

## CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

### District Information:

Starting Date: District tournament games shall be played no earlier than **May 16** and must conclude by **May 23**.

**Note:** A district with 5 teams or a district with more than 8 teams may play a pigtail bracket game(s) on Friday, May 15th.

Postponed Games: Shall be played on the first possible date following the postponement.

**Admission:** An admission of \$3.00 shall be charged for each District tournament game.

**Awards:** Plaques will be presented to the district champions.

### Sectional Games:

#### Classes 1 & 2

*Monday, May 25*

#### Classes 3 & 4

*Tuesday, May 26*

**Admission:** An admission of \$5.00 shall be charged for each Sectional game.

### Quarterfinal Games:

#### Classes 1 & 2

*Wednesday, May 27*

#### Classes 3 & 4

*Thursday, May 28*

**Admission:** An admission of \$6.00 shall be charged for each Quarterfinal game.

### State Tournament:

#### Classes 1 & 2

*Wednesday and Thursday June 3-4*

#### Classes 3 & 4

*Friday and Saturday June 5-6*

**Admission:** For the semifinal and final games will be \$7.00 each.

**Location:** All games will be played at Meador Park in Springfield, the home of Drury University baseball.

## ENTRY PROCEDURE

### General Information:

- **Classification:** For the high school district and state tournament series, the schools will be divided into four classes with the number of schools in each class to be equal. Schools with an enrollment will be broken into the following classes:

Class 1- 1-183

Class 3- 353-924

Class 2- 184-352

Class 4- 926 and above

**Note:** Any schools adding or dropping baseball after the December 12, 2008 district assignment release date will be added to or subtracted from the appropriate Class and District during the 2008-2009 and 2009 and 2010 school years. No changes will be made to other school's classification or district assignments during the current two-year classification cycle.

- **Tournament Format:** There will be 16 district tournaments, 8 sectional games, 4 quarterfinal games, and a state tournament in each class. Two district winners will compete in a sectional game with the sectional winners advancing to the quarterfinal game. Quarterfinal winners will advance to the semifinals and finals to be held at Meador Park in Springfield. A third place game will be played in all classes, weather permitting. If one day of the state tournament is rained out, the championship game will be played, at the championship site, as soon as conditions permit. The third place game will be cancelled.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**Seeding Meeting:** The participating coaches present shall rank teams for seeding purposes. The teams shall be ranked fairly regardless of how it may affect each coach's team. This process shall be for each coach to rank each team in the district excluding his/her own team, from top to bottom on a secret ballot that will then be published in open forum and tallied to determine the overall seeding. When ranking the teams, the committee shall take into account each team's won-lost record (varsity games only), head to head competition, caliber of competition, and common opponents they have played over the season. If a tie should occur in this seeding process, the tournament committee shall look at the tied teams only and their individual seeds from the other schools in the districts to break the tie. Based upon each ballot, the tied teams would be assigned one or two points based upon their relative seeds. The team with the fewest points shall be awarded the higher seed. Should a tie still exist, the tournament committee shall determine the seeds of the tied teams. A tournament committee member whose team is involved in the tie shall abstain. The tournament committee shall have the authority to throw out a ballot that is obviously cast to negatively influence the seeding process. The committee shall reserve the right to accept or reject the coaches' recommendations. This specific procedure shall be followed by district manager.

**Placement on Bracket:** All teams shall be seeded by the committee. In districts of eight or less teams, the teams shall be placed on the bracket according to seeding as illustrated by the sample 8 team bracket in the back of this manual; any byes are to be given first to the first-seeded team, then to the second-seeded team, etc. In districts of nine or more teams the teams shall be placed on the bracket according to seeding as illustrated by the sample sixteen-team bracket in the back of this manual; any byes are to be given to the first-seeded team, then the second-seeded team, etc. Districts with 4 or less teams will be placed on the bracket according to seeding.

