

2021 GENERAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

NOTE: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They were adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors in February 2021. The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when deemed necessary by the Executive Director, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

GENERAL – SECTIONAL/DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

1. ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

- A. Each District Athletic Board (DAB) organizes and conducts Sectional and District Tournaments in their respective districts, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Sectional / District site managers will receive supplemental information from respective District Athletic Boards. Site selection and play dates of Sectional/District Tournaments are at the discretion of each District Athletic Board.
- B. The Regional and State Tournaments are under the direct control of the Executive Director's office. There will be four Divisions (I, II, III, and IV). Site selection for Regional Tournaments is at the discretion of the Executive Director's office and may be changed at any time.
- C. There is no restriction/requirement at any level of play regarding playing at collegiate or high school sites. Sites must meet minimum requirements of the NFHS.
- D. The OHSAA maintains the authority to change the site, date, or time of any Regional or State Tournament assignment.
- E. Completion of the OHSAA Tournament Entry Form is the school's agreement to play at the site, day and time assigned by the Executive Director's office.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS, COACHES AND BENCH PERSONNEL

- A. All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate.
- B. Twenty-two (22) players may be in uniform for each tournament game. The twenty-two (22) players will be the only players permitted in the dugout or on the field for warm-up or any part of the contest. The twenty-two (22) may be changed from game to game throughout the tournament; however, any player in uniform must meet all eligibility requirements established by OHSAA Bylaws. Only the 22 permitted in uniform are permitted to warm-up on the field during pre-game.
- C. A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs.
- D. Only Board of Education approved coaches with valid Pupil Activity Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education are permitted to be in the bench area or locker room prior to, during, and after any tournament contest.
- E. All Board approved coaches in the dugout must be in uniform as required by NFHS Rules.
- F. The only other personnel permitted in the dugout during the contest are a scorekeeper, athletic trainer, and student manager. These individuals must be identified on the official OHSAA Pass List.

3. TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

Member schools wanting to participate in the 2021 OHSAA Baseball Tournament must indicate their intent to participate on their 2020-21 OHSAA Sports Participation Card. The deadline for tournament entry confirmation is May 3, 2021. Schools that change their tournament participation after May 3, 2021 will be subject to a \$50 penalty per sport.

4. GAMES PER DAY

No team or individual shall play more than two tournament games per day.

5. FAILURE TO APPEAR

If a baseball team fails to appear or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament match, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant. A "no contest" shall be declared, and the opposing team shall advance into the next round of competition. See "No Contest" under Section 31 of the General Sports Regulations. All decisions relative to this regulation shall be made by a member of the respective District Athletic Board or the OHSAA Executive Director's office.

The OHSAA, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors, and the tournament manager, may delay or reschedule a baseball tournament game provided it is practical to delay or reschedule such a game.

6. SECTIONAL AND DISTRICT TOURNAMENT DATES

The Sectional Tournaments may begin on Saturday, **May 15** and scheduled to be completed by **May 22**. The District Tournaments will be conducted during the following week, ending **May 29**. Sectional and District tournament managers should build in make-up dates knowing the Regional will NOT be pushed back due to postponements at the Sectional/District level.

7. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

No team or individual entry will be allowed to compete in the Sectional, District, Regional or State Tournaments unless accompanied by a coach or person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams unaccompanied by a coach or authorized person will be disqualified. (Bylaw 3-2-1)

8. UMPIRES

Only OHSAA Class 1 officials shall be used in Sectional, District, Regional and State Tournament games. Officials for Sectional and District Tournaments shall be selected as directed by the respective District Athletic Boards. The officials for the Regional and State Tournaments shall be assigned by the Executive Director according to the procedure adopted by the Board of Directors in proportion to the number of Class 1 officials in the District. The names of the officials assigned to the Regional and State Tournament will not be announced in advance.

9. REPRESENTATION TO REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

The number of representatives from each of the 6 Athletic Districts is determined by a formula. The representation from each District to the Regional in Divisions I, II, III, and IV for **2021** shall be:

	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>
Central District	4	2	2	2
East District	0*	2	1	1
Northeast District	6	5	4	3
Northwest District	2	3	3	5
Southeast District	0*	1	2	2
Southwest District	4	3	4	3
TOTALS:	16	16	16	16

**East and Southeast in Division I assigned to Central District*

10. TOURNAMENT SEEDING AND DRAWING PROCEDURES

NOTE: The established date for all seeding and drawing meetings is **May 9, 2021 at 2:00 pm.**

In the Sectional Tournaments that precede District Tournaments, seeding is mandatory. In District Tournaments not preceded by Sectional Tournaments, seeding is mandatory (**NOTE: This means that at least one seeding is to take place in either the Sectional or District Tournament**). THE FOLLOWING SEEDING METHOD SHALL PREVAIL FOR ALL OHSAA SPONSORED BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS. **All teams assigned to the first round of the tournament shall be seeded.** For purposes of seeding, the last matches to be counted will be those played on the date established by the District Athletic Board.

