



**2024-2025**  
**BASEBALL**  
**MANUAL**

## 2025 DATES TO REMEMBER [\(TOC\)](#)

	<u>Spring 2025</u>	<u>Fall 2025</u>
___ First Allowable Practice	March 3	August 11
___ Online Rules Review Window	Feb 24 – Mar 14	
___ Deadline to withdraw from season/post-season for classification purposes.	March 13	N/A
___ Class/District Assignments Released	March 21	N/A
___ Pre-Season Scrimmage may be conducted after your team has completed nine (9) days of conditioning practices		
___ First allowable contest (By-Law 3.9.1 Conditioning requirements must be met prior)	March 20	August 28
___ Post Season Entries OPENED	March 31	
___ Officials Post Season Application Deadline	April 16	
___ Post Season Officials' List posted	April 17	
___ Coaches 'Online Officials' Recommendations due	April 23	
___ Officials Draft	April 30	
___ District Eligibility Rosters due & Season Records up-to-date	(Classes 1-4) (Classes 5-6) May 5 May 12	
___ District Seeding Meetings Conducted	(Classes 1-4) (Classes 5-6) May 4 – 9 May 11 - 16	
___ Final Date for Pass List to be submitted	(Classes 1-4) (Classes 5-6) May 13 May 19	
___ District Tournaments		
Classes 1-4 → 1 <sup>st</sup> Round must be scheduled to start by May 17		May 15 – 24
Classes 5 & 6 → 1 <sup>st</sup> Round must be scheduled to start by May 22		May 21 – 26
___ Sectionals		
Classes 1 & 2		May 26
Classes 3 & 4		May 27
Classes 5 & 6		None
___ Quarterfinals		
Classes 1 & 2		May 28
Classes 3 & 4		May 29
Classes 5 & 6		May 30-31
___ State Championships – <b><u>Ozark Mountain Sports Complex, Ozark, MO</u></b>		
Classes 1 & 2		June 2 - 3
Classes 3 & 4		June 4 - 5
Classes 5 & 6		June 6 - 7
Baseball Advisory Committee Meeting	June 11	

**Dates throughout the remainder of the manual are based on the MSHSAA Standard Calendar. This Calendar can be found on the inside front cover of the Official Handbook or in a MSHSAA 3-Year Calendar.**



# MISSOURI STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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## EXECUTIVE STAFF

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Stacy Schroeder, Senior Associate Executive Director  
Toni Hill, Associate Executive Director  
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Lou Mazzocco, Assistant Executive Director  
Doug Fessler, Assistant Executive Director  
Marty Marsh, Assistant Executive Director  
**\*Daryl Bradley, Assistant Executive Director**  
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Craig Long, Chief Financial Officer  
Andrew Kauffman, Communications Director

***\*MSHSAA Contact person for Baseball***

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**\*\*\*Revised January 2025\*\*\***

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS & STATE TOURNAMENT BRACKETS  
MAY BE FOUND ON MSHSAA WEBSITE ([www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org))

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE [\(TOC\)](#)

The advisory committee members are appointed by the Board of Director member from their respective board district. Each individual is appointed to a four (4) year term. If an appointee is unable to fulfill their term, a replacement will be appointed to complete the remainder of the term. The purpose of the committee is to represent the schools and coaches within their board district on matters concerning the administration of the sport. Their role is a key component in bringing sport-specific needs, concerns, and recommendations to the Board of Directors. Please make sure to use them as your voice to the MSHSAA Staff and Board of Directors.

<b>Southwest (2027)</b> Michael Calhoun Monett <a href="mailto:mcalhoun@monttschools.org">mcalhoun@monttschools.org</a>	<b>Southeast (2027)</b> Nathan Gegg Valle Catholic <a href="mailto:gegnn@valleschools.org">gegnn@valleschools.org</a>	<b>Northwest (2024)</b> Zachary Dyer Savannah <a href="mailto:zach.dyer@snr4.org">zach.dyer@snr4.org</a>
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<b>Kansas City (2026)*</b> Joe Kinder Oak Park <a href="mailto:joe.kinder@nkcschools.org">joe.kinder@nkcschools.org</a>	<b>South Central (2026)</b> Rob Struckhoff St. Francis Borgia <a href="mailto:rob.struckhoff@borgia.com">rob.struckhoff@borgia.com</a>	

Terms expire July 1 of the year noted

\*serving out partial term, eligible for reappointment

## RULES INTERPRETERS

The interpreters have been selected for their knowledge of the rules and willingness to provide their advice to officials, adjudicators and coaches/directors with regards to the interpretation of rules. The executive in charge of each sport/activity is the chief rules interpreter for the state but relies heavily on the advice and counsel of these individuals. Please feel free to contact them if you have a question regarding the application of sport/activity-specific rules. These individuals do not interpret any MSHSAA By-Laws or Board Policies nor do they review video of calls.

<b>Southwest</b> Bryan Harmon <a href="mailto:harmonb@crane.k12.mo.us">harmonb@crane.k12.mo.us</a>	<b>Southeast</b> Joe Baldwin <a href="mailto:zebraofficial1@hotmail.com">zebraofficial1@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Northwest/Central</b> Chuck Snow <a href="mailto:chucksnow724@gmail.com">chucksnow724@gmail.com</a>
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## PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. **MISSION STATEMENT:** The MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.
- B. **PURPOSE OF MANUAL:** This manual has been prepared to provide a better understanding of the administration of MSHSAA sponsored events. It will serve as a guide to the participating schools and will provide for greater consistency. All information will be included in this manual except such supplementary or incidental information as may be included in the MSHSAA Journal. The regulations in this manual shall be considered official unless the schools are notified in a Special Bulletin of any changes.
- C. **PHILOSOPHY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES:** Interscholastic activities are intended to supplement the secondary curricular program. These activities can provide the student with educational experiences and learning outcomes that contribute toward the development of good citizenship. This can be accomplished only when the emphasis is placed upon teaching "through school activities." Interscholastic activities can be justified only when this is their primary philosophy and purpose.
- D. **PURPOSE OF DISTRICT AND STATE CONTESTS:** There are two primary purposes that justify and cause district and state events to be desirable. Those purposes are to provide opportunities to demonstrate before the public the best knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns taught through a particular sport; and to evaluate and compare the best of this teaching of knowledge, skills and emotional patterns among schools. Unless these purposes are primary, district and state athletic contests cannot be completely justified.

It is the desire of the MSHSAA Board of Directors that these events be both fun and educational. It is extremely important that competitors, coaches, and the school community make every effort to enhance, and keep in proper perspective, the educational values of these events. Competition merely for "competition's sake" cannot be justified. Only when competition contributes toward worthwhile educational goals can it be considered sufficiently important to be included in the school program.

- E. **SUPERVISION OF COMPETITORS AND FANS:** MSHSAA By-Laws hold a school responsible, both at home and away, for the conduct of its competitors, students, coaches, and fans. Coaches are required to supervise their competitors. A coaches' respect for others and school property is necessary in order to instill this respect in competitors. Students staying overnight in hotels or motels in conjunction with any interscholastic athletic contest should be well chaperoned. The good conduct of students will leave a good impression of the entire school.

A school also should inform its competitors, students, coaches and fans of the value contest officials play in education through athletics. When informing these people of this, the difference in the purpose of high school and professional sports should be emphasized. Lack of respect for officials should not be tolerated. Booing of officials leads to booing of coaches and competitors. This has no place in high school athletics. Athletic administrators are urged to develop a program through any and all communication techniques available to ensure that spectators understand that high school athletics are an educational endeavor as opposed to the games being an end in themselves.