### Game Sites:

- **Multiple Sites:** The diamond used need not be that of the manager's school, and different diamonds may be used for district games if it will help to expedite the tournament and be more convenient for the schools. If games are to be played at night under the lights, the manager shall notify the participating schools in advance. When the adequacy of a playing field is questioned, the tournament manager shall resolve it.
- **Switching Sites:** By mutual agreement, the two participating schools and the tournament manager may agree to switch the site for a game. This would normally result from one school having inadequate facilities or because of inclement weather.

### Forfeited and Suspended Games:

- **Forfeited Game:** A game shall be forfeited if a team fails to report within fifteen minutes, after the set starting time and no contact has been made. Host schools or tournament managers will make the final decision on the forfeit. Every effort should be made to contact a late team.
- **Suspended Game:** The Board of Directors has adopted the following provisions for a Suspended Game. This adoption applies to all interscholastic games including tournament games. It provides that if a game is called because of darkness, rain, or other causes before the completion of the number of innings required to determine a winner, or if it is called when the score is tied at the end of an inning, the game shall be considered a Suspended Game, and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. When play is continued, the line-up and batting order shall be exactly the same as at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing the game. For example, if a team, while on defense, has been charged with two conferences, it is allowed only one more charged conference when the Suspended Game is continued. If a player has entered as a substitute and has been removed from the game, he cannot reenter when the game is continued. Even though a game is played during two different days, all playing regulations apply as if the game were continuous and being played during one day.

### Suspended Game Play Situations:

- PLAY (1) Sixth inning begins with H-6, V-5. Visitors score one run in their half of the sixth and: (a) H has not scored; or (b) H has scored one run. **RULING:** In (a), the score reverts to H-6, V-5. In (b), the final score is H-7, V-6.
- PLAY (2) Sixth inning begins with score H-5, V-6. Visitors do not score in their half of the sixth inning. Game is called when only one or two are out in the last half of the sixth and: (a) H has not scored; or (b) H has scored one run. **RULING:** In (a) final score is H-5, V-6. In (b), score is H-6, V-6. A winner cannot be determined, resume game from point of interruption.
- PLAY (3) Sixth inning begins with score H-5, V-5. Visitors score 4 runs in their half of the sixth inning and have runners on base with two outs when game is called. **RULING:** A winner cannot be determined, resume game from point of interruption.
- PLAY (4) Game called before the completion of 4 1/2 innings for any reason. **RULING:** Resume game from the point of interruption (suspended game).
- PLAY (5) Game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e. artificial lights, water systems, etc.) **RULING:** Resume game from the point of interruption (suspended game).
- PLAY (6) Game called because of weather or darkness any time after 4 1/2 innings (regulation game) where a winner can be determined (see play 1 and 2). **RULING:** Completed game.

### Home Team:

- **Districts:** The highest seed in the district tournament shall have the choice of home or visitor instead of flipping a coin.
- **Sectionals, Quarterfinals, Semifinals & Finals:** A coin shall be tossed to determine the home team.

### Balls:

- **Districts, Sectionals & Quarterfinals:** Each team shall furnish four top-grade baseballs for the district, sectional, and quarterfinal games.
- **State Tournament:** Balls for the state tournament semifinals and finals will be furnished by the MSHSAA.
- **Official Ball:** Rawlings R100NF.

### Conferences:

To clarify Baseball Rules 3-4, the official interpretation of the National Federation will be followed:

- **Defensive:** "Each team when on defense may be granted not more than three charged conferences during a seven inning game, without penalty, to permit a coach or his representative to confer with a defensive player or players.
- **Offensive:** "Each team when on offense may be granted not more than one charged conference per inning to permit the coach or any of that team's personnel to confer with the base runners and/or the batters." "These interpretations shall apply to all regularly scheduled games as well as tournament games."

**Pitcher Delay:** Under Rule 6-2-2-c, the twenty second count shall start each time the pitcher receives the ball from any other player.

**Ball Retrieval:** The team at bat shall be responsible for retrieving foul and passed balls.

**Pitching Limitations:** A pitcher shall not be allowed to pitch in more than 10 innings on any given day or during any consecutive three day period. This regulation shall apply to all games played during the season and the failure to comply with this rule will result in the automatic forfeiture of the game in which the violation occurred. A pitcher of record for any part of an inning shall count as a full inning. See Rule 3-1-2. Question: If a pitcher throws 3 innings on Tuesday, 4 innings on Wednesday how many innings would he have available on Thursday? Answer: 3 innings. If he pitched his 3 allowable on Thursday how many innings would he have available on Friday? Answer: 3 innings for Friday. Note: Should weather interrupt the "10 innings in 3 days cycle" you still would count the three consecutive days. A day off may increase the available innings.

