

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION - SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

2017 DIVISIONAL GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **A meeting for all participating coaches will be conducted on Sunday, April 30, 2017, 2:00 p.m., at a pre-determined site. Coaches are expected to attend this meeting. Mailings to all participating schools will take place no later than April 13, 2017. Rules, regulations, and the online seeding process will be explained in the mailing.**
2. Shoes are required equipment. Shoe sole or heel projections other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. Metal toe plates and metal cleats are permitted. However, metal cleats cannot be L-shaped. Cleats must be rectangular and not extend in excess of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from sole. Detachable cleats are permitted if the cleats screw into the sole of the shoe.
3. If a coach is male, it is recommended a woman (non-high school student) should accompany the team. This does not have to be a faculty member.
4. All teams in the sectional tournament will be seeded. This seeding will determine the team's entry onto the bracket.

Seeding process. Per direction of the State Board of Control, all teams in a bracketed tournament will be seeded. The manager will distribute voting procedures and materials to each coach in a mailing no later than April 13, 2017. This will enable each coach to vote and have the votes back to the tournament manager by Saturday, April 29, 2017, 12:00 p.m., before the manager's meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017, 2:00 p.m. The manager will distribute to each coach at check-in the results of the seed voting. All ties will be broken prior to the placement of teams on the bracket. In Open Placement tournaments (formerly Open Draw Tournaments) or tournaments involving two or more sectionals in which schools go to the sectional of their choice, the team may go on any bracket provided that the bracket is open and it is that coach's turn.

By board action, starting with the 2011-2012 tournaments, the coach cannot vote for his school in the seeding process, and the highest and lowest votes for each school will be dropped in the final tabulation.

By board action, starting with the 2013 spring tournaments, a coach that does not vote in a bracketed tournament loses his highest score, second highest score, and lowest score prior to final calculation.

By board action, starting with the 2017 tournaments, schools that fail to have their coach participate in the seeding process (record records, voting, etc., or fail to attend draw meeting) will be fined \$150.00. An appeal process will be in place until the Southwest District Athletic Board meeting, June 19, 2017.

Once seeds have been determined for each team in the tournament, the seeds will go onto the bracket in order of seed. The first seeded team will go on followed by the second seeded team. Any seeded team may choose to pass, and if does so, the next seeded team will be given a choice to go on the bracket. After a seeded team goes on the bracket, the seeded team that passed will again be given an opportunity to go on the bracket. This process will continue until the bracket is filled.

Any team that does not show up at the tournament manager's meeting will go on the bracket last. Any school that does not get seed voting to the manager by Saturday, April 29, 12:00 noon, will not be permitted to vote at a later time. Any school that does not meet voting requirements but does attend the placement meeting will receive the votes that the school received for the seeding process and will be seeded accordingly. If a coach is late for the seed meeting, and has missed his opportunity to go on the bracket, his absence will be determined as a pass, and he will be given an opportunity to go on once he is in attendance.

Per recommendation by the Coaches' Association and adoption by the District Board, the first two rounds of the sectional tournament will be played on the field of the highest seeded team. The home team must have a regulation field and be able to charge admission to the game. If the aforementioned expectations cannot be met, then the team must forfeit its right to host the game and the opponent will host. If the hosting team cannot play on its field because of inclement weather, it retains the right to host on the makeup day. If it

cannot play on its field on the makeup day but the visiting school can play, the contest will be held on the visitor's field. Sectional finals will be held on a neutral field, and the highest seeded team will still be the home team.

