



2024 NSAA BASEBALL MANUAL





NSAA MISSION STATEMENT

The public and non-public high schools of Nebraska voluntarily agreed to form the Nebraska School Activities Association for the following purposes:

- To formulate and make policies which will cultivate high ideals of citizenship, fair competition, sportsmanship and teamwork which will complement the member schools' curriculum programs.
- To foster uniformity of standards in interscholastic activity competition.
- To organize, develop, direct and regulate an interscholastic activity program which is equitable and will protect and promote the health and physical welfare of all participants.

This BASEBALL MANUAL has been prepared and designed to provide general information for use in the administration of NSAA Baseball competition. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency between games. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified of a change. All coaches and athletic directors are urged to read the instructions in this manual thoroughly and save it for future reference. Please refer to the [NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#) for a complete listing of all NSAA Eligibility rules and regulations.

Assistant Director, Colton Wierzbicki, is the NSAA staff member responsible for administering Baseball and is the contact person for schools with questions regarding this activity. He can be reached at (402) 489-0386 or cwierzbicki@nsaahome.org or Business Manager, Megan Huber, mhuber@nsaahome.org.

2023-2024 NSAA Changes In Bylaws & Approved Rulings Governing Baseball

AR 3.3.1.2	Replacement Games When a team cancels/forfeits its season, affected teams may replace the forfeited contest with another affected team or a team that hasn't exceeded the contest limitation if there are 7 days remaining before postseason seeding.
AR 3.5.1.2	In-Season College Camps & Clinics During the season, students are permitted to attend and participate in college camps/clinics
	Wildcard Sports All out-of-state contests will be included in the wildcard calculations.
AR 3.11.2.2	Clarification Of A "Doubleheader" Clarified the definition of a doubleheader to allow two contests against two different opponents on the same day.
Appendix 4-C-2	Cross-Gender Participation Amendment Baseball and Softball are not considered the same sport meaning girls can participate in baseball if there is no girls' baseball team and also participate in softball.

2024 NFHS Baseball Rules Changes

1-6-1 (NEW)	Clarified that wristbands that are non-electronic shall be worn on the wrist or forearm of a player and certain colors are restricted.
1-6-2 (NEW) 3-2-5 (NEW)	Modified that one-way communication devices are permitted from the dugout/bench to the catcher.
10-2-3h	Clarified the authority of the umpire as it relates to spectators.
Speed-Up Rules	Deleted a non-relevant rule.

2024 NFHS Baseball Points of Emphasis

Malicious Contact	Contact that is the result of intentional excessive force and/or there is intent to injure.
Profanity	Any language (direct or indirect) that is profane, intimidating, insulting, demeaning or hurtful will not be tolerated.
Pace of Play	Baseball games can be more efficient with a focus on time and time management. Giving special attention to these five areas will assist with the flow and pace of our game - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20-second Time Limit Between Pitches/Plays (6-2-2c) • Time Between Half-Innings (6-2-2) • Batter Repeatedly Stepping Out of the Batter's Box (7-3-1) • Umpire's Time Management • Excessive Player Conferences

AUTHORITY

Baseball exists as an activity via authority of paragraph 3.11.2.1 in the Nebraska School Activities Association Athletic Bylaws, which states:

Baseball shall be conducted during the spring sports season. The season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.

FEDERATION RULES

All contests shall be conducted under the official baseball rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), or those approved by that organization with modifications approved by the NSAA. Each school is provided one NFHS Baseball Rules Book.

The National Federation Rules Book contains several references to rules, which may be altered "by state association adoption." The NSAA Board of Directors, which makes such adoptions for the Association, has approved the 10-run rule, suspended game policy, and speed-up rules for courtesy runners. These rules are in effect for all games, regular season and postseason play.

INTERNET INFORMATION

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) website may be accessed at nsaahome.org/baseball.

There are several sections within this website, including a sub-page for each of the NSAA's sponsored activities. The internet offers another means of communication among the state office, the member schools, coaches, and patrons.

You are encouraged to check the NSAA home page where your activity is involved. Here are some of the topics for baseball:

District Assignments	District Pairings/Results	
State Championship Brackets	State Championship Results	Wild Card Standings
Past State Champions	State Championship History	

IMPORTANT DATES

The season starts the first day of practice. The first date for practice is Monday of Week 35 of the NSAA Standardized Calendar. The first date for interscholastic contests is Thursday of Week 37 of the NSAA Standardized Calendar. Districts will be conducted on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Week 44. The season ends with the state championship tournament, which is scheduled to begin the Friday of Week 45.

Year	First Practice Date	First Contest Date	District Dates	State Championship Tournament Dates
2024	February 26	March 14	May 2-4	May 10-11, 13-17
2025	March 3	March 20	May 8-10	May 16-17, 19-23
2026	March 2	March 19	May 7-9	May 15-16, 18-22

SUMMER BASEBALL RELEASE DATES, VARSITY TEAM MEMBERS

The NSAA has a working agreement with the Nebraska American Legion allowing for a special exemption to NSAA Bylaw 3.2.7.6 (listed later in the manual). The agreement allows summer baseball programs to begin tryouts and practice once the varying high school teams are finished with their season.

Year	<u>Non-High School Coaches & NSAA Season Done</u>		<u>High School Coaches & NSAA Season Done</u>	
	NSAA Calendar	Date	NSAA Calendar	Date
2024	Sunday, Week 45	May 5	Sunday, Week 46	May 12
2025	Sunday, Week 45	May 11	Sunday, Week 46	May 18
2026	Sunday, Week 45	May 10	Sunday, Week 46	May 17

NSAA BYLAWS AND APPROVED RULINGS GOVERNING BASEBALL

For a complete listing of the NSAA Bylaws refer to the [NSAA Constitution](#)

NSAA ONLINE RULES MEETING

The NSAA presents rules meetings online in order to inform and educate coaches and officials about NFHS playing rules and rules changes, NSAA guidelines and approved rulings, and to discuss health and safety issues related to activities participation. Head coaches are required to view the online rules meeting. Failure to view the online meeting will result in sanctions against the coach and/or the school.

NSAA ONLINE RULES MEETING SCHEDULE

NSAA rules meetings are available online by logging into the NSAA website with your school or official login passcode.

February 9-March 3 -- No Charge

March 4-March 5 -- \$50.00 fee

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12

All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting or complete an NSAA Rules Meeting online annually. Failure to do so will result in possible late fees and suspension penalties. Absence from the required rules meeting or failure to complete the online rules meeting will result in the following sanctions:

First Offense in Three-Year Period

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in any competition in that sport until

- (1) the head coach completes the NSAA's online rules meeting offered at the late fee of \$100; and*
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.*

During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

Second and Subsequent Offenses in Three-Year Period

The head coach will be suspended from coaching in all NSAA end-of-season play (sub-districts, districts, playoffs, and state competition).

- (1) the head coach completes the NSAA's online rules meeting offered at the late fee of \$200; and*
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials/judges of that activity (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.*

During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.

2.12.2 Head Coach, Assistant Coach, or Sponsor. In order to serve as a head or assistant coach or sponsor of any activity sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, the individual must possess a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate or Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate and have a written contract of employment as a coach or sponsor with the school in which he/she is to perform these duties. (Substitute teaching certificates do not meet this requirement.)

