



2016 BASEBALL PLAN BOOK

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SEASON DATES

February 15	Coaches may work with Pitchers and Catchers (<i>Executive Board Policies, Practice Limitation Rule, Q&A#35</i>)
February 29	First Practice Date
March 14	First Contest / Jamboree Date
April 4	Cutoff – Contests vs. Teams More than one Classification Away (<i>Executive Board Policies, Rankings</i>)
April 11	Cutoff – Contests Added After a Certain Date (<i>Executive Board Policies, Rankings</i>)
May 19.....	6A Cutoff Date
May 21.....	5A, 4A, 3A, 2A/1A Cutoff Date
May 23.....	6A First Round
May 25.....	5A, 4A, 3A, 2A/1A First Rounds; 6A Second Round
May 27.....	All Quarterfinals
May 31.....	All Semifinals
June 3	3A, 2A/1A State Championships
June 4	6A, 5A, 4A State Championships

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NFHS 2016 BASEBALL RULES

Order a 2016 NFHS Baseball Rules Book on the [OSAA Rules Book Order Form](#) or contact the OSAA (503.682.6722) for more information.

For more information about NFHS Baseball Rules, visit <http://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/baseball/>.

2016 NFHS RULES REVISIONS:

3-3-1 PENALTY	<p>PENALTY: <i>The umpire shall warn the offender unless the offense is judged to be major, in which case an ejection shall occur. If the offender has a subsequent minor violation, the offender shall be ejected.</i> The warning or ejection shall be made at the end of playing action. Coaches who received a written warning (10-2-3j) shall also be restricted to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarified the sequence of administering penalties to the members of the coaching staff and offending players.</p> <p>Comments: Coaches and officials are equally responsible to provide an ideal learning environment for the students who play baseball. That learning environment is severely disrupted if the adults show a lack of respect for each other’s position and role in the contest. The coach has the responsibility to coach and teach his players about basic and complicated skills of baseball and important life lessons. The game official has the obligation to administer the rules of the game and to judiciously address any coach’s or player’s behavior that is not consistent with those rules. As he administers any penalty resulting in a warning, restriction to the bench/dugout or ejection, his decision should be in response to the actions by the offending coach and player. The coach needs to understand that his behavior will dictate which level of discipline is applied. Officials are encouraged to clearly communicate their warnings and restrictions when possible to the coaches prior to the ejection. The coaches also need to recognize when those warnings and restrictions are being issued so they can modify their behavior and continue to teach their players. When the adults are acting in a professional and respectful manner, the young people will be the ultimate winners regardless of the score of the game.</p>
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3-3-1q	<p>ART. 1 A coach, player, substitute, attendant or other bench personnel shall not:</p> <p><i>q. have physical contact, spit, kick dirt or engage in any other physical action directed toward an umpire.</i></p> <p>Rationale: Added additional inappropriate acts by the offender that would require an immediate ejection.</p> <p>Comments: Unfortunately, there has been an increase of inappropriate behavior that imitates the game of baseball at different levels. These examples are not appropriate for our game and ultimately send the wrong message to the players, parents, administrators and fans. Education-based athletics is one of the most useful tools to teach life lessons and assist a young person with self-reflection hard work, and perspective. If these acts are displayed, the offender(s) should be immediately ejected from the contest.</p>
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2016 NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS:

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believe there are areas of the game of interscholastic baseball that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical, some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” For the 2016 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: intermediate penalties/restriction to the bench/dugout, proper catcher’s equipment and sportsmanship/celebrations around or near home plate. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because they are not being given the proper attention.

INTERMEDIATE PENALTIES/RESTRICTION TO THE BENCH/DUGOUT

The basic premise for education-based athletics is education. The adult coach and game official work collaboratively to teach, train, oversee model positive behavior and arbitrate the students under their charge. As part of these “teachable moments”, the game official is responsible to maintain order and control the contest so both teams have a fair opportunity to do their best and perform to their highest level.

That responsibility is detailed in NFHS Rule 3, Section 3, Article 1, Bench and Field Conduct and Rule 10, Umpiring. We all should promote preventative officiating. While not listed in the NFHS Rules Book, preventative officiating is practice by more successful and experience umpires. Verbal and non-verbal tactics are practiced to let a coach know that you are aware and understand his concern, acknowledge that you are doing your best to officiate the game and that his behavior if negative, is not helpful, in fact it is contributing to the detriment of all that are involved. These a few key factors in de-escalating a possible contentious exchange.

Under NFHS Rule 3-3-1 and Rule 10, we are provided tools to issue a written warning then restriction to the bench/dugout and ultimately ejection from the game. Unless the situation calls for such a drastic response, ejections should not be an official’s first option. The lessons best learned by a young person in this environment are by his coach(es). It does not benefit the student if the coach has done something that warrants his removal from the field. Ejections may be avoided by listening to the coach and attempting to understand his perspective prior to responding. A restricted coach may continue to teach, guide and control his team while an ejected coach places this same responsibility upon someone who may not be as prepared for it. Developing preventative officiating skills and using the penalty structure that is in place should make for a healthy and safe environment for all the participants.

PROPER CATCHER’S EQUIPMENT

Because of the significant amount of exposure to thrown or batted balls and thrown bats, the catcher is involved with every pitch and most of the action at or around home plate. It is imperative that he is properly equipped. Prior to the start of a baseball game, the head coach verifies that the players are legally and properly equipped. The catcher’s helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard, which includes having full ear protection with dual earflaps. The skullcap and mask combination does not meet the NOCSAE standard nor does it provide full ear protection with dual ear flaps and is not permitted for high school baseball. The catcher shall wear a throat protector, which is either attached, or part of the catcher’s mask. It shall adequately cover the throat. When a non-adult is in a crouch position and is warming up a pitcher as any location he shall wear face and head protection with throat protection and a protective cup (male only). Ensuring that the catcher is properly equipped will reduce the risk of serious injury and maximizes his enjoyment of the game.

SPORTSMANSHIP - CELEBRATIONS AROUND OR NEAR HOME PLATE

Any walk-off, game-winning base hit or home run generates immediate excitement for the player who hit the ball, his teammates and fans. Adolescent emotion is at its best when a young person does something successful. Unfortunately, for players on the team that just gave up the run or lost the game, their emotion is different and being jubilant is not their first thought. Everyone on the winning team wants to congratulate the successful batter as he turns the corner at third base and heads to home plate. The problem is that the umpire-in-chief has to be able to verify that the runner scores.

His job becomes exponentially more difficult if his view is hampered by cheering players along the third-base line and around home plate. It is important to keep the area around home plate clear of bodies (and equipment) so the umpire can do his job correctly. In addition, hovering around the third-base line and home plate is a perfect opportunity for bad sportsmanship actions that include taunting and other boorish behavior. Umpires will be asked to be more diligent at 'players' behavior during such celebrations because of the number of poor sportsmanship incidents being reported throughout the country.

Whenever a game is ended by a great play or controversial call, emotions typically run high for the unsuccessful side. While winning and losing are perfect "teachable moments" opportunities, disrespectful behavior severely erodes the basic premise of educational-based athletics. When coaches and players allow their emotions to get the best of them and they act badly, the rules allow for warnings, restrictions and ultimately ejections from the contest.

Requests for rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the OSAA. The NFHS will assist in answering rules questions from the state associations whenever called upon.

OSAA ADOPTED BASEBALL RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

The 2016 NFHS Baseball Rules Book will be used with the following clarifications:

1. **OSAA BASEBALL RULES BOOK OPTIONS:** Athletic directors and baseball coaches are reminded that Oregon treats the various options provided in the 2016 NFHS Baseball Rules Books on page 68 as follows:

1-4-4	To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed four square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform. Schools must have OSAA approval.
1-2-9	Oregon has not adopted the double first base.
2-33-1	Optional speed-up rules. (See below.)
4-2-2	The 10-run rule will be optional by league adoption for all regular season games. (See below.)
4-2-4	Contests shall be continued from the point of interruption per Board Policy – Interrupted Contests. However, an athletic district may adopt a rule that the game will not be continued.
4-3-1	No ties permitted.
4-4-1a	State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.
4-5-1	Protests based on application of playing rules or on judgment of game officials will not be heard.
10-1-9	Umpires shall wear the navy blue pullover shirt or state association-adopted shirt.

NOTE: Umpires are expected to enforce the rules as printed with the above options.

2. **10-RUN RULE:** Leagues have the option to adopt the 10-run rule for regular season play. In non-league contests, the league adoption of the home team will apply. The 10-run rule will NOT be in effect for state playoffs and state championship games.
3. **OPTIONAL SPEED-UP RULES** (may be adopted by an athletic district (league), but will NOT be in effect for state playoffs and state championship games.):

A. Courtesy Runners

- 1) At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. When a player enters as a courtesy runner, it counts as an inning played for that individual.

