



2014 OSAA Baseball Plan



GENERAL BASEBALL INFORMATION

1. SEASON DATES:

March 3	Practice Starts
March 17	First Contest Date
May 22	6A Cutoff Date
May 24	5A, 4A, 3A, 2A/1A Cutoff Date
May 26	6A First Round
May 28	5A, 4A, 3A, 2A/1A First Rounds; 6A Second Round
May 30	All Quarterfinals
June 3	All Semifinals
June 6	3A, 2A/1A State Championships
June 7	6A, 5A, 4A State Championships

2. REPORTING SCHEDULES AND SCORES: *(OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)*

- a. Schedules. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to submit varsity team schedules to the OSAA through 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.
- b. Scores. The host school is required to report the result of each varsity contest through 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.
- 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 Schedules and/or Scores. Should a school fail to report varsity team schedules and results by the established deadlines, the OSAA shall send an email to the school's athletic director. Additional emails shall be sent as each subsequent level is reached. Failure to report a schedule and/or results shall cause the following progressive sanction(s) process per sport for each individual incident and in the time stated.
 - 1st Level – Reminder Email (day after scheduled contest)
 - 2nd Level – Warning Email (2nd day after scheduled contest)
 - 3rd Level – Probation Email (3rd day after scheduled contest)

Failure to report a schedule and/or results by the 3rd Level shall be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board. (Fall 2010)

3. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS INFORMATION:

- a. **Athletic Directors, Coaches and Spectators** – Detailed information regarding the 2014 Baseball State Championships will be posted on the OSAA website (www.osaa.org/baseball) by May 6. 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 6, schools that host state championship games must download Event Management Information from the OSAA website (www.osaa.org/baseball). Included will be information regarding expenses, admission policies, game management & ticket report, ticket booth signs, PA script, etc.

4. 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 6 and 6A, 5A, 4A finals will be held on Saturday, June 7 at Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Stadium. OSAA will determine times for all finals.

Salem-Keizer Volcanoes Stadium
6700 Field of Dreams Way NE
Keizer, OR 97307

5. QUALIFICATION FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- a. **6A** – 32-team OSAA bracket
 - 1) Automatic Qualifiers – 22 teams automatically qualify for the OSAA’s 32-team bracket based on league play.
 - a) Metro – 3; Mt. Hood – 3; Three Rivers – 3; Pacific – 4; Central Valley – 3; Special District 1 – 3; Special District 2 – 3
 - 2) Rankings Freeze Date – The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 17 (includes all games played that day).
 - 3) Play-In Model – The remaining 20 teams compete in 10 Play-In games on Tuesday, May 20 (leaving May 21 & 22 open in case of weather). The 20 teams will be ranked 1-20 with the highest ranked team hosting the lowest ranked team. Same league matchups will be avoided using the same procedures used by the OSAA. Winners advance to the OSAA 32-team bracket.
 - 4) Rankings – Once the 32 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Board Policy “State Championships – Rankings”.
- b. **5A** – 16-team OSAA bracket
 - 1) Automatic Qualifiers – The top 8 teams in the final frozen rankings will automatically qualify for the first round of the OSAA 16-team bracket.
 - 2) Rankings Freeze Date – The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Monday, May 19 (includes all games played that day).
 - 3) Play-In Model – Teams ranked 9-24 in the final frozen rankings will be matched up in the Play-In round on Friday, May 23 (leaving May 24 open in case of weather). Highest ranked teams will host the lowest ranked teams in descending order (e.g. 9 vs. 24, 10 vs. 23, etc.). If a league champion is not ranked in the top 24 of the final frozen rankings, the league champion will replace the #24 team. Same league matchups will be avoided using the same procedures used by the OSAA. Winners advance to the OSAA 16-team bracket.

