

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
2026 SECTIONAL-DISTRICT BASEBALL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. All teams in the sectional tournament will be seeded. This seeding will determine the team's entry onto the bracket.

Draw Regulations. An open draw will be conducted in all sectional tournaments. Teams will place themselves in the order of seed:

Seeding process. Per the direction of the Southwest District Athletic Board, all teams in a bracketed tournament will be seeded. All online voting materials will be emailed to the Athletic Director who will provide this information to the coach. The coach will make comments pertinent to his/her team online from Sunday, May 3, 2026 to Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Online voting will begin on Thursday, May 7, 2026 and conclude at NOON on Saturday, May 9, 2026. The mandatory **VIRTUAL** coaches meeting will be held on Sunday, May 10, 2026, 2:00 p.m. **The virtual draw will now be a combined draw including both the North and South together. The North and South divisional draw will be conducted simultaneously, and the manager will rotate back and forth between North and South depending on year until all lines of both bracket are filled. In even numbered years (North will draw first), in odd numbered years (South will draw first). North schools can only draw onto available North lines and South schools can only still draw onto South lines.** The tournament manager will distribute in either written form or spreadsheet the tally of all votes no later than 2 hours before the start of the manager's meeting on Sunday, May 10, 2026. All ties will be broken prior to the placement of teams on the brackets. By board action, starting with the 2021-22 tournaments, ties will be broken as follows:

10.a.1.) The team that receives the most individual votes at the tied position or above shall receive the higher seed.

10.a.2.) If the results are still tied, the tie shall be broken by a coin toss. The school that calls the toss shall be the first one to appear in the alphabet (official school name without the respective city name ahead of it unless the city name is part of the official school name), going from A to Z in even-numbered years and Z to A in odd-numbered years

By board action, starting with the 2011-2012 tournaments, the coach can not vote for his school in the seeding process, and the highest and lowest votes for each school will be dropped in the final tabulation. By board action, starting with the 2013 spring tournaments, a coach that does not vote in a bracketed tournament loses his highest score, second highest score, and lowest score prior to final calculation.

Once that the seeds are determined for each team in the tournament, the seeds will go on the brackets in order of seed. The first seeded team will go followed by the second seeded team.

By board action, starting with the 2025-26 tournaments, Passing shall be permitted as follows:
The number of schools advancing to the regional tournament may pass but will be divided proportionately to those qualifiers between number of teams in North and South. Below are the number of teams that can pass:

Baseball Seed Passes:

D1 – #1 - 6

D2 – #1 - 3

D3 – North 2 ; South 2

D4 – North 1 ; South 2

D5 – North 2 ; South 2

D6 – North 2 ; South 1

D7 – North 2; South 1

All others must place themselves on the bracket when their seed is called.

At each point where a seeded team places itself on the bracket, the seeds above that team which previously passed shall be given the option to place themselves on the bracket starting with the highest seed going first. Those teams may choose to pass again.

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Example: Seed No. 1 places itself on the bracket. Seeds No. 2 and 3 pass. Seed No. 4 places itself on the bracket. Instead of going to Seed No. 5, Seed No. 2 shall then be given the option to place itself on the bracket followed by Seed No. 3.

This process will continue until the brackets are filled.

By Board Action, beginning with the 2025-26 tournaments:

Policy for Failing to Vote in the Tournament Seeding Process

9.e.1.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process shall mean a school's top two highest votes will be dropped, leaving that school's seed to drop accordingly. be assigned the lowest seed.

9.e.2.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process shall mean that school shall be dropped one (1) seed lower from where it was following the application of 9.e.1.

9.e.3.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process **shall lose the privilege of hosting** tournament contests in that sport should that school qualify to host.

9.e.4.) Schools that fail to vote in the tournament seeding process shall be fined \$50.

Policy for Penalizing a School that Does Not Send a School Representative to the Draw/Seed Meeting and a School Representative Cannot be Reached in Accordance with Policy or Does Not Participate in the Tournament Seeding Process

9.g.1.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting, and a school representative cannot be reached in accordance with Policy 9.f., shall mean the respective District Athletic Board shall be given the discretion to place that school(s) on the bracket to ensure the integrity of the draw (*e.g. missing the draw/seed meeting does not create an advantageous situation for the missing school*).

