



Oregon School Activities Association
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March 5, 2012

To: Athletic Directors and Head Baseball Coaches
From: Peter Weber, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: 2012 Baseball Reminders

Included within this memo are reminders regarding OSAA policies and NFHS rules specific to baseball that I would like you to review with your staff as we begin a new season. Remember that each school offering baseball should have received one copy of the NFHS Baseball Rules Book from the OSAA. If your school didn't receive your copy, please let me know. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

1. **OSAA Baseball Plan** – The 2012 OSAA Baseball Plan is available on the OSAA website at osaa.org/baseball/2012/bbplan.pdf. This plan contains information regarding important season dates, the state championships, NFHS rule changes and points of emphasis, OSAA baseball policies, participation limitations, etc.
2. **Approved Bats for 2012 Season** – For the 2012 season, all baseball bats must have the BBCOR Certification Mark or be made of a single piece of wood. No post-production, BBCOR label, sticker or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. The BBCOR Certification Mark will look like this:



Per a rule change to Rule 4-1-3b, umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets.

Instead, the umpire-in-chief shall receive verification from both head coaches that all participants are properly uniformed and equipped with bats that are unaltered from the original manufacturer's design and production and helmets that meet NFHS and NOCSAE standards are free of cracks or damage.

NOTE: *The NFHS has advised the OSAA that the BBCOR decertification process has been implemented for the Marucci CAT5 (33" length bat only). Effective immediately and until further notice, this bat (Marucci CAT5 33" length) should be considered a non-compliant bat and not legal for high school play.*

3. **Field Markings and Game Preparation** – A reminder to schools to have fields properly marked before a game begins. This includes all appropriate lines for batters boxes, coaches' boxes, the catcher's box, foul lines, runner's lane to 1st base, etc. It is recommended that all outfield fence signs are properly secured to the fence and off the ground. Additionally, please have an appropriate number of baseballs ready for the start of each game for the home plate umpire. Follow this link for a NFHS field diagram: osaa.org/baseball/baseballfielddiagram.pdf
4. **Batting Practice During Games** – Reports came in last year from coaches and officials associations about teams taking various forms of batting practice during games. Some were using batting cages or bullpens and others were hitting wiffle balls. **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 to be allowed. If the facility has doors that can be closed and/or the game umpires are in agreement that the sounds don't interfere with the game in progress, it is permissible.
5. **Multiple Batters Warming Up During Dead Ball Time** – We've had several inquiries regarding multiple batters warming up during dead ball time. **The batter and one on-deck batter are the only players that should be in live ball territory warming up during infield warmups, the pre-game plate meeting, just prior to the first pitch of the game, in between innings or during a stoppage of play.** This is first and foremost a safety issue as we've all seen incidents occur with overthrows, wild pitches, etc. Any other players wanting to warm up need to be in a dead ball area protected from live ball play (i.e. behind the dugout or batting cages, etc.).
6. **Officials – Host School Responsibilities** – Remember that a game manager shall be designated by the host school for all **varsity** contests. It's a good idea for the game manager to introduce themselves to the umpires upon arrival. A member



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of the coaching staff of the home team is not eligible to serve as game manager during a contest at which he or she is coaching. The game manager shall wear easily recognizable identification, and shall be responsible for:

- a. Designating reserved parking for officials as close as possible to the contest site;
- b. Designating dressing facilities for officials where available if requested by the commissioner of the Local Association providing the officials;
- c. Monitoring and responding to inappropriate crowd conduct during and after the contest; and
- d. Providing an escort to the designated dressing facilities or vehicle for officials following each contest unless that offer is declined.

7. **Lightning Safety Guidelines** – The OSAA has made a concerted effort to educate member schools and officials associations regarding NFHS Lightning Safety Guidelines. 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.

Proactive Planning: osaa.org/publications/handbook/1112/06ExecutiveBoardPolicies.asp#_Toc298932547

- 1) Assign a staff member to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
- 2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
- 3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a) **Recognition**. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. **Suspend play and take shelter immediately.**
 - b) **Thirty-minute Rule**. Once play has been suspended, wait at least thirty minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - c) Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count should **reset the clock and another thirty minute count should begin.**
- 4) Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

8. **Courtesy Runners** – When a player enters as a courtesy runner, **it counts as an inning played for that individual.**

9. **Ejections** – Multiple ejection reports came through the OSAA office last season where a player or coach had been ejected in the first game of a doubleheader. A reminder that when this happens, the player or coach is done for the rest of the day (**Ejection Period**) and is also suspended through the next contest at that level of competition (**Suspension Period**). Some schools have mistakenly thought that the 2nd game of the doubleheader counts as the suspension period.

- a. Example #1 – A **varsity** coach is ejected in the first game of a doubleheader. The coach is done for the rest of the day (**Ejection Period**). The coach is also suspended through the next **varsity** contest (**Suspension Period**).
- b. Example #2 – A **JV** player is ejected in a game on Friday (single game that day) and the **JV** team has a doubleheader the next day on Saturday. The player is done for the rest of the day on Friday (**Ejection Period**). The player sits out the 1st game of the Saturday doubleheader (**Suspension Period**) but is eligible to play in the 2nd game of the doubleheader on Saturday.