**Player Limitations:** No player may participate in a total number of innings for the season that exceeds nine times the number of games (exclusive of tournaments) played by the higher team on which he plays. For a game in which the score is tied at the end of seven innings, the extra innings shall be considered as an extension of the seventh inning. (MSHSAA By-Law 346)

## MEDIA INFORMATION

**Playoff Press Passes:** Members of the media who need working passes for District, Sectional or Quarterfinal contests should contact the site manager of the playoff site at least 24 hours before the game he or she wishes to cover. All members of the working media should be prepared to show a general media credential and/or photo identification upon arrival. No admission will be charged to media representatives who have made prior arrangements with the site manager or who are prepared to present valid credentials upon arrival. No one under 18 years of age (except student media representatives), spouses, friends, coaches or fans will be admitted to media areas.

**Media Services:** Every effort should be made by each site manager to accommodate and provide working space for media representatives. These basic services should include (but not limited to) providing: rosters and brackets, official results or scoring, a writing surface (such as a press box or press table), access to the field or floor level and access to a telephone after the event is over. Photographers should remain a safe distance from the playing field at all times and should not be permitted on the playing surface or team bench areas during competition. Flash photography is permitted in all sports under specific conditions, provided the photographer does not (in the opinion of officials, and/or game management) disrupt play by using a flash or strobe. Site managers are encouraged to direct any media questions or report any problems to Jason West at the MSHSAA.

**Playoff Radio Broadcasts:** Permission to conduct a live or delayed radio broadcast from Sectionals through Quarterfinal contests should be arranged through the site manager no less than 48 hours before the intended contest. Radio stations are solely responsible for installing or arranging the use of phone lines from the site. Site managers may wish to install lines at their own expense and distribute these costs among broadcasting stations. The following regulations also apply to all playoff game radio broadcasts:

- **Advance Publicity:** Each broadcasting station is required to give advance publicity of the event for the three preceding days, including participants, date, time, site and ticket information;
- **Broadcast Agreement:** Each station must provide a completed MSHSAA radio broadcast agreement (site managers are provided with a supply) and list of sponsors before the broadcast may begin;
- **Advertising Limitations:** No individual or organization shall be permitted to sponsor a broadcast for the purpose of advertising any product contrary to the principles of good athletic training, citizenship or sportsmanship (alcohol, tobacco, lottery/gaming or political advertisements);
- **Public Service Announcements:** Stations are required to run or read two MSHSAA public service announcements per game. These PSA's are sent to each site manager and also sent to radio stations each fall;
- **Promotional Spots:** Stations are required to run or read sport-specific promotions during each game. These promotional spots are also sent to each site manager (when used) and provided to all stations each fall;
- **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Stations shall provide competent and professional-like broadcasting and shall not present or otherwise dramatize any unsportsmanlike act, conduct or display on the part of participants or fans;
- **Right to Broadcast:** The MSHSAA reserves the right to discontinue the broadcasting right of a station at any time in the event previous broadcasting by the station is considered to have been in poor taste or incompatible with the educational values of the MSHSAA;
- **Order of Request:** If more stations request permission to broadcast that can be accommodated, they shall be given permission in order of the dates of the requests. Equal accommodations should be provided for stations representing both participating schools;
- **Rights Fee:** No rights fee shall be charged for radio broadcasts at MSHSAA District, Sectional or Quarterfinal contests.

**Championship Press Passes:** Members of the media seeking working passes for the final site and MSHSAA Championships should submit an official credential request through the MSHSAA's on-line system no later than the designated deadline for each event. The on-line credentialing system can be accessed by registered media outlets from the Media tab on the MSHSAA web site ([www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)). No late submissions will be honored. All personnel restrictions for credentials shall apply and be strictly enforced. Do not contact the host site for the MSHSAA Championship state-level credentials.