- 4) Rankings – Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA 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 Hybrid #1 and the #2’s from the aforementioned leagues, will automatically qualify for the first round of the OSAA 16-team bracket (Group A).
- 2) Rankings Freeze Date – The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Sunday, May 18 (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 highest ranked #3 or Hybrid 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 or Hybrid teams, 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 22 (leaving May 23 & 24 open in case of weather), and will be as follows: C8 @ B1, C7 @ B2, C6 @ B3, C5 @ B4, C4 @ B5, C3 @ B6, C2 @ B7, C1 @ B8. Winners advance to the OSAA 16-team bracket.

Q: If the Cowapa League #2 qualifies into Group A, who fills their spot in Group B?

A: The Cowapa #3 would then be moved to Group B to ensure that each league hosts a play-in game.

Q: Are the Hybrids guaranteed a home game?

A: No, the #1 Hybrid is guaranteed a spot in the play-in round and will be placed into the match-up based on their ranking. Worst case scenario, the Hybrid #1 would be C8.

Q: Who are the non-automatic qualifiers?

A: #4, #5, and #6 from the Cowapa, Tri-Valley, Oregon West, Sky-Em, Far West, Skyline, #2 Hybrid, #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 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 league play on or before Saturday, May 24.
 - a) Lewis & Clark – 3; West Valley – 3; PacWest – 4; Eastern Oregon – 3; Special District 1 – 2; Special District 2 – 1
- 2) Rankings Freeze Date – The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 24 (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 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 Special District play on or before Saturday, May 24.
 - a) Special District 1 – 3; Special District 2 – 3; Special District 3 – 2; Special District 4 – 2; Special District 5 – 2; Special District 6 – 2; Special District 7 – 2.

- 2) Rankings Freeze Date – The rankings will freeze at 10pm on Saturday, May 24 (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 Board Policy “State Championships – Rankings”.

6. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – TEAM SIZE: *(OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)*

The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE: Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.**

Penalties for excessive team size: Suiting up, **warming up**, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct punishable by fines or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board. Participants in excess of the maximum allowed in each sport shall be considered ineligible and shall result in the forfeiture of the contest in which the ineligible participant appeared.

Baseball: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 20; all other classifications – 18.

- 7. OFFICIAL BALL ADOPTION** – The Wilson A1010-Pro is the official baseball of the OSAA. Schools are encouraged to use Wilson baseballs during regular season play. It is the host school’s responsibility to provide official Wilson baseballs for all playoff games at home sites. The OSAA is no longer shipping baseballs to host schools during the playoffs. Instead, following the semifinals, the OSAA will ship one dozen Wilson baseballs to each school for each game they hosted during the playoffs. Wilson baseballs will be provided at Volcanoes Stadium for the state championship finals by the OSAA.

8. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ADOPTED BALL: *(OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)*

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. 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 Board

- b. State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff. Officially adopted balls shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests if needed. (Fall 2010)

9. AWARDS

- a. Trophies – Trophies will be presented to the champion and second place team in each classification. A trophy will also be sent to each semifinal team.
- b. Medals – Twenty-one medals will be presented to the champion and second place teams in each classification. (23 for 6A teams).

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

2014 BASEBALL RULES

Order a 2014 NFHS Baseball Rules Book at <http://www.osaa.org/docs/forms/13-14RulesBookOrderForm.pdf> or contact OSAA at 503.682.6722 for more information.

For more information about NFHS baseball rules visit www.nfhs.org/baseball.aspx.

1. 2014 NFHS REVISIONS RULES:

6-1-3 **ART. 3 . . .** For set position...behind his back. Before starting the delivery, he shall stand with his entire non-pivot foot in front of a line extending through the front edge of the pitcher's plate and with his entire pivot foot in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

Rationale: To further eliminate any confusion or circumvention of the set position pitching rule by a pitcher or coach. Also, to emphasize the pivot foot requirement to be in a legal set position.

Comments: The discussion of the hybrid pitcher's position last year sparked tremendous discussion. After a year of observing how the rule was interpreted it was felt that a more clearly defined statement should be added to assist umpires, coaches, and players. Specifically spelling out the physical position of the pivot foot in the set position eliminates any confusion or circumvention of the pitching rule. Rule 6 is very clear on dictating the two legal positions for a pitcher, the wind-up and set position.

