day for completion is Monday, April 29th at 11:59pm. The penalty for not completing this requirement by the final deadline is removal from the OHSAA Softball Tournament.

Softball Regional/State Draw
The softball regional/state draw has been conducted and is posted on the softball webpage at this link: https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Softball/SBRegionalStateTournamentDraw.pdf