

THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL



Issue 3 | April 25, 2022

2022 Season Dates

May 2	Final Rules Meeting Deadline
May 8	Tournament Seed/Draw Date
May 14 – 21	Sectional Tournament
May 21 – 28	District Tournament
June 2 – 3	Regional Tournament
June 9 – 11	State Tournament
June 18	Season Ends

Tournament Draw Posted

The Regional and State Tournament Draw is now posted to our website [HERE](#). The six District Athletic Boards are responsible for scheduling Sectional and District Tournaments, with the OHSAA office responsible for the scheduling and site selection of the Regional and State Tournaments—the dates and sites are confirmed on the Tournament Draw (for Regional/State). For any questions regarding scheduling and site selection for Sectional or District Tournaments, please check your DAB's webpage (list [HERE](#)) or contact a member of your DAB.

Final Rules Meeting Deadline

The final deadline to view the Baseball Rules Meeting is next Monday, May 2 at 11:59 pm. After this date, the Rules Meeting will no longer be available and the penalty is removal from the postseason tournament.

Emily Mason

Senior Sport Administrator – Baseball
emason@ohsaa.org
(614) 267-2502 x 107

EJECTIONS

As of April 25, there have been **38 player ejections and 18 coach ejections**, where 7 of the 18 coach ejections occurred in one week. By this date last year (2021), there had been 63 player ejections and 22 coach ejections, so we are glad to see those numbers are lower but continue to have the goal that the numbers do not increase throughout the season. Thank you for the work you are doing in your programs to decrease these numbers!

GAME UMPIRES

As you all are aware, the umpire shortage has been highlighted every baseball season in recent years, but it seems much more alarming in the 2022 baseball season. Please see the following information about what is permitted by *OHSAA Baseball Regulations* and *NFHS Rule* and what to do if you face a shortage of umpires for upcoming games.

LEVEL	REQUIRED UMPIRE CLASSIFICATIONS
Varsity	OHSAA Class 1 umpires <i>Note: A Class 2 umpire may be used*</i>
Sub-Varsity	Minimum of one (1) OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 umpires
Freshmen	All umpires shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or and umpire in training

***If a Varsity game is scheduled and your school is unable to find a Class 1 umpire**, please contact Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org) and Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org). Per *Baseball Regulation B.10*, you should request permission from the Executive Director's office to conduct a Varsity game with a Class 2 umpire(s). However, we realize our office may not be able to get back to you with an answer prior to the start of your game, as these shortages may occur within a few hours of game time. With that said, please know that these requests will always be approved—we want to provide a blanket approval, that way you are not waiting to receive a response from us in determining whether you play the game or not. We ask that you send us an email that this is what you plan to do, so we have it on record. Or, if you know far enough in advance, please still send in the request.

Per *NFHS Rule 10-1-1*, it is NOT recommended to play a game with less than two umpires. **If there is only one umpire**, they have complete jurisdiction in administering the rules and they may take any position he/she desires, preferably behind the catcher (*NFHS Rule 10-1-3*). You can imagine that this would be a large amount of responsibility to put on the one umpire, so we ask that this would be your last remaining option to play the game and that this is approved by the umpire and both coaches prior to the game occurring.

Should a contest be scheduled and there are no umpires available, the only way this contest would be able to take place is as a scrimmage—however, it would only be permitted to be played if both participating schools have a remaining scrimmage on their schedule. A reminder that schools are only permitted a maximum of 4 scrimmages. If this maximum is exceeded, penalties shall apply.

SCENARIO 1: There is a scheduled baseball game between *School A* and *School B*, but there are no umpires available. *School A* has 2 scrimmages remaining for the season and *School B* has 1 scrimmage remaining, they could count this contest as a scrimmage and play with no umpires.

SCENARIO 2: There is a scheduled baseball game between *School A* and *School B*, but there are no umpires available. Both *School A* and *School B* have each participated in 4 scrimmages and have none remaining. This contest would not be able to take place without umpires (as a scrimmage is the only way a contest could take place without umpires) and should be cancelled or rescheduled. This would be considered a no contest and would not count towards the 27-game maximum.

All efforts shall be exhausted to find the correct number of umpires necessary for the level of games, so these should apply to emergency situations only!

SPORTSMANSHIP

While poor sportsmanship towards umpires is always a point of emphasis, we are starting to see this topic as a headline on social media and in the news. There have been physical assaults, taunting, and disrespectful behavior from adults, resulting in umpires not returning to officiate and a lack of ability to find new umpires. We ask for the continued help from coaches and school administrators to provide a reminder to the spectators, if we do not have umpires to officiate the games, there will not be games to be played.

Please thank the umpires that are returning to officiate your games and help them by speaking to your spectators! We have received several positive sportsmanship reports by umpires who not only felt appreciated by OHSAA coaches and Athletic Directors, but also appreciated the safety they felt by being escorted to and from the field. Thank you for your continued education and efforts on this matter!

If a school administrator is not at the game, it is the responsibility of the head coach(es) to handle any necessary game management and/or administration.