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12.2

A Nebraska Teaching Certificate shall be defined as any certificate or permit issued by the Nebraska Department of Education that allows an individual to teach. <https://www.education.ne.gov/tcert/teaching-certificates/>

2.12.2.1 Individuals who possess a Provisional Trades Certificate and/or Special Services Certificate endorsed in coaching may be employed by a school district as a head or assistant coach in NSAA sponsored activities.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12

*All coaches and volunteers are required to complete the NFHS Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training courses **at least once every three years**. These courses should be taken prior to any pre-season or regular season physical workouts that the respective coach would be present for or involved in administering. Any course taken after May 1 would be considered valid for the following school year. **All first year coaches are required to complete all three courses prior to the start of the activity season which they are to coach.***

2.1.2 Administrative Responsibility. The superintendent or his/her designate of each member school shall be responsible for the activities program of the school and accountable to the Association for the conduct of such programs. It shall be the duty of this person to administer and enforce all eligibility rules. Included in these responsibilities are the following:

- a. To administer and enforce all eligibility rules.
- b. Educate and guide the school's staff who are associated with activities and the students who participate in activities in the rules of eligibility which govern members of the Association.
- c. For the failure to discharge such responsibilities, member schools shall be subject to penalties as set out in Paragraph 2.11 of the NSAA Bylaws.

AR 2.1.2 Medical Personnel at Regular Season Games. Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving athletes, coaches, officials or spectators requiring medical attention..

END OF SEASON, NON-VARSITY PARTICIPANTS

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.1.1

1. A season begins on the first day of allowable practices for that sport, as designated in 3.1.1.2 below. The season officially ends with the conclusion of the State Championship in that sport. Students may not participate in outside group instruction or competition once the season officially begins, and outside group instruction or competition may not commence until the school varsity team has been completely eliminated from further participation in that sport.
2. All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of sub-district, district or state competition. Once sub-district, district or state competition begins, no regular varsity contests shall be permitted.
3. Students who are not listed on the NSAA District entry form may participate in outside group instruction or competition of the same sport before the varsity school team has been completely eliminated from post-season competition. Those students who have participated in outside group instruction or competition following their regular season schedule would not be eligible to be placed on the district or state entry form of the same sport and would not be allowed to practice with the varsity team.

3.2.3 Organized Practice. No organized practice in any sport shall be held during the "school-year, out-of-season" period.

b. Baseball. An organized practice shall mean more than four students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice. In baseball and softball, beginning four weeks prior to the official start of softball and baseball practice, sponsors may work with up to eight (8) players using only balls, gloves and protective catcher's equipment. No other equipment, including bats may be used by players or coaches. An organized practice shall mean more than eight (8) students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice. During the four weeks prior to the official start of practice, sponsors will have the option of working with four (4) student athletes or eight (8) student athletes using the prescribed allowable equipment.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.3

Applicable to Coaches During the School Year:

Any individual who served as a school's head coach, assistant coach, coach's aide, or volunteer coach shall not coach athletes from that member school in non-high school competition if the number of athletes from the school which the individual served exceeds the number permitted for an organized practice in the sport involved.

3.2.6 CAMPS AND CLINICS DEFINITIONS

Camp Definition: Camps include planned physical participation that is of a competitive nature where actual Games are played or simulated by camp attendees. Participation shall mean physically taking part in the sport activity in which instruction is offered in the camp or school.

Clinic Definition: A clinic includes planned activities of instruction or demonstration directly related to the Teaching of individual skills. There shall be no competition between athletes who are in attendance.

3.2.6.1 “School-Year, Out-of-Season”. Athletes and coaches may attend professional or commercial sports camps/clinics sponsored by non-member high schools. During the “school-year, out-of-season” period, the organized practice rule for the sport in which instruction is being given shall apply. No more than the limit permitted for organized practice may attend and receive instruction. Attendance to “school-year, out-of-season” clinics shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend a clinic as a condition for membership on the high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.6 and 3.2.6.1

Applicable to Students During the School Year.

The purpose of specialized sports camps/clinics is to give individual athletes an opportunity to improve his/her skills in a particular activity. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses, or support for individuals participating in clinics. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp/clinic activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer league or camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer league, camps/clinics must participate in the fundraising activity. The school may provide transportation for individuals participating in clinics with prior approval from the district’s Board of Education.

3.2.7 Summertime Participation. “Summertime” shall be defined as the Tuesday following Memorial Day to July 31. During the “summertime” there shall be no restrictions on the amount of contact between students and high school coaches. Attendance shall be voluntary, and coaches/school representative may not directly or by implication require a student to attend “summertime” activities as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7

The school year out-of-season period begins on the date of the official start of fall practices. Summer activities are regulated between the Tuesday following Memorial Day and July 31. Between the end of the summer activities period and the start of the school year, out-of-season period (August 1 through the official start of fall practices), the following shall apply:

- 1) The organized practice rule shall be in effect;
- 2) Conditioning programs may be held;
- 3) Attendance at commercial camps and clinics is permissible, but the organized practice rules shall be in effect for such camps and clinics; and
- 4) No school-sponsored clinics or camps may be held.
- 5) Due to safety concerns, schools may permit the use of football helmets and softball and baseball protective equipment for summer leagues, camps, clinics, and other summer activities.

3.2.7.1 NSAA Catastrophic Insurance does not cover coaches/students/schools during the summertime period.

3.2.7.2 Summertime School-Sponsored Camps/Clinics: A school may organize a camp or clinic in any sport from the Tuesday following Memorial Day through July 31. The camp shall be limited to no more than ten days starting with the first date of the camp/clinic.

- a) Summertime school-sponsored camps/clinics include planned physical activities that are instructional and competitive in nature where actual games can be played or simulated by camp attendees
- b) Summertime school-sponsored camps/clinics shall be voluntary and open to all interested students from grades 9-12.
- c) The use of school facilities and equipment is permitted in accordance with the district’s Board of Education policy.\

3.2.7.4 Summertime Open Gym/Facilities. It is permissible for students to be involved in NSAA activities of a school’s open training program during the summertime. Permitting the participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a member of the school) shall be determined by the district’s Board of Education policy.

3.2.7.5 Summertime Regulations for Athletes and Coaches. From the Tuesday following Memorial Day or final day of school (whichever is later) until July 31, there shall be no restrictions on the contact between students and high school coaches.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7.5

1. The organized practice rule shall be in effect during the school year until Memorial Day, except in the case of organized teams (e.g., Legion baseball, USA softball, etc.). If a high school coach or other adult associated with the school program is also the coach of an organized non-school team, practice and competition involving the

coach and athletes of that non-school team may begin at the conclusion of the state tournament of that activity or during Week 46 of the standardized calendar, whichever date is later.

2. If a high school coach or other adult associated with the school baseball program is also the coach of an organized non-school Junior or Senior Legion baseball teams that will practice and compete after July 31st in preparation for a qualifying state, regional or national Legion baseball tournament, that school must seek a waiver for the school-year, out-of-season Bylaw 3.2.2 (Organized Practice) from the NSAA Executive Director to continue their practice and competition through the completion of these tournaments.