- 2) The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
- 3) Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- 4) Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- 5) A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
- 6) The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and also announce it to the scorer.
- 7) A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute. Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

B. After Putouts

- 1) After a putout in the outfield and with no runners on base, the ball shall be thrown to a cutoff man and, if desired, to one additional infielder before being returned to the pitcher for delivery to the next batter.
 - 2) After a putout in the infield and with no runners on base, the ball shall be returned directly to the pitcher.
 - 3) Following the final out in any inning, the ball shall be given to the nearest umpire. The plate umpire shall give the ball to the catcher. The base umpire shall place the ball on the pitcher's plate.
4. **GAME BALLS:** 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. At no time are baseballs required to have an OSAA stamp. During the OSAA state playoffs, teams are required to use the Wilson A1010-Pro. 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.
 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 past 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. **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.).
 7. **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 bullpens. 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.

OSAA BASEBALL POLICIES

Effective during Association Year, outside the designated OSAA sport season.

1. **PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE** (*Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (*Revised Spring 2014*):
 - C. **Team Sports Limitation.** Schools may conduct practices and/or compete in contests in team sports (baseball, basketball, football, softball, soccer, volleyball) only during the designated OSAA sports seasons as outlined in Rule 6. It shall be a violation of the rule if there is any attempt during the Association year to gather more than two members of the same high school program together per day outside the OSAA defined season to receive specialized athletic instruction from any coach associated with the participating athletes' high school program.

Attempts to circumvent the rule by encouraging team members to attend out-of-season practices or camps during the Association year other than through general dissemination of information or brochures shall be considered a violation of this rule. EXCEPTION: Baseball and softball coaches may 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.

35. Q. On what date may baseball and softball coaches begin pitching instruction and throwing workouts with pitchers and catchers only (maximum of eight total per day)?
A. **February 16, 2016**, which is two weeks prior to the start of spring practices on **February 29, 2016**.
36. Q. During this two-week early window for baseball and softball coaches, how many students are coaches allowed to work with each day?
A. If non-pitchers and non-catchers, a maximum of two a day. If pitchers and/or catchers only, a maximum of eight a day. This maximum applies to a school's entire coaching staff in that activity.
37. Q. During this two-week early window for baseball and softball coaches, are coaches allowed to work with eight pitchers and catchers and two additional students on the same day?
A. No. During this timeframe, coaches are allowed to work with a maximum of eight on a single day but all eight must be pitchers and/or catchers, or the coaches may work with two non-pitchers and non-catchers on a single day, but not both.
38. Q. During this two-week early window for baseball and softball coaches, are coaches allowed to work with six pitchers and catchers and two additional students, for a total of eight?
A. No. During this timeframe, coaches are allowed to work with a maximum of eight on a single day but all eight must be pitchers and/or catchers. During this timeframe, coaches would be allowed to follow the standard "Rule of Two" and work with two players only on a single day. These players are not required to be pitchers and/or catchers.
39. Q. During this two-week early window for baseball and softball coaches, if coaches are working with pitchers and/or catchers, is live hitting allowed?
A. No, live hitting is not allowed but a coach is allowed to stand in the batter's box.

Effective First Practice Date through End of HS Season.

1. **PRACTICE MODEL** (Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (**Revised Fall 2015**):

Schools and students are required to adhere to the following practice model.

C. **All other sports** (Cheerleading, Swimming, Wrestling, Basketball, Dance/Drill, Golf, Tennis, Track & Field, Baseball, Softball)

- 1) All practices shall allow for water breaks and general acclimatization to hot and/or humid weather. Ample amounts of water should always be available and a student's access to water should not be restricted. In addition, all practices shall follow the fundamentals set forth in the NFHS's Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention Position Statement. While the risk of heat illness is greatly dependent upon weather conditions, the fundamentals in the NFHS's Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention Position Statement promote safety and minimize injury risk in any setting.
 - 2) A student may not practice or participate in a contest for more than six consecutive days without a rest day. A rest day must be complete rest – no organized team physical activity is allowed. Travel is allowed on a rest day.
1. Q. Can the one-hour weight training session allowed on single practice days be conducted both prior to practice and after practice if players only participate in one of the weight training sessions?
A. Yes, multiple one-hour weight training sessions may be held but individual players are limited to participation in a single session.
2. Q. Is the one-hour weight training session allowed on single practice days required to be immediately prior to and after the practice?
A. No, the training session does not have to immediately precede or follow the scheduled practice.
3. Q. Is the one-hour weight training session allowed on single practice days also allowed on multiple practice days?
A. No, weight training conducted on multiple practice days counts toward the daily five-hour practice limit.
4. Q. On single practice days may coaches conduct classroom-training sessions that would involve no physical activity?
A. Yes, classroom instruction that requires no physical activity is allowed and does not count towards the daily five-hour practice limit.

5. **Q.** Is classroom instruction with no physical activity allowed during the required three-hour recovery period between multiple practices?
A. Yes, classroom instruction that requires no physical activity is allowed during the recovery period.
6. **Q.** A team plans to conduct multiple practices on a single day but wants to reduce the length of each practice to 90 minutes. Can the team reduce the required recovery time of three hours between practice sessions because they have used less than the maximum practice time allowed?
A. No, the three-hour recovery period between practices is required regardless of practice length.
7. **Q.** Are multiple practices on a single day required for all Fall teams?
A. No, teams are not required to have multiple practices on a single day. If multiple practices are conducted, the second practice of the first two multiple practices days is a teaching session only.
8. **Q.** What is the definition of a teaching session?
A. During a teaching session the intensity, duration, and pace of all practice components shall be modified from a normal practice session. The focus of a teaching session should be directed at developing skills fundamental to the sport at a significantly reduced pace. In Football, light contact with bags is allowed but full contact situations are prohibited. Practice components in all activities intended to develop skills while conditioning the athlete at the same time are not allowed. Coaches are encouraged to use this teaching only session to address offensive and defensive strategies, skill development drills and other types of team building activities that do not involve conditioning.
9. **Q.** How do you calculate practice time for multiple sport athletes participating in more than one Fall sport?
A. Practice hours are cumulative. On a single practice day, the three-hour practice limit may be split between the two sports but the total practice time, including any breaks, must fit within the three-hour limit. On a multiple practice day, the daily five-hour practice limit may be split between the two sports but all required recovery periods must be implemented. Any participation for a fraction of a half hour counts as a half hour towards the daily practice limit.
10. **Q.** If Fall multiple sport athletes practice one hour with the Football team and two hours with the Soccer team are they required to have a recovery period between the two practices?
A. No, this is considered to be one three-hour practice and no recovery period is required. If the combined practice time, including any breaks, exceeds three hours then a three-hour recovery is required.
11. **Q.** If a team practices for 1 hour 15 minutes, takes a 30 min break, and resumes for 1 hour and 15 minutes, does this constitute a multiple practice day or one three-hour practice?
A. This would constitute one three-hour practice. Teams are allowed to have periodic breaks but may not exceed the maximum practice time of three hours, including all breaks within the schedule.

2. **PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS** (*Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Participation Limitations, Baseball*) (Revised Winter 2013):

- A. **Team.** A school team shall not play more than 26 games at each level of competition, exclusive of varsity district playoffs and state championships.
- B. **Individual.** A student shall not participate in more than 26 games, exclusive of varsity district playoffs and state championships. A student may participate in only one jamboree.

If a student participates in no more than seven innings on one day at different levels (e.g. four innings junior varsity, three innings varsity), the student is charged with participation in one game. For every additional seven innings played, or portion thereof, the student is charged with an additional game of participation. Participation in two games at the same level in one day counts as two games.

A game that goes into extra innings is considered an extension of the 7th inning and only counts as one inning played.

NOTE: The OSAA pitching limitation, which states that participation for any length of time in an inning as a pitcher shall count as one inning, applies during extra innings.

- C. **Jamboree.** A school may participate in only one jamboree at each level of competition. A jamboree shall include at least three teams, and shall not be counted as a contest. Jamborees may be held only on the first playing date and for 30 days thereafter. A jamboree is limited to not more than six innings (three or more teams) and limited to not more than three innings against any school and with each pitcher limited to not more than two innings.
- D. **Pitching.**
 - 1) A pitcher shall not pitch more than 12 innings on three consecutive days.

- 2) **Example.** If he pitches two innings one day and four innings the second day, he is eligible to pitch only six innings the third day. The number of innings pitched the previous two days must be taken into account in figuring the number of innings he is eligible to pitch on the third day. Participation for any length of time in an inning as pitcher shall count as one inning.
- 3) The penalty if a baseball player pitches in more than 12 innings in a three-day period is forfeiture of the contest in which the pitcher exceeds his limit.