5. Twenty-two (22) players are eligible. The coaching box may be occupied by one (1) coach and one (1) member of the team, or two (2) coaches, or two (2) members of the team.
6. **COACHES UNIFORM** - Base coaches must wear identical team uniforms or a shirt with collar identifying their school in school colors with complimentary pants or shorts. Absolutely no jeans or sandals will be permitted to be worn while in the coaching box. Appropriate shoes must be worn. Coaches not appropriately dressed shall not be permitted in the coaches box.
7. The wearing of a head protector is compulsory for batter, runner, catcher, the on-deck batter, and any player coaching in the coaching box. It is the duty of the Tournament Manager to see that no team dresses more than twenty-two (22) team members. Each time a team plays, the coaches are responsible to not only turn in the list of starters, but also a list of team members on the bench. This list is to be given to the umpire in charge at least ten (10) minutes prior to the game time.
8. Time of games: School days all games will begin at 5:00 p.m. Non-school days, no starting restrictions.
9. District Board Motion - All softball teams adhere to the **twenty (20) minutes practice rule** for Sectional and District Tournament games. The motion states that no softball team can practice (warm-up) on any tournament softball field until forty (40) minutes prior to starting time of game. This also applies to double-headers. During the first two rounds of the tournament, the home team will take their state approved twenty minute field warm-up first.
10. **SOFTBALL PROPOSAL ADOPTED DECEMBER, 1992 BY STATE BOARD: The Board approved the proposal that all tournament games be played on regulation size softball fields, adhering to the proper dimensions, base path distances, and EXCLUDING any baseball fields. The field must be properly marked.**
11. A team must appear for the game at the scheduled time. A team must get verification of postponed game from Tournament Manager, otherwise game will be played as scheduled at the drawing.
12. Forfeiture of any game by a team relinquishes all rights to awards or trophy.
13. The District Board will furnish two balls per game and each team will provide one ball. The balls will be those approved by the State Board (cor optic yellow).
14. The Southwest District Athletic Board hired individuals who will assign all Sectional and District umpires. Officials pay for Sectionals will be \$65.00 and \$80.00 for Districts. Mileage will be \$1.00 per mile in excess of 50 miles for the contest (one way).
15. Per adoption of the District Board, no school will be allowed to participate on their field in a neutral field tournament.
16. Per request by the Coaches' Representatives and adoption by the District Board, the sectional tournament will not open until Monday, May 8, 2017, and end by Saturday, May 13, 2017. Inclement weather may force the tournament to go longer, and if this happens, the tournament will run into the week of District Tournament. The spacing between games should not be any longer than twenty-four hours. Divisions I and III games will be played on Monday and Wednesday nights; Divisions II and IV games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Sectional finals for Divisions I and III will be played on Monday, May 15, 2017, while Divisions II and IV will be played on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. District finals will be scheduled on May 19-20, 2017.

A flat fee of \$250.00 will be paid to the hosting school for each of the first two rounds. The hosting school for sectional finals will be paid \$290.00 while the hosting school for district finals will be paid \$315.00.

If the hosting school cannot accommodate the game on the scheduled date due to inclement weather, the game will be held at its site the next night. If the field is not ready the next night and the visiting school's field is ready, the game must be played at the visiting school site.

17. The decisions of the umpires are final and protests arising from the decisions of the umpires will not be considered.
18. Changes in schedule after drawing will be done at the discretion of the Tournament Manager.
19. **Admission for all sectional tournaments is \$5.00 for school age children and older.**
20. Admission to District Tournament games will be **\$6.00** per session.
21. If a team fails to appear and is not ready to play within thirty (30) minutes of scheduled starting time of tournament game, the space on the bracket shall be declared vacant. The opposing team will then be awarded a bye into the next round of competition.
23. District Tournaments will be played at the following sites:

Division I	Lakota East, Northmont	Richard Bryant, Robin Spiller, Mgrs.
Division II	Mason, West Carrollton	Scott Stemple, Nancy Beers, Mgrs.
Division III	Lebanon, Eaton, Kings	Dusty Yingst
Division IV	Piqua, Mason, Eaton	Eric Silverman, Mgr.

24. ALL SITE REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED FIVE (5) DAYS AFTER THEIR GAME IS COMPLETED.
25. All short form financial reports should be emailed to the tournament manager as well as to Bob Huelsman, to be checked for accuracy. If approved, a check should be sent directly to Bob Huelsman, Treasurer, Southwest District Athletic Board at 2803 Silver Maple Lane, Beavercreek, 45431. If the tournament lost money, Mr. Huelsman will send a check to the school for the loss. Tickets should be returned to the tournament manager or to Bob Huelsman.