

# This Week in Baseball

End of Summer Issue | July 28, 2022



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 out of season restrictions coming back into place as well as an important change to note. I hope you find this information helpful, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns at [emason@ohsaa.org](mailto:emason@ohsaa.org).

## **NO CONTACT PERIOD FOR BASEBALL**

A reminder that the no contact period for baseball is in effect from August 1 through August 31. *General Sport Regulation 11* states that a school coach shall not provide any form of coaching or instruction of the sport to their student athletes during this time frame. 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. There may be no baseball instruction or activities taking place other than the supervision of the weight room. Please keep in mind the intent of the no contact period is to provide the athletes a period of rest from the sport.

## **CHANGES TO GENERAL SPORT REGULATION 7**

**Beginning on August 1, 2022, changes to the 2022-23 OHSAA Handbook go into effect—please make sure to review the change to *General Sports Regulation 7*. The 2022-23 Handbook should be available for viewing by early next week.**

Previous *General Sports Regulation 7 (Non-Interscholastic Participation)* with *General Sports Regulation 8 (Individual Instruction Regulation)* are now combined. The purpose of this combination was to simplify the two subjects and numbers, since there tended to be a large amount of confusion between the two. There were previously two numbers being utilized—the “50% limitation” of how many players could participate together on a non-interscholastic team and the individual skill instruction number (4 for majority of sports, 6 for baseball and softball, etc.) detailing how many players a school coach could provide individual skill instruction to at one time. With the new *General Sports Regulation 7*, there is now **one number** that is the same for both scenarios—how many can participate together with a non-interscholastic program from the same school outside of the school season, and how many can receive individual skill instruction from a school coach at one time.

All sports were affected, but this **number for baseball will be 6**. The number of students permitted to participate together on a non-interscholastic team is/was based on 50% of the total number of athletes needed to begin a contest—in the past, this was rounded down, which is where the previous number of 4 was utilized. Now, this number is rounded up. For the sport of baseball, this would be 5—however, since the sports of baseball and softball received the increase to the individual skill instruction number from 4 to 6 back in 2020, we wanted to commit to that Board approved increase. Almost all sports had changes to the number, whether their non-interscholastic or individual skill instruction amount increased/decreased.

All details of the non-interscholastic and individual skill instruction remain the same—the only thing that changed was combining this into one Regulation and creating one number. Our office is working on a resource document for schools to utilize. The complete language of *General Sport Regulation 7* will be available for viewing at the beginning of August in the 2022-23 Handbook.

## **COACHING OUT-OF-SEASON BASEBALL | *With New Number for Baseball/Softball***

Per *General Sport Regulation 7* school coaches may coach out of season/non-school teams that include players from their own school. A few reminders:

1. School coaches are not permitted to coach a non-school baseball team with players from their school during the no contact period (8/1–8/31).
2. There may be no more than **6** players from the same school on the non-school team.
3. Non-school teams may *not* rotate the 6 players on their roster in separate games or tournaments. As an example, a fall ball team may not use 6 players from School A for one weekend tournament, and 6 different players from School A in the tournament the following weekend. This regulation applies no matter who is the non-school coach—rotating 6 players is not permitted on a non-school baseball team.
4. The 6-player limitation is based on the previous school baseball season.
  - a. If there are incoming freshmen that did NOT play for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade school baseball team, they do not count in the 6-player limitation. They *would* count in the 6-player limitation once they have participated in a scrimmage and/or contest for their current school team.

**Scenario #1:** I am a baseball coach at Ohio High School and want to coach a fall ball team. As of August 1, 2022, I have 6 players that are incoming sophomores and 6 players that are incoming freshmen that I would like to play on my fall ball team. The 6 players that are incoming freshmen did NOT play on a junior high school baseball team.

**Ruling #1:** This coach could have the 6 players that are incoming sophomores **and** the 6 that are incoming freshmen on the fall ball team, since the incoming freshmen did not play for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade school baseball team.

**NOTE:** In Scenario #1, if the incoming freshmen *did* play for their 8<sup>th</sup> grade school baseball team, they would count in the 6-player limitation.

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

**Scenario #2:** I am a baseball coach at Ohio High School. I have 8 players from Ohio High School that are hoping to play on my fall ball team. 6 of the players played school baseball in Spring 2022, but 2 of them did not.

**Ruling #2:** This coach is permitted to have the 8 players from Ohio High School play for his fall ball team, since there is no limitation of players that did not play for their school team the previous baseball season and only has 6 that played for him the previous season.

## **INDIVIDUAL SKILL INSTRUCTION**

Per *General Sport Regulation 7*, the purpose of the individual skill instruction rule is to provide coaches the opportunity to offer individual skill instruction outside of the season and the no contact period.

1. Instruction is defined as when the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught.
2. It must be individual skill instruction—there cannot be team play involved.
3. There may be no more than 6 players present at one time in any facility where the instruction is taking place. For example, a coach could not have 6 players receiving instruction out on the baseball field and 6 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.

## **NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC RULE Q & A'S**

**Q: Can a football player play on a fall ball baseball team?**

**A:** Yes, as these are separate sports. Please keep in mind that while the OHSAA allows this, the school may choose to prohibit this. For example, the school and/or football coach may not want their players playing an off-season sport during the football season.

**Q: May I have 6 8<sup>th</sup> graders from the same school on the same fall ball team as 6 9<sup>th</sup> graders from the same school?**

**A:** Yes, as the OHSAA considers grades 7-8 separate from grades 9-12.

**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 OHSAA Regulations apply to any coach, whether you are a paid or volunteer coach.

**Q: Would a graduating senior count in the 6-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 6-player total on the fall ball team?**

**A:** If they played for their previous school baseball team, they would count in the 6-player limit for the school they are transferring to as soon as they are enrolled in the new school.

**Q: A student played for my baseball team in Spring 2022 but is transferring to a new school. Does he count in my 6-player limit?**

**A:** No, he would count in the 6-player limit for the school he is transferring to.

## **Emily Mason**

Senior Sport Administrator – Baseball

**E:** [emason@ohsaa.org](mailto:emason@ohsaa.org) **B:** (614) 267-2502 x 107