E. **Pitching.** *(recommended for the 2016 season; required beginning with the 2017 season)*

- 1) A pitcher shall not pitch more than **110 pitches per day**. **A pitcher will be allowed to finish pitching to a batter if he reaches the daily maximum (110 pitches) during an at-bat, but then must be removed from the mound.**
- 2) **Pitch Count Limits and Corresponding Days of Rest.** *It is strongly recommended that once a pitcher is removed from the mound, consideration be given to the throwing requirements of the fielding position he will assume. It is strongly advised that a player does not play the positions of pitcher and catcher in the same game.*

All levels 110 pitches/day max (Varsity and Sub-Varsity)

1-25 pitches = 0 days rest (Level Zero)

26-45 pitches = 1 day rest (Level One)

46-60 pitches = 2 days rest (Level Two)

61-85 pitches = 3 days rest (Level Three)

86+ pitches = 4 days rest (Level Four)

**If a pitcher had thrown 61-85 pitches (Level Three) in the previous game, on his third day of rest he would be eligible to throw a maximum of 45 pitches (Level Two). If he threw less than 25 pitches on that third rest day, he would then be eligible to throw the next day with a 110-pitch maximum. If he threw 26-45 pitches on that third rest day, he would need one full day of rest prior to pitching again.*

**If a pitcher had thrown 86-110 pitches (Level Four) in the previous game, on his fourth day of rest he would be eligible to throw a maximum of 25 pitches (Level Zero). Following the 25 pitch day, he would then be eligible to throw the next day with a 110-pitch maximum.*

Day of Week	Pitches Thrown	Pitches Thrown	Pitches Thrown
Monday	61-85	61-85	86-110
Tuesday	Rest	Rest	Rest
Wednesday	Rest	Rest	Rest
Thursday	1-25	26-45	Rest
Friday	Full Eligibility	Rest	1-25
Saturday		Full Eligibility	Full Eligibility
Sunday			

- 3) **Tracking.** *Schools are required to enter each Varsity player's pitch count on the OSAA website following each game and prior to the next day he pitches or the player may be considered an ineligible participant. The home book is official but it is recommended that opposing teams compare as the game progresses for accuracy. Umpires will not be a part of the process.*
- 4) The penalty if a baseball player **pitches more than 110 pitches in day and/or violates the days of rest requirement** is forfeiture of the contest in which the pitcher exceeds his limit **or violates the requirement**.

3. **OFFICIALS – CERTIFIED REQUIREMENT** *(Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2013):*

- A. **General requirement.** Member schools shall secure certified officials from officials' associations that have been recognized and certified by the OSAA for all interscholastic activities requiring those officials. EXCEPTION: Any request for an exception to this policy must receive the approval of the Executive Director. Exceptions shall be considered only when adherence to this policy presents a financial hardship to the school or when the local

officials' association is unable to service the member school. Any out-of-state official used under this exception in a contest in Oregon shall represent an association whose commissioner was an attendee at the OSAA Rules Interpreters' Clinic for that year.

OSAA certified officials are required for all sanctioned activities at the varsity and junior varsity levels including jamborees. EXCEPTION: OSAA certified officials are required in baseball and softball at the varsity level only. OSAA certified officials are required in football at all sub-varsity levels.

Schools, leagues and tournaments are limited to using a maximum of the quantity of officials assigned to State Championship contests unless written permission to exceed that quantity is received from the OSAA Executive Director prior to the event(s).

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.

B. **Quantity requirements.** See **Officials Fee Schedule** for additional information.

- 1) **Baseball.** Two officials are required at the varsity level. One umpire may be used in an emergency situation only. Sub-Varsity: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1-1/3rd the "per official fee."

4. **INTERRUPTED CONTESTS** (*Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (**Revised Fall 2015**)

Following is the policy concerning interrupted athletic contests. **NOTE:** For state championship final games, the OSAA staff shall take jurisdiction and make any decisions rather than the schools involved.

A. **Baseball.**

1) **For darkness and/or weather:**

- a) If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the contest shall continue 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) 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, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - e) 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.
- 2) 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) ***Interrupted Contests Procedures. The following procedures shall be followed by the umpires and teams in these situations:***
- a) ***The umpires, both head coaches and both scorekeepers shall gather together to document the point of interruption on the lineup card and in the official scorebook (including inning, score, outs, runners on base, defensive charged conferences, etc.). The crew chief shall sign the lineup card and the official scorebook to insure that there are two copies.***
 - b) ***The crew chief should then give the signed lineup card to the home coach to be kept with the official scorebook.***
 - c) ***The umpires shall send their game report to their local assigner. If a different umpire crew is assigned, the local assigner shall send the game report details to the new crew as part of accepting the assignment.***
 - d) ***The lineup card shall be given to the new or returning umpire crew during the pre-game when the game is to be continued from the point of interruption.***

5. **ENDOWMENT GAMES** (Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (**Endowment Game Application**) (Revised Fall 2014)

The OSAA and its member schools believe in the fundamental values associated with participation in high school activities and want to work together to ensure the future of high school activities in the state of Oregon. The establishment of the OSAA Foundation will help us realize our goal. Endowment Games are a way for member schools and local communities to be active participants in growing the OSAA Foundation. Endowment Games regulations are as follows:

- A. Endowment Games applications should be submitted to the OSAA office by the host school a minimum of 15 days prior to the scheduled contest. Failure to do so may result in participation limitations violations. Applications may be reviewed prior to approval to insure that the host school is able to effectively secure the facility and charge admission.
- B. Endowment Games shall not count toward a school's or an individual student's season participation limitations for each activity. Daily and weekly individual participation limitations still apply. Schools should ensure that participants meet all OSAA eligibility requirements prior to competing in an Endowment Game.
- C. Endowment Games tickets will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for students. No school district or league passes will be accepted.
- D. Upon completion of an Endowment Game, the host school is responsible for submitting the necessary financial report form and 100% of the gate receipts to the OSAA Foundation. The OSAA Foundation will return 50% of the gross gate receipts to the host school within five business days after receiving the check for gross gate receipts. Operating expenses for Endowment Games are to be drawn from the 50% of the gross gates receipts returned to the host school. Financial agreements, if any, between the two participating schools are at the discretion of the schools.
- E. Endowment Games are allowed at the varsity level only in the following activities:
 - 7) **Baseball.** One additional game between the first contest date and the cutoff date.

- 1. **Q.** Are Endowment Games required?
A. No, Endowment Games are optional for all member schools.
- 2. **Q.** What happens when one basketball team is counting the contest as an Endowment Game, but the other team has only scheduled 24 games?
A. If either team in a contest is counting the game as an Endowment Game, it is considered to be an Endowment Game.
- 3. **Q.** May a school play an Endowment Game doubleheader with its boys' and girls' basketball teams against another school?
A. Yes.
- 4. **Q.** May teams play in multiple Endowment Games?
A. Yes, as long as the team does not exceed that sports Participation Limitation by more than one game/contest. See "**Participation Limitations**" for additional information.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

1. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTING TIMELINES:**

- A. **Athletic Directors, Coaches and Spectators:** Detailed information regarding the 2016 Baseball State Championships will be posted on the OSAA website (<http://www.osaa.org/activities/bbl>) by May 3. It is essential that participating teams and individuals access this information prior to the state championships. Included will be information regarding ticket prices, parking, maps, how to submit souvenir program information, souvenir merchandise, etc.
- B. **Event Management Information:** Beginning May 3, schools that host state championship games must download Event Management Information from the OSAA website (<http://www.osaa.org/activities/bbl>). Included will be information regarding expenses, admission policies, game management & ticket report, ticket booth signs, PA script, etc.

2. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATIONS AND TIMES:

- A. **First Round – Semifinals:** Refer to brackets for locations and home team designation.
- B. **Finals:** 3A, 2A/1A finals will be held on Friday, June 3 and 6A, 5A, 4A finals will be held on Saturday, June 4. OSAA will determine times for all finals.
- C. **Site:** Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Stadium, 6700 Field of Dreams Way NE, Keizer, OR 97307.

3. QUALIFICATION FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

A. **6A** – 32-team OSAA bracket

- 1) Automatic Qualifiers: 24 teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 32-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.
PIL – 4; Metro – 4; Mt. Hood – 4; Three Rivers – 4; Greater Valley – 4; Southwest – 4
- 2) Rankings Freeze Date: The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 14 (includes all games played that day).
- 3) At-Large Qualifiers: Four additional teams qualify for the OSAA's 32-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings.
Once the rankings are frozen, the four highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.
- 4) Play-In Model: Eight teams will qualify as Play-In teams based on the frozen OSAA rankings.
 - a) Once the 24 automatic league qualifiers and the 4 At-Large teams are determined, the next eight highest ranked teams will compete in four Play-In contests on Tuesday, May 17 (leaving May 18 and 19 open in case of inclement weather).
 - b) The eight teams will be ranked 1-8 with the highest ranked team hosting the lowest ranked team. Same league matchups will be avoided if possible. When a matchup of two league opponents exist, there will be ONE attempt to move the lower ranked team to avoid the matchup. If this doesn't resolve the problem then the matchup of the two opponents from the same league will take place. Winners advance to the OSAA 32-team bracket.
- 5) Rankings: Once the 32 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "State Championships – Rankings"

B. **5A** – 16-team OSAA bracket

- 1) Automatic Qualifiers: Eight teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.
Northwest Oregon – 2; Mid-Willamette - 2; Midwestern – 2; Intermountain – 1; Columbia River – 1
- 2) Rankings Freeze Date: The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Monday, May 16 (includes all games played that day).
- 3) Play-In Model: 16 teams will qualify as Play-In teams based on regular season and/or district tournament play. Play-In contests will take place on Friday, May 20 (leaving May 21 open in case of inclement weather). Winners advance to the OSAA 16-team bracket. The 5A Play-In matchups are as follows:
 - a) North – Columbia River #3 @ Northwest Oregon #4, Northwest Oregon #5 @ Intermountain #2, Intermountain #3 @ Northwest Oregon #3, Northwest Oregon #6 @ Columbia River #2
 - b) South – Midwestern #6 @ Mid-Willamette #3, Mid-Willamette #5 @ Midwestern #4, Midwestern #5 @ Mid-Willamette #4, Mid-Willamette #6 @ Midwestern #3
- 4) Rankings: Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "State Championships – Rankings."

