

**OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT
2025 SECTIONAL - DISTRICT GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. A meeting for all participating coaches will be conducted on Sunday, May 4, 2025, 2:00 p.m., held virtually. Coaches are expected to attend the meeting. Communication to all participating schools will take place no later than April 21, 2025. Rules, regulations, and the online seeding process will be explained in the mailing.
2. 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, April 27, 2025 to Wednesday, April 30, 2025. Online voting will begin on Thursday, May 1, 2025 and conclude at NOON on Saturday, May 3, 2025. The mandatory **VIRTUAL** coaches meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4, 2025, 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 4, 2025. 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 2022-23 tournaments, Passing shall be permitted as follows:

- The number of schools advancing to the district tournament may pass. All others must place themselves on the bracket when their seed is called. If there is not a sectional level game prior to the district, the number of schools advancing to the regional may pass.

For 2025 the number of seeded teams that may pass are:

GIRLS	NORTH	SOUTH
D1	2	4
D2	3	3
D3	4	4
D4	5	3
D5	3	3
D6	3	1
D7	5	1

- 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.

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.

A team from the North and/or South must be placed on the bracket before the manager rotates back to the subsequent North and/or South next seed. This process will continue until the brackets are filled.

Any team that does not show at the tournament placement meeting will go on the bracket last. Any school that does not vote online by Saturday, May 10, 2025 at noon, will not be permitted to vote at a later time and his next highest vote will be dropped prior to final tabulation. Any school that does not meet voting requirements but does attend the placement meeting will receive the votes that the school received for seeding purposes 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 considered as a pass, and will be given an opportunity to go on once he is in attendance. If more than one coach does not show up, the tournament manager will flip a coin to determine the order of placement on the 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 District Semi-Final 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 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.

3. Time of games: School days all games will begin at 5:00 p.m. Non-school days, no starting restrictions.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. The decisions of the umpires are final and protests arising from the decisions of the umpires will not be considered.
9. Changes in schedule after drawing will be done at the discretion of the Tournament Manager.
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 and potentially District Semi-Final round games, if available. 1st/2nd 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.

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

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Softball/SoftballTournamentRegs.pdf>