



Oregon School Activities Association
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503.682.6722 fax: 503.682.0960 <http://www.osaa.org>



February 22, 2022

TO: Athletic Directors and Head Softball Coaches
FROM: Kelly Foster, Assistant Executive Director
SUBJECT: 2022 Softball Reminders

Included within this memo are reminders regarding OSAA policies and NFHS rules specific to softball that each coaching staff should review as we begin a new season. The links provided will take you directly to more detailed information regarding that specific reminder. Each school offering softball should have received one copy of the NFHS Softball Rules Book from the OSAA, and if your Athletic Director has your email address listed on the OSAA website under your school, you will be able to have one NFHS eBook of the rules. If your school didn't receive your copy, please let me know. Feel free to contact me if you have questions and best of luck this season!

GENERAL INFORMATION

OSAA Softball Plan Book

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/planbooks/sblplan.pdf>

The 2022 OSAA Softball Plan Book is available on the OSAA website. This plan book contains information regarding important season dates, NFHS rules information, OSAA softball rules and policies, state championship information and qualifications, etc.

Hair Adornment

Please note the following changes in the 2022 NFHS Softball Rules Book **3-2-5b** — This change removes the language prohibiting hard items to control the hair and allows for hair styled with adornments, locs, and twists. **3-2-5c** — This rule change eliminates the need for authorization from the state association for religious headwear while maintaining the requirement for approval of head coverings worn for medical reasons. NOTE: The OSAA shall be notified after the contest if there is a concern as to whether or not the head covering was worn for religious reasons.

Game Balls

Schools are reminded that per NFHS Softball Rules, softballs must include NFHS, COR, and Compression stamps to be legal for high school competition. This includes all levels of play (Varsity, JV, JV2, Frosh). For the regular season, any brand of softball is legal provided it has the required marks. At no time are softballs required to have an OSAA stamp. During the OSAA state playoffs, teams are required to use the Wilson A9011 B-SST, **poly center**.

Field Markings and Game Preparation

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/sbl/softballfielddiagram.pdf>

Schools shall have fields properly marked before a game begins. This includes all appropriate lines for batters' boxes, coaches' boxes, the catcher's box, foul lines, etc. It is recommended that all outfield fence signs are properly secured to the fence and off the ground.

Invitational Tournaments with Game Time Limits

- a. If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, or the game is ended, and the score is tied, the game is removed from both team's schedules and another contest may be scheduled with a different opponent. If a game is scheduled between the same two schools at a later date, it must be continued from the point of interruption.
- b. If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.

Game Ending and "Speed-Up" Procedures

All Levels: 15-Run (after 3 inn.) and 10-Run (after 5 inn.) Rule is in effect.

Sub-Varsity: Time Limit is allowed, per league adoption. NOTE: A maximum number of runs per inning limit are allowed only at the JV/JV2/freshman level per league adoption.

Score Differential: If a 15-run score differential occurs at the completion of three full innings or a 10-run score differential occurs at the completion of five full innings or anytime thereafter, the game shall be terminated and considered a completed game. **NOTE: if**



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agreed upon by both coaches, once a softball team has reached a 15-run lead after three innings they may continue to play. The exception to allow flexibility with this rule needs to be addressed prior to the contest during the pre-game conference when both head coaches and umpires are present. The mandatory score differential rule of 10-runs after five full innings is still in effect.

Batting Practice During Games

No team involved in the game may take batting practice of any kind, even in a batting cage, once the game has started. Other teams not involved in the game cannot interfere or impede the game in progress. If the sounds of batting in the cage simulate the sounds of the game, (i.e. batted balls) it is not allowed. If the facility has doors that can be closed, and/or the game umpires agree that the sounds don't interfere with the game in progress, it is permissible.

Courtesy Runners

When a player enters as a courtesy runner, it counts as an inning played for that individual.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Health and Safety Information

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/planbooks/sblplan.pdf>

The OSAA website contains a variety of information regarding heat and hydration, lightning safety, and concussion management. This page contains links to informational items that all coaches should familiarize themselves with as practices begin.

Pre-Season Practice Limitation Rule for Pitchers and Catchers

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/planbooks/sblplan.pdf>

The Practice Limitation Rule (Rule of 2) for the 4A, 3A, and 2A/1A Classifications allows softball coaches to begin pitching instruction and throwing workouts with pitchers and catchers only (maximum of eight total per day) two weeks prior to the Spring Sports First Practice Date (February 14, 2022). The 5A and 6A classifications are still following the Pilot Program for the Practice Limitation Rule.