C. **4A** – 16-team OSAA bracket

- 1) Automatic Qualifiers: Eight teams, including the #1 team from the Cowapa, Tri-Valley, Oregon West, Sky-Em, Far West, Skyline and Greater Oregon leagues, along with the next highest ranked team between the

#2's from the aforementioned leagues, will automatically qualify for the first round of the OSAA 16-team bracket (Group A) based on regular season and/or district tournament play. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 14 (includes all games played that day).
- 3) **Play-In Model:** The #2 teams from the Cowapa, Tri-Valley, Oregon West, Sky-Em, Far West, Skyline and Greater Oregon, along with the #3 from the league that has two representatives in Group A (guaranteeing all leagues host a play-in game) and the highest remaining ranked #3 team, will be the eight home teams in the Play-In round (Group B). This group will be placed into matchups based on their rankings (B1, B2, B3, etc.). The #3 teams from the Cowapa, Tri-Valley, Oregon West, Sky-Em, Far West, and Skyline, along with the highest ranked non-automatic qualifiers, will travel in the Play-In round (Group C). This group will be placed into the matchups based on their rankings (C1, C2, C3, etc.). The matchups will take place on Thursday, May 19 (leaving May 20 and 21 open in case of inclement weather), and will be as follows: C8 @ B1, C7 @ B2, C6 @ B3, C5 @ B4, C4 @ B5, C3 @ B6, C2 @ B7, C1 @ B8. OSAA's same league matchup policy will be utilized in determining opponents for play-in contests. Winners advance to the OSAA 16-team bracket.

1. **Q.** If the Cowapa League #2 qualifies into Group A, who fills their spot in Group B?
A. The Cowapa League #3 would be moved to Group B to ensure that each league hosts a play-in game.

2. **Q.** Who are the non-automatic qualifiers?
A. Number 4, #5 and #6 from the Cowapa, Tri-Valley, Oregon West, Sky Em, Far West, Skyline and the #3 and #4 from the Greater Oregon.

- 4) **Rankings:** Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "State Championships – Rankings."

D. **3A** – 16-team OSAA bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** 16 teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before Saturday, May 21. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Lewis & Clark: 2; West Valley – 3; PacWest – 3; Mountain Valley – 3; Eastern Oregon – 3; Southern Cascade – 2. (Approved at OSAA Executive Board meeting 2/8/16)

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 21 (includes all games played that day).
- 3) **Rankings:** Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "State Championships – Rankings."

E. **2A/1A** – 16-team OSAA bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** 16 teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or Special District tournament play on or before Saturday, May 21. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Special District 1 – 2; Special District 2 – 3; Special District 3 – 2; Special District 4 – 2; Special District 5 – 2; Special District 6 – 2; Special District 7 – 2. (Approved at OSAA Executive Board meeting 2/8/16)

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 21 (includes all games played that day).
- 3) **At-Large Qualifier – One additional team will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings.**
 - a) **Once the rankings are frozen, the highest ranked team not already an automatic league qualifier from Special District 1, Special District 3, Special District 4 or Special District 5 will qualify as the At-Large team.**
- 4) **Rankings:** Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "State Championships – Rankings."

4. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - HOME TEAM DESIGNATION** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2013): During all rounds of each OSAA State Championship bracket, the better-ranked team shall be the designated home team.

5. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – TEAM SIZE** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (*Revised Fall 2013*):
- A. The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for team sport State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE:** Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.
 - B. **Penalties for excessive team size:** Suiting up, warming up, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
 - 1) **Baseball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent rounds. Maximum in uniform: 6A - 20; All other classifications – 18.
6. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ADOPTED BALL** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (*Fall 2010*):

The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.

A. **State Championship Contests at Home Sites.**

- 1) Team sports (other than football).
 - a) Procedure. Officials shall confirm that the game balls provided by the home team are the officially adopted balls (***Wilson A1010-Pro***). If the home team does not have the officially adopted ball, officials shall inquire if the visiting team has the officially adopted ball, and use them if they are available. If neither team has the officially adopted ball, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the violation by the host school to the OSAA.
 - b) Penalty. If no officially adopted balls are available for use at an OSAA state championship contest, the host school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

- B. **State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls (***Wilson A1010-Pro***) shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests.

OSAA GENERAL POLICIES

1. **ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION / EXHIBITION** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (*Revised August 2012*):

Following is the policy regarding attached and unattached competition:

- A. A high school team shall not compete against an unattached team (e.g., club team).
- B. Students representing a high school shall not compete against unattached individuals.
- C. Students shall not represent a high school and participate in a competition or exhibition as unattached on the same day at the same venue/facility.

2. **CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (***Revised Fall 2015***)

Athletic directors and coaches shall achieve certification in the following areas prior to assuming duties as an athletic director or coach. The high school principal shall be held accountable for verifying that athletic directors and coaches have been certified. **EXCEPTION:** Any emergency exception to an OSAA requirement must be authorized in writing by the OSAA.

- A. **NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching.** <http://nfhslearn.com/>

The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. This is a one-time requirement.

- B. **Concussion Recognition and Management Training.** <http://nfhslearn.com/>

The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 336.485](#)) requires that athletic directors and coaches receive training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The NFHS's Concussion in Sports free course satisfies this requirement. This training is required annually.

C. **NFHS Heat Illness Prevention.** <http://nfhslearn.com/>

The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS's Heat Illness Prevention free course. This is an every other year requirement.

D. **Anabolic Steroids and Performance-Enhancing Substances Training.** <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=2571>

The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 342.726](#)) requires that athletic directors and coaches receive training on identifying the components of anabolic steroid abuse and use and prevention strategies for the use of performance-enhancing substances. This training is required once every four years.

E. **Spirit Safety Clinic (Cheerleading and Dance/Drill Coaches Only).** <http://www.osaa.org/activities/che>

The OSAA requires that any cheerleading or dance/drill coach attend an OSAA Spirit Safety Clinic by the first day of the Association year in which that person serves as a coach. Should a cheerleading/dance drill coach fail to attend an OSAA Spirit Safety Clinic by the first day of the Association Year, the squad of the non-attending coach shall be prohibited from performing partner stunts, lifts or tumbling until the coach has attended a clinic. This training is required annually.

F. **Heads Up Football Certification.** <http://www.osaa.org/activities/fbl>

Football coaches only; recommended for Fall 2015; required for Fall 2016). The OSAA requires that any football coach complete the USA Football Heads Up Certification prior to assuming coaching duties and to recertify annually through an online exam prior to the beginning of each Association year. Additionally, each member school sponsoring football is required to identify a Player Safety Coach. Each Player Safety Coach is required to attend an in person clinic annually prior to the start of the Association year that is conducted by a USA Football Master Trainer in preparation for implementing and overseeing the primary components of Heads Up Football at their school.

1. **Q.** Does certification through the American Sport Education Program (ASEP) satisfy the requirement in **Rule 1.4**?
A. Yes, so long as the athletic director or coach was certified through ASEP prior to August 1, 2007. Thereafter, only the NFHS Coach Education Program "Fundamentals of Coaching" will satisfy this requirement unless an exception is granted in writing by the OSAA.
2. **Q.** When must a coach be certified?
A. All coaches must be certified prior to assuming coaching duties unless an emergency exception is authorized in writing by the OSAA. This includes cheerleading coaches, dance/drill coaches and choreographers at schools that do not participate in competitions.
3. **Q.** Is certification required of volunteer coaches?
A. Yes.
4. **Q.** Must a "guest" coach be certified?
A. No, but if the coach has contact with students more than three times in a sport season, the coach shall no longer be considered a "guest" and must be certified. A non-certified "guest" coach may not serve as a coach at a contest.
5. **Q.** May a school bring in alumni or other non-high school personnel to scrimmage with teams or individuals as "guest coaches" if those personnel are limited to student contact on no more than three occasions during the sport season?
A. No. The "guest coach" exception is intended to allow a limited number of visits by a guest instructor; it is NOT intended to allow coaches to bring in coaches or players to participate in drills or scrimmages against teams or individuals. Any attempt to circumvent the Participation Limitations by calling practice participants "guest coaches" would be a violation of OSAA rules.
6. **Q.** In individual sports, may a parent or non-certified coach accompany a participant to a contest as the school representative if that person is an authorized representative of the principal?
A. Yes, but the authorized representative may not coach the participant unless specific permission has been granted in writing by the Executive Director.
7. **Q.** Does the OSAA require high school coaches to have current first aid certification?
A. No. However, coaches should check with their athletic directors as most high schools have this as a requirement.