3.2.7.6 Summertime Leagues/Competitions. High school coaches are permitted to coach students from their school in summer league competition and games, provided there is no direct support from the school.

- a. All league fees and costs are to be paid by the athlete and/or his/her parents. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses or support or individuals participating in such leagues.
- b. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer league or camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer league/camps must participate in the fundraising activity.
- c. The use of school-issued game uniforms is prohibited.

3.2.7.7 Summertime Use of School Facilities. Member schools may permit the use of their facilities in accordance with the district's Board of Education board policy.

3.2.7.8 Summertime Use of School Equipment. Member schools may permit the use of school equipment other than school-issued game uniforms in accordance with the district's Board of Education policy.

3.2.8 Summertime College/Professional/Commercial Team Sport Camps/Clinics. High school coaches are permitted to accompany students from their school to college, professional, or commercial sports specialized team camps/clinics during the summer.

- a. The purpose of a specialized sports camp/clinic/school is to give team members an opportunity to improve their skills in a particular activity.
- b. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses or support for individuals participating in camps, schools, and non-school competition.
- c. Team fundraisers may be used to finance team commercial camp/clinic activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer team camps/clinics must participate in the fundraising activity.
- d. The school shall not provide school-issued uniforms but may provide transportation for individuals participating in such camps/clinics, or schools with prior approval from the district's Board of Education.

3.2.9 Summertime Individual Commercial Camps/Clinics. During the summer, students may attend any individual skill/technique camps or clinics.

- a. The purpose of an individual camp/clinic/school is to give a student an opportunity to improve his/her skills in a particular activity.
- b. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses or support for individuals participating in camps.
- c. Team fundraisers may be used to finance individual commercial camp/clinic activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer individual camp/clinic activities. Any athlete receiving money for camps/clinics must participate in the fundraising activity.
- d. The school shall not provide school-issued uniforms.

3.3.11 Conduct and Sportsmanship. Member schools shall maintain proper crowd control and enforce the principles of good sportsmanship and ethics during all interscholastic contests. Failure to fulfill this obligation shall subject the school to penalties as provided in Article 2, Section 2.11, NSAA Bylaws Governing All Activities.

3.3.11.1 Conduct of Coaches and Athletes. Coaches and athletes shall conduct themselves in accordance with the playing rules of the sport contest and refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct during interscholastic competition. Failure to fulfill this obligation will subject the individual(s) to the penalties as provided in Article 2, Section 2.11, NSAA Bylaws Governing All Activities.

3.3.11.2 Definition of Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include the following: fighting, verbal abuse or dissent directed toward an official or opponent, racial or ethnic slurs, inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment, profanity, obscene gestures, flagrant and violent fouls, taunting, trash talk, baiting, cheating, throwing or abusing equipment, inappropriate posters, physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent, and unauthorized leaving of a team bench area.

3.5.1 Participation on Non-High School Teams and Non-High School Competition. Any student who participates in any athletic contest other than as a representative of his/her high school during the season of the sport involved becomes ineligible to represent his/her school in that sport for one or more contests or the remainder of the season.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1

1. During the Season of sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend and physically take part in college camps and clinics.

3.5.2 Individual Instruction. During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take instruction from a person other than the high school coach at times other than scheduled high school practice sessions, but such instructions shall not interfere with, nor be substituted for the high school coaching, practice sessions, or contests.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.2

During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take instruction from a person other than the high school coach. Group instruction, practices with outside teams, and tryouts for outside teams other than as part of a college or university recruiting visit, however, are not permitted.

REGULAR SEASON

Classification of Schools. Baseball has three classes of competition. Class A will be classified based on a total enrollment of 850 and above (Approved Ruling & Interp. For 2.13.2). The remaining schools will be divided evenly into Class B & Class C. If there is an uneven number of schools, the larger number of schools will be in Class C. Schools can petition to play up one classification. The deadline for submitting a request to the NSAA is one week from when classifications are released. If a school opts-up a classification, no team will move up to fill that void. The total enrollment figures shall be doubled for unisex schools.

In all athletics, Class A will be classified on a two-year basis, and all other classes will be classified yearly (Approved Ruling & Interp. For 2.13.3). **2023-24 is the second year of the 2-year Class A Classification period. During this two year Class A Classification period, no team will be added or removed from Class A regardless of enrollment number.*

Permissible Contests. No team representing a member school may participate in more than twenty-four dates in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the State Baseball Championships. Participation in any baseball tournament shall count as one date of the twenty-four dates permitted in which the team participates. A team may not participate in more than four tournaments, which includes the conference tournament.

Teams playing baseball shall be allowed to schedule the following events, counting each as one of its twenty-four permissible dates:

Approved Ruling to 3.11.2.2

Single Game – two schools playing one game on one day.

Doubleheader – playing two pre-determined contests in one day.

Triangular – three schools playing two pre-determined contests in one day.

Double-Dual – four schools playing two pre-determined contests or two of the other schools in one day.

Tournament – 4 or more teams where winners continue to advance or compete until a champion is determined (straight bracket or pool play with championship criteria).

Daily Contest Limit. No member school shall play more than two baseball games in one day.

Rescheduled Events. Rescheduling regular season or postponed varsity competition in all sports after sub-district, district or state competition begins is prohibited.

Baseball Tournaments – All games in four-team baseball tournaments must be played within two consecutive days. Bracketed tournaments with eight or more teams shall be played within a calendar week (Monday-Saturday) with no other regular season games scheduled in between. Pool-play tournaments shall be played over two consecutive days. Pool-play shall take place the first day with place vs. place competition from each pool taking place (i.e., first place pool A vs. first place in pool B; second place in pool A vs. second place in pool B, etc.) on the second day. The only exception to the consecutive day period shall be when weather forces postponement of one or more contests in that tournament.

Once the baseball season has begun, schools CANNOT add games to their regular season schedules.

All scheduled contests shall be played. Postponed contests shall be rescheduled by all participating schools if possible.

UNIFORM POLICY

Participants must keep their uniforms on while in the competition area. Coaches who are in the live-ball area to perform coaching duties must wear uniform pants, with a school-issued jersey, sweatshirt, jacket, pullover, etc. The coach's top must be in school colors.

UMPIRES

Schools make their own arrangements for hiring umpires for interscholastic competition. The Nebraska School Activities Association has registration requirements concerning baseball umpires. The NSAA provides a list of registered umpires to each high school and local assignor to ensure only registered officials are used for varsity competition.

3.3.10 SUPERVISION

The superintendent, principal or an authorized representative of the faculty shall accompany and supervise the team for its competition. This bylaw pertains to all competition during the season, as well as throughout the entire district/state championship series.

The baseball season starts with the first day of practice, February 26, 2024.

- Baseball and softball are not the same sport, meaning girls can participate in baseball if there is no girls' baseball team and also participate in softball. (See Bylaw 2.14, Appendix 4, C., 2)..
- A team's competition can come only from teams sponsored by another high school.
- Pitchers are under pitch count limitations as shown on pages 9-11, 23.
- In order to participate in a district or state contest in baseball, a student is required to meet the requirements under NSAA Bylaws 3.3.7 and 3.5.1.