7-3-5c **ART. 5 . . .** Interfere with the catcher's fielding or throwing by:
c. Making any other movement, including backswing interference, which hinders action at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner, or

Rationale: Prior rule did not address this specific type of interference.

Comments: There are numerous infractions that involve a batter altering or disrupting the flow and execution of the game. One of these infractions includes interfering with the catcher's responsibilities and duties. This particular type of batter's interference was not addressed in the prior rule.

2. 2014 NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

a. MALICIOUS CONTACT

While this is not a new topic, there have been significant inquiries as to the interpretation of malicious contact. In fact, over the years, various NFHS rules committees have attempted to define what malicious contact looks like. After numerous attempts, the committees in the past took a current functional rule and turned it into a page and a half definition that still did not capture every possible scenario. Therein lies the problem. For every word or phrase used to describe malicious contact, you have to define that word or phrase as well.

There is a difference between malicious contact and incidental contact. Players risk serious injury anytime a runner purposely tries to run over another player. There is rules support in Rules 2, 3, 5, 8, in the Dead Ball Table and the Base Running Awards Table that substantiates the importance of

malicious contact. Fortunately, umpires have the flexibility to determine when they witness contact whether it is of a malicious nature. That judgment should not be removed by rule, but it should be bolstered by education, game experience and field mechanics/location.

The majority of intentional collisions occur at home plate where the catcher is blocking the plate anticipating a play. Runners should be instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with any defensive player. Malicious contact is penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. So that focus can be given to the parameters surrounding malicious contact, the following suggestions are offered: contact or a collision is considered to be malicious if (1) the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, (2) the contact occurred above the waist of the receiving player, and/or (3) there was intent to injure. It should not be misconstrued that the absence of these three conditions would automatically remove the presence of something malicious, but these suggestions certainly provide a starting point for consideration.

That is why it is imperative that umpires should work hard in understanding the NFHS rules book and the various situations that might occur dealing with contact. Head coaches must also be knowledgeable in the rules and proper techniques of how to teach and instruct their athletes in the nuances of the game to ensure a safe and educational experience for everyone.

b. COACHING ATTIRE

Baseball is a tradition-rich sport. One of those traditions involves the coach's uniform being identical to the player's. The coach is part of the team unit. Baseball is one of the few sports where the coach is on the field and has an active role with the players during a live ball. The coach's attire supports the uniformity and camaraderie of the team. In addition to being an advocate, being dressed like the team offers visual security. One can readily identify those who do not belong because they are not dressed the same as the rest of the team. In today's world where every school and program is under tremendous scrutiny as to how they spend resources for their students, schools have opted out of not requiring a coach to wear a uniform like the players and use that money to provide a uniform for an additional player. Schools are allowing their coaches to dress similarly to their players by wearing a team baseball cap, wind shirt, jersey or jacket of the school colors with grey baseball pants or athletic coaching slacks. Officials have to be more discerning and open-minded when it comes to the attire of the coaching staff. In today's budget-conscious society, the age-old tradition of dressing everyone alike is slowly giving way to a new tradition. Identification of the head coach is the primary focus and function of wearing similar attire; umpires have to be flexible in their approach and interaction with these educators.

c. UMPIRE AUTHORITY AND ENFORCEMENT

The game official has a multifaceted role that is unenviable and often misunderstood. The official is a teacher, an encourager to players and coaches, an arbiter of rules, which will ultimately disappoint one of the two teams involved. Officials make sure that the game conditions are suitable for both teams to perform to the best of their ability. They ensure that the players are properly uniformed and equipped according to the NFHS playing rules, and that coaches understand and acknowledge the local ground rules and ultimately manage a contest that maintains a balance between offense and defense while minimizing risk.