3. **CHARITABLE CAUSES** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Fall 2012):

The OSAA is supportive of charitable initiatives and has developed guidelines in regards to an athletic competition being held in the name of a charitable cause. Schools may host a contest in recognition of a charitable cause under the following conditions:

- A. Uniform color must be legal under NFHS rules. Example: Breast cancer awareness pink uniforms would not be legal in sports that require white and dark uniforms because pale pink is neither. Pale pink would be a legal color uniform in sports that require LIGHT and dark uniforms.
- B. A permanently attached commemorative patch may be worn but must adhere to NFHS rules in each specific sport.
- C. Colored game balls may not be used during competition unless they are legal under NFHS rules. They may be used during any warm-up period prior to the contest, except in softball and baseball.
- D. Basketball Only: Pink headbands or wristbands, not legal under NFHS basketball rules unless pink is a school color, are allowed. Note that all team members must be uniform in color of headbands or wristbands.
- E. Officials may use a colored whistle.

4. **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*)

(Concussion-Return to Participation Medical Release) (*Revised Fall 2015*):

A. **Member School's Responsibilities** (Max's Law, [ORS 336.485](#), [OAR 581-022-0421](#)) (Jenna's Law, [ORS 417.875](#))

1) **Suspected or Diagnosed Concussion.** Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body, or who has been diagnosed with a concussion, shall not be permitted to return to that athletic contest or practice, or any other athletic contest or practice on that same day. In schools which have the services of an athletic trainer registered by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers, that athletic trainer may determine that an athlete has not exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and has not suffered a concussion, and return the athlete to play. Athletic trainers may also work in consultation with an appropriate Health Care Professional (see below) in determining when an athlete is able to return to play following a concussion.

2) **Return to Participation.** Until an athlete who has suffered a concussion is no longer experiencing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and a medical release form signed by an appropriate Health Care Professional (Physician (MD), Physician's Assistant (PA), Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) licensed by the Oregon State Board of Medicine, nurse practitioner licensed by the Oregon State Board of Nursing, or Psychologist licensed by the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners) is obtained, the athlete shall not be permitted to return to athletic activity.

3) **Private Schools Only.** **(Concussion-Private School Informed Consent)**

On an annual basis prior to participation, private schools shall require each student and at least one parent or legal guardian of the student to sign the Concussion – Private School Informed Consent form acknowledging the receipt of information regarding symptoms and warning signs of concussions. Private schools shall maintain a copy of each student's signed form on file for review at any time by OSAA staff.

B. **Official's Responsibilities.**

An official shall remove a player from a contest when that player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion due to an observed or suspected blow to the head or body. The official shall document and notify the head coach or his/her designee making sure that the head coach or designee understands that the player is being removed for exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion as opposed to behavior, a non-concussive injury or other reasons. The official is not responsible for evaluation or management of the player after he/she is removed from play. The official does not need written permission for a player to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health care professional who has cleared the player to return. The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic player falls upon the school and appropriate health care professionals.

5. **EJECTION POLICIES – EJECTED PLAYER OR COACH** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Fall 2014):

- A. If a player or coach is ejected by an official, both the athletic director of the school of the ejected player/coach and the commissioner of officials shall notify the OSAA in writing of the ejection by the next workday. Ejected coaches must leave the contest immediately and shall remain out of sight and sound of the team for the duration of that contest and any other school contests that day. It shall be the responsibility of the school to disallow the ejected player or coach from participating during the period of suspension specified in the Regulations, regardless of

whether written notification has been received by the school from the commissioner of officials. Should an ejected player participate or an ejected coach remain within sight and sound of the team during the period of suspension specified in the Regulations, and no appeal is pending, that action shall be considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.

- B. **Additional requirements regarding an ejected coach:** In addition to the requirements previously listed in this policy, an ejected coach shall be required to complete the online NFHS course, Teaching and Modeling Behavior, within seven calendar days of the school being provided a license to take the course by the OSAA. Should a coach fail to complete the course requirement within the time limit stipulated in this policy, the ejection suspension shall be reinstated and the coach shall be ineligible to coach until the requirement has been fulfilled. Should an ejected coach remain within sight and sound of the team during the reinstated period of suspension specified in the Regulations, and no appeal is pending, that action shall be considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.
- C. **Appeal Process:** If the principal or the Athletic Director of the ejected coach/player and the commissioner of officials agree that the suspension should be set aside, the principal may appeal to the Executive Director within 48 hours of the ejection to set aside the next game suspension portion of the penalty. Unless the commissioner agrees that the suspension should be set aside, the appeal must be denied by the Executive Director. If the Executive Director denies an appeal, that denial may be appealed to the Executive Board, which shall hear the appeal at its earliest convenience and issue a final ruling. Implementation of the next game suspension may be postponed during the time that an appeal is pending.

1. **Q.** When a player is ejected, may the player remain on the bench?
A. Yes. The player is required to sit out the remainder of the contest, but may remain on the bench.
2. **Q.** When a coach is ejected, must the coach leave the playing area?
A. Yes. The coach must leave the playing area and shall be allowed no further direct or indirect contact with the team until the contest is completed. In order to avoid direct or indirect contact, the coach must be out of sight and sound of the team.
3. **Q.** May a player sit on the bench during a period of suspension?
A. Yes, but the player must not be in uniform.
4. **Q.** May a coach have any contact with a team at a contest following an ejection or at the contest at which the suspension is served?
A. No. The coach is allowed no direct or indirect contact with the team during the contest following ejection. In order to avoid direct or indirect contact, the coach must be out of sight and sound of the team. Further, the coach is allowed no direct or indirect contact with the team at the contest at which the suspension is served nor is the coach permitted to attend the contest at which the suspension is served.
5. **Q.** May a coach or participant who has been suspended at one level of competition (e.g. varsity) participate in a contest at another level during the period of suspension?
A. No.
6. **Q.** May a coach or participant who has been suspended at one level of competition (e.g. varsity) serve the suspension in a contest at another level?
A. No.
7. **Q.** When a coach or player is ejected, when and over what period of time are the ejection period and suspension period?
A. NOTE: If the ejection occurs in the last contest at a particular level, the suspension carries over to the next contest at any level in that sport in that season.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Ejection Period</u>	<u>Suspension Period</u>
Baseball	Remainder of that day.	Sit out through next contest at that level.
Basketball	Remainder of that day.	Sit out through next contest at that level.
Football	Remainder of that day.	Sit out through next contest at that level.
Soccer	Remainder of that day.	Sit out through next contest at that level.
Softball	Remainder of that day.	Sit out through next contest at that level.
Volleyball	Remainder of that day.	Sit out through next playing date at that level.
Wrestling	Follow NFHS Rules Book.	Sit out through next contest at that level.
8. **Q.** When does the period of suspension begin?
A. The suspension is served after the ejection has been served. The ejection and suspension may not be served simultaneously.

9. Q. May a coach or participant ejected from a contest serve the one-game suspension at a jamboree?
A. No, the coach or participant may not count a jamboree as a contest for the purpose of serving the period of suspension. The coach or participant must sit out the jamboree and the next contest at that level of competition.
10. Q. May a suspended coach have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during the period of suspension on a game day that is a school day?
A. A suspended coach may have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during regular school hours. However, once the regular school day is over, the coach must be out of sight and sound of the team members/other coaches of the team, and have no contact with them until the game is over.
11. Q. May a suspended coach have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during the period of suspension on a game day that is NOT a school day?
A. The suspended coach may have no contact with team members/other coaches of the team until the game is over.
12. Q. May a suspended coach have any contact with other coaches of the team (for example, via mobile phone or wireless radio) during a game in which a suspension is being served?
A. No. The suspended coach must be out of sight and sound of the contest during which a suspension is served.
13. Q. If a player or coach is ejected during the last contest of the season, does the unserved suspension carry forward to a subsequent season?
A. No.
14. Q. In basketball, does the ejection of a player or coach as a result of receiving two technical fouls result in the player or coach being suspended through the next contest at that level?
A. Yes, a player or coach who is ejected as a result of receiving two technical fouls is ejected for the remainder of the day and must sit out through the next contest at that level.
15. Q. Does the contest from which a participant is suspended due to an ejection count against the individual contest limitation for the participant?
A. Yes.
16. Q. When a player or coach is ejected while acting as a spectator at a contest in the same sport in which the coach or player participates, but at which he or she is not serving as a player or a coach, does a period of suspension still apply?
A. Yes. The ejected player or coach is suspended from all participation for the same period of time as if he or she had been a participant in the contest at which the ejection occurred.
17. Q. When a player or coach is ejected in one sport, may the player or coach participate or coach in another sport during the period of suspension?
A. No.
18. Q. When a player or coach is ejected from an out-of-state contest, does the OSAA ejection policy apply?
A. Yes. It is the responsibility of the school to notify the OSAA of the ejection.
19. Q. When a player or coach is ejected from an out-of-state contest, what appeals process is followed?
A. If the school of the ejected player or coach wishes to appeal to set aside the next game suspension portion of the penalty for the ejection, it is the responsibility of the school to contact the commissioner of the out-of-state officials association to obtain written information to submit to the OSAA in support of the appeal.