**Championship Radio Broadcasts:** The same regulations as No. 4 above apply to all Semifinal, Championship and Third-place game broadcasts. A \$25 rights fee, payable to MSHSAA, shall be provided in advance for each game broadcast. Lines will be provided at no charge, but no station may make any long-distance or toll calls from these lines.

# 2009 BASEBALL BULLETIN AND MODIFICATIONS

The following rule modifications, adoptions and points of emphasis are presented as reminders to assist coaches and umpires with this baseball season.

## Missouri Modifications, Adoptions, and Reminders

- **Rule 4-2-2 p. 34:** Missouri has adopted a "10 Run Rule" for all regular season games and tournaments as well as the state tournament series.
- **Rule 4-2-4 p. 35:** Missouri has adopted an optional 2 ½ hour time limit game-ending procedure that may be instituted for regular season tournament games.
- Missouri has adopted "Suggested **Speed-Up Rules**" covered under COURTESY RUNNERS items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 page 66 of the National Federation Baseball Rules.
- **Pitching Limitations (Re: Item Q, p. 8):** A pitcher is restricted to a maximum of 10 innings of pitching in a day or during any three (3) consecutive days.
- **Rule 3-2-1 p. 30: (Re: Rule 1-4-4, p. 15):** Coaches and players occupying coaches box must be properly attired. A coach/school faculty member may occupy a coaching box under Rule 3-2-1 with the following modification: Any member of the team at bat who has not been ejected may occupy each coach's box while that team is at bat. The person in the coach's box may address base-runners or the batter. Anytime a coach is in live ball area to confer with players or an umpire, or to occupy a coach's box, the coach shall be attired in school uniform or jersey with coaching slacks that are the same color as the team's pants. A shirt that is the same color as the team's jersey is permitted as in a non-fleece warm up suit in school colors. Cut-off or any type of jeans are prohibited. Their actions shall be such as to have a beneficial influence upon the game and the sportsmanship of fans. They shall not address any remarks to opposing players or officials. All umpires are to report promptly by Special Report or telephone any unsportsmanlike conduct.
- **Rule 4-3 p. 35:** Schools may choose to apply this rule to determine a champion for the league or conference. Schools should make every effort to complete suspended contests.
- **(Re.: Item J, p. 7):** Missouri has adopted the suspended game rule listed.
- **(Re.: Item J3, p. 7):** Missouri has adopted the six play situations concerning suspended games.
- **Rule 4-5 p. 36 and Rule 10-2-3i p. 65 (Re: Item G, p. 9):** Missouri does allow for protests of baseball games at the site only.
- **Championship Baseball:** The official baseball for the championships is the R100NF provided by the Rawlings Sporting Goods Company.
- **Competition Sites** for all district and state series events shall be conducted within the state boundaries. However, an event may be hosted beyond the state border only in cases where the school's facility is contiguous to the school campus but physically located beyond the border.
- **Assigned Dugouts** during MSHSAA State Tournament Play: If mutual agreement cannot otherwise be reached by participating coaches, the top team on the bracket for each game will occupy the first base dugout. Before each game the two opposing coaches will meet with the tournament manager as soon as possible after arriving to determine the home team.
- **Recommended warm-up procedures** (regular season) - Required warm-up procedures (State Tournament Series):
  - When the visiting team arrives at the game field, the home team will immediately begin its infield practice (not to exceed 15 minutes).
  - When the home team has completed its pre-game infield practice, the visiting team will begin its infield practice (not to exceed 15 minutes).
  - Pitchers shall not use the game mound during pregame infield practice.
  - Following the completion of pre-game infield practice by both teams the game umpires will meet at home plate with representatives from both teams (coaches and/or captains) to discuss ground rules and present each team's starting line-up and batting order no later than 5 minutes before game time.

This specific procedure will hopefully encourage schools to be ready to "play ball" when game time arrives and to stipulate a procedure of pre-game warm-up when it is obvious the game will not begin on schedule because of a late arriving visiting team or potential gamesmanship by coaches.