

2016 REGULATIONS FOR GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

NOTE: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. These regulations were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors in April 2016.

The Commissioner is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary by the Commissioner, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. Questions about Fast Pitch Softball should be directed to Jerry Snodgrass, Assistant Commissioner.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

I. Organization of Tournaments

- A. District Athletic Boards organize and conduct sectional and district tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors.
- B. Regional and state tournaments are under the control of the Commissioner's office.

II. Eligibility

- A. All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate.
- B. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.
- C. Only girls shall be eligible to participate in any of the OHSAA sponsored fast pitch softball tournaments.

III. Divisions

- A. There will be four divisions, I, II, III, IV, in the Sectional, District, Regional and State Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments.
- B. Schools must compete in the division in which they have been assigned by the OHSAA.

IV. Games Per Day

No team or individual shall play more than two tournament games per day.

V. Eligibility Certificates

- A. **Players** – The regular eligibility certificate must be certified by the principal of the high school and shall be submitted to the tournament manager. **The maximum number to be certified for any tournament game shall be 22.** The names of the 22 players who may participate must be given to the tournament manager before each game. Only 22 players in uniform will be permitted on the field or bench for any game. This does not include the team coaches. No substitutions will be permitted after the list has been handed to the tournament manager for the game that day.
- B. It is the responsibility of the coaches, tournament manager or a representative to make certain the number of players does not exceed 22. If either team is over the limit it must be corrected at once. *If any player not listed on the 22 player roster were to participate in a contest, she would be deemed an ineligible participant and that contest would be a forfeiture. Please Note that permitting 22 players in the dugout is a change from previous years when only 18 students were permitted. Coaches please ensure that the dugout you are assigned will accommodate 22 players.*

VI. Entry Form

A member school administrator will submit the entry form that is available on the myOHSAA data management system per the instructions of the respective District Athletic Board. Entry forms now require the inclusion of the names of the coaches approved by the school's Board of Education or similar governing body as well as the Permit Number on the coach's Pupil Activity Permit. Only coaches properly listed on the Entry Form with current and valid Permit Numbers are permitted to coach.

VII. *Tournament Dates

- A. Sectionals – shall be scheduled to be completed by the week ending May 14
- B. Districts – shall be scheduled to be completed by the week ending May 21
- C. Regionals – scheduled 5/25 through 5/28
- D. State – scheduled 6/2 through 6/4

*The schedule may be adjusted due to inclement weather.

VIII. School Representative

- A. No team or individual entry will be allowed to compete in the Sectional, District, Regional or State Tournaments unless accompanied by a coach or person authorized by the Board of Education, or similar governing body of a non-public school. Teams unaccompanied by a coach or authorized person will be disqualified. (Bylaw 3-2-1)

- B. When a male coach is assigned to a team, an adult female (non-high school student) should accompany the team to the tournament.

IX. Failure to Appear

When national playing rules do not address failure to appear, the following regulations will apply.

- A. If a team fails to appear or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament game, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant. A "no contest" shall be declared, and the opposing team shall advance to the next round of competition. See **No Contest** under Section 34 of the General Sports Regulations.
All decisions relative to this regulation shall be made by a member of the respective district athletic board or the OHSAA Commissioner's office.
- B. The OHSAA, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors, and the tournament manager, may delay or reschedule a tournament contest/competition provided it is **practical** to delay or reschedule such contests/competitions.

X. Umpires

- A. Only OHSAA Class 1 officials shall be used in Sectional, District, Regional and State Tournament games.
- B. Officials for Sectional and District Tournaments shall be selected as directed by the respective District Boards.
- C. The officials for the Regional and State Tournaments shall be assigned by the Commissioner's office according to the procedure adopted by the Board of Directors in proportion to the number of Class 1 officials in the district. The names of the officials assigned to the Regional and State Tournament will not be announced in advance.
- D. All OHSAA licensed tournament officials shall possess either a current Department of Education issue Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or show evidence of completing an approved concussion education course.

XI. Representation

The Regional Tournaments are scheduled to be played on May 25, 26, and 28, 2016. Based on the number of schools playing softball, the districts will be represented as follows in Regional Tournaments.