6. **EJECTION POLICIES – FINES** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (**Revised Fall 2015**):

- A. Schools shall be assessed fines for ejections within specific sports programs. Each sport (e.g., Football, Boys Basketball, Softball) shall be tracked as separate and distinct for the purpose of calculating fines. When the first participant or coach in a sport is ejected, the school that the participant or coach is representing shall be assessed a \$50 fine by the Executive Board. A second ejection in the same sport during the same season shall result in the assessment of a \$100 fine, and each ejection thereafter in that sport during that season shall result in a fine to be increased by \$50 increments for each ejection without limitation.
- 1) **EXCEPTION:** The fine for an ejection in the last contest of the season shall be increased by \$100 over the greater of the standard fine described above or the most recent fine for that program.
 - 2) **EXCEPTION:** Soccer Player: A soccer player who is disqualified because he or she “deliberately handles a ball to prevent it from going into the goal” **or “receives two cautions (yellow cards)”** shall not be subject to the fine specified in this and other OSAA ejection policies, but shall be subject to the specified suspension.

- B. A school receiving five or more ejections during one school year shall be required to attend a sportsmanship training class and submit a written Plan of Correction to the OSAA, including timelines for implementation of the Plan.

7. **EJECTION POLICIES – MULTIPLE EJECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Fall 2012):

A second ejection during the same sport season will result in a two-game suspension. A third ejection during the same sport season will result in disqualification from further participation in that sport during that sport season.

8. **HEAT INDEX (Heat Index Calculator) (Heat Index Record)** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Fall 2014):

Schools shall monitor the Heat Index for their geographic area prior to practices. Outlined below are the steps that each member school shall take in order to implement this policy. NOTE: Indoor activities where air conditioning is available are not bound by this policy.

- A. **Subscribe.** Athletic directors and coaches shall subscribe to OSAA Heat Index Notifications at <http://www.osaa.org/heat-index>. An OSAA Heat Index Alert is generated for areas where the forecasted high temperature and relative humidity indicate a forecasted heat index that may require practice modifications. Only those areas that have a forecasted heat index of 95 or higher receive alerts. Notifications are sent daily via e-mail and/or SMS to subscribers.
- B. **Designate.** Schools shall designate someone who will take the necessary steps to determine and record the heat index for your geographic area within one hour of the start of each team's practice. This is only necessary on days when the school receives an OSAA Heat Index Alert. Depending on practice schedules, it is possible that the designated person will have to record the heat index multiple times on the same day.
- C. **Calculate.** Within one hour of the start of each team's practice on days when the school receives an OSAA Heat Index Alert, the designated person shall utilize the OSAA Heat Index Calculator to determine the actual heat index.
- D. **Record.** If the actual heat index is 95 or higher, the designated person shall record it using the OSAA Heat Index Record or by printing out a copy to be kept at the school for inspection at the request of the OSAA. A separate record shall be kept for each fall sport at each level. Practice modifications, as necessary, shall also be recorded. If the actual heat index is less than 95, no action is needed.
- E. **Act.** If the actual heat index is 95 or higher, activity should be altered and/or eliminated using the following guidelines:
- 1) **95° to 99° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
 - a) Maximum of five hours of practice.
 - b) Practice length a maximum of three hours.
 - c) Mandatory three-hour recovery period between practices.
 - d) Contact sports and activities with additional equipment - helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - e) Provide ample amounts of water.
 - f) Water shall always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - g) Watch/monitor athletes for necessary action.
 - 2) **100° to 104° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Postpone practice to later in the day.
 - a) Maximum of five hours of practice.
 - b) Practice length a maximum of three hours.
 - c) Mandatory three-hour recovery period between practices.
 - d) Alter uniform by removing items if possible - allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
 - e) Contact sports and activities with additional equipment - helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - f) Reduce time of planned outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
 - g) Provide ample amounts of water.
 - h) Water shall always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.

i) Watch/monitor athletes for necessary action.

3) Above 104° Heat Index – OSAA Recommendation: Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

9. **LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES** (Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (From NFHS Sports Rules Books)(Revised Fall 2015):

A. These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder.

B. **Proactive Planning:**

1) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.

2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.

3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

a) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, ***the leading edge of*** the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for 30 minutes and take shelter immediately.

b) Thirty-minute Rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.

c) Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

4) Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.

5) Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.

C. For more detailed information, refer to the “Lightning and Thunder Safety” section contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

10. **MORATORIUM WEEK** (Excerpt OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised May 2014):

A. Each year a seven-day OSAA Moratorium Week shall be in effect during which there shall be no contact between administrators/coaches/directors/advisors and students involved in any OSAA-sanctioned sport or activity, including cheer, dance/drill, speech, solo music, choir, band/orchestra. In addition, there shall be no high school athletic facility usage by athletic staff and students/teams, including dance/drill and cheer, during the OSAA Moratorium Week. Use of non-athletic facilities by athletic staff is allowed.

B. Week 4 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar shall be designated as Moratorium Week. Designated OSAA Moratorium Week dates:

2015	July 26 – August 1	2018	July 22 – July 28
2016	July 24 – July 30	2019	July 28 – August 3
2017	July 23 – July 29	2020	July 26 – August 1

1. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, will coaches be allowed any contact with their athletes?

A. No.

2. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, will schools be allowed to have open facilities?

A. Schools may only host an activity that includes high school students involved in athletics and activities if they have appealed for and been granted permission from the Executive Director prior to the Moratorium Week. Permission shall not be granted for team camps.

3. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, will coaches be allowed to have conditioning with their athletes, including working out in the weight room?

A. No, no contact is allowed.

4. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, may students attend camps, clinics, etc.?

A. Yes, so long as no high school administrators/coaches/directors/advisors are present, and participation is not organized or paid for by the school.

5. **Q.** Are there any exceptions to this policy?

A. Yes. There will be an appeals process in place for teams, coached by a high school coach, that have been playing together all summer and have qualified for a post-season event that is taking place during all or part of the Moratorium Week. Approval must be granted by the Executive Director prior to the Moratorium Week.

6. **Q.** What is the penalty for a Moratorium Week violation?
A. The violation penalty will be similar to that assessed for a Rule of Two violation. The standard penalty is a \$500 fine and game suspension for the offending coach.
7. **Q.** May coaches work with non-high school students during the Moratorium Week?
A. Yes, but not at a high school venue.
8. **Q.** May coaches encourage their athletes to work out at another facility during the Moratorium Week?
A. No. The intent of the policy is that coaches and students take a week off.
9. **Q.** May a school schedule their athletic physical night, or a similar event, during the Moratorium Week?
A. No, the school may schedule nothing that is related to OSAA activities.
10. **Q.** May coaches/student make contact through phone, email, etc., during Moratorium Week?
A. Yes, but with restrictions. For example, the coach may not ask the student, What is your workout today?
11. **Q.** May a high school coach work with another high school's students during the Moratorium Week?
A. No. Contact is not allowed by high school coaches with any high school students during the Moratorium Week.
12. **Q.** May a coach work in any capacity (coaching or not coaching) at a camp during the Moratorium Week?
A. Yes, but only if there are no high school students at the camp and not at a high school venue.
13. **Q.** May an outside entity hold an event during Moratorium Week (e.g. youth soccer camp, little league baseball tournament) that utilizes high school athletic facilities?
A. Yes, provided that no high school students and no members of the high school athletic staff are involved in any capacity (scheduling, supervising, instructing, etc.) with the event.
14. **Q.** May athletic staff members work in school offices or classrooms during the Moratorium Week, even if they may have contact with students?
A. Yes, provided that the contact with students is limited to non-athletic pursuits such as schedule changes, registration, etc.
15. **Q.** At what point does the OSAA consider a person to be a school's coach?
A. Once a person and a school have verbally agreed that the person will perform coaching duties for the school, he/she is considered to be that school's coach by the OSAA. At that time, all OSAA policies are in effect for that coach until such time that the coach resigns or is notified by the school that they are no longer a coach for that school.
16. **Q.** May a returning coach work with students outside their designated sports season since the coach working under a one-year contract and has not signed a contract for the coming year?
A. No. Once a person becomes a school's coach, the OSAA considers that person to be a coach for the school until such time that the coach resigns or is notified by the school that they are no longer a coach for that school. Coaches who resign and are then brought back in a coaching capacity by the same school in an attempt to circumvent OSAA policy are subject to penalties as outlined in [Rule 5, Violations of Regulations - Penalties](#).

11. [OFFICIALS – HOST SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES](#) (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Winter 2014):

A game manager shall be designated by the host school for all contests in sports that use certified officials. A member of the coaching staff of the home team is not eligible to serve as game manager during a varsity contest at which he or she is coaching. A coach of a sub-varsity team may act as the game manager at a sub-varsity contest at which he or she is coaching. The game manager shall wear easily recognizable identification, shall be physically present and / or readily accessible by phone, and shall be responsible for:

- A. Designating reserved parking for officials as close as possible to the contest site where available if requested by the commissioner of the Local Association providing the officials;
- 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.