# KEY MANUAL AND BY-LAW CHANGES [\(TOC\)](#)

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS CHANGES:

- Recommend any pitcher unavailable to pitch in a state series round or district round shall not be eligible for said round if the contest is rescheduled for a later date. Once the district tournament schedule is set by the tournament committee, that's the schedule that will determine a pitcher's availability
- Recommend that the Quarterfinal round in Classes 5-6 be formatted as a best 2 out of 3 series, using the current format determining teams and the current predetermined host site format. Game 1 would occur on Friday of Week 47 and game 2 would occur on Saturday of Week 47, with game 3 (if necessary) being played immediately following. Home and away will be determined by a coin flip initially. The team that is home for game 1, will be visitor for game 2. If there is a game 3, a coin flip will determine the home team.

## MSHSAA BALLOT CHANGES:

### SPECIFIC TO ALL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS:

- **INELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND FORFEITURES** - [Removes By-Law 5.5.4 and amends By-Law 1.2.3 to consolidate language and clarify the penalties for playing an ineligible player during the regular season and in the MSHSAA District/State Series.](#)
- **Bona Fide Student Rule and Penalty**-- [Amends Section 2 and By-Law 2.1 to add clarity to the definition of a Bona fide student, what constitutes a change in Bona fide student status, and the associated penalty for violating By-Law 2.1.](#)
- **Name, Image and Likeness** -- [Amends By-Laws 2.6 and 3.6 to allow students to receive a benefit for their name, image or likeness if the promotions do not represent an affiliation to a member school or utilize names, marks, etc. they do not own, and also to prohibit "NIL Collectives."](#)
- **Transfer Student Participation Eligibility** -- [Eliminates By-Law 3.4.2 in the Certification of Eligibility subsection and amends By-Law 3.10.7 in the Residency and Transfer subsection to allow transfer students to possibly become eligible the first day classes are attended, instead of the fifth day, provided the proper transfer form has been submitted and processed.](#)
- **Elimination of 250 Mile Travel Restriction-Athletics** -- [Amends By-Law 3.18.3.c to eliminate the one time per year 250- mile travel limitation for sports](#)
- **First Allowable High School Contest Start Day for All Sports Seasons** -- [Amends By-Law 3.29 to change the first allowable contest date for all sports seasons from Friday to Thursday.](#)
- **Penalty for Ejections** -- [Amends By-Laws 5.5.1.c and 5.5.1.d to indicate that participation after an ejection at any level is prohibited until the one-contest suspension at the level at which the ejection occurred has been served.](#)

## **SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL RESOURCES** [\(TOC\)](#)

The information listed/linked in this section relates to MSHSAA By-Laws, Board Policies and information from the Sports Medicine Page (SMP). The information is not sport or activity specific but is necessary for the safe and proper conduct of your sport/activity.

### **Source Locations:**

[MSHSAA Handbook \(HB\)](#)

[Sports Medicine Page \(SMP\)](#)

- A. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USAGE AROUND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES (HB-Board Policy)
- B. CHARITY/AWARENESS EVENTS (HB-Board Policy)
- C. CONCUSSIONS EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL ([SMP](#))
- D. CONDUCT – REMOVAL OF TEAMS & EJECTIONS (HB-By-Law 5.5)
- E. GUIDELINES FOR FAN SUPPORT ITEMS (HB-Board Policy)
- F. HAZARDOUS WEATHER CONDITIONS/LIGHTNING GUIDELINES ([SMP](#))
- G. HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION (HB-By-Law 1.7 & [SMP](#))
- H. ON-SITE PROTEST PROCEDURES (HB-Board Policy)
- I. OXYGEN USE POSITION STATEMENT ([SMP](#))
- J. SANCTIONING (HB-By-Law 3.18)
- K. WET BULB GLOBE THERMOMETER USE ([SMP](#))



## SECTION 2: REGULAR SEASON [\(TOC\)](#)

- A. GAME RULES:** *The current NFHS Rules Book shall govern all competition except the following state adoptions or modifications:*
- 1. NFHS Rule 4-2-2 & 4 Ending a Regulation Game: Run Rules see Section 2.B.2.a*
  - 2. NFHS Rule 4-2-4 Ending a Regulation Game: Regular Season Tournament Time Limit, see Section 2.B.2.b*
  - 3. NFHS Rule 4-2-4 Ending a Regulation Game: Sub-varsity and Junior High/Middle Level ONLY modifications, see Section 2.B.2.c*
  - 4. NFHS Rule 3-2-1 Coaching: Coach's uniform when occupying a coach's box, see Section 2.E.2*
  - 5. NFHS Rules 1-3-2 – 5 Bats: Junior High/Middle Level Bat Standards, see Section 2.I.2*
  - 6. NFHS Rule 4-2-4 Ending a Regulation Game: Suspended Game Procedures, see Section 2.S.3*
  - 7. NFHS Suggested Speed-Up Rules see Section 2.P*
  - 8. NFHS Rule 4-5 Protested Games and Rule 10-2-3i Umpiring Duties in Protested Games: see Section 1.H*
- B. GAME LENGTH**
- Games are to be 7 innings in length. A regular season game may be considered to be official after 4½ innings due to inclement weather.
  - Rule 4-2-4: Permitted game-ending procedures:
    - Missouri has adopted the following run-rules: 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings.
    - Missouri has adopted an optional 2½-hour time limit game-ending procedure that may be instituted for regular season tournament games.
    - SUB-VARSITY & J.H. INNING ENDING PROCEDURE:** By mutual agreement of both coaches, in Sub-Varsity and Junior High contests, two schools may elect to end half-innings after five (5) runs are scored or three (3) outs are made.
- C. UMPIRES**  
Registered: Only "fully registered" umpires shall be contracted for regular season contests. **At minimum, a 2-person crew is to work all varsity contests unless prior approval from the MSHSAA office has been granted.**
- D. GAME BALLS**
- NFHS Rule 1-3-1 now requires all balls to be used in competition be affixed with BOTH the NFHS Authenticating stamp and the NOCSAE Standard mark.**
  - It is required that three (3) umpire-approved balls must be available to start a game and a minimum of two (2) to complete the game. If properly stamped balls are not available for umpire approval, the game shall not be contested.
- E. UNIFORMS**
- Player Uniforms:** No limit is placed on the number of players that may be in uniform for any game. However, all players participating are required to wear complete baseball uniforms. This includes cap, jersey, pants, socks, and shoes. The jersey must have a numeral of solid color, contrasting with the color of the jersey. No players shall wear identical numbers.
  - Coaching Uniform:** 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-offs, shorts or any type of jeans are prohibited.
- F. SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:** The school of a competitor with a disability or special need may request specific accommodations or to use special equipment. The following items are required before accommodation requests can be reviewed and considered:
- A written request from the school, describing the competitor's special needs and the specific accommodations being requested. The letter should include the rule references of applicable NFHS Baseball Rules that would be violated without the accommodation.
  - A letter from the parent(s) or guardian confirming the need for an accommodation and approving the accommodation request.
  - A letter from the student's doctor or applicable caregiver describing the medical circumstance or special need, and confirming the need for an accommodation.
  - Photographs of 1) the special equipment, and 2) the student wearing the special equipment, if applicable.

Subsequent requests (after a student is initially approved for an accommodation) will only require the school request (number 1 on the list above)

Written approval from the MSHSAA office is required prior to any competition. During the regular season, the letter of approval from MSHSAA must be presented to meet officials before any accommodations may be used. **Please allow ONE WEEK for requests to be reviewed prior to the first competition.**

MSHSAA will consider requests if:

- the sport is not fundamentally altered by the accommodation,
- the accommodation does not create a risk to either the athlete or others, and
- the accommodation does not place opponents at a disadvantage.