BASEBALL TOURNAMENT SEEDING PROCEDURE

1. Tournament managers will post the records of all teams in their tournament. It is the responsibility of each school to have its records compiled as shown below and given to the tournament manager the day of the drawing. The records will include the number of wins and losses in the divisions of the teams played. For example:

A Division I team with an 18 game schedule currently played:
 vs Division I: 10 wins 2 losses
 vs Division II: 3 wins 1 losses
 vs Division III: 2 wins 0 losses

All games played shall be recorded.

2. *Voting on seeded teams:* All head coaches shall vote **via ballot which shall be made public**, selecting their choice for the #1 seeded team. The team with greatest number of votes shall be seeded #1, second highest #2, etc, until all teams

are seeded. In case of a tie only the tied teams will be re-voted upon. If a tie should occur the second time, a flip of the coin shall determine the seeded team.

NOTE: If electronic balloting is utilized in a District, the results shall be sent to the manager and made public by the manager at the draw meeting.

3. *Placement of Teams on Brackets:* Each District Athletic Board shall determine placement of teams on brackets. Regulations for specific District Athletic Board Tournaments are available on their websites at:

Central District Athletic Board: www.cdab.org
East District Athletic Board: www.eastohsaa.com
Northeast District Athletic Board: www.nedab.org
Northwest District Athletic Board: www.nwdab.org
Southeast District Athletic Board: www.seodab.org
Southwest District Athletic Board: www.swdab.org

If a school fails to have a representative present (physically or virtually) at the seeding and drawing meeting, the manager shall place the school (s) on the bracket in accordance with procedures adopted by the District Athletic Board. Schools that fail to send a coach or administrator to a mandatory draw/seed meeting or fail to seed as instructed will be fined \$50.

Sample brackets will be distributed to each manager. Samples of brackets are included in the manager's materials and can be found on the OHSAA web site.

The tournament manager will distribute brackets to representatives of participating teams.

All brackets shall designate date and time of match with the home team being listed on the top of the bracket.

11. GAME RULES

The 2020 NFHS Baseball Rules Book, published by the National Federation of State High School Associations will be the Official Rules in all tournament games. These rules must be followed explicitly, and coaches, schools, officials and umpires cannot mutually agree to modify or change these rules in any way.

- A. All tournament games shall be played to completion. Suspended games shall be resumed from the point of suspension. The list of 22 players certified for the game must remain the same.
- B. If a team fails to appear and is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of a 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.
- C. All baseball games shall end anytime after five innings, or after 4 ½ innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
- D. NFHS Baseball Rule 4-5 – The OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws do not permit protested games. In the event a rule is misinterpreted or misapplied, the correction must be made by the umpires and coaches on the field at the time it occurs.
- E. If the coaches and umpires cannot agree, the final decision will be made by the plate umpire.

12. BASEBALL REQUIREMENTS, RULE MODIFICATIONS & GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS – COVID-19

All NFHS and OHSAA Baseball Requirements, NFHS Rule Modifications and General Recommendations **MUST** be adhered to at all levels of tournament. Should any of the requirements not be followed or implemented shall result in penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11.

This includes the Responsible RestartOhio Guidelines which can be found [HERE](#).

This includes the Baseball COVID-19 Sport Requirements & Recommendations which can be found [HERE](#) (link to come).

13. BATTING PRACTICE

Batting practice is *permitted* prior to all OHSAA tournament games but is *not mandatory* on the game field. Should a site allow batting practice, both teams must be afforded the opportunity to participate in pre-game batting practice. Specific District Athletic Boards are to determine if batting practice is permitted at the sectional and district tournaments.

14. **The RAWLINGS R100**, the adopted baseball of the OHSAA, will be used for all tournament games.

1. ADMISSION – SECTIONAL AND DISTRICT

The admission fee for Sectional and District Tournaments will be \$10.00 per session and will be available for sale online (only) through Hometown Ticketing.

NOTE: All spectators, regardless of age, will be charged regular admission.

15. AWARDS

Only awards furnished by the OHSAA may be presented at the OHSAA tournament site.