10. **OSAA Line-up Cards** – The OSAA, in conjunction with the OAOA, created new line-up cards a couple of years ago. These line-up cards are recommended, but not required for use by the OSAA. Follow the link below to purchase a package with 35 forms. Cost is \$6 per package and shipping is included. osaa.org/forms/orderform.asp

11. **ScoreCenter Reminders and Tracking Out of State Opponents** – Varsity teams are required to update their schedule and results through the OSAA ScoreCenter throughout the season. As part of a change to the rankings for this year, schools are now 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.** ***(See the attached ScoreCenter Spring Reminders memo for details and instructions)***



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March 5, 2012

To: Athletic Directors and Varsity Baseball/Softball Coaches
From: Peter Weber, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: OSAA ScoreCenter–2011-12 Spring Reminders

Thank you to everyone who has played a role in the success of the OSAA ScoreCenter. This memo outlines a few reminders as we approach the start of the Baseball and Softball seasons. Please contact Peter Weber (peterw@osaa.org or 503.682.6722 x231) in the OSAA office if you have questions regarding any of this information. Best of luck this season!

1. REVIEWING YOUR TEAM'S SCHEDULE & RESULTS

This is vital as each school is responsible for making sure its schedule and results are accurate. The results appearing on your team page are being used to create the rankings that will determine placement on the OSAA brackets. Make sure that all of your contests appear correctly. Remember to check home/away designation, especially for tournaments.

2. HOME / AWAY DESIGNATION (Baseball / Softball only)

- 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 for which team batted first so the home/away designation is correct for the rankings.

3. POSTPONEMENTS / CANCELLATIONS

On the day of a contest, schools are able to change the status to either Postponed or Cancelled by selecting the appropriate box. When Postponed is selected, schools will have the option to list the new date/time. If a postponed contest will be replayed but you aren't sure when, you can leave the new date/time field blank to complete at a later time. If the contest isn't going to be replayed, it should be marked as cancelled.

4. MANAGING OUT OF STATE RECORDS

- a. During the Fall and Winter seasons, some schools have had difficulty gathering records for out of state opponents. Websites like MaxPreps and HighSchoolSports.net have proven to be inaccurate in some cases. The best way to insure you are gathering correct, timely information is to reach out to the school's athletic director and head coach when you play them to establish a reliable contact. The OSAA has created an Out of State Opponent Form that schools may use in gathering Athletic Director and Coach contact information for these teams. That form is included in this instructions memo: <http://osaa.org/scorecenter/ManagingOutOfStateRecordsInstructionsScoreCenter.pdf>
- b. Schools are required to update the record of out of state opponents through their editing window on a weekly basis. When entering the out of state opponent's record, you must remove the result of the contest(s) played against your school. This will treat these out of state opponents equitably as this is automatically done for contests vs. Oregon teams. Only regular season results should be used for out of state opponents; state playoff results shall not be included.

5. EXTRA INNINGS / SHORTENED CONTESTS

When submitting a score for any completed contest that goes extra innings or is shortened due to weather, 10-run rule, etc., schools should note the number of innings played in the Overtime box directly below the score for each team (i.e. 5 inn., 9 inn, etc.) Please do not use half innings when submitting this information. Nothing needs to be added for regulation 7-inning games.

6. **INNING-BY-INNING SCORING** (optional)

Schools have the option to input inning-by-inning when submitting scores for a contest. This is not required by the OSAA but local media outlets may access this information if available.

7. **INPUTTING TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

- a. Schools hosting tournaments are only able to add games and submit scores for games their team actually plays in. If your team plays in a tournament, please make sure that the results are entered into the system in a timely manner. If you've entered your scores from a tournament but still receive an email Missing Score alert the next day, most often the issue is that your schedule still has a game listed vs. TBD at the tournament. Simply click on the game in your editing window and select Remove Contest.
- b. If you are hosting a tournament, we encourage you to email the bracket to peterw@osaa.org in advance. That way, we can help make sure that all of the games are inputted with the correct tournament name, etc.

8. **CREATING/PRINTING ROSTERS FOR YOUR TEAM & OPPONENTS**

More and more schools (and some entire leagues) are entering their rosters, team photos and team information in to the OSAA ScoreCenter. A printable roster that includes the above information, plus your school logo, is available once this information is entered. All schools are encouraged to enter their team rosters during the regular season and use this functionality to print opponents' rosters for game programs. **NOTE:** This same process will be used for OSAA State Championship souvenir programs.

9. **SUBMITTING SCORES BY 10PM EACH NIGHT**

We encourage schools to keep doing a great job of getting scores in by 10pm the night of the game. We know it can be difficult, especially when your teams are at tournaments or when games run long, but the response has been well received by statewide media and fans alike. Thanks for all of your continued efforts.