## G. BLOOD RULE

A player or coach who is bleeding, who has an open wound or who has blood on his or her uniform shall be prohibited from participating further in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment can be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual would not have to leave the game. The length of time that is considered reasonable is umpire judgment. The reentry rule would apply to players.

## H. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. NFHS Rule 1-5-1: Head protectors shall be worn as provided in rule for all players in positions listed. All head protectors will carry the NOCSAE Seal of Approval and warning label.
2. NFHS Rule 1-5-2-4 Catcher Protection: Catchers shall wear a head protector, a mask, body protector, protective cup (male only) and protective shin guards. The head protector and mask shall bear the NOCSAE Seal of Approval. **The body protector shall bear the SEI/NOCSAE Seal of Approval.** A throat protector, which is either a part of, or attached to the catcher's mask is mandatory.

## I. BATS

1. NFHS Rules 1-3-2 to 5 govern the construction and limitations on bats to be used in all MSHSAA sanctioned High School contests.
2. **The MSHSAA Board has adopted the following additional standards for bats being used in Junior High/Middle Level contests including students in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades ONLY:**
  - a. Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in NFHS Rule 1-3-2;
  - b. Any bat 30 inches and under with a drop greater than minus three AND a barrel diameter of 2 $\frac{5}{16}$  inches AND USA Baseball logo; or
  - c. Any wood bat that meets the standards in NFHS Baseball Rules 1-3-2 and 1-3-3

NOTE 1: Bats 31 inches and over must meet NFHS Rule 1-3-2 including the BBCOR label.

NOTE 2: All bats with a 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " barrel is illegal.

NOTE 3: Any bat with the USSSA logo is illegal

## J. PRE-SEASON JAMBOREE

1. General Requirements (MSHSAA By-Law 3.16.6)
  - a. Only senior high schools may participate in the jamboree.
  - b. The preseason jamboree shall consist of play against no less than two other schools and no more than three other schools.
  - c. The preseason jamboree must be under contract with participating schools.
  - d. The preseason jamboree shall be officiated by MSHSAA registered officials.
  - e. A jamboree may be conducted after your team has completed nine days of conditioning practices and before your first contest. Each participant shall have at least nine individual days of school physical conditioning practice prior to participating in the jamboree
  - f. All game rules shall apply with the exception that coaches may be on the field to provide instruction.
  - g. The admission charge shall be determined by the host school.
2. Baseball Specific Requirements (Board Policy 23)
  - a. Additional game rule exceptions
    - i. Free substituting.
    - ii. Each half inning will end after three outs or eight runs, whichever comes first.
  - b. Three or Four-Team Format Only:
    - i. 3-School Format
      - 1) Maximum of 4 innings against each opponent
      - 2) Maximum of 8 innings for each school participating
    - ii. 4-School Format
      - 1) Maximum of 3 innings against each opponent
      - 2) Maximum of 9 innings for each school participating
    - iii. Time Limit: Prior to the date of the scrimmage, the schools may to agree to implement a time limit per scrimmage. However, the scrimmage may not exceed the number of innings allowed, as described above.

## K. PRE-GAME WARM-UP PROCEDURES

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. It is suggested that host schools provide information to the visiting schools regarding the pre-game warm-up activities (e.g. batting cages, auxiliary fields, practice fields, etc.) available and their availability schedule for participants, if applicable

1. When the visiting team arrives at the game field, the home team will immediately begin its infield practice (not to exceed 10 minutes).
2. When the home team has completed its pre-game infield practice, the visiting team will begin its infield practice (not to exceed 10 minutes).
3. Pitchers shall not use the game mound during pregame infield practice.
4. 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.

## L. PITCHING LIMITATIONS

1. NFHS Rule 6-1-6: Requires each state association to establish a pitching restriction policy based upon the number of pitches thrown to afford pitchers required rest between pitching appearances.
2. Pitching Restrictions Chart

Year in School	Daily Max (Pitches)	Required Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Day	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
Junior/Senior	105	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76+
Freshman/Sophomore	95	1 – 30	31 – 45	46 – 60	61 – 75	76+
Sixth/Seventh/Eighth	85	1 – 20	21 – 35	36 – 50	51 – 65	66+
<b>For all levels in school, no pitcher may pitch more than two (2) consecutive days without at least one day of rest prior to the third pitching appearance. All rest requirements are still in effect.</b>						

3. **State Series Adjustments:** Any pitcher unavailable to pitch in a state series round or district round shall not be eligible for said round if the contest is rescheduled for a later date. Once the district tournament schedule is set by the tournament committee, that's the schedule that will determine a pitcher's availability
4. Recording Procedures
  - a. Team schedules are accurately entered and maintained on the MSHSAA website for all levels.
  - b. Teams will exchange pitch count verification sheets prior to the game.
  - c. Both teams shall track pitches and confirm at the conclusion of each ½ inning.
  - d. The home team's pitch count will be the correct count if a dispute is unresolved (**Umpires play no role in the resolving pitch count disputes**).
  - e. If a pitcher reaches his maximum pitch count, the pitcher is allowed to finish the at-bat for the batter in the box.
  - f. At the end of each contest the opposing coach shall do one of the following to verify pitch counts – 1. Sign the opposing team's Pitch Count Verification Form 2. Share an electronic file, such as Gamechanger, with an opposing coach and receive email approval. If asked to verify by the MSHSAA Office due to a variety of pitch count requirements, the coach/AD would have to send the office the copy of the signed PCVF or the email of the approved electronic file.
  - g. Following the game(s), each coach will be required to enter the pitch count for all pitchers at all levels into the member side of the MSHSAA website within 24 hours.
5. Violations
  - a. A \$25 fine shall be assessed when a pitch count has not been properly entered or schedule updated in the 24-hour time period following the contest. This fine is per contest.  
**\*\*\*It will be vital that coaches and administrators keep schedules for all levels on the MSHSAA website up-to-date as to not cause unnecessary violations to be recorded\*\*\***
  - b. Using an unavailable pitcher is defined as using a pitcher who has gone over the maximum number of pitches, not taking the required number of days of rest and/or falsifying records to allow a pitcher to not take the required number of days of rest.
  - c. **PENALTY:** If an unavailable pitcher is used the team shall forfeit the contest on the date of the violation and the head coach will be suspended from the next contest. **Violations will be processed through the Special Report portal on the MSHSAA website.**
  - d. The only acceptable documentation to mitigate a violation for use of an unavailable pitcher is the official MSHSAA Pitch Count Verification form. **Failure to produce this documentation will result in full implementation of prescribed penalty.**

## M. 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.

## N. BALL RETRIEVAL

The team at bat shall be responsible for retrieving foul and passed balls.

## O. RE-ENTRY RULES

The re-entry rule applies as provided under NFHS Rule 3-1-3.

## P. SPEED-UP RULES

Missouri has adopted "Suggested Speed-Up Rules" covered under COURTESY RUNNERS items 1–7 of the NFHS Rules Book.

**\*\*\*Please be aware of use of courtesy runners and effects on player/dh\*\*\***

## Q. CONFERENCES

To clarify Baseball Rules 3-4, the interpretation of the NFHS will be followed:

1. Defensive: "Each team when on defense may be granted no 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.
2. 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."



## **R. EJECTION OF COACH OR PLAYER**

1. A player who is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall at a minimum be prohibited from playing in any interscholastic contest for that sport or activity at any level until the one-contest suspension at the level at which the ejection occurred has been served.
2. A coach who is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall at a minimum be prohibited from coaching and attending any interscholastic contest for that sport or activity at any level until the one-contest suspension at the level at which the ejection occurred has been served. Additionally, the coach must satisfactorily complete an approved online sportsmanship training course, prior to being reinstated. (MSHSAA By-Law 5.5.1).
3. Ejection Procedures (NFHS Rule 3-3-1)
  - a. Coach
    - i. Coach removed from playing area and bleachers, but should remain available should an emergency situation arise. Coach must be out of sight or sound of the contest (i.e. visiting coach could go to bus).
    - ii. Game may continue only if a bona fide school faculty member and/or administrator is available to substitute for the coach on the bench.
    - iii. Should there not be a faculty member and/or administrator available, the game will be forfeited.
  - b. Player
    - i. Player is removed from game and must remain in the team's dugout.
    - ii. Should ejected player continue to create a disturbance, the game shall be forfeited.

