

To: All Head Baseball Coaches
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner/Baseball Administrator
Emily Gates Team Sports Program Coordinator
Re: Coaches Memo 8: May 5, 2016

With all the 'tough' weather this spring and the struggle to get games in, very hard to believe we are at tournament time already. A few important reminders and some other interesting scenarios are listed below. I encourage you to take the time to download the documents at the links referenced. Since our 'blast' email system to you does not allow for attachments, this is the best way to communicate these documents.

NFHS Baseball Questionnaire – Reminder #2

Just a second reminder to participate in the NFHS Rules Questionnaire. It is extremely important for Ohio to respond. Typically, Ohio has had the first or second most respondents of all states and it goes a long way on what will appear in front of the National Rules Committee. So...please take a moment and respond to the survey. The link to the survey was in the email version of this Memo that went directly to the head coach's email.

The OHSAA Rules/Tournament Stuff

With tournament play beginning this week in many districts, PLEASE make sure you download and READ the OHSAA Tournament Regulations. Everything from the number permitted in uniform for tournament games to admission prices are addressed in the regulations. These regulations are reviewed by our elected Board of Directors prior to their approval. You can download them directly from:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/bbrgltts.pdf>

The OHSAA Tournament – How Representation Affects Areas of the State

News Flash – the OHSAA tournament is not (and never has been) a “Best of the Best” tournament. In other words, it is set up *geographically* by determining the number of qualifiers each District gets to the Regional Tournament. Easier to explain this way: An area of the state (Athletic District) that may only have 17 Division I teams (The NW) is not given the same number of qualifiers to the Regional Tournament that an area of the state (Athletic District) that has 76 Division I teams (the NE). Now you see how complicated this can be. With 6 Athletic Districts in Ohio – determining how many each District gets to the Region is a process called “Representation”. I encourage you to download and read about this process at: <http://ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2016/HowRepresentationAffectsTeams.pdf> It is one of the things that creates travel issues at the Regional level.

Players/Coaches Outside the Dugout

This came up more last year when radar guns were first permitted (electronic devices), but worth mentioning since it has surface a bit with players/coaches going out of the dugout to chart pitches behind home plate. NFHS Baseball Rule 3-3-1 (i) actually prohibits this – a player or coach leaving the dugout to go behind the screen for charting pitches or gunning a pitcher. Per this rule, *a coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not: be outside the designated dugout (bench) or bullpen area if not a batter, runner, on-deck batter, in the coach's box or one of the nine players on defense.* Charting pitches and gunning speed can be done and can be communicated to the dugout, just not by a defined team member.

Plays of the Day

Umpiring is not perfect. Nor is coaching. Obviously we need umpires. Few realize that even when mistakes are made, a system is in place to attempt to educate and ‘get it right’ the next time. It doesn’t always help you at the moment – understandable – but it is usually the best that can come about. We have a “Director of Development” for baseball which I referenced in a recent document link on the NFHS Rules Process. Our “DoD” compiled a list of recent “plays of the day” that is communicated to 3,656 licensed umpires in Ohio. You may find it interesting (and helpful) to read. The link to the compiled list is: <http://ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/2016/PlayOfTheDay.pdf>

Non-Interscholastic Rule Reminder #3

This becomes more important than ever as teams wind down league races and enter tournament play. Players need an additional reminder to NOT participate in any NON-school baseball (such as travel, club, etc.). Participating in any tryout, practice, workout or game makes the player immediately ineligible. The further issue with this occurs when the coach is not aware of it. If that player participates in a game for the school after violating the rule (even when the coach is not aware of it), the player is participating as an ineligible player. Use of an ineligible player requires forfeiture of the contest – especially dangerous at tournament time. So...again this week – remind your players and protect EVERYONE! Questions arise from freshmen and JV players/ teams as to when they CAN go participate....do they have to wait until the Varsity season is over? I'll reference this more later but take a look and provide this to as many of your coaches (and summer coaches) as possible:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bb/boys/TWIBAdviceforSummerTeamCoaches.pdf> I am sure you (and summer coaches) will find it VERY helpful and it will also ‘protect’ your team.

Gonna Make it to the Big Leagues?

Just an interesting article that surfaced a year or two ago. Highlights the benefits of high school sports: <http://ohsaa.org/news/supportiveparent.pdf>