Lightning Safety Guidelines

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/planbooks/sblplan.pdf>

The OSAA has made a concerted effort to educate member schools and officials associations regarding the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. Once thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, all personnel, athletes and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters.

NFHS RULE REMINDERS

Player Equipment / NFHS Rule 1-8-4: Defensive players are permitted to wear a shield on their face/head protection in the field, but it must be constructed of a molded, rigid material that is clear and permits 100 percent (no tint) allowable light transmission.

Pitching / NFHS Rule 6-1-1 PENALTY, 6-1-2 Thru 4 PENALTY, 6-2-1 PENALTY, 6-2-7 PENALTY: In the case of an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded a ball. The penalty that permitted base runners to be awarded one base without liability to be put out is removed.

Jewelry / Rule 3-2-12: Players in the game are prohibited from wearing jewelry such as rings, watches, earrings, bracelets, necklaces (including cloth or string types) or other hard cosmetic or decorative items. Religious and medical-alert medals are not considered jewelry. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical-alert medal must be taped and may be visible. Rubber bracelets and plugs inserted into piercings are considered jewelry.

OSAA WEBSITE / RANKINGS INFO

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/sbl/sblplan.pdf>

Postponing/Canceling Contests

On the day of a contest, schools are able to change the status to either Postponed or Cancelled by selecting the appropriate box in your editing window. When Postponed is selected, schools have the option to list the new date/time, if known. If a postponed contest will



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be replayed but you aren't sure when, you can leave the new date/time field blank to complete at a later time. If you aren't sure if the contest is going to be replayed, it should be Cancelled. That way you can always reinstate the contest if you end up being able to get it scheduled. Deleting contests from your schedule and adding them back later in the season may result in contests not counting in the rankings based on the following policies. When in doubt, leave it on your schedule as Cancelled.

Adding Contest to Schedules After Certain Dates

Contests added to a team's schedule after the dates listed below may not count in the rankings based on new Board Policies regarding the rankings. Be sure that you don't delete contests from your schedule, but instead use the Postpone Contest or Cancel Contest button to keep the contest on your schedule.

a. **Adding Contests to Schedules vs. Teams More Than One Classification Away After April 6**

Remember that results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (Spring – April 6) **vs. a team more than one classification away** shall not be included in the rankings.

b. **Adding Any Contest to Schedules After April 13**

Results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (Spring – Apr. 13) shall not be included in the rankings. **NOTE:** Contests not affected by this policy include bracketed contests at tournaments, league tiebreakers, and district/league tournaments. Schools may apply for an exception to OSAA Staff in extenuating circumstances.

Tracking Out of State Opponents

<http://www.osaa.org/docs/osaainfo/ManagingOutOfStateRecordsInstructions.pdf>

Varsity teams are required to update their schedule and results through the OSAA website throughout the season. Schools are also required to track records of out of state opponents. Each Oregon school is ultimately responsible for making sure their own schedule and results are accurate, including the records of their out of state opponents.

Home/Away Designation

- a. Baseball and softball contests, even those played as part of a tournament, **shall not be listed as neutral** due to the fundamental difference associated with being the home team in those sports (advantage of batting last).
- b. **Doubleheaders:** If a team is playing a doubleheader at another school, both contests should be shown as away contests on the schedule to accurately portray where the contests are physically taking place. **When scoring the contest, schools are able to check a box if the "home" team batted first so the home/away designation is correct for the rankings.**

Rosters

<http://www.osaa.org/>

It shall be the responsibility of each member school to submit varsity team sport rosters to the OSAA through prior to the first contest date of that sport's season. Varsity rosters are required for the following OSAA sanctioned sports: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball, softball. Subsequent changes to each varsity teams' roster shall be updated as they occur throughout the season.

Sportsmanship Award

<http://www.osaa.org/awards/sportsmanship>

The OSAA Sportsmanship Committee, along with the OAOA, implemented a sportsmanship award aimed at improving the relationship between our schools and athletic officials. Officials have the opportunity to submit a form after every contest and select which team they would like to nominate. At the end of each season, the committee chooses a winner for each sport. That program is given a banner to hang in the gym and earns 100 OSAA Cup points for their school.