## **S. FORFEITED AND SUSPENDED GAMES**

1. 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.
2. Regular Season: If enough innings have been played to determine a winner the game is considered final. If enough innings have not been played to determine a winner or the score is tied, the suspended game rules apply.
3. Suspended Games (Regular Season): 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 with the exception of players restricted due to pitch count limitations.

**NOTE: A Coach from both teams shall be included in the discussion of the resumption of a contest following a delay including a review of the pitch count limitations.**

## **T. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO USAGE AROUND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES – SEE SECTION 1.A FOR REFERENCE**

## **U. SANCTIONING – SEE SECTION 1.J FOR REFERENCE**

## **V. PROTEST PROCEDURE – SEE SECTION 1.H FOR REFERENCE**

## **W. POST SEASON STATISTICS**

All district champions will be required to submit accurate varsity season statistics for all players placed on their state series roster. Please reference Appendix A for the sport-specific statistics required.

## **X. CONTEST LIMITATIONS**

High School (BL 3.29.6)  
**36 Total Contests**

Junior High (BL 3.30.3)  
**18 Total Contests**

## **Y. PLAYER LIMITATIONS (By-Law 3.22.3)**

No player shall exceed 288 total innings played in one season. 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.

## SECTION 3: POSTSEASON CRITERIA [\(TOC\)](#)

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. School/Individual Eligibility
  - a. Post season is for member senior high schools only
  - b. Schools must register for the post season by the annual deadline
  - c. A school must have competed in at least half of the permitted number of contests for baseball as established by By-Law 3.29.6
  - d. An individual must have represented their school in interscholastic competition in that sport during the current season.
2. **Classifications (Friday, Week #37)**
  - a. Schools will be divided into classes as determined by classification procedures.
  - b. Tournament Format
    - i. Classes 1 - 4
      - 1) The class will be divided into 16 districts and the winners of the districts will advance to the State Series
      - 2) The State Series will consist of 4 rounds. There will be 8 sectional contests, 4 quarterfinal contests, 2 semifinal contests, a championship game and third place game (weather permitting).
    - ii. Classes 5 & 6
      - 1) The classes will be divided into 8 districts and the winners of the districts will advance to the State Series
      - 2) The State Series will consist of 3 rounds. There will be 4 quarterfinal contests, 2 semifinal contests, a championship game and third place game (weather permitting).

### B. OFFICIALS

1. Only MSHSAA registered officials (not on probation) shall be contracted for postseason contests.
2. Only those MSHSAA registered officials who have completed and verified a postseason application shall be eligible to work postseason contests.
3. Officials for District tournaments will be selected via a regional draft.
4. **Officials for Sectionals, Quarterfinals, and Final site contests shall be selected by the MSHSAA staff.**

### C. SITE/FIELD QUALIFICATIONS

1. The Board of Directors has taken the position on the locations for District and State Tournaments that competition sites for all District and State series events shall be conducted in Missouri unless a school owned facility, contiguous to the school campus is beyond the state border.
2. Site Selection Criteria
  - a. 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.
  - b. Lights – Having lights on the game field is preferred. This should be discussed, at length, when deciding on a host facility. Games that are played on fields without lights must start no later than 4:00 pm, while trying to protect instructional time.
  - c. When the adequacy of a playing field is questioned, the tournament manager and tournament committee shall resolve it.
  - d. By mutual agreement, the two participating schools and the tournament manager and tournament committee may agree to switch the site for a game. This would normally result from one school having inadequate facilities or because of inclement weather.
  - e. The site facilities must follow Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
  - f. For District tournament games the facility configuration shall provide that a paid gate can be administered except for unusual or unavoidable circumstances approved by the MSHSAA in advance. If the host school does not charge admission, all normal and reasonable expenses (including but not limited to workers, officials, manager's fee, field preparations expenses, etc.) shall be prorated to the participating schools based upon the number of contests played.

## SECTION 4: POSTSEASON ENTRY PROCEDURES [\(TOC\)](#)

### A. DISTRICT ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. For the MSHSAA District and State Tournament Series, all school/team District entries shall be submitted online.
2. **Entries Open → Monday of Week #39**
3. Accessing Entry pages
  - a. Log in to your school page as the Athletic Director/Coach
  - b. Under "Sports and Activities" select the link "District Entries"
  - c. Click on Baseball
  - d. Complete the links as listed:
    - i. **Official Recommendations → Deadline Wednesday of Week #42**
      - ii. All coaches are **required** to submit Postseason Baseball Officials Recommendations, on the MSHSAA website under the "District Entries" link. Recommendations must be submitted online no later than **Wednesday of Week #42 (Wednesday, April 17)**. These recommendations will also be used when determining Sectional, Quarterfinal and State assignments

MSHSAA takes the officials recommendation/non-recommendation process very seriously. This process for post season officials is designed to enhance the quality of officiating through input from each school on those officials that should be considered for post season contests. MSHSAA has the right to dismiss any recommendations/non-recommendations, submitted by the head coach, if it is determined that the coach has abused and/or manipulated the process for intentions not aligned with MSHSAA's purpose and philosophy in selecting post season officials.
    - iii. **District Eligibility Roster → Deadline: (C 1-4 – Mon Week #44; C 5-6 – Mon Week #45)**
      - 1) Failure to submit a roster will result in the school forfeiting its opening contest.
      - 2) No limit is placed on the number of players that may be in uniform for any one-tournament game.
      - 3) All eligible players shall be listed on the roster at the time of the beginning of each tournament.
      - 4) No new players may be added to the roster once the team has participated in the respective tournament.
      - 5) Rosters may be updated between the close of the District tournament and Sectional game (Classes 1-4) and Quarterfinal series (Classes 5 & 6).
      - 6) A school may substitute or add to the team roster (submitted for District play) prior to the start of the first game of the State tournament (sectional / quarterfinal game for all classes). Any additions or substitutions must be submitted on the MSHSAA website. No additions or substitutions can be made after the first game of the State tournament.
    - iv. **Season Record → Deadline: (C 1-4 – Mon Week #44; C 5-6 – Mon Week #45) (Continue to update as season progresses)**
    - v. **Pass Lists (must be completed by administrator) → Deadline: (C 1-4 – Wed Week #45; C 5-6 – Tues Week #46)**

Schools shall fill out a pass list to be used for the District tournament. A separate pass list will be used for the Sectional/Quarterfinal games. There is NO pass list at the Final site. The pass lists are to be used at the site – not sent to the MSHSAA Office. Names shall be placed on the form and submitted via the MSHSAA website to the tournament manager prior to the first game.