PLAYING RULES

Suspended Game Policy. A game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at anytime for mechanical failure (i.e. artificial light, water systems, etc.) may 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 the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. Both schools involved in the game must agree to the suspension. Any game tied but not completed will be treated as no-game, from a team won-lost standpoint.

Last Date for Playing Regular Season Games. All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of district competition. Once district competition begins, no regular season varsity contests shall be permitted.

Protests. Only protests based upon eligibility of players will be honored by the NSAA. Protests based upon play situations and those that involve judgment on the part of umpires will not be accepted. Schools mutually agree in advance on the umpires to be used. After the contest has begun, the decisions of the officials are final.

Speed-Up Rules Approved For Use.

1. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher as soon as they get on base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning.

Pitch Counts

Pre-April 1st

Varsity

Pitches	Required Rest
71-90	3 Days
51-70	2 Days
31-50	1 Day
1-30	0 Days

Sub-Varsity

Pitches	Required Rest
71-90	4 Days
51-70	3 Days
31-50	2 Days
1-30	1 Day

1. The NSAA pitch count rule is based on the number of pitches thrown in a game. The pitch count is based on pitches thrown for strikes, balls and foul balls. *Note – the required rest days are calendar days
2. No pitcher may throw more than 90 pitches in a game. A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if they hit the maximum limit (90) during an at-bat, but must exit the position after the hitter.
3. “Swing” players who play multiple days at multiple levels should combine pitches thrown and use the VARSITY chart for mandated rest.

April 1st – State Championships

Varsity

Pitches	Required Rest
91-110	4 Days
71-90	3 Days
51-70	2 Days
31-50	1 Day
1-30	0 Days

Sub-Varsity

Pitches	Required Rest
71-90	4 Days
51-70	3 Days
31-50	2 Days
1-30	1 Day

1. The NSAA pitch count rule is based on the number of pitches thrown in a game. The pitch count is based on pitches thrown for strikes, balls and foul balls. *Note – the required rest days are calendar days
2. No pitcher may throw more than 110 pitches in a game (90 for sub-varsity pitchers). A pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter if they hit the maximum limit (110 in varsity; 90 in sub-varsity) during an at-bat, but must exit the position after the hitter.
3. “Swing” players who play multiple days at multiple levels should combine pitches thrown and use the VARSITY chart for mandated rest.

Consecutive Days: No player may make more than two appearances as a pitcher during any consecutive three-day period. If a player returns as a pitcher in the same game, he will be charged with another appearance if at least one pitch is thrown from the pitching position during this second appearance.

SITUATION: A varsity pitcher throws 15 pitches in game one of a doubleheader on Thursday. He then throws 10 pitches in game two.

RULING: The pitcher will be required to rest Friday and Saturday despite pitching fewer than 31 pitches on Thursday.

SITUATION: A varsity pitcher throws 20 pitches in a game on Thursday. He then throws 22 pitches on Friday.

RULING: The pitcher is not eligible to pitch on Saturday despite having fewer than 31 pitches the previous day.

SITUATION: A varsity pitcher throws 20 pitches in a game on Thursday. He then throws 22 pitches in game one of a doubleheader on Friday.

RULING: The pitcher is not eligible to pitch in game two of the doubleheader on Friday or any game on Saturday.

Doubleheaders/"Swing" Players: If a player pitches in more than one game in a day, the pitch count for the day should be the two-game total and this number will be used to figure the days' rest. No pitcher shall pitch over the daily max.

SITUATION: A pitcher throws 63 pitches in the JV game and 10 pitches in the varsity game, both on the same day (April).

RULING: The pitcher is required to rest for 3 days as the total pitch count for the day was 73 pitches.

SITUATION: A pitcher throws 63 pitches in the first game of a varsity doubleheader and then 10 pitches in game two, both games on the same day (April).

RULING: The pitcher is required to rest for 3 days as the total pitch count for the day was 73 pitches.

12 AM: The calendar day in which a game is started shall be used to determine pitcher eligibility. If a game extends beyond 12 AM, a pitcher shall not be counted as now eligible, nor should a pitcher lose a day of rest because they've pitched past 12 AM.

SITUATION: A varsity game begins at 9 PM on Monday and is completed at 12:05 AM on Tuesday (May). Team A uses two pitchers during the game, each throwing 45 pitches. When are both eligible to pitch again?

RULING: Both pitchers are eligible to pitch again on Wednesday after receiving 1 day of rest. The game is considered to have been played on Monday.

SITUATION: A varsity game begins at 9 PM on Monday and is completed at 1 AM on Tuesday (May). A relief pitcher enters the game in the 6th inning at 12:45 AM on Tuesday and throws 32 pitches. When is he eligible to pitch again?

RULING: The pitcher is eligible to pitch on Wednesday after receiving 1 day of rest. The game is considered to have been played on Monday.

SITUATION: A varsity game begins at 9 PM on Monday and is completed at 12:15 AM on Tuesday. At 12:05 AM on Tuesday, Team A considers substituting a pitcher that is not considered eligible until Tuesday, following 4 days rest. Is this pitcher eligible?

RULING: No. The game is considered to have been played on Monday.

Suspended Games: If a game is suspended/canceled, do not input your score or pitch counts into MaxPreps. Still "sign-off" on the pitcher's record sheet and keep that as your hard copy record. The pitch count rule is a daily rule and follows calendar days. The pitchers in a suspended/canceled game should follow the recommended day's rest based on the number of pitches thrown that day.

SITUATION: A varsity game on a Monday is postponed in the 3rd inning and the pitcher has 63 pitches.

RULING: The pitcher is required to rest 2 days and is eligible to pitch on Thursday.

SITUATION: A varsity district (May) game is postponed in the 3rd inning. The game is scheduled to be completed the next day. Team A's pitcher has 63 pitches and Team B's pitcher has 25 pitches.

RULING: Team A's pitcher is required to rest 2 days and will not be able to pitch. Team B's pitcher may pitch in the game but must follow the guidelines for pitching in consecutive days.

SITUATION: A varsity game on a Monday is postponed in the 6th inning. The game is scheduled to be completed the next day. Team A has a pitcher that was not eligible to pitch on Monday, but eligible to pitch on Tuesday. Can he pitch in the resumed game on Tuesday?

RULING: Yes. Any substitution is subject to the rules of the game.

SITUATION: A varsity district (May) game is postponed in the 5th inning and scheduled to be completed the next day, prior to playing an additional game (1 ½ games total). Team A's pitcher has thrown 20 pitches in the postponed game. Can he pitch in BOTH games the next day?

RULING: No, not both games according to the "consecutive days" guidelines. However, he may pitch in one of the games.

Ambidextrous Pitchers: If the pitcher is ambidextrous, the pitch count guidelines apply to the individual pitcher, not to the individual arm.

SITUATION: An ambidextrous pitcher throws 20 pitches with his right arm and 15 pitches with his left arm during a varsity game. Is the individual eligible to pitch the next day?

RULING: No. Even though each individual arm total is below 30 pitches, his total pitch count is 35, which requires 1 day of rest.