12. [REPORTING SCHEDULES AND RESULTS](#) (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2015):

A. Schedules.

- 1) Team Sports. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to submit varsity team schedules to the OSAA through <http://www.osaa.org/> prior to the first contest date of that sport's season. Varsity schedules 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 team's schedule shall be submitted as they occur throughout the season.

- 2) ***Wrestling.*** *It shall be the responsibility of each member school to input varsity team schedules into the assigned TrackWrestling team profile prior to the first contest date. Subsequent changes to the schedule shall be submitted as they occur throughout the season.*

B. Results.

- 1) **Team Sports.** The host school is required to report the result of each varsity contest through <http://www.osaa.org/> by 10pm on the day the contest is played. In neutral site contests, the designated home team shall report the result. In the case where an OSAA member school is competing outside of Oregon, it is the responsibility of the member school to report the result. Reports of varsity scores are required for the following OSAA-sanctioned sports: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball, softball.

- 2) ***Wrestling.*** *Member schools shall verify after all Varsity dual meets and Varsity tournaments (individual and dual meet formats) that complete results are entered into the school's assigned TrackWrestling team profile and have been accepted. It is highly recommended, but not required, that all events be scored live using TrackWrestling. If the host school does not score the event live using TrackWrestling, then the host school has the responsibility for inputting results for all participating teams within 24 hours after the conclusion of the event. In the case where an OSAA member school is competing outside of Oregon, it is the responsibility of the member school to input the results.*

- C. **Consequences of Failure to Report Complete Schedules.** Failure to report a complete schedule shall be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

- D. **Consequences of Failure to Report Results.** Failure to report results shall cause the following progressive sanction(s) process for each individual incident and in the time stated. Failure to report results by the 3rd Level shall be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

- 1) **Team Sports:**

- a) **1st Level** – Reminder Email (1st day after scheduled contest)
- b) **2nd Level** – Warning Email (2nd day after scheduled contest)
- c) **3rd Level** – Probation Email (3rd day after scheduled contest)

- 2) **Wrestling:**

- a) **1st Level** – *Reminder Email (5th day after scheduled contest)*
- b) **2nd Level** – *Warning Email (6th day after scheduled contest)*
- c) **3rd Level** – *Probation Email (7th day after scheduled contest)*

13. SHARED FACILITIES (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Shared Facility Request) (Fall 2015):

Member schools are permitted to share practice and/or competition facilities with other teams with prior approval from the OSAA. Schools requesting a shared facility are required to submit a "Shared Facility Request" for approval prior to the facility being utilized by different groups at the same time. This policy prohibits practice or competition to or between groups approved to share a facility. It is recommended that each team have their own coaching staff and that staggered practice times be utilized when possible.

14. SPECTATOR CONDUCT AT OSAA SANCTIONED EVENTS (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Winter 2015):

In addition to the general expectations included in the OSAA Constitution, Rule 3, that school officials...shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school's students and supporters maintain a sportsmanlike attitude toward all events... the following specific expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided:

- A. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Some examples of inappropriate conduct or actions that are not permitted are: turning backs, holding up newspapers or jeering at cheerleaders during opposing team introductions; disrespecting players by name, number or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the floor.
- B. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners (larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches), confetti, balloons or glass containers. ***Fathead type items are considered signs and shall not be larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches.*** Spectators are required to wear shirts.

- C. Spectators are not permitted to have artificial noisemakers. Some examples of artificial noisemakers are Thunder Stix, cowbells, clappers and air horns.
- D. Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language. Spectators shall not be permitted to engage in any racially / culturally insensitive action.
- E. Spectators who fail to comply with Association or site management spectator conduct expectations may be expelled from the contest.

1. **Q.** May home team schools display signs and/or banners at their home venues?
A. Yes, home team schools may display permanent signs and/or banners that are positive/supportive at their home venues. Examples are welcome signs, in-season rosters, league banners, league/state championship banners and sportsmanship banners.
2. **Q.** May visiting schools bring signs and/or banners to hang at the host school's venue?
A. No.
3. **Q.** Are run through signs allowed?
A. Yes, so long as the message is positive/supportive.
4. **Q.** May a school use an artificial noisemaker at specific times during athletic events?
A. In limited cases, yes. An example of an allowable use of artificial noisemakers by a school would be the firing of a cannon or the ringing of a bell after a touchdown is scored.
5. **Q.** May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?
A. Yes, but only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.
6. **Q.** What are some examples of cheers that do not encourage a positive atmosphere?
A. Any yell that is intended to antagonize an opponent detracts from a positive atmosphere. Air Ball! Air Ball! booing, You! You! You! or You Got Swatted! are examples of yells that will not encourage a positive atmosphere. Conversely, a positive atmosphere is created when fans focus on positive yells in support of their team, rather than on negative yells attacking their team's opponents.
7. **Q.** May students stand on the bottom row of the bleachers?
A. Yes, but when they sit down, they must be seated on the second row.
8. **Q.** May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?
A. Yes, so long as they are just making noise and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.
9. **Q.** May a school use balloons at an athletic event?
A. Yes, a host school may use balloons for decoration. However, fans may not have balloons, and balloons may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.
10. **Q.** May a school use balloons at a state championship final site?
A. No.
11. **Q.** May spectators have oversized foam fingers at athletic events?
A. Yes, they are allowed so long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.

15. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – RANKINGS** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (**Revised Fall 2015**):

The OSAA shall use a ranking system to place qualifying teams on to OSAA State Championship brackets in the following team sports: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball and softball. Specifics regarding the ranking system and its implementation are listed below.

- A. **Overall OSAA Ranking.** The overall OSAA ranking system shall be a combination of a Rating Percentage Index (RPI) system and the Colley Rating system. Each team will have an RPI Rank and a Colley Rank that will be averaged to create their overall OSAA Ranking. The **Colley** Rank will be used to break ties between teams with the same OSAA Ranking.

- B. **Rating Percentage Index (RPI).** Factors included are wins, losses, ties and location of the contest (home, neutral, away). Score differential and rewards/penalties for playing teams outside one's classification are not a part of the RPI system.
- 1) **Weighting of Contests.** The weight of a particular contest in the RPI system is determined by its location.

Home Win – .8 of .8	Road Win – 1.2 of 1.2	Neutral Site Win – 1.0 of 1.0
Home Tie – .4 of .8	Road Tie – .6 of 1.2	Neutral Site Tie - .5 of 1.0
Home Loss – 0 of 1.2	Road Loss – 0 of .8	Neutral Site Loss – 0 of 1.0
 - 2) **Percentage Breakdown.** The RPI system factors a team's weighted winning percentage (35%) and a team's opponents' winning percentage (65%) to create a team's RPI ranking.
- C. **Colley Rating.** This system is based on winning percentage, which is adjusted for a team's strength of schedule. Only games against opponents within the same classification are included in the formula. When this system is expanded to include all teams in a classification, a linear system is created with the same number of variables as there are equations. The result of the calculations is a rating for each team in the classification that measures the team's winning percentage against the strength of its opponents and the interactions of their opponents with all teams within the classification.
- D. **Results.** Wins and losses shall be included in the rankings for all team sports. Ties shall only be included for boys' and girls' soccer.
- 1) **Endowment Games.** Results from contests designated as Endowment Games shall be included.
 - 2) **Independent Status Teams.** Results from contests that have been granted Independent Status by the OSAA shall be included.
 - 3) **Forfeits.** Forfeits shall be included and counted as a loss for the forfeiting team and a win for the team receiving the forfeit victory. However, in the RPI system, computation of opponents' winning percentage (OWP) shall not include the results of any forfeits. Contests that have been legally played (using eligible players, etc.) shall not be counted as forfeits in the rankings, regardless of a league/district's standard operating procedures.
 - 4) **Out of State Teams.** In the RPI system, results from contests against out of state teams shall be included in a team's weighted winning percentage and a team's opponents' winning percentage only. Schools are strongly encouraged to utilize the ScoreCenter Out-of-State Opponents form in order to have direct, regular contact with these teams.
 - 5) **Out of Country Teams.** In the RPI system, results from contests against out of country teams shall not be included, except for contests against teams who are members of NFHS Affiliate Associations (e.g. Canadian provinces, U.S. territories, etc.) which shall be treated like contests against out of state teams.
 - 6) **Contests vs. Teams Whose Classification's Rankings Are Frozen.** Results from contests involving any team whose classification's rankings are already frozen shall not be included in the rankings.
 - 7) **Contests vs. Teams More Than One Classification Away.** In the RPI system, results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (**Fall – Sept. 14; Winter – Dec. 21; Spring – Apr. 4**) vs. a team more than one classification away shall not be included in the rankings. NOTE: bracketed contests at tournaments are not affected by this policy.
 - 8) **Contests Added After a Certain Date.** *Results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (Fall – Sept. 28; Winter – Jan. 11; Spring – Apr. 11) 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.*
 - 9) **Volleyball Pool Play.** Results from pool play in volleyball tournaments shall not be included.
 - 10) **1A Football.** Results from contests between 1A football teams (8-man) and other classifications shall not be included.
 - 11) **JV Teams.** Results from contests against JV teams shall not be included.
 - 12) **Alumni Teams.** Results from contests against alumni teams shall not be included.
 - 13) **Jamborees.** Results from jamborees shall not be included.
 - 14) **Cancellations.** Results from contests that are cancelled shall not be included.
- E. **Home/Away Designation.** Since the RPI system factors in where a contest is played, it is important that schools correctly designate this information when reporting schedules and results, especially for tournaments. Tournament play shall be considered a neutral site, except for contests played by the tournament host at its home venue. 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).