      - 1) In addition to its players, each participating team shall be provided up to ten complimentary admissions for coaches, administrators, manager, bus driver, and to spouses if the school so desires. These are to be honored for all games throughout the tournament. Exception: In facilities where seating is limited, the tournament manager/committee may restrict passes to just the schools participating in a particular session and to coaches and administrators of other schools in the tournament.
      - 2) Teachers, who are specifically assigned by their administrator to supervise student conduct at District tournaments, may be admitted free, however **these persons must be on the pass list** and wear identifying badges so the tournament manager will be able to communicate with them. These supervisors shall be instructed by their principal to actively supervise the conduct of their students and shall work closely with the tournament manager. They shall assist in keeping students off the playing fields following games and when conduct problems arise.
      - 3) MSHSAA Board of Directors passes issued to present and past Board members are to be honored for any MSHSAA event. MSHSAA Baseball Observer passes are to be honored for District, Sectional and Quarterfinal games.
      - 4) Host schools shall limit complimentary passes to tournament workers and members of the administration. Because of the abuse and impossibility of controlling the matter, the Board of Directors has ruled that professional educational organizations, e.g., MSTA or MNEA, membership cards, or other similar types of passes, shall not be honored as passes to the District or State Baseball tournament series games.
      - 5) Media with proper credentials registered through the MSHSAA website, are to be admitted free.
  - e. Make sure to note the deadline for each task to be completed. ([Dates to Remember](#))
  4. **LATE ENTRIES:** Managers are allowed to accept late entries until the time the meeting to draw the District tournament bracket commences. **A late entry penalty fee of \$50.00** shall be assessed for late entries. No entries will be accepted after the meeting to draw the District tournament brackets. The District Manager shall notify the MSHSAA regarding any late entries for the tournament

### B. TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT

1. Selection: The manager shall select two or four school representatives (principal, athletic director, or coach) from other participating schools to serve with him/her on a tournament committee. As many conferences as possible shall be represented



and at least one coach shall be included on the committee.

2. Committee Duties:
  - a. Assist the manager in the administration of the tournament.
  - b. Establish the tournament schedule.
  - c. Consult on the plan for selecting tournament officials.
  - d. Make any necessary rulings regarding grievances which may arise during District seeding or the progression of the tournament.
3. **Seeding Procedures:** Set a date for drawing the tournament seeds within the dates listed previously, (avoid conflicts with school time) and notify the participating schools at least 7 days in advance of the site and time of the meeting to draw the bracket. Schools should have all scores on their Season Record up to date. A face-to-face meeting is encouraged. **However, a Zoom call or Google Meet meeting would also be allowed to protect instructional time.** If either method is used, it is required for voting information (results, who voted for who, etc.) to be made public to all schools. Any other method needs to be approved by the MSHSAA office.
  - a. **The mandatory seeding procedure is to seed each spot individually starting with the #1 seed, followed by the #2 seed, continuing to the last seed. Schools may not vote for themselves in the seeding process. NOTE - If School "A" votes "School "B" as the #1 seed and School "B" does not receive enough other votes for the #1 seed, School "A" MUST vote School "B" as the #2 seed in the next round of voting.** The District schools participating in the meeting shall consider each team's win-loss record (varsity vs. varsity games only), head to head competition, caliber of competition, and common opponents they have played over the season. **After the District Manager receives each school's vote after each round, the manager must make each vote known to all participating coaches.** If a tie should occur, a second vote would be used to determine the seed but only the District schools who are not involved with the tie would participate in the second vote. If a tie remains, it shall be broken based on head to head competition of the tied teams. Should a tie still exist, a coin flip shall determine the seeds of the tied teams. This specific procedure shall be followed by District Manager.
  - b. 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. Any byes are to be given first to the first-seeded team, then the second-seeded team, etc. In Districts of nine or more teams, the teams shall be placed on the bracket according to seeding in a 16-Team Bracket; any byes are to be given to the first-seeded team, then the second-seeded team, etc.
4. Placement on Bracket: All teams shall be seeded by the committee. Teams shall be placed on the bracket according to seeding; any byes are to be given first to the first-seeded team, then to the second-seeded team, etc.
5. Team Withdrawal: If a team withdraws from the District tournament after the seeding meeting, but before a game is played, all teams seeded below the team withdrawing shall be moved up one seed to fill the vacated spot. For example, if the 6th seeded team withdraws from the tournament the 7th and 8th seeded teams would be moved up to the 6th and 7th spots on the bracket. Withdrawing team will also be responsible for payment of umpires if the umpires have been drafted and contracted.
6. Inform Media: District Manager and coaches should notify media outlets direct them to [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org) to view the brackets.
7. Switching Sites: By mutual agreement, the two participating schools may switch the site for a game. This would normally result from one school having inadequate facilities or because of inclement weather. District games may be played between two teams at a central location or at one of the other facilities in order to hold down travel. All games, however, shall be coordinated by the District Manager. All game officials shall be approved, registered and contracted by the District Manager.

## C. CONTEST DETAILS

1. Game Length
  - a. 7 Innings: All MSHSAA tournament games shall be seven innings and shall have precedence over any regularly scheduled games or other local school activities. (At least 4-1/2 innings constitutes a regulation game.)
  - b. **The adopted run-rules apply in the postseason: 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings.**
2. Home/Away Team
  - a. For Districts, higher seeded team shall have the choice of selecting whether to be the home or away team.
  - b. For State Series, a coin toss shall determine the team which gets the choice whether to be the home or away team
3. Dugout
  - a. A District host may retain their regular season home dugout
  - b. For District games not involving the host school, if mutual agreement cannot be reached, the high seed shall occupy the first base dugout
  - c. For State Series, if mutual agreement cannot be reached, the team on the top of the bracket shall occupy the first base dugout
4. Pre-Game Warm-Up Procedures
  - a. Recommended procedures from the regular season shall be required in the post season.
  - b. See Section 2.K
5. Game Ball
  - a. Official Ball: **Rawlings R100-MO**
  - b. A limited number of balls will be supplied to hosts for Sectional and Quarterfinal games (only if supply chain warrants)
  - c. MSHSAA will supply all game balls at the Final site.
6. Pitching Limitations
  - a. **Regular Season pitching limitations are in effect throughout the postseason.**
  - b. **For District Tournament games and State Series games, any pitcher unavailable to pitch in a State Series round shall not be eligible to pitch in said round if the contest is rescheduled for a later date.**
  - c. See chart in Section 2.L
7. Number of Umpires

- a. Two umpires shall be used in all District games, except for the District Championship.
    - **A District that elects to use three umpires prior to the Championship will result in the District host or participating schools, being invoiced the cost of the additional umpire.**
  - b. Three umpires shall be used in the District Championship.
8. Forfeited and Suspended Games
- a. 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.
  - b. **Suspended Game: All MSHSAA postseason softball games (beginning with the district tournament) called due to darkness, rain, or other causes shall be considered suspended games and shall be continued from the point of suspension. If the required number of innings has been played to determine a winner, the team trailing at the time of suspension has the option to return and finish the game or have the current score considered final. The Head Coaches of both schools and the Home Plate Umpire must sign the official scorebook indicating the game is completed if the schools choose not to return to finish the game. (See Hazardous Weather Conditions Section 1.B.2)**
  - c. Suspended Games (Post Season): 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.  
**NOTE: A Coach from both teams shall be included in the discussion of the resumption of a contest following a delay including a review of the pitch count limitations.**

## SECTION 5: CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES [\(TOC\)](#)

(District Tournament thru the State Championships)