PENALTY:

The use of a pitcher not eligible to pitch by the pitch count restrictions or any discrepancy found after the game should be reported to the NSAA. The NSAA Executive Director will enforce appropriate penalties as outlined in Bylaw 2.11 ranging from forfeiture of a contest to school probation. If a violation is confirmed during a game, the head coach shall be ejected from the game, and the pitcher removed from the pitcher's position.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- It is strongly recommended that once a pitcher is removed, consideration be given to what position he is assigned once he is done pitching. Consideration should be given to the throwing requirement of the fielding position, especially catcher, once the pitcher vacates the mound.
- It is strongly recommended that coaches consider pitch count adjustments when the "Feels Like" temperature is below 50°.
- It is strongly recommended that pitchers not throw more than 40 pitches in one individual inning.
- Coaches must be cognizant of each pitcher's "fatigue threshold" (can be measured by velocity and accuracy among other factors) and adjust pitches to accommodate, learning what constitutes throwing "hurt" and throwing "injured." Each pitcher will be different in his ability and threshold. In essence, the coach must learn the behaviors of the players.
- It is strongly recommended that each school develop a season-long pitching limit for each player.

USA BASEBALL:

USA Baseball (www.usabaseball.com) has determined the following risk factors (not a complete list) contribute to arm overuse issues:

- Pitching while fatigued
- Not taking enough time off from baseball every year
- Throwing too many pitches and not getting enough rest
- Pitching on consecutive days
- Playing for multiple teams at the same time
- Throwing breaking pitches at a young age

TRACKING/REPORTING:

1. The home team should designate a "Pitch Counter" prior to the start of the game. This could be a scorekeeper, volunteer, coach or manager. This person will serve as the official counter for the home team. The visiting team should also keep count.
2. The record of each pitcher used in a regular or post-season game should be entered into the Pitcher's Record form (page 23). The form must be completed immediately following each game and signed by both head coaches as this will determine eligibility of each pitcher.
3. A coach shall carry this form to all games and shall present it to the opposing head coach at the conclusion of the game for his signature.
4. Coaches, without the form, have the responsibility to submit the correct form to the opposing coach of the previous team. Coaches must notify their athletic director if the opposing coach does not have the form.
5. If there is a discrepancy in pitch counts following the game, the "Pitch Counter" retains jurisdiction and their number will be the number to be recorded. The individuals keeping team pitch counts should compare their numbers after each inning.
6. Each team is required to submit the pitch counts for their respective pitchers into MaxPreps. This must be done immediately following each game. The numbers submitted into MaxPreps must match the numbers recorded on the Pitcher's Record form.
 - i. We recommend using GameChanger for stat keeping as you may export the pitch counts directly to MaxPreps.
7. Coaches must keep a hard copy of the Pitcher's Record from each game on file throughout the season.

STEROID POLICY

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), strongly oppose the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. Such use violates legal, ethical and competitive equity standards, and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks. The NSAA and the NFHS support prohibitions by educational institutions, amateur and professional organizations, and governmental regulators on the use of anabolic steroids and other controlled substances, except as specifically prescribed by physicians for therapeutic purposes.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO BAN

During regular season, district or state competition, the use of smokeless tobacco by any participant is prohibited. If a participant or substitute is detected using smokeless tobacco during competition, that individual shall be disqualified from further participation in that contest.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. In order to determine if the NSAA can authorize such an accommodation, the school administration should contact the NSAA to request an accommodation hearing.

DISTRICT & STATE ELIGIBILITY

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.7

1. *In all athletic activities, teams wishing to enter a sub-district, district, or state contest shall have participated in a minimum of five interschool varsity contests prior to the sub-district, district, or state contest.*
 - (a) *Exceptions to the requirements for a team that has not participated in at least five interschool varsity contests would be considered if the team was unable to participate if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests. Other extenuating circumstances would be considered by the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis.*
2. *In order to participate in a district or state tournament, a student is required to have been a member of the school's team for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the sub-district, district, or state tournament.*
 - (a) *Exceptions to the requirements for a student who is not a member of the school team for twenty school days would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, or transfer from another high school. School, team, or game suspensions, regardless of the underlying cause, shall not be considered as exceptions to this participation rule.*
3. *To be eligible to participate in a sub-district, district and/or state contest, a student shall have been a member of a school's team and shall have been "available to participate" in at least thirty percent (30%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests.*
 - (a) *Exceptions to the requirements for a student who has not been available to participate in at least 30% of the school's varsity interschool contests would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, transfer from another high school, or if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests.*
 - (b) *When determining whether a student has been available for (30%) of the school's varsity interschool contests, one would divide the number of varsity interschool contests for which the student was available by the school's total number of varsity interschool contests; all decimals .1 or above would be rounded up to the next higher whole number.*
 - (c) *The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport and is not suspended from participation in activities by virtue of NSAA rules.*
 - (d)
4. *For situations pertaining to eligibility to participate in district or state contests that are not specifically addressed by these guidelines, the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive membership and participation requirements on a case-by-case basis.*

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

Class A

All Class A schools in baseball are to be placed into six districts. All six of the districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wildcard point system within one week prior to the first district tournament.

All games played through Tuesday, April 30th, 2024 (in-state and out-of-state) will be used to calculate wildcard points for district seeding. The district seeding date shall be Wednesday, May 1, 2024. In Class A districts with a “play-in” game(s), the higher seed will be offered a contract to host the opening round game. The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the rest of the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Class B & C

Class B & C schools in baseball are to be placed into six districts. All six of the districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wildcard point system within two weeks prior to the first district tournament.

All games played through Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024 (in-state and out-of-state) will be used to calculate wildcard points for district seeding. The district seeding date shall be Thursday, April 25th, 2024. The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Thursday, April 25th, 2023.

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

District Tournaments. The district tournaments will be single elimination with the winner qualifying for the state championship. District tournament directors have the responsibility to plan and run their single-elimination tournament according to NSAA and National Federation baseball rules. The NSAA will contract and assign all umpires.

Class A: District tournaments for five and six team districts will be held on Friday, May 3rd and Saturday May 4th. District tournaments for four team districts will be held on Saturday May 4th. Rain out dates include Monday, May 6th and Tuesday, May 7th.

Games through Tuesday of Week 44 will be counted for Class A district assignments and seeding. Class A districts with a “play-in” game(s), the higher seed will be offered a contract to host that opening round game. The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the rest of the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured.

If the top seed of the district loses in the first round and the championship game is not started (weather/mechanical issues/other) on Saturday, the next highest seeded team will host the championship (Monday). If the higher seed is unable to host, the subsequent team shall be offered a contract to host.

If the top seed of the district loses in the first round and the championship game is started on Saturday, but suspended/postponed (weather/mechanical issues/other), the game will resume (Monday) at the venue in which the game began, unless field conditions dictate otherwise.

The district champion will advance to the state tournament. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Wednesday, May 1st.

Classes B & C: District tournaments will be held on May 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Rain out dates include Monday, May 6th and Tuesday, May 7th.

Games through April 23rd will be counted for Class B district assignments and seeding. The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured. After the first round of districts and the top seed of the district loses, the next highest seeded team would host in championship or return to host site for the game (if they are not able to host the event). The district champion will advance to the state tournament. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Thursday, April 25th.