- F. **Ranking Timelines.** The rankings for each team sport shall be available to the public through the OSAA website beginning with the first contest date of each sports season. Rankings shall be frozen on the following dates for each classification in each team sport:

Sport (includes all games played on that day)	6A	5A	4A	3A & 2A	1A
Volleyball - Rankings Freeze Date (10pm)	Thurs, Oct. 22	Sat, Oct. 24	Tues, Oct. 20	Tues, Oct. 27	Mon, Oct. 26
Soccer - Rankings Freeze Date (10pm)	Sat, Oct. 24	Wed, Oct. 28	Tues, Oct. 27	Sat, Oct. 31	Sat, Oct. 31
Football - Rankings Freeze Date (10pm)	Fri, Oct. 30	Fri, Oct. 30	Fri, Oct. 23	Sat, Oct. 31	Fri, Oct. 30
Basketball (Girls) - Rankings Freeze Date (10pm)	Wed, Feb. 24	Sat, Feb. 26	Tues, Feb. 23	Sat, Feb. 20	Sat, Feb. 20
Basketball (Boys) - Rankings Freeze Date (10pm)	Thurs, Feb. 25	Sat, Feb. 27	Tues, Feb. 23	Sat, Feb. 20	Sat, Feb. 20
Baseball/Softball - Rankings Freeze Date (10pm)	Sat, May 14	Mon, May 16	Sat, May 14	Sat, May 22	Sat, May 21

- G. **Breaking Ties in the Overall Rankings.** In the event of a tie in the final overall OSAA Rankings, the teams' **Colley** Rank will be used to break the tie. Although the **Colley Ratings** are displayed to the thousandths, the **Colley Ratings** shall be extended to as many digits as possible in order to break the tie. If a tie still exists then head-to-head competition shall decide the higher overall OSAA ranking. **If a tie still exists, the RPI ranking shall be extended to as many digits as possible in order to break the tie.** If that does not resolve the tie, the RPI ranking shall be extended to as many digits as possible for each of the following components in this order: winning percentage, weighted winning percentage, opponents' winning percentage. If a tie still exists, a coin flip by the OSAA staff shall decide the higher overall OSAA ranking.
- H. **Home Games for League Champions.** League champions at the 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A classifications shall be guaranteed a home game in their first state playoff contest, provided that the league champion finished in the top 16 of the final frozen rankings. Only one team per league will be considered the league champion under this policy; ties must be broken by the league. League champions meeting this criterion shall be moved up in the rankings the least number of places in order to ensure a home game (e.g. a league champion ranked #13 in the final frozen rankings shall be moved up to #8 and affected teams will shift down accordingly). League champions not meeting this criterion shall not be moved.
- I. **Avoiding Same League Matchups in 1st Round.** The OSAA Staff shall make adjustments to the bracket to avoid teams from the same league matching up in the 1st Round. At the 1A level in volleyball and basketball, adjustments to the bracket shall be made beginning in the Round of 16 to avoid same league matchups. The following process shall be used:
- 1) Always move the lower ranked team when a conflict occurs.
 - 2) Never take a home game away from a team when trying to resolve a conflict.
 - 3) Make a total of three moves for a team to try and fix the conflict.
 - 4) The three moves must move downward, if possible (e.g. #23 shifting with #24, #25, #26).
 - 5) If there is not room to move downward (e.g. #32 is the conflict in a 32-team bracket), then move upward.
 - 6) If the conflict is not resolved after a total of three moves, no change shall be made to fix the conflict.
- J. **Placing Teams on the OSAA Bracket.** Once any adjustments are completed per sections H and I above, teams shall be assigned an adjusted playoff ranking (APR) and placed on the bracket accordingly (e.g. 1-32, 1-16, etc.)

16. WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies):

- A. Removal of a team from competition prior to completion of that competition shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B. In such a case, the school shall forfeit the contest and an administrator and the coach responsible for the action shall appear before the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. See **Executive Board Policies, Withdrawal from State Championships** for additional information.

Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control (OSAA Handbook, Rules)

- 3.1.** The arrangement of all festivals, meets, contests or championships is the responsibility of the superintendent, assistant superintendent or high school principal, subject to the Regulations of the Association.
- 3.2.** When a festival, meet, contest or championship is in progress, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules governing such activities shall apply, except for specific deviations as approved by the Executive Board.

- 3.3. Sportsmanship Responsibility.** The high school principal, coach and other responsible officials of each member school shall take all reasonable measures to insure that the school's coaches, players, students and supporters maintain a sportsmanlike attitude toward all events so that events may be conducted without unreasonable danger or disorder. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Derogatory and/or unsportsmanlike language is not allowed. No player may be singled out by number, name or position with negative comments of any kind.

When a petition is filed alleging violation of this rule, the Executive Director may, at his/her discretion and with concurrence of any two Executive Board members, postpone any pending event which the Executive Director has reason to believe cannot be conducted without an unreasonable danger of disorder. All such protests shall be referred to the Executive Board, which shall proceed as provided in Rule 4. In addition to any other action the Executive Board may take regarding a protest alleging a violation of this rule, the Executive Board shall have the power to cancel or reschedule the event involved, or to impose conditions on conducting it.

- 3.4. Sportsmanship Violations/Penalties.** When the coaches, players, students, staff or supporters of any member school engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contest or championship sponsored by this Association, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school of the Rules of the Association. Any school whose coaches, players, students, supporters, rooters or partisans take part in riots, fights, pilfering, painting or any other unsportsmanlike conduct shall be subject to penalty.
- 3.5.** A member school shall not participate in any festival, meet, contest or championship with a school that has been suspended or expelled from the Association.
- 3.6.** The Association shall conduct state championships as directed by the Delegate Assembly.
- 3.7.** A school shall not be allowed to participate in more than one state championship in a given sport.

- 1. Q.** Is the host school exclusively responsible for crowd control?
A. No. While the host school for any activity must assume a primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control, this is a mutual responsibility. The visiting school also must take such measures as are necessary to insure proper behavior on the part of its own students and fans.
- 2. Q.** May home team schools display signs and/or banners at their home venues?
A. Yes, home team schools may display permanent signs and/or banners that are positive / supportive at their home venues. Examples are welcome signs, in-season rosters, league banners, league / state championship banners and sportsmanship banners.
- 3. Q.** May visiting schools bring signs and/or banners to hang at the host school's venue?
A. No.
- 4. Q.** Are run through signs allowed?
A. Yes, so long as the message is positive/supportive.
- 5. Q.** May a school use an artificial noisemaker at specific times during athletic events?
A. In limited cases, yes. An example of an allowable use of artificial noisemakers by a school would be the firing of a cannon or the ringing of a bell after a touchdown is scored.
- 6. Q.** May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?
A. Yes, but only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.
- 7. Q.** What are some examples of cheers that do not encourage a positive atmosphere?
A. Any yell that is intended to antagonize an opponent detracts from a positive atmosphere. Air Ball! Air Ball! booing, You! You! You! or You Got Swatted! are examples of yells that will not encourage a positive atmosphere. Conversely, a positive atmosphere is created when fans focus on positive yells in support of their team, rather than on negative yells attacking their team's opponents.
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- 9. Q.** May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?
A. Yes, so long as they are just making noise and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.

- 10. Q.** May a school use balloons at an athletic event?
A. Yes, a host school may use balloons for decoration. However, fans may not have balloons, and balloons may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.
- 11. Q.** May a school use balloons at a state championship final site?
A. No.
- 12. Q.** May spectators have oversized foam fingers at athletic events?
A. Yes, they are allowed so long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.

Rule 7 – Out-of-Season and Non-School Activities (*OSAA Handbook, Rules*)

- 7.1.** Out-of-season festivals, meets, contests or championships shall not be permitted during the school year involving member schools of this Association unless special authorization is given by the Executive Board.
- 7.2.** A member school or official representative of a member school shall not participate, either directly or indirectly, in the promotion, management, supervision, player selection, coaching or officiating of an all-star contest involving high school students during the Association year.
- 7.3.** No member school or official representative of a member school shall condition participation in high school athletics on participation in non-school athletic events or workouts, including, but not limited to camps, leagues, and any form of organized out-of-season or summer competition. Further, no member school may give consideration to such participation when determining membership on, or participation in, high school competitive athletics.
- 1. Q.** May a coach require participation on a non-school team including summer teams or use participation on a non-school team as a factor in selecting members of a school team or allowing full participation in team activities?
A. No to both questions. Participation on a non-school team is a personal choice of the student and his/her parents, and may not be required or even considered when selecting school team members or allowing full participation in team activities.
- 2. Q.** May a coach require participation in out-of-season or summer workouts as a factor in selecting members of a school team or allowing full participation in team activities?
A. No.