



Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Baseball 2013 Season Bulletin #3

Director of Officials' Development – Baseball

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It is hard to believe that the 2013 regular season for baseball is almost half complete. It has already had such varied weather: summer one day, monsoon the next, winter the day after. Overall, the season has gone well, and the officiating has been excellent. I am very proud of our performance on the field. As with everything, however, there have been a few bumps in the road, questions, and information we need to share with everyone. Thanks for all the emails and phone calls.

Please keep them coming.

1. HAIR – Hair styles are as varied as players. One is not preferred over another with regard to baseball rules. A player with cornrows is as compliant as one with a flattop. Beads that are in the cornrows are considered to be a “hair adornment,” not jewelry. High school baseball rules have not concerned themselves with players’ hair styles or adornment. In other words, there is no issue with cornrows or the beads that may be within them.
2. CHARTER SCHOOLS – One of our umpires officiated a game last week between an OHSAA school and a Charter School that was not a member of the OHSAA or any State Association. The catcher for the charter school came out to catch wearing a skull cap for a helmet. The coach told the umpires that since they did not belong to the OHSAA, they did not need to adhere to the rules. To be clear, if you are officiating a game with one of the teams being a member of the OHSAA, the game is to be played by NFHS rules and if the game is played in Ohio, it is to be played under the OHSAA policies and procedures. There is no wiggle room in this. Either the game will be played by NFHS rules and OHSAA policies, or do not officiate the game.
3. BASEBALLS – A question arrived concerning the baseballs that are legal for regular season games. Baseballs utilized in regular season must have the NFHS authenticating mark, but it is not mandatory in the regular season, that the baseball have the OHSAA logo. In post-season, only Rawlings R-100 is to be used in tournament play. That baseball will have the OHSAA logo.
4. COACH’S CLOTHING – There have several reported games over the past week where a coach occupied a coaching box wearing sweat pants, and in one case coaching shorts. While these articles of clothing are not in compliance with the OHSAA definition of team clothing for coaches, do not make an issue at the game. Please inform Jerry Snodgrass or myself and a conversation will be held with the school. Don’t eject or restrict a coach based on his attire.
5. PITCHER’S COMPRESSION SLEEVES – There appears to be confusion once again with regard to a pitcher wearing a compression sleeve. A pitcher may wear a compression sleeve, on both arms, or on one arm. If the sleeve is white or gray, it cannot extend below the elbow. If it is full

length, it cannot have white or gray on it or be considered to be distracting to a batter. No physician approval is required for a pitcher to be wearing one or two compression sleeves.

6. INCLEMENT WEATHER – It appears that we need to reaffirm the OHSAA policy concerning inclement weather. This policy is not up for debate or choice. I know that at times, late in the game (maybe with only one out to go) it is tempting to ignore thunder or lightning to get the game over, but that action cannot happen or be tolerated. If lightning is observed (no matter how far away, no matter if the storm has passed) and/or thunder is heard, the game is to be suspended for thirty minutes. If, during that thirty minute period another instance of lightning or thunder occurs, the thirty minute clock resets. If the coach, AD, or trainer informs you of weather in the area and wants the game to be halted, halt the game. If they want to keep the game going and you know it should not, work professionally with them, but halt the game. In all your discussion, please continue to be professional and courteous and represent all OHSAA baseball officials well.

7. PITCHING LIMITS – First, just so we are all on the same page, this is not for us as officials to enforce. The OHSAA's pitching limits are 10 innings over a 3 day period. This is not a 72 hour period, but a 3 day period. If a pitcher pitches 10 innings at 11AM on Saturday morning, he is not eligible to pitch at 11AM on Monday morning. It is days, not hours. So, if he pitches 10 innings anytime on Saturday, he may next pitch on Tuesday. If you know a pitcher has exceeded his pitching limit, you may, out of professional courtesy, inform the coach, but it is not up to you to take the player out of the position. He becomes an ineligible player, not an illegal player.

That is it for this week. Thanks for all you do. Please keep the questions, situations, and information coming. It is incredibly helpful.

Until next week, have a good one.

Yours in baseball,
Kyle McNeely