District	I	II	III	IV
Central	4	2	2	1
East		2	1	1
Northeast	6	5	4	3
Northwest	2	3	3	6
Southeast		1	3	2
Southwest	4	3	3	3
Totals	16	16	16	16

****The Central District had 2 qualifiers in Division IV in 2014 and the Southwest District had 2 qualifiers in Division IV; in 2015 the Southwest District will have 3 qualifiers in Division IV with the Central District to have 1 qualifier in Division IV.***

XII. Tournament Seeding and Drawing Procedures

NOTE: The established date for all seeding and drawing meetings is **May 1, 2016**. The meeting is to be held at 2:00 p.m.

In the Sectional Tournaments that precede District Tournaments, seeding is mandatory in the Sectional. In District Tournaments not preceded by Sectional Tournaments, seeding is mandatory. (**NOTE:** This means that at least one seeding is to take place in either the Sectional or District Tournament.) **All teams assigned to the first round of the tournament shall be seeded.** For purposes of seeding, the last matches to be counted will be those played on the date established by the respective District Athletic Board.

THE FOLLOWING SEEDING METHOD SHALL PREVAIL FOR ALL OHSAA SPONSORED SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS

1. Tournament managers will post the records of all teams in their tournament. It is the responsibility of each school to have its records compiled as shown below and given to the tournament manager by the day of the draw/seed meeting. The records will include the number of wins and losses in the divisions of the teams played, e.g., 18 team schedule – Division I school:

12 wins – 2 losses – Division I

3 wins – 1 loss – Division II

All games played to completion shall be recorded.

2. Voting on seeded teams: a. All head coaches shall vote **via ballot which shall be made public**, selecting their choice for the #1 seeded team. The team with the greatest number of votes shall be seeded #1, second highest #2, etc, until all teams are seeded. In case of a tie only the tied teams will be revoted upon. If a tie should occur the second time, a flip of the coin shall

determine the highest seeded team. NOTE: If electronic balloting is utilized in a District, the results shall be sent to the manager and made public by the manager at the draw meeting.

3. Placement of Teams on Brackets: Each District Athletic Board shall determine placement of teams on brackets. Click here to go to the regulations for each Athletic District:

Central: www.cdab.org

East: www.eastohsaa.com

Northeast: www.nedab.org

Northwest: www.nwdab.org

Southeast: www.seodab.org

Southwest: www.swdab.org

If a school fails to have a representative present at the seeding and drawing meeting, the manager shall place the school (s) on the bracket in accordance with the district board's seeding protocol.

Sample brackets can be found on the OHSAA web site.

The tournament manager will distribute brackets to representatives of participating teams.

All brackets shall designate date and time of contest with the **home team being listed on the top of the bracket.**

XIII. GAME RULES

The Softball Rules, 2016 National Federation Edition, published by the National Federation of State High School Associations will be the Official Rules in all tournament games. In situations where the OHSAA has not adopted NFHS rules (e.g. tie breaker), OHSAA rules shall prevail. THESE RULES MUST BE FOLLOWED EXPLICITLY AND COACHES, SCHOOLS, OFFICIALS AND UMPIRES CANNOT MUTUALLY AGREE TO MODIFY OR CHANGE THESE RULES IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

- A. All tournament games shall be played to completion. Suspended games shall be resumed from the point of suspension. A game shall end any time after five innings, or after 4½ innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat. This is a completed game and is not considered a suspended game.
- B. If a team fails to appear and is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a tournament game, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant. A no contest will be declared and the opposing team will then be awarded a bye into the next round of competition.
- C. Bylaw 8-3-1. The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws does NOT permit Protested Games.
INTERPRETATION: In the event a rule is misinterpreted or misapplied, the correction must be made by the umpires and coaches on the field at the time it occurs. Umpires and coaches are urged to carry rule books, to confer using rule books and to make a correction where warranted. If the coaches and umpires cannot agree, the final decision will be made by the umpire-in-chief.

XIV. TOURNAMENT BALL

The optic yellow Worth softball, the adopted softball of the OHSAA, will be used for all tournament games.

XV. BATTING PRACTICE

Batting practice is permitted prior to all OHSAA tournament games but is not mandatory on the game field. In sectional and district tournaments, teams are permitted to have batting practice if they have the time available.

XVI. COACHES UNIFORM

Base coaches must wear identical team uniforms or a shirt, with collar identifying their school in school colors with complementary 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 remain on the bench or in the dugout and are not permitted in the coaches' box.