District Entry Deadline. NSAA Entry Forms are now accessed and submitted online. The Athletic/Activities director will give the certified coach the login to this activity. Go to the NSAA website (www.nsaahome.org) and click on “Login” and select your school and enter your login code/password. On the subsequent page, click on “District Entry Form” and complete your roster form (detailed instructions can also be obtained from the website). You will need to print this form for your files and email a copy to the district director. You do **NOT** need to email or fax the form to the NSAA office. Once the form has been completed and submitted by the school, the NSAA office will automatically receive an electronic version of this form. Schools may make changes to this form up until the due date, which is April 22nd. After that, you will need to contact the NSAA.

District Seeding. All schools in baseball are to be placed into six districts. The districts shall be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wildcard point system.

Class A:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
24	23	22	21	20	19
25	26	27	28	29	30
				32	31

Class B:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
		22	21	20	19

Class C:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
24	23	22	21	20	19
25					

District Pairings

Class A:

District pairings will be made for four-team districts in the following manner: Seed 1 vs. Seed 4; Seed 2 vs. Seed 3. District pairings for five-team districts: Seed 4 vs. Seed 5 (Seed 4 will host Seed 5), with winner playing Seed 1; Seed 2 vs. Seed 3. In a six-team district, the seeding will be: Seed 4 vs. Seed 5 (Seed 4 will host Seed 5), with winner playing Seed 1; and Seed 3 vs. Seed 6 (Seed 3 will host Seed 6), with the winner playing Seed 2. Should there be a tie in wildcard points for district seeding; the wildcard tie-breaking procedure shall be used. The highest seeded team will be the home team for all district games.

Classes B & C:

District pairings will be made for three-team districts in the following manner: Seed 2 vs. Seed 3, with the winner playing Seed 1. In a four-team district, the seeding will be: Seed 1 vs. Seed 4; Seed 2 vs. Seed 3. District pairings for five-team districts: Seed 4 vs. Seed 5, with winner playing Seed 1; Seed 2 vs. Seed 3. Should there be a tie in wildcard points for district seeding; the wildcard tie-breaking procedure shall be used. The highest seeded team will be the home team for all district games.

Handicapped Accessibility. Facilities used as a district site must provide reasonable accommodations to people with special needs.

District Admissions. An admission shall be charged, and proceeds used by the director to offset expenses of the tournament. The NSAA share of the district receipts will cover the cost for the catastrophic injury insurance premium. District admission prices are \$6.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.

Finances. An online financial form from each district site must be filled out and submitted to the NSAA. This baseball financial form is accessible through your NSAA home page by using your login code. Under district host information, you will find the "Baseball" financial form to complete and submit. After paying the umpires, any other expenses incurred, plus the NSAA portions, the remaining receipts are for your school to keep. To complete this online form you will need: 1) the approximate attendance; 2) total gate receipts; 3) total game fees for officials; and 4) total mileage for officials. If the host school does not meet expenses, the schools in the district may be assessed a fee to equal the deficit.

Bands & Artificial Noisemakers.

1. Bands are permitted during district and state contests.
2. Members **MUST** pay regular admission for district and state contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: thunder sticks, air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the game, at intermissions and time-outs.

Cheerleaders & Drill Teams.

1. Due to potential liability in case of injury, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the district and state tournaments are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where one individual is supported above the level of the ground by another individual or individuals. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed.
2. Cheerleaders and drill team members **MUST** pay regular admission to district and state events.

Media – Student Media, Media Credentials & Broadcasting.

1. All media operations (admission, access and accommodations) for **Regular Season** contests are at the Host School discretion.
2. The NSAA Media Manual outlines policies for Media Credentials, Student Media, Broadcasting Policies and other specifics surrounding NSAA post-season contests.
3. Post-season contests include: Districts, Sub-Districts, Sub-State, Playoffs and State Championships.
4. The Media Manual is posted on the NSAA website's [Media Page](#).

Eligible Players. Players listed on the District Entry Form will be eligible to play in district and state tournament games. Substitutions to this list can be made, but no more than 22 players may suit up for district or state championship games. Once the tournament begins, no substitutions may be made unless an injury or illness occurs. If substitutions are made, inform the district tournament director and NSAA office as soon as possible. Anyone substituted must be eligible according to all NSAA rules.

Suspension of Play. Play during district and state championship contests may be suspended when the umpires consider the weather or ground conditions unfit to play. District tournament officials and umpires will determine when play is to resume. Once play has been resumed, the game will continue 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 play was suspended. The Association has permission from the National Federation to extend the suspended game rule so all games not terminated by the 10-run rule will play a full seven innings or more if necessary to determine a winner. This means a team could build a 4-3 lead in the district championship and be up to bat in the bottom of the fifth inning with the score still at 4-3 when weather forces the game to be stopped. The game would be suspended and resumed when weather permits. Prior to the post-season, this game would be terminated, and the final score set at 4-3 because play went beyond 4-1/2 innings and one team was ahead.

Umpires. Assigned by the NSAA at \$70 per game, with possible mileage. Umpires are encouraged to carpool whenever possible. Umpires living in the host city will not be paid mileage. District baseball umpires are hired as a crew. Therefore, the umpire who lives farthest away from the host city (among that crew or set of officials/judges) and who drives his/her own vehicle will be paid mileage using the following formula: (Using the NSAA mileage chart) one-way miles (to the site of the host city) x number of trips made x \$1.00. The crew or set of officials/judges may split this mileage fee between/among themselves in any manner they determine.

Baseballs. The NSAA will use the National Federation approved Baden Perfection Pro 3B-PPRO for postseason play. The NSAA will send at least one dozen of these baseballs to the district tournament director.

Baseline Coaches. Only players and coaches in uniform may serve as baseline coaches at the district and/or state championships.

Awards. The winner and runner-up of each district tournament will receive plaques. Wildcard qualifiers to the state championships will receive plaques.

State Qualifiers. Each district tournament champion qualifies for the state tournament. The six district champions, plus the two remaining non-district champions with the highest wildcard point average shall qualify for the state tournament.

Wildcard System

All contests played against the varsity teams of schools located within Nebraska and against the varsity teams of schools located in other states will be used to determine the wildcard point average.

Wildcard point averages will be used to seed districts and the state championships. Additionally, wild card point averages will be used to determine the two additional state qualifying teams in all classes.

Results of contests will be used to:

1. Calculate wildcard point averages (total number of points divided by the number of contests played)
2. To determine the win and loss record for designating a team as a first, second, third, or fourth division team.

The following point evaluation scale will be used to determine a team's total points:

	1st Division	2nd Division	3rd Division	4th Division
	Team	Team	Team	Team
Victory Over	50 points	47 points	44 points	41
Loss To	39 points	36 points	33 points	30

- A 1st division team is a team, which has won at least 75% of its contests played. (Examples: 20-0, 19-1, 18-2, 17-3, 16-4, 15-5.)
- A 2nd division team is a team, which has won at least 50% but less than 75% of its contests played. (Example: 14-6, 13-7, 12-8, 11-9, 10-10.)
- A 3rd division team, which has won at least 25% but less than 50% of its contests played. (Examples: 9-11, 8-12, 7-13, 6-14, 5-15.)
- A 4th division team is a team, which has won less than 25% of its contests played. (Examples: 4-16, 3-17, 2-18, 1-19, 0-20.)