- A. **POSTSEASON BROADCASTS:** MSHSAA holds exclusive ALL-PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION rights for AUDIO, DATA and VIDEO for all postseason contests or festivals (beginning with District level through State) in all activities. Any transmission or production of any portion of these events, without the consent of MSHSAA is prohibited. Events are defined as the competition or performance. This includes, but not limited to, using programs such as Facebook Live or YouTube.
- B. **CLASSIFICATIONS (FRIDAY OF WEEK #37)**
- Schools will be divided into classes as determined by classification procedures outlined in Board Policy.
  - Tournament Format
    - Sixteen District tournaments will be held to determine the teams to be included on the sixteen-team State tournament bracket in Classes 1-4. The winners of the District tournaments will advance to the Sectional round. Those winners will advance to the Quarterfinal round.
    - Eight District tournaments will be held to determine the teams to be included on the eight-team State tournament bracket in Classes 5-6. The winners of the District tournaments will advance to the Quarterfinal round.
- C. **DIGITAL TICKETS:** Hometown Ticketing is the official partner for digital ticketing.
- Districts: Use of digital ticketing will be a **host school option**
  - State Series: Use of digital ticketing will be REQUIRED. No paper ticketing will be available.
  - Contact: [digitaltickets@mshsaa.org](mailto:digitaltickets@mshsaa.org)
- D. **ADMISSION CHARGES:** Required for all spectators ages six (6) and up
- District Tournament: \$6.00/day  
Sectional & Quarterfinal Games: \$10.00/day  
State Championships: \$12.00/day
- E. **DISTRICT TOURNAMENT (ANY PITCHER UNAVAILABLE TO PITCH IN A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT GAME OR STATE SERIES ROUND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SAID ROUND IF THE CONTEST IS RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE.)**
- When it becomes necessary to postpone an event, the local manager should check with the MSHSAA Office. Rescheduling on Sunday should be avoided unless absolutely necessary and then only after getting approval of all participating schools remaining in the tournament.
  - Schedule: The administrators and coaches are requested to follow the schedule in this manual.
    - All District Games shall be played between:

<u>Classes</u>	<u>District Window</u>	<u>Mandatory Scheduled Start</u>
1 – 4	Thursday of Week #45 and Saturday of Week #46	Saturday of Week #45
5 - 6	Wednesday of Week #46 and Monday of Week #47	Thursday of Week #46
    - It is recommended that tournaments start with the earliest possible day to allow for the maximum window if postponements are necessary.
    - Postponed games shall be played on the earliest possible date following the postponement.
    - By mutual agreement, the two participating schools may switch the site for a game. This would normally result from one school having inadequate facilities or because of inclement weather. District games may be played between two teams at a central location or at one of the other facilities in order to hold down travel. All games, however, shall be coordinated by the District manager. All game officials shall be approved, registered and contracted by the District Manager.
  - A deviation from the pre-scheduled District baseball playing dates by the participating District teams due to an extreme conflict must be approved in advance by the tournament manager and tournament committee. If necessary, the change shall be approved by the MSHSAA Office.
  - The host school shall be responsible for notifying the opposing school of the game time as far in advance as possible. The notice shall permit adequate time for pregame preparations.
  - First and second place plaques will be awarded at the District tournaments. The District plaques will be mailed directly to the manager of the District tournament.
- F. **STATE SERIES GAMES: (ANY PITCHER UNAVAILABLE TO PITCH IN A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT GAME OR STATE SERIES ROUND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SAID ROUND IF THE CONTEST IS RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE.)**
- Sectionals**
    - SCHEDULE:

<u>Classes</u>	<u>Date</u>
1 & 2	Monday of Week #47
3 & 4	Tuesday of Week #47
5 & 6	N/A
    - HOST: Team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years. **If the assigned host is unable to host on the scheduled date, a delay until the next playing date is permissible. If on the next playing date, the assigned host cannot host, the contest shall be moved to a neutral site or the other school's site.**



- c. **GAME TIME:** Between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm unless held at a facility without lights, when it may begin as early as 2:00 pm (please consider protecting instructional time), with prior approval of both participating schools' administrators and notification to the MSHSAA office.

## 2. **Quarterfinal**

### a. **SCHEDULE**

<b><u>Classes</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
1 & 2	Wednesday of Week #47
3 & 4	Thursday of Week #47
5 & 6	Friday & Saturday of Week #47

### b. **HOST:** Will be determined by the following

- i. **NO SECTIONAL** – Team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years.
- ii. **WITH SECTIONAL**
  - 1) If one team has hosted a sectional game and the other has not; the team that did not host, the sectional game will host the Quarterfinal game.
  - 2) If both teams have hosted or both have not hosted the Sectional game the team on the top of the bracket in odd-numbered years and the team on the bottom of the bracket in even-numbered years will host, the Quarterfinal game
- iii. If the assigned host is unable to host on the scheduled date, a delay until the next playing date is permissible. If on the next playing date, the assigned host cannot host, the contest shall be moved to a neutral site or the other school's site.
- iv. **Quarterfinal round in Classes 5-6 be formatted as a best 2 out of 3 series, using the current format determining teams and the current predetermined host site format. Game 1 would occur on Friday of Week 47 and game 2 would occur on Saturday of Week 47, with game 3 (if necessary) being played immediately following. Home and away will be determined by a coin flip initially. The team that is home for game 1, will be visitor for game 2. If there is a game 3, a coin flip will determine the home team.**

### c. **GAME TIME:**

- a. For games played on school days: between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm unless held at a facility without lights, when it may begin as early as 2:00 pm (please consider protecting instructional time), with prior approval of both participating schools' administrators and notification to the MSHSAA office.
- b. For games played on non-school days: between Noon and 4:00 pm. A start scheduled outside these parameters must be approved in advance by both participating school's administrators.

## G. **FINAL FOUR & STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: (Dates & Times subject to change)**

1. The final site for the State Baseball Championships will be the Ozark Mountain Sports Complex, Ozark, MO
2. A \$12.00 admission fee shall be charged per day at the State Tournament for persons age six and up.
3. Gates Open 1 hour prior to the first scheduled contest of a day.
4. **WEEKLY GAME SCHEDULE: Monday – Saturday Week #48**
5. **DAILY TIME SCHEDULE:** (Schedule recommendation by Baseball Advisory Committee – 2021)

<b><u>Times</u></b>	<b><u>Day 1</u></b>	<b><u>Day 2</u></b>
<b><u>10:00 AM</u></b>	Semifinal	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<b><u>1:00 PM</u></b>	Semifinal	Championship
<b><u>4:00 PM</u></b>	Semifinal	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
<b><u>7:00 PM</u></b>	Semifinal	Championship

6. Schedule subject to be altered due to weather. Third Place games are played weather permitting
  - **ANY PITCHER UNAVAILABLE TO PITCH IN A DISTRICT TOURNAMENT GAME OR STATE SERIES ROUND SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR SAID ROUND IF THE CONTEST IS RESCHEDULED FOR A LATER DATE.**
7. Trophies will be presented to the four semifinalist teams along with individual medals. (Spectators are not permitted on the game fields during or after awards ceremonies).

## District Quadrant Rotation

		2021 2024 2027			2022 2025 2028			2023 2026 2029
	C1 - 4	C5 - 6		C1 - 4	C5 - 6		C1 - 4	C5 - 6
Quadrant 1	1			1			1	
	2	1		2	1		2	1
	3	2		3	2		3	2
	4			4			4	
Quadrant 2	13			9			5	
	14	7		10	5		6	3
	15	8		11	6		7	4
	16			12			8	
Quadrant 3	5			5			9	
	6	3		6	3		10	5
	7	4		7	4		11	6
	8			8			12	
Quadrant 4	9			13			13	
	10	5		14	7		14	7
	11	6		15	8		15	8
	12			16			16	

## Class Rotations

ODD YEARS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Semifinal 1	Class 1		Class 3		Class 5	
Semifinal 2	Class 1		Class 3		Class 5	
Semifinal 3	Class 2		Class 4		Class 6	
Semifinal 4	Class 2		Class 4		Class 6	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place		Class 1		Class 3		Class 5
Championship		Class 1		Class 3		Class 5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place		Class 2		Class 4		Class 6
Championship		Class 2		Class 4		Class 6

EVEN YEARS	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Semifinal 1	Class 2		Class 4		Class 6	
Semifinal 2	Class 2		Class 4		Class 6	
Semifinal 3	Class 1		Class 3		Class 5	
Semifinal 4	Class 1		Class 3		Class 5	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place		Class 2		Class 4		Class 6
Championship		Class 2		Class 4		Class 6
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place		Class 1		Class 3		Class 5
Championship		Class 1		Class 3		Class 5

## APPENDIX A [\(TOC\)](#)

### PROGRAM INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

The MSHSAA staff strives to publish the most accurate materials for all Championship events. Since a majority of the information contained in Championship publications is submitted by qualifying schools, it is imperative that the MSHSAA office receive correctly-spelled names, accurate classifications (year in school), season results, statistics of participants and coaching information. The MSHSAA Board of Directors has approved a fine process for all late, incomplete or illegible submissions for MSHSAA Championship publications. Schools that do not submit their information to MSHSAA in a timely, legible, complete and accurate manner will be fined \$25 per offense (Board Policy). Electronic reports must be submitted by the appropriate deadline in the format and style included with the report instructions. It is the responsibility of the school to verify that MSHSAA has received its program information, team photo and any other required information by the appropriate deadline.

