



Oregon School Activities Association
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February 21, 2013

To: Athletic Directors and Head Baseball Coaches
From: Peter Weber, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: 2013 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.

- OSAA Baseball Plan** – The 2013 OSAA Baseball Plan is available on the OSAA website at osaa.org/baseball/2013/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.
- Approved Bats for 2013 Season** – For the 2013 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 something like this:

Per last year's rule change to Rule 4-1-3b, umpires are no longer required to inspect bats and helmets. Instead, the umpire-in-chief shall receive verbal 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" non-wood bat, Reebok Vector TLS 32" non-wood bat and Reebok Vector TLS 33" non-wood bat. These bats should be considered non-compliant, not legal for high school play and subject to NFHS Baseball Rules 4-1-3b and 7-4-1a.
- Interrupted Contests** – The Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) proposed a rule change to continue all regular season contests that are interrupted due to darkness and/or weather **from the point of interruption**. The OSAA Executive Board passed the amendment at its February meeting so the revised rule is in effect for this season. This makes the policy consistent throughout the regular season and state playoffs. More information will be sent out regarding interrupted contest procedures regarding the lineup card, ejections, etc.
- Jamborees** – The Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) proposed a rule change to allow schools to play three innings against another school in a jamboree rather than two. The OSAA Executive Board passed the amendment at its February meeting so the revised rule is in effect for this season. Remember that the overall six inning limit and two inning limit for each pitcher are still in effect.
- Game Balls** – The question of what constitutes a game ball has come up several times the last few years as the price of baseballs has risen. Schools are reminded that per NFHS Baseball Rules, the NFHS Authenticating Mark is required on all baseballs used for high school competition. This includes all levels of play (Varsity, JV, JV2, Frosh). For the regular season, any brand of baseball is legal provided it has the NFHS Authenticating Mark. During the OSAA state playoffs, teams are required to use the Wilson A1010Pro. Also, remember that a minimum of three legal baseballs are required to start a game. Given our typical Spring weather, it's a good idea to have more than that available.
- Points of Emphasis – Pitcher's Stance** – The NFHS Baseball Rules committee has made the pitcher's stance a point of emphasis for 2013. The pitcher may only begin in one of two positions: the windup or the set. Over recent seasons, pitchers have been moving into a hybrid stance in which their feet are at an angle and it is difficult to discern which stance the pitcher is in. Because the rules for pickoffs and pitching motions are different for each one, it is imperative that a pitcher be clearly in the windup or set at the start of each pitch. The starting position of the non-pivot foot



determines whether the pitcher is going to pitch from the windup or set position.

Pitchers in the windup position are required to have their non-pivot foot in any position on or behind a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate. If a pitcher's non-pivot foot is in front of that line and he attempts to pitch from the windup, he has made an illegal pitch or committed a balk.

In the set position, he shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of the pitcher's plate. He shall go to the set position without delay and in one continuous motion; he shall come to a complete and discernible stop, which does not include a change of direction with both hands in front of his body and his glove at or below his chin.

7. **Courtesy Runners** – When a player enters as a courtesy runner, it counts as an inning played for that individual.
8. **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
9. **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 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.
10. **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/1213/06ExecutiveBoardPolicies.asp#_Toc330294530

- 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.
11. **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**).



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- 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.
12. **Multiple Batters Warming Up During Dead Ball Time** – We received questions about 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.).
13. **OSAA Line-up Cards** – The OSAA, in conjunction with the OAOA, created new line-up cards a few years back. 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
14. **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. 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. Here is a link to instructions for managing your out of state records: <http://osaa.org/scorecenter/ManagingOutOfStateRecordsInstructionsScoreCenter.pdf>.