1. No points are deducted for playing teams which are classified below your classification.
2. Class A schools will be awarded 2 bonus points when competing against other Class A schools.
3. In competition with schools one classification above yours, 2 bonus points will be awarded.
4. In competition with schools two classifications above yours, 3 bonus points will be awarded.
5. FORFEITS: Teams shall receive wildcard points for forfeited losses if the forfeit was due to extenuating circumstances between the two schools. Schools that are required to forfeit a game or games by the Executive Director or the Board of Directors shall count such contests as one of the permissible contests under the contest limitations for that sport. Such mandated forfeitures shall count as loss wildcard points.
6. FORFEITS: When a school's varsity team is unable to complete the season, those remaining teams on that school's regular season schedule may either:
 - a. Receive forfeit wins for those scheduled contests and shall be awarded wildcard points for those forfeit wins. Wildcard points will be determined by the forfeiting team's record at the time of seeding for post-season competition. If a team declares to participate in the postseason and does not participate, forfeit wins will be issued to their opponents for those postseason contests.

OR

- b. If more than seven days remain before any level of postseason seeding is to take place in that sport, a school may replace the forfeited contest on their schedule with another opponent/contest. Replacements that may be added to the schedule are limited to either teams similarly affected by the forfeiting team, or, teams that have an unfilled, allowable contest opening on their schedule. Replacement contests must be scheduled a minimum of seven days in advance of any postseason seeding and will count towards postseason/wildcard seeding.

7. If a tie exists for one or more seeds or state qualification in any class, the following procedure will be used to break the tie.
 - a. If only two teams have identical point averages and are tied and the teams have played each other, the team that won the contest or the majority of contests between the two teams in question wins the tiebreaker.
 - b. In Class A if the two teams have not played each other or if more than two teams are tied, step C will be used to determine which team qualifies for the state tournament. In Classes B/C if the two teams have not played each other or if more than two teams are tied, step D will be used to determine the seed.
 - c. In Class A if a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams in their classification will be selected. If two teams are still tied, step (a) will apply before going to step (e).
 - d. In Classes B/C if two or more teams have identical point averages and are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams will be selected. If two teams are still tied, step (a) will apply before going to step (e).
 - e. If a tie still exists, the team's opponents' wins and losses will be totaled and the winning percentages calculated. The team whose opponents have the highest percentage based on this calculation wins the tiebreaker.
 - f. If a tie still exists, the winner will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.
8. Schools must report out-of-state win-loss records to the NSAA. Win-loss records not reported to the NSAA will be recorded as a fourth-division team until such information is provided.
9. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wildcard purposes, if the school's three-grade enrollment is less than the lowest enrollment in a particular class, the out-of-state school shall be classified in the immediate lower class. The enrollment of Nebraska schools opting-up to play in a higher class will not be considered when comparing out-of-state schools for classification purposes.
 - a. If two or more schools are tied for the final place in a particular class, the tie is broken by using the schools' three-year average enrollment for the most recent three years. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wildcard purposes, if the out-of-state school's three-grade enrollment is identical to the enrollments shared by schools in two different classes, the out-of-state school shall be placed in the higher class.
10. Out-of-state win-loss records will be included thru the following dates for seeding purposes:
 - a. District Tournament seeding: **Class A: April 30th, 2024 Class B & C: April 23rd, 2024**
 - b. State Championship seeding: **May 5th, 2024**

Reporting Scores. Report all varsity scores to MaxPreps.com. Each individual school is responsible for reporting scores. If playing outside of Nebraska, scores will need to be reported or emailed by the Nebraska school. Teams who compete against schools in other states are responsible for reporting those opponents' current win-loss records to the NSAA throughout the season and prior to districts and state seeding.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Dates. The eight-team state championship tournament will be held May 10-11, 13-17, in Sarpy County/Omaha.

Seeding. Teams in the state championships will be seeded according to the wildcard point average and the first-round pairings will match the following seeded teams: 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6, and 4 vs. 5. If teams are tied via the point average, the wildcard tiebreaker will be used to break the tie. No changes to seeding can be made once the state seeding is complete.

Schedule/Format. The 2024 State Baseball Championships will be hosted by Sarpy County/Omaha with Werner Park and Tal Anderson Field (UNO) as the primary facilities. The format will include two, four-team sides to the bracket (1 vs. 8, 4 vs. 5) (2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6) with each side playing double-elimination until one team is left. A "winner take all" (one game) state championship game will ensue.

Postponement Plans.

Schools qualifying for the state championships must be prepared for time changes the NSAA may have to make because of weather conditions:

- 1) If the weather prevents the completion of first-round play on May 10th (Class A)/May 11th (Classes B & C), the first-round schedule will be reset for May 11th (A), May 13th (B/C). The rest of the tournament will follow accordingly with the championship finals scheduled for May 17th. The built in "off" day on May 16th would be used to play Class B/C games. *If only minimal innings remain with one first round game (when the suspension occurs) the original state championship schedule may stay intact*
 - o On May 13th – Games 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be played (A)
 - o On May 14th – Games 9, 10 (A), Games 5, 6, 7, 8 (B/C)
 - o On May 15th – Games 11, 12, 13, 14 (A), Games 9, 10 (B/C)
 - o On May 16th – Games 11, 12, 13, 14 (B/C)
 - o On May 17th – Game 15 (A/B/C)
- 2) If all four games (games 5, 6, 7 and 8) are not played or completed on May 13th, they will be completed on May 14th. The rest of the tournament schedule shall be determined by the NSAA and announced.
- 3) If games cannot be completed on May 14th, games 9 and 10 will be played on May 15th. The rest of the tournament will follow accordingly with games 11, 12, 13 and 14 on May 16th. The Championship finals would be scheduled for May 17th.
- 4) If games 11, 12, 13 and 14 are not played on May 15th, they will be rescheduled on May 16th with the Championship finals on May 17th.
- 5) If the Championship finals are not played on May 17th, the finals would be scheduled for May 18th.

Adjustments in the tournament schedule may be made for two school functions--baccalaureate and commencement. No other conflicts can be considered. Schools with baccalaureates or commencements scheduled on May 10-11, 13-17 should inform the NSAA office prior to the start of the tournament.

Dugout Assignments. The higher-seeded team shall occupy the third base dugout for all contests. The lower-seeded team shall occupy the first base dugout for all contests.

Home Team. The home team for first-round games (Games 1, 2, 3 and 4) will be the highest-seeded team. Home team for all other games will be decided by a coin flip, except games 12/14. The home team in games 12/14 (if necessary) will be the visiting team of games 11/13.

Additional Game Rules. At the state tournament, the Association has permission from the National Federation to extend the suspended game rule so all games not terminated by the 10-run rule will play a full seven innings or more if necessary to determine a winner. This means a team could build a 4-3 lead in the state championships and be up to bat in the bottom of the fifth inning with the score still at 4-3 when weather forces the game to be stopped. The game would be suspended and resumed when weather permits. Prior to the post-season, this game would be terminated, and the final score set at 4-3 because play went beyond 4-1/2 innings and one team was ahead.

