

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT  
2024 SECTIONAL - DISTRICT GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. A meeting for all participating coaches will be conducted on Sunday, April 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m., at a pre-determined site or held virtually. Coaches are expected to attend this meeting. Communication to all participating schools will take place no later than April 17, 2024. Rules, regulations, and the online seeding process will be explained in the mailing.
2. Shoes are required equipment. Shoe sole or heel projections other than the standard shoe plate are prohibited. Metal toe plates and metal cleats are permitted. However, metal cleats cannot be L-shaped. Cleats must be rectangular and not extend in excess of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from sole. Detachable cleats are permitted if the cleats screw into the sole of the shoe.
3. If a coach is male, it is recommended a woman (non-high school student) should accompany the team. This does not have to be a faculty member.
4. 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 direction of the State Board of Control, all teams in a bracketed tournament will be seeded. The manager will distribute voting procedures and materials to each coach in a mailing no later than April 17, 2024. This will enable each coach to vote and have the votes back to the tournament manager by Saturday, April 27, 2024, 12:00 p.m., before the manager's meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Tournament seed results shall be made available by the Tournament Manager to schools assigned to compete within that board's respective district no earlier than 24 hours and no later than two hours prior to the first team going onto the tournament bracket. By board action, starting with the 2021-22 tournaments, ties will be broken as follows:

- The team that receives the most individual votes at the tied position or above shall receive the higher seed.
- 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

In Open Placement tournaments (formerly Open Draw Tournaments) or tournaments involving two or more sectionals in which schools go to the sectional of their choice, the team may go on any bracket provided that the bracket is open and it is that coach's turn.

**By board action, starting with the 2011-2012 tournaments, the coach cannot 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.**

Per action taken by the State Board of Directors, any communication between coaches regarding placement during draw is prohibited.

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

- a) Failure to submit seeding information when prescribed by OHSAA guidelines. Fine of \$50.00.
- b) Failure to vote in online voting process to determine seeding. Fine is \$50.00.
- c) Failure for coach, administrator, or authorized team representative to attend the tournament draw meeting. Fine is \$150.00.

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

Once seeds have been determined for each team in the tournament, the seeds will go onto the bracket in order of seed. The first seeded team will go on followed by the second seeded team.

By board action, starting with the 2022-23 tournaments, Passing shall be permitted as follows:

- o The number of schools advancing to the district tournament may pass
- o All others must place themselves on the bracket when their seed is called

This process will continue until the bracket is filled.

Any team that does not show up at the tournament manager's meeting will go on the bracket last. Any school that does not get seed voting to the manager by Saturday, April 29, 12:00 noon, will not be permitted to vote at a later time. Any school that does not meet voting requirements but does attend the placement meeting will receive the votes that the school received for the seeding process and will be seeded accordingly. If a coach is late for the seed meeting, and has missed his opportunity to go on the bracket, his absence will be determined as a pass, and he will be given an opportunity to go on once he is in attendance.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 District Semi-Final game will be played at the visiting team's field as long as the same expectation can be met. If neither can comply, then a neutral site field will be sought to play the District Semi Final 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.**

5. Twenty-two (22) players are eligible. The coaching box may be occupied by one (1) coach and one (1) member of the team, or two (2) coaches, or two (2) members of the team.
6. **COACHES UNIFORM** - Base coaches must wear identical team uniforms or a shirt with collar identifying their school in school colors with complimentary pants or shorts. Absolutely no jeans or sandals will be permitted to be worn while in the coaching box. Appropriate shoes must be worn. Coaches not appropriately dressed shall not be permitted in the coaches box.
7. The wearing of a head protector is compulsory for batter, runner, catcher, the on-deck batter, and any player coaching in the coaching box. It is the duty of the Tournament Manager to see that no team dresses more than twenty-two (22) team members. Each time a team plays, the coaches are responsible to not only turn in the list of starters, but also a list of team members on the bench. This list is to be given to the umpire in charge at least ten (10) minutes prior to the game time.
8. Time of games: School days all games will begin at 5:00 p.m. Non-school days, no starting restrictions.

9. District Board Motion - All softball teams adhere to the **twenty (20) minutes practice rule** for Sectional and District Tournament games. The motion states that no softball team can practice (warm-up) on any tournament softball field until forty (40) minutes prior to starting time of game. This also applies to double-headers. The home team will take their state approved twenty-minute field warm-up first at all levels of sectional and district play.
10. SOFTBALL PROPOSAL ADOPTED DECEMBER, 1992 BY STATE BOARD: The Board approved the proposal that all tournament games be played on regulation size softball fields, adhering to the proper dimensions, base path distances, and EXCLUDING any baseball fields. The field must be properly marked.
11. 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.
12. Per request by the Coaches' Representatives and adoption by the District Board, the sectional tournament will not open until Monday, May 6, 2024, and end by Saturday, May 11, 2024. Inclement weather may force the tournament to go longer, and if this happens, the tournament will run into the week of District Tournament. The spacing between games should not be any longer than twenty-four hours. Divisions I and III games will be played on Monday and Wednesday nights, May 6 & 8, 2024; Divisions II and IV games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday nights, May 7 & 9, 2024. District semi-finals for Divisions I and III will be played on Monday, May 13, 2024, while Divisions II and IV will be played on Tuesday, May 14, 2024. District finals will be scheduled on May 16-17, 2024.

A flat fee of \$500 will be paid to the hosting school for each of the first two rounds. If a hosting school does not fulfill its obligation of charging admission, they **will not** receive the \$500.00 flat fee. District Semi-Finals and District Finals must charge admission and scan tickets and will be paid \$600.00.

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.

13. The decisions of the umpires are final and protests arising from the decisions of the umpires will not be considered.
14. Changes in schedule after drawing will be done at the discretion of the Tournament Manager.
15. Tickets for all sectional and district tournament games will be sold online through HomeTown Ticketing. Cash sales are permitted per OHSAA rules on high school campuses only Ticket prices will be:
  - a. Admission for all sectional and district tournaments are:
    - Student (6 years old +) - **\$5.00**
    - Adults - **\$8.00**
    - Children under the age of five (5) are provided complimentary admission
  - b. School Administrators Passes: Each participating school will receive complimentary admission for eight school administrators, digitally, through HomeTown Ticketing. One digital code will be provided to each school. Each code will have eight tickets attached to the code. The same code will be utilized, as a school advances in the tournament. **There is no admittance without a QR code from HTT.**
16. A total of **28 individuals** are permitted in the dugout during all tournament games. This includes Twenty-two (22) uniformed players, coaches, assistant coaches, and any other team personnel including scorekeeper. There should **never** be more than 28 individuals in the dugout. All personnel will be listed on the Official OHSAA Pass List. This pass list will be used at the pass gate for all sessions of the tournament.

17. If a team fails to appear and is not ready to play within thirty (30) minutes of scheduled starting time of tournament game, the space on the bracket shall be declared vacant. The opposing team will then be awarded a bye into the next round of competition.
18. **District Tournaments will be managed by Phil Poggi. Sites will be announced once teams are determined.**
19. The District Board will furnish game balls District Final neutral site games and potentially District Semi-Final round games, if available. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and District Semi Final Round Games game balls should be provided by participating schools, both home and visitor. The optic yellow Rawlings C12RYL-OH softball, the adopted softball of the OHSAA.

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.

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