In addition to the appropriate roster and schedule information, the following statistical information will be requested for Baseball teams advancing past the district tournament:

B/T= bats and throws (left, right or switch)  
G=Games played for the individual

#### Hitting:

Avg.= batting average  
AB=At-bats (not plate appearances)  
H= hits  
RBI- runs batted in  
2B= doubles  
3B= triples  
HR= homeruns  
BB= walks earned as a batter  
SO=times struck out (both looking and swinging) as a batter  
SB=stolen bases

#### Pitching:

W/L= wins and losses as a pitcher  
ER= earned runs allowed  
IP= innings pitched  
ERA= earned run average (based on 7 innings)  
SO=strikeouts thrown as a pitcher  
BB= walks thrown as a pitcher  
S=saves

#### Fielding:

PO= putouts recorded as a fielder  
A= assists recorded as a fielder  
E= errors committed

#### Note:

- 1) These numbers should represent all games played through the district tournament and will be required for teams advancing past the district tournament. Any statistical information to be found incomplete will result in a fine per Board Policy #20 as listed above.
- 2) Stats only need to be entered once prior to the Sectional game. The stats will not need to be updated after each playoff contest.
- 3) If you have any statistical questions, do not hesitate in contacting Andrew Kauffman in the MSHSAA office by e-mailing [andrew@mshsaa.org](mailto:andrew@mshsaa.org) or calling (573) 875-1077.

## **APPENDIX B** [\(TOC\)](#)

### **COPYRIGHT COMPLIANCE**

#### **MSHSAA Position Statement Regarding U.S. Copyright Compliance**

Educators, coaches, and administrators who wish to use copyrighted material need to understand the privileges and rights of the copyright owner and must abide by defined limitations as expressed in U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the school administration to ensure their school community is in compliance with U.S. Copyright Laws at all times when playing music at your events, reproducing consumable materials, and all other events taking place at school facilities where copyright laws are to be followed. When hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, the host site is responsible for confirming any music being played over a public sound system, used in video clips, etc., has the gained written permission and/or secured the necessary license(s) to play the music, video clips, etc. from the appropriate Performing Rights Organization (i.e. ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, other).

The NFHS (National Federation of State High Schools) has established an agreement with ASCAP to allow schools and non-school sites hosting a MSHSAA postseason event, to perform/play music in which they own the rights (at least 50%) of the work at no charge. It is your responsibility to ensure the music performed onsite is owned by ASCAP. To determine if the music is owned by ASCAP to go [www.ASCAP.com](http://www.ASCAP.com) and select the link 'Repertory' to search their catalog. If the work is not owned by ASCAP (at least 50%), you will need to work directly with the organization that does own the rights (BMI, SESAC, etc.) to secure the necessary license or not use that work. This agreement only extends to the playing of music recordings downloaded to personal electronic devices, CD's, etc. but does not extend to mash-up recordings or music altered from its original recording without the site obtaining a license to do so.

## APPENDIX C [\(TOC\)](#)

### SITE SELECTION PROCESS

#### A. General Process: District Site Selection Process

1. Following the assignment of all registered schools to classifications and Districts, the MSHSAA staff shall select one Athletic Administrator or Principal (per District) to serve as the Site Selection Chairperson for the purpose of coordinating the process.
2. The chairperson shall be contacted and confirmed via email by the MSHSAA staff.
3. Each chairperson shall review the list of schools assigned to their District located on the activity page on [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org) under the "Class and District Assignments" link
4. Each chairperson will contact all athletic administrators of schools and arrange a meeting (face-to-face is preferred but telephone conference call, email, fax, ballot, etc. is acceptable) to select the host site(s). MSHSAA shall incur no expense in conjunction with this meeting.
5. The request shall be to select the host site(s) for only the current classification cycle.
6. **Schools wishing to host, shall complete and submit the District Host Submission Form (Appendix D) to provide evidence that facilities and staffing meet the necessary and/or recommended requirements to safely, securely and adequately provide for the conduct of the District tournament.**
7. The chairperson shall distribute all submitted forms to District members for review prior to the selection meeting.
8. The chairperson shall notify the MSHSAA office, via email, by the established deadline and indicate the selected host site(s) and manager's information and the District Host Submission Form.
9. The MSHSAA staff shall review the submitted host sites for any necessary adjustments and final approval. The MSHSAA staff and/or Board of Directors shall select the host site when a District committee is unable to reach agreement or the Board determines a suggested site is unacceptable due to site constraints. A neutral site may only be used, provided there is prior approval from MSHSAA, due to confirmation of inadequate facilities at the assigned District schools or unusual circumstances. The neutral site shall be at no additional expense to MSHSAA.
10. Prior to final approval, a Medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for all state series sites and venues must be confirmed/uploaded to the MSHSAA website prior to hosting. The Medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)
11. Following final approval, host sites shall be added to the District assignments link and the District Managers' packets shall be forwarded to each District Manager within an appropriate time frame to allow for proper administering of the event.

#### B. Specific Criteria for District Sites

1. The Board of Directors has taken the position on the locations for District and State Tournaments that competition sites for all district and state series events shall be conducted in Missouri unless a school owned facility, contiguous to the school campus is beyond the state border.
2. The site facility(s) must be in compliance with the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of public accommodation.
3. A Medical Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for the venue being used for hosting a postseason contest must be uploaded and accounted for at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org). The Medical EAP shall specifically require an onsite AED and use of MSHSAA's AED Guidelines as posted on the Sports Medicine page at [www.mshsaa.org](http://www.mshsaa.org)
4. Secure location for contest officials to be sequestered from teams and spectators.
5. Ability to take admission for all contests.
6. Seating capacity shall be adequate to accommodate anticipated attendance.
7. Adequate off-street parking available for the seating capacity of the facility – required.
8. Adequate concessions available for spectators – required.

#### C. Specific Criteria for Baseball Sites

1. See Section 3.C of the Baseball Manual



## APPENDIX D [\(TOC\)](#)

### DISTRICT HOST SUBMISSION FORM – BASEBALL

This form is to be completed and submitted by the Athletic Director of a member school wishing to host the District tournament in the sport of baseball. The form will be deemed invalid and school will not be considered to host if the form is not completely filled out prior to submission.

#### [DOWNLOADABLE FORM](#)

##### General

School: _____	Location: <input type="checkbox"/> On-Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Off Campus <input type="checkbox"/> Both
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple locations will be required to host	
<input type="checkbox"/> Facility complies with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act as a place of accommodation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Secure location for officials away from fans and team personnel.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ability for site to be secured so gate may be taken at all contests.	
Seating Capacity _____	Off-Street Parking Capacity _____
Public Restrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Concessions <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

##### Field

Playing Surface: <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt-IF w/ Grass-OF <input type="checkbox"/> All Grass <input type="checkbox"/> All Turf <input type="checkbox"/> Turf-IF w/ Grass-OF		
Lights <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Bullpens <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Left (ft) _____	Center (ft) _____	Right (ft) _____
Batting Cages <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Separate Warm-up area/ or 2 <sup>nd</sup> field <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

##### Extras

Scoreboard <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Public Address System <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Locker Rooms <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Press Box <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Storm Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Covered Seating <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

##### Why should your facility be selected? (Box will expand as needed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Person Submitting

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Position

This form may be saved and used for future years.