In order to conduct their business, they need many willing and cooperative partners. The head coach of each team is responsible for the behavior and conduct of the team's fans. The coach is the leader and role model for each school's team. If he is belligerent and uncooperative, typically his players will follow his lead, which makes for a challenging ballgame. However, if he works with the umpires in a

collaborative effort and grasps his role as a positive influence, his players will benefit greatly by playing for him and all involved will have a better experience.

Umpires are given the authority to make decisions based on the rules. Anything or anyone who interferes with that duty has no place at the ballpark. Without rules there would be total chaos, and without game officials, there would be no games played. As part of that authority, game officials have to enforce the rules of the game. At times, players, coaches and fans will not agree with the ruling of an umpire and have the right to not agree. However, their disagreement with a decision should not affect their ability to accept the decision of the umpire. Disputing the umpire's calls, failing to comply with an umpire's command, exaggerating the time for offensive conferences, gamesmanship, and challenging the umpire's authority (to name a few instances) cannot be tolerated in education-based athletics.

The positive effect of activity/athletic participation is well documented as a positive experience and is a determining factor for future successes in life. If inappropriate behavior is allowed to become the norm, we are doing a disservice to the young people we serve.

OSAA BASEBALL POLICIES

1. **OSAA ADOPTED RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS** – The NFHS 2014 Baseball Rules Book will be used.

2. **PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS** – (OSAA Handbook, Participation Limitations)

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 compete in only one jamboree.

If a student participates in no more than 7 innings on one day at different levels (i.e. 4 innings junior varsity, 3 innings varsity), the student is charged with participation in one game. For every additional 7 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 Limitation** – A pitcher shall not pitch more than 12 innings on three consecutive days. Appearance in an inning counts as one inning.

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.

The easiest manner in which to determine a pitcher's eligibility is to total the innings he has pitched in the previous two days and subtract the total from 12. The difference between these two figures will be the innings he is eligible to pitch on the third day.

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.

3. INTERRUPTED CONTESTS – (OSAA Handbook, Interrupted Contests)

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

a. For darkness and/or weather:

1) If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the **contest shall be continued from the point of interruption. (February 2013)**

2) If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.

3) If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the **contest shall be continued from the point of interruption. (February 2013)**

4) If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the **contest shall be continued from the point of interruption. (February 2013)**

5) If the two schools mutually agree or if there is an athletic district policy, the game need not be **continued** if it has no bearing on state championship representation. (Fall 2008)

b. 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.

4. INTERRUPTED CONTESTS - PROCEDURES

The OSAA Staff, in conjunction with our State Rules Interpreters (Baseball – Tad Cockerill; Softball – Larry Harwood), believe that the process followed when this happens needs to be consistent and as simple as possible. With that in mind, here is the procedure that umpires and teams shall follow 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. CONTESTS – SPORTSMANSHIP – CROWD CONTROL: (OSAA Handbook, Rules)

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 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 re-schedule the event involved, or to impose conditions on conducting it.

6. SPECTATOR CONDUCT AT OSAA EVENTS: *(OSAA Handbook, Board Policies)*

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:
(Revised Fall 2008)

- 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.
(Revised Fall 2008)
- b. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners (larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches), confetti, balloons or glass containers. 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.*(Revised Fall 2008)*
- e. Spectators who fail to comply with Association or site management spectator conduct expectations may be expelled from the contest.
(Revised Fall 2008)

7. LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES – (Excerpts from NFHS Sports Rules Books)

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning.

Proactive Planning:

- 1) Assign a staff member to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
- 2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
- 3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

- a) Recognition. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
 - b) Thirty-minute Rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least thirty minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - c) Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count should reset the clock and another thirty minute count should begin.
- 4) Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

For more detailed information, refer to the "Guidelines for Lightning Safety" contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook. *(Revised Fall 2009)*

8. 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.

9. OSAA BASEBALL RULES BOOK OPTIONS

Athletic directors and baseball coaches are reminded that Oregon treats the various options provided in the *2014 National Federation 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 4 square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform.
- 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 10-Run Rule above)
- 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*** and will not count in the standings.
- 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.

10. 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.
- 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.