

# THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL



Winter Issue | December 19, 2018

## Baseball State Rules Meeting

The required Baseball Online Rules Meeting, for both coaches and officials, will be available on **Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am**. The deadline without penalty is **Thursday, March 21 at 11:59 pm**, and the final deadline with a \$50 late fee is **Monday, April 29 at 11:59 pm**. Once the final deadline has passed, the Baseball Online Rules Meeting will no longer be available. This is a reminder that the Rules Meeting is a requirement for every school (varsity/head coaches) and all registered officials.

## Guidelines for Concussion Management

Coaches—please take the time to take a look at the suggested guidelines for concussion management. Knowledge is power, especially on such an important and prevalent topic in our student athletes:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/SuggestedGuidelinesforConcussionManagementinSports.pdf>

## Important Baseball Dates

**January 30** Rules Meeting Available  
**February 18** Coaching & Tryouts Begin  
**March 23** 1<sup>st</sup> Game Permitted

## Baseball State Coaches Clinic

I look forward to seeing, and/or meeting, many of you at the 2019 State Coaches Clinic in January in Columbus, and a huge thank you in advance to the OHSBCA for putting on one of the largest coaches clinics in the country.

Happy Holidays to you all!

**Emily Gates**

Director of Sport Management -  
Baseball

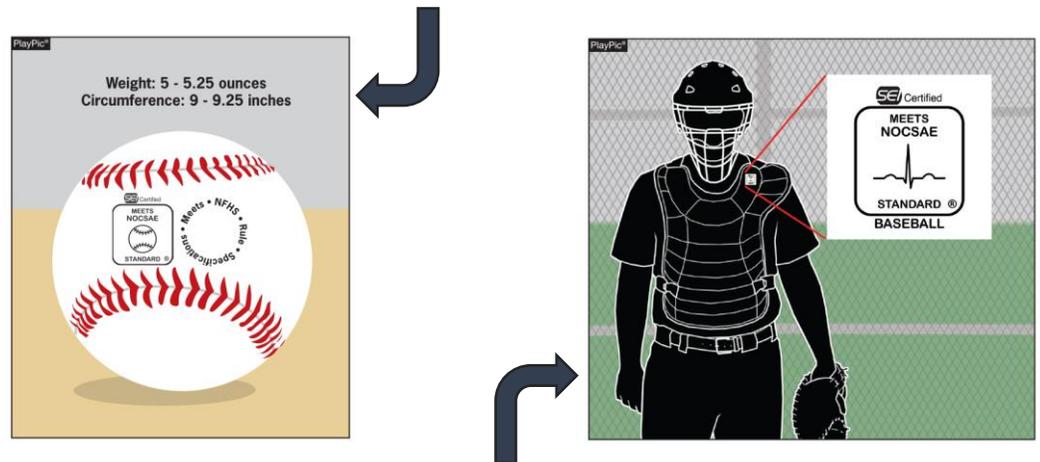
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*I hope you all are enjoying your winter break! In preparation for the baseball season, I wanted to provide a few updates on player equipment, particularly from the NFHS. Please note the information below and make note of the dates some of these items go into effect. There will be further details on these items in the 2019 Baseball Rules Meeting, which will go live on January 30—please see more on this topic in the left-hand column.*

## Baseballs for 2020

Effective **January 1, 2020**, the ball shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs, which in turn will require all baseballs to have the NOCSAE mark by this date. Please know that this is an extension from the originally proposed January 1, 2019 date. Balls that only have the NFHS Authenticating Mark are permissible for the 2019 season, as well as any balls that have the NOCSAE mark. Beginning January 1, 2020, all baseballs must have both the NOCSAE and NFHS mark—please see the picture below. This is a NFHS Point of Emphasis.



## Catcher's Body/Chest Protectors for 2020

Effective **January 1, 2020**, the catcher's body/chest protectors shall meet the NOCSAE standard and will require the NOCSAE mark. Please see the accompanying mark in the picture above. This is a NFHS Point of Emphasis.

## Compliant Helmets and Face Masks/Guards

Helmets must continue to meet the requirements in NFHS Rule 1-5-2, which states that any face mask/guard may be attached to batting helmets at the time of manufacture and they shall meet the NOCSAE standard. It also states that a face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, as long as the procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the NOCSAE standard. The NFHS has made a Point of Emphasis on this, as cheek/jaw protectors are becoming more prevalent—these third-party add-ons do not subscribe to any performance standard, but there are a small handful of manufacturers that offer these protectors that meet the NOCSAE performance standard. Again, this is not a new rule, simply an emphasis since the add-ons are becoming more popular.