SECTIONAL Tournaments: Trophies will **not** be awarded.

DISTRICT Tournaments: Team trophies will be presented* to the Winner and Runner-up teams; awards will be presented to the individual members of the teams and coaches.

REGIONAL Tournaments: A trophy will be presented* to the Regional winner and Regional runner-up.

STATE Tournament: Team trophies will be presented to the State Championship and Runner-up teams. Individual members of both teams will be presented with gold or silver award

**Presentations may be altered to comply to meet health standards and social distancing guidelines due to COVID-19.*

16. PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

Credentials may be obtained by contacting the tournament manager. All press arrangements are to be made prior to the tournament. Arrangements for telecasting Sectional or District games are to be made with the District Athletic Board Secretary.

17. FILMING OF CONTESTS

Regular Season Contests:

- a) It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or film regular season contests in which the school team is participating but may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed.
- b) It is not permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or film regular season or tournament contests of other school teams without the written consent of all schools participating in the contests.

OHSAA Tournament Contests:

- a) *Videotaping or filming by participating schools.*

Videotaping or filming of tournament contests by one or more schools participating in the contest is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager and it is done at the expense of the school involved and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted. **Managers shall post signage regarding this regulation using materials provided by the OHSAA and shall insure that regular public address announcements are made.**

- b) *Videotaping or filming by spectators.*

1. Shall be for personal use.
2. Shall not be used for the purpose of scouting or coaching
3. Shall not interfere with the view of the athletic contest by other spectators
4. The tournament site shall not permit the use of more than the seating space for which the spectator has paid when seating is needed for paid fans
5. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator's equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment
6. Equipment will not be permitted in any playing area – only in the spectator seating area
7. The tournament site will not provide sources of power for video equipment
8. Violation of this regulation may result in the removal of offender from the premises
9. **Managers shall post signage regarding this regulation using materials provided by the OHSAA and shall insure that regular public address announcements are made**

- c) *Television:* Tape-delayed broadcast requests shall be made to the Tournament Manager. Live broadcast requests shall be directed to the Executive Director's office.

18. UNSPORTING CONDUCT PENALTY

During participation in OHSAA tournaments, any student or coach ejected for unsporting conduct shall be ineligible for the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. Any student or coach ejected for fighting shall be ineligible for contests the remainder of that day as well as for all contests in baseball until the next four regular season/tournament contests have been played.

Individuals ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct, flagrant foul or fighting shall be reported to the OHSAA Director of Sport Management by the tournament manager. The OHSAA Director of Sport Management will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with Bylaw 11 if the situation warrants it.

Participation in an athletic contest is a privilege. Each individual is expected to conduct himself or herself in an exemplary manner while participating.

19. PROPERTY DAMAGE

There is no insurance covering property damage. If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement. The OHSAA will deduct from the school's share the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. Other damages to facilities not attributed to a competing school could be a legitimate tournament expense and may be deducted from tournament receipts. If damage is extensive, the District Board or Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the administrative heads of the competing schools.

20. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is the sponsoring organization for the Baseball Tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these tournaments and the sale of any items at the tournament sites or any audio-visual reproductions of the events. Any sale of food, clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the respective District Athletic Boards for Sectional or District Tournaments and the OHSAA Director for the Regional and State Tournaments.

21. PROHIBITED ADVERTISING

There shall be no advertising through printed media, billboards, radio or television that includes beer, wine, liquor, tobacco, political parties or candidates or any other advertising contrary to the philosophy of the high school athletic program.

22. RAFFLES PROHIBITED

There shall be no raffles or any type of games of chance permitted at the site of baseball tournament contests during the period beginning one hour prior to the tournaments and ending one hour after the tournaments have ended.

23. PROHIBITED SALES

The sale, distribution or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

24. DRONES – UMNANNED AREAL VEHICLES

The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests. Tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed.

Note: An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for OHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA.

25. CONCUSSION RECOGNITION AND MANAGEMENT

Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play. Coaches, umpires and administrators possess the right to remove a player for suspected concussions. All coaches and tournament umpires are required to have completed one of the two approved

Concussion Courses or possess a current and valid Pupil Activity Permit. Umpires carry the NFHS Rules Book and the Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussions is located in the Appendix in the back of the book.

26. LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

This is an extremely important safety policy adopted by the National Federation. Though all officials received these procedures in pre-season communication, it is strongly recommended that tournament site managers review this policy with administrators of competing schools, coaches and officials prior to games. The Lightning and Inclement Weather Policy is relative to ALL OHSAA Sports and is contained within **OHSAA Sports Regulation**.