XVII. PLAYING FIELD

There is no restriction that tournament games be played on a skinned infield. Turf fields are permissible. The pitching distance for high school fast pitch is 43 feet.

XVIII. AWARDS - Only awards furnished by the OHSAA may be presented at the OHSAA tournament site.

- A. SECTIONALS – Sectional trophies will not be awarded.

- B. DISTRICT – Team trophies will be presented to the Championship and Runner-up teams. Individual members of Championship and Runner-up teams and the coach will be presented with awards by the OHSAA.
- C. REGIONAL – A trophy will be presented to the Regional winner and Regional runner-up.
- D. STATE – Team trophies will be presented to the State Championship and Runner-up teams. Individual members of both teams will be presented with gold or silver awards. In addition, awards will be presented to the head coaches of each team.
- E. Additional individual awards may be ordered through Croton Craft, 1-800-947-5521 with schools paying all costs.

XIX. MEDIA

Credentials may be obtained by contacting the tournament manager. All media arrangements are to be made prior to the game. Arrangements for telecasting/broadcasting sectional or district games are to be made with the tournament manager as well. ***Arrangements for telecasting/broadcasting regional or state games are to be made with the Commissioner's office.*** Note that the OHSAA prohibits live television or video streaming of tournament contests unless prior permission has been obtained. Media credential requests for the state tournament shall be directed to Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services.

XX. FILMING OF CONTESTS

A. Videotaping or filming by participating schools

1. Filming or videotaping of softball tournament games by one or both the schools playing the game is permitted provided the permission of the tournament manager is secured, it is done at the expense of the school involved and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted to videotape.
2. Filming or videotaping by members of the coaching staff can now be done from inside the dugout and the video may be viewed, within the dugout, during the game for coaching purposes.
3. **Filming or videotaping of a potential opponent's tournament game is prohibited.**

B. Videotaping or filming by spectators

1. Shall be for personal use.
2. Shall not be used for the purpose of scouting or coaching.
3. Shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators.
4. The tournament site shall not permit the use of more than the seating space for which the spectator has paid when seating is needed for paid fans.
5. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment.
6. Equipment will not be permitted in any playing area – only in the spectator seating area.
7. The tournament site will not provide sources of power for video equipment.
8. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of offender from the premises.

XXI. UNSPORTING CONDUCT PENALTY

- A. During participation in OHSAA tournaments, any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct shall be ineligible for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection.
- B. Individuals ejected for unsporting conduct shall be reported to the OHSAA Commissioner by the tournament manager. The Commissioner will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11 if the situation warrants it.
- C. Participation in an athletic contest is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct himself or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

XXII. PROPERTY DAMAGE

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The tournament manager is authorized to deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the District Board or Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the administrative heads of the competing schools.

XXIII. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for the Sectional, District, Regional and State Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items or any audio-visual reproductions. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional and District Tournaments and the OHSAA Commissioner for the Regional and State Tournaments.

XXIV. **PROHIBITED ADVERTISING**

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of the high school athletic program.

XXV. **RAFFLES PROHIBITED**

There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of tournament contests during the duration of the tournament(s).

XXVI. **PROHIBITED SALES**

The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

XXVII. **DRONES – UNMANNED AREAL VEHICLES**

The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests. Tournament managements shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed.

Note: An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for OHSAA broadcast partners, provide the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA.

XXVIII. **LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

- **Evacuation** – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes, and spectators should evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule** – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

XXIX. **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT**

A new Ohio Law, effective April 26, 2013, indicates that if a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or contest official who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition** for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest official shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied.

- 1) The student's condition is assessed by either of the following:
 - a. A physician, who is a person authorized under the Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery)MD or DO)

- b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered public school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice of competition.
- 2) The student received written authorization that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance.
A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider's authority to practice in Ohio:
 - 1) In consultation with a physician
 - 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician
 - 3) In collaboration with a physician
 - 4) Under the supervision of a physician

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

The safety of our student-athletes is of utmost concern at all times. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at www.ohsaa.org and at www.nfhs.org :

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures (can also be found in the front of the NFHS Rules Book)
- Links to the following sites:
 - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
 - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
 - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
 - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
 - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News



REGIONAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

May 25 – 28, 2016

I. REGULATIONS

The applicable regulations for the Sectional and District Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments shall apply to the Regional tournaments in addition to any listed below.

II. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATES

The regular eligibility certificate must be certified by the principal of the high school and shall be submitted to the tournament manager not later than Tuesday preceding the tournament.

III. TEAM EXPENSES

The team expense allowance will be at the rate of \$4.00 per mile one way, for each day of participation. Each regional tournament team will receive \$200.00 for incidentals for the regional semifinal game only. Team expenses will be paid by the OHSAA office. These expenses will not be paid until after the conclusion of the State Tournament.

IV. ADMISSION

All tickets \$7.00 and no pre-sale will be conducted. **Note the increase in Admission to \$7.00.**

V. POSTPONED OR SUSPENDED GAMES

If the Wednesday games are postponed or suspended, they will be finished or completed on Thursday prior to the regular scheduled game. If the first round games are not completed by Saturday, they will be played on Sunday, with the finals on Monday. If games cannot be played on Sunday, both rounds will be played on Monday or the next playable day.

VI. PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

Requests for credentials must be sent, in writing, to the Tournament Manager. Arrangements for telecasting must be made with the Commissioner's office. Please contact Tim Stried, Director of Information Services, in regard to telecasting contests.

VII. PASSES – TEAM AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Twenty-two players, manager, coach, assistant coach, scorekeeper plus 2 others will be admitted at the pass gate by a typewritten list certified by the principal of the high school. This is the list of individuals to be permitted in the dugout. In addition, the district superintendent, principal, athletic director and one bus driver may also receive complimentary admission. This pass list will be used at the pass gate for all sessions of the tournament.

VIII. TOURNAMENT DRAWS

Semifinal games will be played on Wednesday, May 25 or Thursday, May 26, at 5:00 P.M. Final games will be played on Saturday, May 28, at 12:00 P.M., unless otherwise noted. **The top team in the bracket will be the home team.** Tournament draws will be conducted by a member of the Softball Coaches Association and/or the Commissioner's Office for the Regional Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments by April 2016.

39th ANNUAL STATE FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

June 2, 3, 4, 2016

Firestone Stadium – Akron, Ohio

Melvin Blake, Manager

I. REGULATIONS

The applicable regulations for the Sectional, District and Regional Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments shall apply to the State Softball Tournaments in addition to any listed below.

II. TOURNAMENT DRAW

Tournament draws are conducted by a member of the OHSFSCA and/or the Commissioner's Office.

MEETING OF STATE FINALISTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association invites principals, coaches and/or athletic administrators (limit of two persons per school) of state qualifying teams to a meeting and luncheon at the OHSAA office, 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214, at 12:00 P.M., Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Program information is to be submitted at the Tuesday meeting. No players are permitted to attend.

III. PRACTICE

There shall be no softball practice on the softball fields that will be used during the 2016 State Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments other than usual pre-game practice.

IV. EXPENSES

Each school shall be paid for State Tournament participation \$5.00 per mile, one way, and \$400.00 per day for each day of participation.

V. PROGRAM

The price of the official printed program for the State Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments will be \$4.00.

VI. ADMISSION

The admission cost for the state tournament will be \$8.00 per session. Each session consists of two games. No pre-sale will be conducted.

VII. MANAGERS OF TOURNAMENT

The State Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments are under the supervision and sponsorship of the OHSAA with the City of Akron Sports and Athletic Division cooperating. The tournament manager is Melvin Blake, 220 S. Balch St., Rm. 200, Akron, OH 44302. Phone: 330-322-4690; E-mail: mblake@akronohio.gov

VIII. POSTPONED GAMES

If inclement weather causes postponement of state softball tournament games on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the Board of Directors has authorized the Commissioner to schedule postponed games on Sunday. Postponed games will be played in the original order.

IX. PASSES – TEAM AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL

A. Twenty-two players, manager, coach, assistant coach, scorekeeper and two others will be admitted at the pass gate by a typewritten list certified by the principal of the high school. These are the individuals permitted in the team dugout.

B. Two copies of this pass list will be required and these lists will be used at the pass gate for all sessions. Eight passes will be distributed at the finalists meeting – two for the principal, two for the superintendent, two for the athletic administrator, and two additional passes. The bearers of these passes will receive complimentary admission.

X. NEWS MEDIA

Reservations and arrangements should be made in advance by contacting Tim Stried, Director of Information Services, 4080 Roselea Pl., Columbus, OH 43214. Phone: 614-267-2502 Ext. 124; E-mail: tstried@ohsaa.org