



Oregon School Activities Association
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May 8, 2014

To: Athletic Directors and Head Baseball Coaches
From: Peter Weber, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: 2014 Baseball End of Season Reminders

Included within this memo are end of season reminders regarding OSAA policies and NFHS rules specific to baseball. Most of these reminders are cropping up in different areas of the state so please take the time to review with your staff. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

1. **Using Non-Certified Officials for Sub-Varsity Games** – I've received calls from many schools about using non-certified officials in order to get sub-varsity games played, especially as games get backed up due to rainouts. Remember that OSAA certified officials are required in baseball and softball at the varsity level only. However, schools have the responsibility to request permission from their local associations to use non-certified officials at sub-varsity contests where certified officials are not required. As always, we encourage you to work closely with your local commissioner. Remember that sub-varsity games must be played on or before the OSAA cutoff date for your classification.
2. **Tie Games** – Listed below are the procedures on interrupted contests as there are no ties in Oregon high school baseball. You don't have to continue the game, but if you do it needs to start from the point of interruption. If you choose not to continue, the game should be deleted from your schedule and won't count against your team's participation limitation. Innings thrown by pitchers in the tie game are still counted toward the individual pitching limitation.

Baseball Interrupted Contest Board Policy

- i. For darkness and/or weather:
 1. If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the **contest shall continue from the point of interruption.** (February 2013)
 2. 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.
 3. If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the **contest shall continue from the point of interruption.** (February 2013)
 4. If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, **contest shall continue from the point of interruption.** (February 2013)
 5. If the two schools mutually agree or if there is an athletic district policy, the game need not be **continued** if it has no bearing on state championship representation. (February 2013)
 - ii. For other reasons, among which include light failure, sprinkler system, etc., the contest shall continue from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
3. **Multiple Batters Warming Up During Dead Ball Time** – We've received reports of 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 warm-ups, the pre-game plate meeting, just prior to the first pitch of the game, in between innings or during a stoppage of play, including during a pitching change. 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.).



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4. **Appropriate Equipment for Shaggers/Protectors/Warm-Up Catchers** – In order to continue low incident rates, we must be ever vigilant to identify potential risk areas and address them immediately. One area of concern is the “shagger” or “protector” — the non-player who is allowed on the field to keep foul balls from striking players warming up in the bullpen. Remember that in Oregon, that person is required to have a glove and wear a legal batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard. It’s also important that the shagger/protector be facing the plate and paying attention to the action taking place. A second area of concern is protective gear worn by non-adult catchers warming up pitchers. These players should be wearing a hockey-style mask and a protective cup when squatting to warm up a pitcher while the regular catcher is putting on gear. This same protective gear should also be worn by non-adult catchers warming up pitchers in the bullpen.
5. **Verbal Verification From Coaches** – 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. There have been a few reports of coaches responding with “I hope so” or “As far as I know”. An answer along these lines is unacceptable. The appropriate answer is “Yes”.
6. **Jewelry** – Reports have come in from around the state of players wearing jewelry, especially LIVESTRONG-type rubber bracelets. Remember that these types of bracelets are considered jewelry and shall not be worn during games. The NFHS Baseball Rule Book is very clear in this area. *“Jewelry shall not be worn (see 3-3-1d) except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.” (Rule 1-5-12)*
7. **Website Reminders and Tracking Out of State Opponents** – 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. Here is a link to instructions for managing your out of state records: www.osaa.org/docs/osaainfo/ManagingOutOfStateRecordsInstructions.pdf. Please make sure your out of state opponents information is updated prior to your classification’s freeze date.