2026 BASEBALL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

SECTIONAL, DISTRICT, REGIONAL & STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

NOTE: The following regulations apply to all levels of tournament competition unless otherwise specified. They have been adopted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors on December 4, 2025.
The Executive Director is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

1. ORGANIZATION OF TOURNAMENTS

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.

The Regional and State Tournaments are under the direct control of the Executive Director's office. Site selection, dates and times for Regional Tournaments are at the discretion of the Executive Director's office and may be changed at any time.

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.

Completion of submitting "Yes" to Tournament Entry on FinalForms, is the school's agreement to play at the site, date and time assigned by the District Athletic Board or Executive Director's office.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS, COACHES AND BENCH PERSONNEL

All participants must be eligible under the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA. Only one school team sponsored by a member school is eligible to participate.

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.

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.

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.

All Board approved coaches in the dugout must be in uniform as required by NFHS Rules.

The only other personnel permitted in the dugout during the contest are a scorekeeper, Athletic Trainer, and Team Manager. These individuals must be identified on the official OHSAA travel party list. Only 28 individuals are permitted in the dugout, including players.

3. TOURNAMENT ENTRY AND PAPERWORK REQUIREMENTS

Member schools wanting to participate in the 2026 OHSAA Baseball Tournament must indicate their intent to participate within FinalForms through their readiness checklist, specifically under 'Verify Sports' and 'OHSAA Tournament Participation' sections. The deadline for tournament entry confirmation is April 27, 2026. Schools that change their tournament participation after April 27, 2026 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 game, 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 17 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 18 and scheduled to be completed by May 23. The District Tournaments will be conducted during the following week, ending May 30. 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 3-3-1*).

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. FAILURE TO APPEAR

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, IV, V, VI and VII for 2026 shall be:

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
Central District	**6**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**1**
East District	**0***	**0**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**
Northeast District	**4**	**8**	**6**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**3**
Northwest District	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**6**
Southeast District	**0***	**0**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**
Southwest District	**6**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
TOTALS:	***16***	***16***	***16***	***16***	***16***	***16***	***16***

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

10. TOURNAMENT SEEDING AND DRAWING PROCEDURES

The established date for all seeding and drawing meetings is Sunday, May 10, 2026 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 Baseball Tournaments. **All teams assigned to the first round of the tournament shall be seeded.** For purposes of seeding, the last contests 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 $150.

Sample brackets will be distributed to each manager. The tournament manager will distribute brackets to representatives of participating teams.

All brackets shall designate date and time of contest. Through the District Tournaments, the home team is determined by the District Athletic Board. From the Regional to State Tournaments, the home team being listed on the top of the bracket.

11. GAME RULES

The 2026 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, 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 start 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 any time 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. If the coaches and umpires cannot agree, the final decision will be made by the plate umpire.

12. 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.

13. GAME BALL

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

14. PITCH COUNTS

The OHSAA pitch count rule is in effect during all postseason games. If a game starts one day and goes on after midnight (i.e., 12:01 AM), this does not mean a pitcher that is only eligible the following day is now able to enter the game. By tournament operation management, the pitch count rule applies for the day the game started on. No new pitcher is eligible to come in at 12:01 AM, as the "start of a new day".

EXAMPLE: If a game starts at 10:00 PM on a Saturday due to weather delays and the duration of the game is played past midnight (i.e., 12:01 AM), the new "day" does not start at 12:01 AM, allowing a pitcher that is eligible to pitch starting on Sunday based on the Ohio pitch count rule. The continuation of the game beyond midnight is still considered to be a contest that starts and ends on Saturday.

15. ADMISSION

SPECTATORS

The admission fee for Sectional and District tournament tickets shall be $5.00 for students and $10.00 for adults and will be available for sale on the OHSAA Ticketing webpage.

NOTE: Children under the age of five are provided complimentary admission.

TEAM

28 persons, including a maximum of 22 players in uniform, shall be admitted at the pass gate by the OHSAA travel party list, which is to be certified by the Principal or Principal's designee. Following the completion of the District Tournament, this travel party list and all other tournament forms shall be transmitted electronically to the Regional Tournament manager.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Each participating school will receive complimentary admission for 8 school administrators, digitally, through HomeTown Ticketing. One digital code will be provided to each school. Each code will have 8 tickets attached to the code. The same code will be utilized, as a school advances in the tournament.

