

# THIS WEEK IN BASEBALL

Issue 4 | April 18, 2019



## Rate Your Game Umpires!

Did you know you can rate your game umpires? Officials rating is done by coaches (*not to confuse with officials voting is done by athletic administrators*)—while rating is not mandatory, input from coaches is invaluable to the tournament officials selection process. You may rate your game officials by accessing your myOHSAA account and clicking the orange “Rate Game Officials” button. If you have any issues with this, please contact a member of our Officiating Department.



## Important Baseball Dates

May 5	Tournament Draw
May 11-18	Sectional Tournament
May 20-25	District Tournament
May 30-31	Regional Tournament
June 7-9	State Tournament

## 2019 State Baseball Tournament

Join us for the 2019 State Baseball Tournament at Canal Park, home of the RubberDucks, in Akron, Ohio Friday, June 7 – Sunday, June 9. With the State Softball Tournament the weekend prior, the town of Akron is happy to announce the community collaboration, *Akron Double Play*, to compile activities from local dining, entertainment, shopping and recreation attractions.

**Respect**<sup>SM</sup>  
**THE**  
**GAME**

## OHIO PITCH COUNT

2018 was the inaugural season of having a pitch count in Ohio, due to the NFHS requirements for each state association to have a pitching restriction policy to afford pitchers a required rest period in between pitching appearances. While all state associations are seeing how this works best with their teams and finding the proper way to administrate and regulate the pitch count rule, the ultimate goal is the safety and health of the pitcher(s). Please reference the Pitch Count Rule Card posted on the Baseball webpage for the daily pitch limits. A few items beyond the daily pitch limit are how to handle any discrepancies in number of pitches for a pitcher. Should you come into a situation where a pitcher is getting close to the daily pitch limit or number of rest days, as the current Ohio rule stands, the official count is the count of the home team’s “book”. While we currently do not have a mandated procedure in hand, should you come into either of the situations listed above, I would suggest communicating with the other coach. For example, one recent team came across their opponent’s pitcher close to the daily pitch limit—the coach was unsure of the proper procedure in the moment, approached the umpire who told him to not communicate it to the other coach, which resulted in a somewhat large daily pitch count discrepancy between the two schools. Similar instances have been reported to our office and in all scenarios, the communication on the discrepancy is best handled between the two coaches/schools. In some states they require coaches to meet in between innings and share their books—while this is not a mandate in Ohio, I think it shows that communication is key in regulating the pitch count. Should there be any further discrepancies, please send those to me at [egates@ohsaa.org](mailto:egates@ohsaa.org).

***Please remember that the spirit of the rule is to protect the student-athlete and the rule should not be abused to win with your best pitcher.***

I apologize if this has not been properly communicated in the past on the procedure of how to handle any discrepancies, but this will be something we continue to monitor and improve on in Ohio. Thank you for your understanding!

**Q:** *Is there a place I (coach) need to report all of my pitch counts to the OHSAA office?*

**A:** **Currently there is no mandated database to record your pitch count to the OHSAA office. We ask that you make sure you are properly recording your daily pitch counts in whatever system (GameChanger, Excel spreadsheet, etc.) that works best for you and your school, every evening.**

**Q:** *Pitcher A pitches the maximum daily pitch limit of 125 during Game 1, which is then suspended. When Game 1 is resumed at a later date, would pitcher A be able to step back in and pitch or would his pitching eligibility be based on his most recent pitching activity?*

**A:** **In the resumed game, pitcher A would be able to step back in and pitch based on his eligibility of recent pitching activity.**

**Q:** *Pitcher B was unable to pitch in Game 1, as he was observing required rest days due to recent pitching activity, but Game 1 was then suspended. Would his ineligibility to pitch in Game 1 (that was then suspended) then be extended to the resumption of Game 1?*

**A:** **The pitcher’s ineligibility to pitch due to rest days from the original game would not be put into play at the resumption of the game—it would all be based on recent pitching activity. For both pitcher A & B, it is all based on a daily pitch limit, no matter what game is taking place.**

## HELMET ATTACHMENTS

There have been several instances across the state where umpires are telling players that have compliant helmets with the c-flap, that they are illegal helmets. I would like to reemphasize the details from Issue 3 (Equipment Issue) of This Week in Baseball, sent on March 19 and posted on the Baseball webpage, that address helmet attachments. As long as the helmets meet those listed guidelines in TWIB Issue 3, the umpires should not be ruling a helmet with an attachment, illegal. Our Baseball Director of Officiating, Dan McGinnis, has educated umpires to ask the coach if all player’s equipment is legal—once the coach responds that all equipment is legal, the umpire’s jurisdiction in this area is complete. Mr. McGinnis has addressed this four times with umpires, so hopefully teams and players will no longer have issues.

## LINE-UP CARDS

DOD, Dan McGinnis, has heard from umpires that some schools are presenting line-ups cards which showed either an EH (extra hitter) or AH (additional hitter), where the team intended to bat 10 players rather than the allowable 9. This can be common practice in summer ball, but this is not permitted by NFHS Rule, therefore not permitted for OHSAA member schools to do so.

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