## APPENDIX E [\(TOC\)](#)

# 2025 GENERAL BASEBALL INFORMATION

### NFHS Rule Changes

**1-3-2c1 — Modified that resin, pine tar or any other drying agent is permitted on the bat in a specific area.**

Modified that resin, pine tar or any other drying agent is permitted on the bat in a specific area (1-3-2c1) — This change allows the batter to have better control over a non-wood bat, so it does not slip out of the hands due to moisture or perspiration. It also makes the rule similar for wood bats and non-wood bats.

**4-4-1c — Modified the definition of forfeiture.**

Modified the definition of forfeiture (4-4-1c) — There are seven criteria for forfeiture. This modification of the subsection “c” is the result when a coach, player or team personnel does not conform to the instructions of the umpire. An ejection is a serious violation of sportsmanship and game decorum. To aggravate the violation with a game forfeiture is egregious and contrary to the basic premise of education-based athletics.

### 2024 NFHS Points of Emphasis

The NFHS Baseball Rules Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors believes there are areas of the game of interscholastic baseball that need to be addressed and given special attention. These areas of concern are often cyclical – some areas need more attention than others, and that is why they might appear in the rules book for consecutive editions. These concerns are identified as “Points of Emphasis.” For the 2025 high school baseball season, attention is being called to: Use of Authenticating Mark Program Balls, Pitching Positions, Bench Decorum, Use of Props and Improper Use of Communication Equipment. When a topic is included in the Points of Emphasis, these topics are important enough to reinforce throughout the academic year because additional attention is warranted.

**Use of Authenticating Mark Program Balls** The use of baseballs that have the Authenticating Mark printed on them proves that the conforming equipment is essential to the integrity of contests played under the NFHS rules. This program helps to promote a level playing field by ensuring consistency in the equipment being used. Using baseballs that hold the Authenticating Mark allows for the development of more sophisticated standards in balls and clearly communicates to administrators, coaches and officials that these standards are being met.

**Pitching Positions** The premise of the pitching positions is very basic. It has evolved over the years to stay current with existing teaching styles and the increasing skill levels of high school age students. It is one of the most talked about and modified rules in the history of NFHS rules writing. We should always be cautious and concerned that the reasons to change the rule is never associated to the whims or trends of other levels of baseball. Pitchers are required to use one of two positions: the wind-up or the set. It is important that umpires, coaches, and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play. The position of the pivot foot determines which of the pitching positions is being used. In the wind-up position, the pitcher’s pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher’s plate and is not parallel to it. They may only deliver a pitch or step backward off the pitcher’s plate with the pivot first. In the set position, the pivot foot is in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher’s plate.

**Bench Decorum** Sportsmanship, or good sporting behavior, is about treating one another with respect and exhibiting appropriate behavior. It is about being fair, honest and caring. When this type of appropriate behavior occurs, competitive play is more enjoyable for everyone. Coaches set the tone at athletic contests with their display of sportsmanship and respect. If these individuals act in a sportsmanlike manner and manage the students in their dugout/bench area, their behavior sets a positive tone for players, spectators and others. **Use of Props** Like Bench Decorum, there is no logical purpose to have props at an education-based athletic event. They do not enhance the educational value of the contest. In fact, they deter from any valuable lesson gained from competing. Unlike the collegiate and professional models, the use of props or any items to demean or embarrass one’s opponent is contrary to the reason the NFHS writes playing rules for high school age and skilled students.

**Improper Use of Communication Equipment** Last season was the first year of allowing one-way electronic communication devices from the dugout/bench to the catcher. It permits the coach to communicate with the catcher using an electronic communication device for the purpose of calling pitches and setting up the defense. The device would only be able to be one-way, meaning the player cannot use an electronic device to respond or communicate back to the coach. Various technologies, earpiece style, electronic band or a smart watch could be used giving schools several options at varying costs. No other player would be able to wear or use this device nor would the coach be able to communicate with any other player using electronic communication.

## BASEBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

JUNE 6, 2024

1. Recommend any pitcher unavailable to pitch in a state series round or district round shall not be eligible for said round if the contest is rescheduled for a later date. Once the district tournament schedule is set by the tournament committee, that's the schedule that will determine a pitcher's availability. (Motion passed 6-0)

### Rationale:

Extend the state series pitching limitation based on weather delays to the district tournament. The district tournament is an extension of the state series and should follow the same pitching limitations as the state series.

2. Recommend turning ALL Classes into a modified double elimination postseason format. District Tournaments shall be single elimination until the Championship game. The Championship will be a best two out of three format over the course of two days. The lower seed (worse) will host Game 1 and the higher (better) seed will host game 2 (and if needed game 3) on Day 2. (See proposed Calendar) Sectionals shall be a best two out of three format over the course of two days. The team on top of the bracket will get to host game 2 (and if needed 3) on day 2 in odd years, the team on the bottom of the bracket will get to host game 2 (and if needed 3) in even years. Quarterfinals shall be a best two out of three format over the course of two days. The same hosting rules as years previous will apply. (Motion 4-1)

### Rationale:

Baseball is unique compared to any other team sport in regards to postseason due to pitching restrictions. In an effort to ensure the best most complete teams make it to Ozark, double elimination is warranted as a true measure of the best team out of their Region in the state for a particular class. In a survey of the

SEMO Board District Coaches: 80% of coaches want SOME or ANY form of double elimination postseason baseball. 77% of coaches in Classes 1 – 4 want a best two out of three Sectional and Quarterfinal. 77% of Coaches want some form of double elimination District Tournament

3. Recommend the daily maximum pitch count be the same between grades 9-12. Adjusting the freshman / sophomore daily max pitches to 105 pitches from the current maximum of 95 pitches. Manual section 2. L. 2 (Motion 5-0)

### Rationale:

After several years of this procedure, the baseball advisory committee feels that the daily pitch count needs to be uniform across all grades 9-12.

- \* Denied
- \*\* Tabled
- \*\*\* Approved as Amended
- \*\*\*\* No Action
- All Others Approved

## **APPENDIX F (TOC)**

### **MSHSAA Guidelines for Fan/Spectator Support Items**

In the chart below, **ONLY** those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all MSHSAA District and State Series Championships. **Schools are encouraged to follow these guidelines during the regular season.** Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by all fans/spectators.

**LEGEND:** BA-Baseball BK-Basketball CC-Cross Country FB-Football GO-Golf SO-Soccer SB-Softball SW-Swimming & Diving TN-Tennis TR-Track & Field VB-Volleyball WR-Wrestling

Sport	BA	BK	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TN	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Banners on all	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Confetti/shredded paper/powder	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hand held signs(no obstruction of view during play)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laser light/pointer/flashing objects	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Megaphones (Exception: Sideline Cheerleaders only)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Artificial noisemakers, (including but not limited to horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, shakers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Compressed air horns/sirens	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Whistles	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Drones/UAV/UAS	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Team introduction run-throughs or break away banners (fans)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Team introduction run-throughs or break away banners (team personnel & Sideline cheerleaders)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Poms, spirit/rally towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cannons/muskets/guns/fireworks	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Carried school flags (running/taunting prohibited)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Animals/Pets (other than service animals with proper credential documentation)	No	No	No	No	NO	No	No	No	Yes <sup>1</sup>	No	No	No
Appropriate dress requested (host determines)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

(Adopted September 2012, Revised 2019)





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