



Oregon School Activities Association
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TO: Athletic Directors and Head Softball Coaches
FROM: Cindy Simmons, Assistant Executive Director cindys@osaa.org

Please note the following reminders/clarifications and do not hesitate to contact me with questions:

- Varsity Home Game Managers:** In past years we have received reports from several commissioners of varsity games without a game manager. We know there are a lot of contests taking place this time of year and many at the same time, but wanted to remind everyone of the policy from the OSAA Handbook. In several instances a game manager was present but simply hadn't introduced themselves to the umpires. It's important that the game manager introduce themselves prior to the start of the contest so the umpires know who they are should a situation arise. 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.
- 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:

- 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.
http://www.osaa.org/publications/handbook/1011/06ExecutiveBoardPolicies.asp#_Toc267299637
- 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 simulates 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.
 - 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.



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- 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.
5. **Courtesy Runners:** When a player enters a game as a courtesy runner, it does count as an inning played for that individual.
 6. **Confines of the Field / NFHS Softball Rule 2.15:** “The confines of the field includes the field of play, the designated dugout/bench area, and any enclosed or clearly marked area designated as a warm-up area that is adjacent to the field and within the view of the umpire(s).” All warm-ups must take place within the confines of the field.
 7. **Lineup Cards / NFHS Softball Rule 3.1.3:** “The team’s lineup card shall include first initial and last name, jersey number, position and batting order of each starting player and should include each eligible substitute. Lineups become official after they have been exchanged, verified and then accepted by the plate umpire during the pregame conference.
PENALTY: After the lineup card has been submitted to and verified by the umpire and a change is subsequently made to a player/substitute name or number, or if a player/substitute is added to the lineup card, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved. Any further changes made to a player/substitute name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.”
 8. **NFHS Softball Rule 3.2.5 –** “Caps, visors and headbands may be mixed. If worn, they must all be the same color. If worn, a headband must be one piece, and a single solid color. The logo may be any color. Plastic visors and bandannas are prohibited.” Sequins, or other adornments of this nature, are LEGAL.
 9. **NFHS Softball Rule 3.2.12 Exception:** “Unadorned devices, such as bobby pins, barrettes and hair clips, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn to control a player’s hair.”
 10. **OSAA Softball Website:** Page includes OSAA Softball Plan, NFHS Softball rules info and 2011 changes, ASA bat information, Health and Safety info, etc.: <http://osaa.org/softball/>