Reimbursement. Mileage reimbursements will be based on the number of participants (qualifiers, number on roster) and one coach. (Note: Student Managers will not be included.) A school's mileage reimbursement will be figured using the following formula: [(#miles one way x # trips) – 50 miles] x appropriate amount listed below:

Amount per mile	Number of participants/coaches
\$0.85	1-6
\$1.70	7-12
\$2.55	13-18
\$3.40	19-24

Lodging. If lodging is used, \$20 per participant and one coach will be paid based on the following criteria: (Note: **Times listed are scheduled competition start times.**)

Night before competing—
 Before 10 a.m., 76 + miles away
 Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., 150+ miles away
 At or after 3 p.m., 250+ miles away
Night of (still competing in State Championship)—
 76+ miles away
Final Night (day eliminated) —
 5 p.m. or later, 200+ miles away

Admission Prices. State championship admission prices will be \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for students ages five through high school for each session.

Participant Pass Gate. Coaches and players listed on the state championship entry form shall be allowed admittance through the designated team pass gate. A maximum of 28 players, coaches and bench personnel will be admitted without charge.

Awards. The winner and runner-up in the state championships will receive trophies. Members of the state championship winning team will receive gold medals and the championship team coach will receive a plaque. Members of the state runner-up team will receive silver medals.

Tournament Information. Schools qualifying for the state championships will receive an emailed letter of instructions.

Statistics. Teams qualifying for the state championships must update and submit their district entry form with an accurate roster, complete with statistics, via the NSAA website for the state championships program. Information will be sent to all schools outlining the details of this process.

Expected Behaviors at Awards Ceremonies. Education-based activities give students the ability to train, participate and compete in a structured setting. With that, students often learn lessons that are sometimes not taught in the traditional academic classroom. Some of those lessons include learning to win and lose with dignity and grace. As such, the following guidelines have been developed for awards ceremonies at the conclusion of sub-district, district and state contests.

Only one team can win a district or state championship, yet the NSAA provides trophies, plaques and medals to the losing teams in many of the postseason activities. It shall be the expectation that both teams shall accept their medals and trophies in a sporting and willing manner. Some losing teams have been reluctant to step forward and accept their awards, and coaches and administrators need to assure sporting behaviors for their student athletes. It is natural to be disappointed in losing the contest, but stepping forward at this time of disappointment is a life lesson that helps mold proper and sporting behaviors. It is the expectation!

The executive director or the NSAA Board of Directors shall determine the type and severity of sanctions to schools that do not comply with these expectations.

NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP BYLAWS & APPROVED RULINGS

2.11 Penalties

2.11.3 Participant Ejections from Athletic Contests. Any participant ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.11.3

Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. Any participant ejected a third time shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.

2.11.4 Coach Ejections from Athletic Contests. Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible to coach the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.

NSAA GUIDELINES & EJECTIONS

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.11.4

1. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.
2. Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA webpage.
3. A participant or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim.
4. Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.
5. Any participant ejected a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
6. Any participant ejected a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.
7. During the time of their “sit-out” suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school’s discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench.
8. Coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not coach in any contest or be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Coaches who are ejected will also be required to successfully complete an NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online course before being able to coach the following season or year.
9. Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at other levels during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. Any coach ejected a second time will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching online coaching course within 10 days of the ejection. Failure to successfully complete the course will result in a suspension from coaching for the remainder of the season. In those situations in which the ejection of the coach occurs near the end of the season or during the NSAA end-of-season play, the coach will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior online coaching course before being able to coach the following season or year.
10. If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will carry over to the following season of the same sport.
11. When schools have students or coaches with multiple ejections, the school shall submit to the NSAA a written management plan on how they plan to remediate the problem.
12. Officials will be expected to file with the NSAA an ejection report for any ejection of a player or coach from a contest online. Any unusual situation that occurs prior to, during, or after a contest should also be reported.
13. Prompt reporting to the NSAA office by the official is necessary. Officials are asked to submit their electronic report or call the NSAA office by the day following the ejection.
14. Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.
15. Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.
16. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.
17. The Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspensions when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis (e.g., three weeks between regularly scheduled non-varsity contests).

NSAA POLICY ON COMMENTS AND NEGATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST OFFICIALS

The National Federation of State High School Associations has devised Code of Ethics guidelines for high school coaches. The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. The coach or sponsor shall respect and support contest officials and judges. The coach or sponsor shall not indulge in conduct that would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials, judges or players is unethical.

The Nebraska School Activities Association has embraced that Coaches Code of Ethics and has established policies and standards that will cultivate the ideals of good sportsmanship, professionalism and conduct. It shall be the responsibility of each member school to ensure that all individuals directly associated with the interscholastic program conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.

The high school coach or director is a representative of the school at interscholastic activity events. It is the responsibility of all coaches and directors to serve as role models for students and the public.

It is the expectation that all coaches, directors, administrators and student participants shall refrain from negative criticism of NSAA member institutions, officials, adjudicators, judges, etc. in public statements before, during or after interscholastic events. The appropriate public response to media questions at all venues regarding officiating/judging is "per NSAA policy, I am unable to comment." Any other response is a violation of this board policy and is subject to penalty.

It would be considered a violation of this NSAA policy to include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Making degrading and/or critical remarks about officials or adjudicators or the officiating or judging before, during or after an event either on or off-site, via social media, or through any public means.
- b. Detaining the officials/adjudicators/judges during or following the event to request a ruling or explanation of actions or evaluation by the official(s)/adjudicator(s)/judges.
- c. Entering the officials dressing area following the contest.

Negative actions by an individual directly associated with the program shall be reported to the NSAA office by the school and/or by the head contest official, adjudicator, judge, or manager. The school shall document the results of their investigation and actions taken, where necessary and appropriate. The NSAA Executive Director shall determine the appropriate penalties for violation of this board policy.



Fan/Spectator Support Items

In the Chart below, ONLY those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all NSAA Sub-District, District, State Playoffs and State Championships.

Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by fans/spectators.

Prohibited items: Confetti/shredded paper, powder (baby, talc, etc.), Laser light/pointer, flashing objects, miniature sports balls, objects or candy thrown into the crowd, Artificial noise makers, (included but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band), whistles, air horns, sirens, cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks, live animals

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any person at any NSAA post-season tournament venues. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard this device. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and includes a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the NSAA event, including the spectator areas and parking areas. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV. An exception to this policy, in writing, may be made in specific cases for NSAA broadcast partners, provided the Management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the NSAA (2015).

Regulations listed are subject to facility restrictions.

SPORT	BA	BB	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
One School Banner per school	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hand held signs	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Megaphones (school recognized cheerleaders only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Shirts on student spectators (required) AR 3.3.11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Shirts on general spectators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team Introduction Run-throughs or Break Away Banners	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pompoms, spirit towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prerecorded music that has been approved by the Host Administration may be played during pre-contest warm ups provided that a high school band is not available to play during that time.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
School bands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes
Carried school flags (Running/taunting prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Key: BA-Baseball, BB-Basketball, CC-Cross Country, FB-Football, GO-Golf, SO-Soccer, SB-Softball, SW-Swimming & Diving, TE-Tennis, TR-Track & Field, VB-Volleyball, WR-Wrestling, NA-Not Apply

Nebraska School Activities Association Pitcher's Record

Check One: Varsity Sub-Varsity

School: _____

Coach: _____

Date of Game	Name of Pitcher	# Pitches	Opponent	Signature of Opposing Coach	Signature of Pitcher's Coach