Recognition:

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightening flashes is approximately two to three miles anytime that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

Monitor Weather Patterns – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

National Weather Service – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers should be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

Management:

Evacuation – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

Thirty-minute rule – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes.

Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.

***NOTE:** At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

2021 BOYS REGIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

June 3 and 4, 2021

2. REGULATIONS

The applicable regulations for District Baseball Tournaments shall apply to the Regional Tournaments in addition to any listed below.

3. TEAM EXPENSES

No team expenses will be paid to member schools participating in 2020-21 OHSAA Tournaments.

4. ADMISSION – REGIONAL

The admission fee for Regional tournaments will be \$12.00 per session and will be available for sale online (only) through Hometown Ticketing. The Semi-Finals will be one session and the Finals one session.

NOTE: All spectators, regardless of age, will be charged regular admission.

5. POSTPONED OR SUSPENDED GAME

If games are postponed or suspended, they will be rescheduled in the original order. If the first-round games are not completed on Thursday, they will be played on Friday or the next playable day, with the finals on Saturday. If the semifinals are played on Saturday, the final may be played on Sunday.

6. PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION

Requests for credentials must be sent, in writing, to the Tournament Manager. Arrangements for live telecasting must be made with the Executive Director's office.

7. PASSES – TEAM AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Twenty-two (22) players, manager, coach, assistant coach, scorekeeper plus two others will be admitted at the pass gate by the Official OHSAA Pass List certified by the principal of the high school. This pass list will be used at the pass gate for all sessions of the tournament. School administrators shall receive complimentary admission through HomeTown Ticketing codes—this number has not been established.

8. TOURNAMENT DRAWS

Tournament draws were conducted by the OHSAA Staff. All semifinal games will be played Thursday, June 3 at 2:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. and the final game will be played Friday, June 4 at 5:00 P.M. unless otherwise noted. The top team in the bracket will be the home team.

93rd ANNUAL BOYS STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

June 10 – 12, 2021

Canal Park in Akron, Ohio

1. REGULATIONS

The applicable regulations for the Sectional/District and Regional Baseball Tournaments shall apply to the State Baseball Tournaments in addition to any listed below.

2. DATES, PAIRINGS AND ORDER OF PLAY

The State Baseball Tournaments will be played on June 10, 11 and 12, 2021. The order of games for 2021 will be:

Division III

Division II

Division IV

Division I

Note: The Director reserves the right to adjust games and order of play, if necessary.

3. TOURNAMENT DRAW

Tournament draws were conducted and approved by the Board of Directors. The home team will be the top team on the bracket. Only OHSAA approved bracket structures will be used.

4. PRACTICE

There shall be no baseball practice on the site that will be used during the 2021 State Baseball Tournaments other than usual pre-game practice and hitting in cages at the discretion of the host site.

5. MEETING OF STATE FINALISTS

A meeting will be held and conducted by the OHSAA for the Head Coach and Athletic Administrator of qualifying teams at 11:00 A.M., Monday, June 7, 2021. The meeting will be held virtually.

6. GAME PROGRAMS

The price of the official printed program for the State Baseball Tournaments will be \$4.00.

7. ADMISSION

The admission fee for the State Tournament will be \$15.00 per session and will be available for sale online (only) through Hometown Ticketing. Each Semi-Final and Final game will be one session.

NOTE: All spectators, regardless of age, will be charged regular admission.

8. TEAM EXPENSES

No team expenses will be paid to member schools participating in 2020-21 OHSAA Tournaments.

9. MANAGER/SPONSORSHIP

The State Baseball Tournaments are under the supervision and sponsorship of the OHSAA. The supervision at the host site is under the direction of Akron RubberDucks General Manager, Jim Pfander. The OHSAA Tournament Manager is Emily Gates, OHSAA Director of Sport Management.

10. POSTPONED GAMES

Postponed games will be played in their scheduled original order. Games may be scheduled on Sunday if and when weather delays cause postponements.

11. MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Requests for media credentials must be submitted in advance. Contact Tim Stried at the OHSAA, 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus 43214; P: 614-267-2502. All requests for tape-delay telecasting must be made through Tim Stried. Credentials will be held for pickup at the site.

12. PASSES – TEAM AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Teams will be provided twenty-two passes for admission for players, managers, coaches and a scorekeeper. These passes will provide admission to all games of the State Tournament. School administrators shall receive complimentary admission through HomeTown Ticketing codes—this number has not been established.