

11. SOFTBALL – GIRLS**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS****1) Interscholastic Participation**

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day except the one time during the regular season when each school team may play three games on a non-school day.
- 1.2) An individual may play in a reserve game and a varsity game in the same day. Participation in both counts as two games in the contest limitation of 27 contests on 23 playing dates. Doubleheaders must be played on nonschool days or days when there is no school the following day. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 17.)
- 1.3) Any scheduled regular season game in softball which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics.
- 1.4) Interrupted Games
 - 1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF 4-2-3), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.
 - 1.42) When the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead, and the home team has not retaken the lead, the game shall be suspended when the following circumstances prevail:
 - 1) The game has gone five innings and
 - 2) The game is called while an inning is in progress but before it is completed.
 - 1.43) There cannot be a tie game. Games are won, lost or suspended.
- 1.5) Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion.
- 1.6) A softball game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat (regular season games and tournament games).
- 1.7) Previews — A preview may be scheduled and played only during the period of time beginning with Friday (March 19, 2010) before the season begins and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Fast Pitch Softball Rules.

2) Out-of-State Travel

A softball team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a softball team may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner's office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A softball team may not travel out of state only to practice. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.

3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 4.1) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or as a member of a team in the sport of softball **during the school's season** (Sports Regulation 4.3).
- 4.2) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board may participate in non-interscholastic softball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
 - 4.21) The number of interscholastic softball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.
Note: Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic softball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of softball are exempt from this limitation.
 - 4.22) There is no limit on the number of softball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31.
 - 4.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
 - 4.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 4.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic softball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school softball squad, until the student's school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.
- 4.4) A girl playing on a school softball team MAY participate on a non-interscholastic slow pitch softball team at the same time with the permission of the school coach. This is not a violation since the OHSAA only recognizes fast pitch softball as a sport.
- 4.5) An intramural team is a non-interscholastic team (Sports Regulation 4.1), and all rules for non-interscholastic teams apply.
- 4.6) All-Star Games — There are many directors of non-interscholastic competitions that use the term "All-Star" in describing their events. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these "all-star" competitions outside the interscholastic season of their sports may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with Sports Regulations 4.3 and 4.5.

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her own school in a competition that has the following components:

- 1) Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.
- 2) All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.
- 3) Participants shall play in no more than two All-Star games.
- 4) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school (Sports Regulation 4.3).

Penalty: For a senior, violation of this regulation may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the school year. For all other students, the penalty may result in loss of eligibility for the ensuing season in the sport in which the student participated in the All-Star contest.

- 4.7) Participation in indoor fast pitch softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 4.5 if played indoors from November 1, 2009, through February 1, 2010, for student-athletes.
- 4.8) In accordance with Sports Regulation 4.9, interscholastic softball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in non-interscholastic indoor softball except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.
- 4.9) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A softball athlete who has not participated for a school team in softball that season must cease non-interscholastic softball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in softball in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in softball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in softball shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in softball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: April 19, 2010.

5) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 5 of the General Sports Regulations.

6) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

7) Penalties

- 7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 4.3 (participation with a non-interscholastic softball squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic softball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic softball season or the ensuing softball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.
- 7.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 4 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — March 8, 2010.

Note: Pitching and catching candidates may begin throwing with pitching instruction two weeks prior to this starting date — February 22, 2010.

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- 2) First game — March 29, 2010.
 - 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 26, 2010.
 - 4) Tournament seed/drawing meeting — May 2, 2010.
 - 5) Coaching and Season end — June 12, 2010.
 - 6) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. **Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.**
 - 7) Regular season games permitted — Maximum of 27 on 23 playing dates.
Doubleheaders must be played on nonschool days or days when there is no school the following day.
 - 8) Rules — National Federation Fast Pitch Softball.
 - 9) Officials:
 - 9.1) Varsity — All must be OHSAA Class 1 or 2 Softball umpires.
 - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — All must be OHSAA Class 1 or 2 Softball umpires.
 - 9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 Softball umpires recommended.
- C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8
- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — March 8, 2010.
Note: Pitching and catching candidates may begin throwing with pitching instruction two weeks prior to this starting date — February 22, 2010.
 - 2) Date first game may be played — March 29, 2010.
 - 3) Coaching and Season end — June 12, 2010.
 - 4) Scrimmages permitted — A maximum of two scrimmages per year.
 - 5) Regular season games permitted — Maximum seventeen and one postseason tournament not to exceed four games.
 - 6) Rules — National Federation Fast Pitch Softball.
 - 7) Officials — OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 Baseball or Softball umpires recommended.

Softball	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pitcher & Catcher Coaching Begins	2/22	2/21	2/20	2/25	2/24	2/23
Coaching Begins	3/8	3/7	3/5	3/11	3/10	3/9
Season Begins	3/29	3/28	3/26	4/1	3/31	3/30
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/19	4/18	4/16	4/22	4/21	4/20
Sectional	5/8-5/15	5/7-5/14	5/5-5/12	5/11-5/18	5/10-5/17	5/9-5/16
District	5/17-5/22	5/16-5/21	5/14-5/19	5/20-5/25	5/19-5/24	5/18-5/23
Regional	5/26-5/29	5/25-5/28	5/23-5/26	5/29-6/1	5/28-5/31	5/27-5/30
State	6/3-6/5	6/2-6/4	5/31-6/2	6/6-6/8	6/5-6/7	6/4-6/6
Season Ends	6/12	6/11	6/9	6/15	6/14	6/13
Easter	4/4	4/24	4/8	3/31	4/20	4/5
Coach - No Contact Period	8/9-9/6	8/8-9/5	8/6-9/3	8/5-9/2	8/4-9/1	8/10-9/7

SOFTBALL — GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE

2010-2014-2018	2011-2015-2019	2012-2016-2020	2013-2017-2021
II	III	IV	I
I	II	III	IV
IV	I	II	III
III	IV	I	II