9.g.2.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting, and a school representative cannot be reached in accordance with Policy 9.f, shall lose the privilege of hosting tournament contests in that sport should that school qualify to host.

9.g.3.) Schools that fail to send a school representative to the draw/seed meeting shall be fined \$150.

Note: A school shall be considered not at the meeting at any time after the first team is placed onto the tournament bracket

Per action of the State Board of Directors, the following fine structure is in place:

Failure to submit seeding information when prescribed by OHSAA regulations. Fine of \$50.00.

Failure to vote in online voting process to determine seeding. Fine of \$50.00.

Failure for coach, administrator, or authorized team representative to attend the tournament draw meeting. The tournament manager shall attempt to call the head coach and/or athletic administrator from the school(s) not present in order for a representative from the missing school(s) to participate in the tournament draw/seed meeting electronically/virtually. If no one attends - Fine is \$150.00

Failure to show up for tournament contest/refusal to finish a contest which has been started and suspended for any reason. Fine of \$150.00 plus cost of officials, site expenses, and team expenses incurred by opposing team, except for presale ticket revenue

By Board Action – starting with the 2023 Spring Season

The first two rounds of the sectional tournament games and the District Semi-Final game will be played at the higher seeded team's home field, the home team will occupy their usual dugout. Home team ground rules will be enforced. In addition, the home team must charge for admission and scan tickets for all sectional 1st and 2nd round games and District-Semi Final game, unless the field is located at a community park. If Home team is unable to charge admission, the game will be played at the visiting team's field if the same expectation can be met. If neither can comply, then a neutral site field will be sought to play the game.

Per recommendation by the Coaches' Association and adoption by the District Board, the home team must have a regulation field. If the aforementioned expectations can not be met, then the team must forfeit its right to host the game and the opponent will host. If the hosting team cannot play on its field because of inclement weather, it retains the right to host on the makeup day. If it cannot play on its field on the makeup day but the visiting school can play, the contest will be held on the visitor's field.

In the District Finals or when a neutral site is being used, the team occupying the top line on the bracket will be the home team and occupy the first base dugout.

3. Time of games: School days all games will begin at 5:00 p.m. Non-school days, no starting restrictions.
4. All baseball teams adhere to the **twenty (20) minutes practice rule** for Sectional and District Tournament games. The motion states that no baseball team can practice (warm-up) on any tournament baseball field until forty (40) minutes prior to starting time of game. This also applies to double-headers. During all levels of the sectional and district tournament, the home team will take their state approved twenty-minute field warm-up first.
5. The Southwest District Athletic Board hired individuals who will assign all Sectional and District umpires. All umpires will be paid thru the SWDAB's Arbiter account.
6. The decisions of the umpires are final and protests arising from the decisions of the umpires will **NOT** be considered.
7. Changes in schedule after drawing will be done at the discretion of the Tournament Manager or by the District Board.
8. A flat fee of \$500 will be paid to the hosting school for each of the first two rounds & District Semi-Finals. If a hosting school does not fulfill its obligation of charging admission (community park), they **will not** receive the \$500.00 flat fee. District Finals must charge admission and scan tickets and will be paid \$600.00.
9. If the hosting school cannot accommodate the game on the scheduled date due to inclement weather, the game will be held at its site the next night. If the field is not ready the next night and the visiting school's field is ready, the game must be played at the visiting school site.
10. **District Tournaments will be managed by Phil Poggi. Sites will be announced once teams are determined.**
11. The District Board will furnish game balls District Final neutral site games only. 1st/2nd and District Semi Final Round Games game balls should be provided by participating schools, both home and visitor. The Rawlings R100 is the official OHSAA tournament ball.
12. ALL SITE REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED FIVE (5) DAYS AFTER THEIR GAME IS COMPLETED.

Tournament hosts should complete the google questionnaire report for each game they host. Link can be found at <https://www.ohsaa.org/financial/reports>. At the conclusion of the district tournament all host schools will be mailed a check for the number of games they hosted x the flat fee amount per round.

All other rules and regulations are covered by the OHSAA Tournament Regulations – link is below:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Baseball/BaseballTournamentRegs.pdf>

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