

# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

## (EXTENDING THE SEASON BY 1 WEEK)

### PROPOSAL:

- Extending the baseball season in length by 1 week but NOT amount of games
- Example of what it would look like for 2019:
  - Replace All Dates as follows:
    - Sectional: 5/13 – 5/18
    - District: 5/20 – 5/25
    - Regional: 5/30 – 5/31
    - State: 6/6 – 6/8

### KEY POINTS:

**1. Compared to surrounding states, Ohio has the shortest length of season to play the permitted number of contests and the earliest State Tournament. It would be impossible for us to start any sooner with our climate and weather. See below.**

#### **Examples:**

- **Ohio: \*42 Days to play 27 games (2017 State Tournament 6/1-6/3)**
  - Indiana: 59 Days to play 28 games (2017 State Tournament 6/16-6/17)
  - Kentucky: 74 days to play 36 games (2017 State Tournament 6/11-6/17)
  - Michigan: 69 days to play 38 games (2017 State Tournament 6/15-6/17)
  - Pennsylvania: 72 days to play 20 games (2017 State Tournament 6/12-6/16)
- \*Includes Sundays and Holidays which makes it actually less available dates**

#### **2. Quality of the game:**

- Limiting the amount of pitches per game is going to require schools to develop and have more pitchers. This has the potential to especially affect smaller enrollment schools.
- Forces younger players, or players that are not accustomed to pitching, to pitch in varsity contests when they are simply not ready.
- Increasing the number of play dates, on the proposed schedule adjustment, offers protection for players arms but also provides more opportunities for schools to utilize their pitchers while also developing younger ones.

#### **3. Possibly losing JV and Freshman teams:**

- Schools would need to carry more players on the Varsity team due to needing more pitchers because of the pitch count restrictions.
- Players knowing they may not play a lot due to schools only having 1-2 teams may decide not to play baseball reducing overall participation numbers.

#### **4. Less games in a week:**

- Most schools average 5-7 games in a 6 day window per week.

- Schools can play less games in a week which will help with pitching limitations and arm health.
- Allows for more practice time through the week to work on baseball fundamentals.

**5. Pitch count/Arm health:**

- We agree that some sort of pitch count was needed but we feel “recovery time” is more important than amount of pitches on a given day.
- Most pitchers also play another position so spreading games out would help with this situation.
- Dr. James Onate, OSU

**6. Winter sports season extending into start of baseball practice and arm conditioning:**

- Player gets done with basketball possibly as late as 3/24, the day of first baseball game.
- Player gets done with wrestling possibly as late as 3/10, the week before baseball scrimmages.
- Doesn't allow players adequate time (average 2-3 weeks) to condition their arms if they are a multi-sport athlete to be ready for the start of baseball season.
- Because their arms aren't ready and coaches don't want to rush their arms those players get less opportunities to pitch or even play the field throughout the season.

**7. Less games throughout the week creates more opportunities for student athletes to get home prior to 8:30pm on school nights to allow for work on homework and or studying:**

- When games get backed up in our short season due to weather we are asking student athletes to adjust schedules and to play almost every night of the week which can cut into schoolwork time outside of the school day.

**8. Provides much better scheduling opportunities for Ohio schools due to potential inclement weather early in the season:**

- Weather in the Spring in Ohio is at its best and most consistent at the beginning of May yet most schools play 80% of their games before that time.
- A lot of schools are being forced to play on Sunday's just to get games in.
- Schools get games backed up due to weather/rainouts and are forced to possibly play games everyday.
- Schools are forced to choose between winning league games or tournament games due to makeup regular season games being completed during the tournament.

**9. Provides a much more accurate ability to seed teams for tournament:**

- Often times teams only have 5-10 games in at the time of tournament draws.
- Moving regular season back would allow for schools to get in more games before the tournament draw giving everyone a better sample size to seed teams on.

**10. Would allow for more College Baseball coaches to get out and actually see potential recruits play during the spring season and be able to interact with HS coaches:**

- Most College Baseball conference tournaments are 5/23-5/27
- They would be able to come see our HS players in the Regional & State tournaments

**11. Only affects 64 out of 733 schools each year that advance to the Regional & State Baseball Tournaments:**

- 64 schools for the 1st week at the Regional Tournament (Most schools still in school this week)
- 16 schools for the 2nd week at the State Tournament

**12. Eliminates possible conflicts during State tournaments due to graduations:**

- Regional tournament would be completed on TH and F so possibly less conflicts with graduations since the overwhelming majority occur on Saturdays.

**13. Removes the current 6 state tournaments on the same weekend in June:**

- Helps OHSAA officials
- Reduces possibly conflicts of schools having multiple teams in state tournaments the same weekend.