

Coaches,

Welcome to the 2017 season. It looks like the weather will allow games to begin tomorrow in many places. Please enjoy the Opening Day and remember it is always about kids playing baseball.

UMPIRING AND UMPIRE SCHEDULER

IF you purchased the umpire scheduler through the League, you should have received a letter of introduction from them with instructions on what to do. They utilize an on-line system called the Arbiter. This system allows you to see all of your games, who the umpires are and their contact information. It is a great system and has virtually eliminated all missed assignments etc.

One area of potential confusion, is that this instructional letter would have asked you to send your schedule to the umpire assignor. Some teams have confused inputting their schedule with sending it to the umpire scheduler. You must do both. The systems do not speak to each other.

If you ordered the umpire scheduler and have not received an email, please first check your trash/spam etc.; then email the league at: Help@midwestohiobaseball.com

If you are not using the umpire scheduler, see the notes below for your obligations regarding getting any umpires who are not Ohio High School certified umpires on the approved list.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Your team **MUST** be insured. Your team's insurance certificate must be uploaded to your coach administration system under insurance on the website if you did not purchase through the league. If you did, the certificate should be already uploaded.

Every player on your roster must have returned their signed electronic contract. Each players' birth certificate must be uploaded to the website. Each of your coaches must have returned their signed electronic contract. Each and every coach must have their own concession certificate uploaded to the website.....this is a State of Ohio Law. You should print your concussion certificate as there is no direct connection to send it to MWOB. It must be printed and uploaded. The medical release forms are for you to keep. You should have them with you at all times the team is together: practices, games, meetings.....anytime. We once had a kid have to go to the hospital for falling down the stairs at a meeting.....thankfully they had the medical release and he could be treated.

There are on-line tutorials to help with each section.

Your team is not legal until every box is green.

It is important to note especially that playing games without player contracts and coaches contracts means that those individuals are **NOT** covered by any insurance issued through the Midwest Ohio Baseball League and thus, any potential liability etc. could fall on the head coach. Please do not play games without having these items completed for your own benefit as well as the league. Obviously, games played without completion of these requirements will be considered forfeits.

Other items to remember:

ONE RULE CHANGE: Run rules will be adjusted to 15 after 3; 12 after 4 and 10 after 5 innings (9-18u).

GAME MANAGEMENT

1. Catchers must wear the hockey type mask and helmet combo.

2. Umpires are to be paid at the Pre-Game Plate meeting. Each team should split the umpire cost at each game to assure that umpire cost are split fairly. Some organizations are beginning to use an on-line Ref-pay system in coordination with the umpire schedulers. This will also count as the teams paying the umpire at the plate. Those teams will tell you that is how the umpires are being paid from them and the umpires should also be aware of it. Umpires are to be paid: \$40 (8u); \$55 9-11u 6 innings single umpire); \$60 (12u 7 innings single umpire); \$55 per umpire minimum 2 per game for \$110 total (13-14u two umpires).

3. IF you are using the Umpire Scheduler, all of your umpires are Approved Umpires. All Ohio High School certified umpires are Approved and do not have to go through any approval process. However, if you are not using either Jim Heatherly or Bob Juliano to schedule your games, and are not using Ohio High School certified umpires, you must have your umpires approved prior to the 2015 season. Send an email to: bobjuliano@dayton.net with the contact information for your umpires (or an umpire scheduler) and Bob will check them and put them on the approved list. IF they are **NOT** on the approved list they **ARE NOT APPROVED**. Use of unapproved umpires may result in forfeits or other sanctions from the League.

4. League games are **ALL** games indicated through the letter/email outlining the geographical divisions where the League told you how many games to play. Those dictated games are **ALL** League games. **ALL OTHER GAMES ARE**

NON-LEAGUE GAMES. Only League games are counted for League standings, end of season tournament and Dayton Dragons game attendance. IF you are playing both League and Non-League games, simply determine and agree in WRITING which game will be your league game. Absent any emails or other written confirmation of an agreement, the first game played (or the first two if two are required for League play) will be considered the League game. Please communicate clearly on this issue.

5. In the event of an ejection, BOTH teams are to report it via email.

6. The time to add players to your roster has been extended to June 15th to assist in completing the season.

7. There is an entire standalone outline of the pitch count rules but for clarification purposes a "Day of Rest" is defined this way: A day of rest is a full calendar day and not a 24 hour window. Therefore, if a player pitches a noon game on a Saturday and is subject to two days' rest, then his required days of rest are Sunday and Monday and he is eligible to pitch again on Tuesday. Many times we are asked if he can rest 48 hours and pitch again on Monday evening (effectively 52-56 hours of rest). This DOES NOT satisfy his rest.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: In a previous email we erroneously reported that pitch counts applied to both league and non-league games. Pitch counts apply only to League games. Pitch counts do not apply to tournaments or Non-League games even if these non-league games involve two MWOB teams. However, we strongly encourage both parents and coaches to adhere to the pitch counts as much as possible.

8. Please have your scorekeepers coordinate about pitch counts each inning and after the game so they are kept correctly and everyone stays in agreement throughout the game.

9. Review the frequently asked questions and rules to help you understand both the rules and the intent of the rules.

10. Remember that the entire purpose of the league is for kids to play baseball. Always keep the kids in the forefront of your thoughts and decisions and everything will go well.

Good luck this season.

Wade
President

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