16. AWARDS

Awards presented at the site of the District or State Tournaments must be approved by the OHSAA.

SECTIONAL – Awards will not be presented.

DISTRICT – Team trophies will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams, and medals will be presented to the participating members of the championship and runner-up teams.

REGIONAL – Team trophies will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams, and medals will be presented to the participating members of the championship and runner-up teams.

STATE – Team trophies will be presented to the championship and runner-up teams, and medals will be presented to the participating members of the championship and runner-up teams.

NOTE: Additional awards can be ordered through Croton Craft by calling 1-800-947-5521

17. PRESS, RADIO & 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**.**

18. 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.

19. 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 or fighting shall be reported to the OHSAA Director of Officiating by the Tournament Manager. The OHSAA Director of Officiating will investigate the situation and may impose additional penalties in accordance with *Bylaw 11* if the situation warrants it.

20. 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 invoice the school for the cost of any damages caused by competing schools. If damage is extensive, the District Athletic Board or Board of Directors will become involved. Student crowd control at state sponsored tournaments is the responsibility of the administrative staff of the competing schools.

21. SPONSORSHIP AND RIGHTS

The OHSAA is the sponsoring organization for the baseball tournaments. The OHSAA reserves all rights 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 Office for the Regional and State Tournaments.

22. 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, unless reviewed by the OHSAA Office.

23. RAFFLES

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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

Recognition: Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials shall be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning 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. A 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 change), 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 lighting 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.

2026 REGIONAL BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

Tuesday, June 2 through Thursday, June 4, 2026

1. REGULATIONS

The regulations for Sectional and District Baseball Tournaments shall apply to the Regional Baseball Tournament. The following Regulations are in addition to those listed above.

2. ADMISSION

The admission fee for Regional Tournament tickets shall be $5.00 for students and $12.00 for adults and will be available for sale on the OHSAA Ticketing webpage.
NOTE: Children under the age of five are provided complimentary admission.

Team and school personnel admission procedures are the same as Sectional and District Tournaments.

3. 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 the original date of the semifinal, they will be played on the next playable day, with the finals the following day after the semifinals have concluded.

4. 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.

5. TOURNAMENT DRAW

Tournament draws were conducted by the OHSAA Staff. All semifinal games will be at 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM and the final game will be played at 5:00 PM unless otherwise noted. The top team in the bracket will be the home team.

98th STATE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Thursday, June 11 – Sunday, June 14, 2026
7 17 Union Park in Akron, Ohio
Thurman Munson Stadium in Canton, Ohio

1. REGULATIONS

The regulations for Sectional, District and Regional Baseball Tournaments shall apply to the State Baseball Tournament. The following Regulations are in addition to those listed above.

2. DATES, PAIRINGS & ORDER OF PLAY

The State Baseball Tournaments will be played on June 11, 12 13 and 14, 2026. The order of games for 2026 will be:

Division IV
Division VI
Division III
Division VII
Division I
Division V
Division II

NOTE: The Executive Director's Office reserves the right to adjust games and order of play, if necessary.

3. TOURNAMENT DRAW

The Tournament Draw was 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 2026 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 10:30 AM Monday, June 8, 2026.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

SPECTATORS

The admission fee for State Tournament tickets shall be $10.00 for students and $16.00 for adults and will be available for sale on the OHSAA Ticketing webpage.

NOTE: Children under the age of five are provided complimentary admission.

TEAM

32 persons, including a maximum of 22 players in uniform, shall be admitted at the pass gate by complimentary bag tags, which will be distributed to teams upon arrival at the State Tournament venue. An additional 4 individuals are permitted in the dugout (for a total of 32) at the State Tournament venue, compared to the previous rounds of tournaments.

School personnel admission procedure is the same as Sectional, District and Regional Tournaments.

8. SITE MANAGER/SPONSORSHIP

The State Baseball Tournament is under the supervision and sponsorship of the OHSAA. The supervision at the host site of 7 17 Union Park is under the direction of Akron RubberDucks General Manager, Jim Pfander and Sam Dankoff. The supervision at the host site of Thurman Munson is under the direction of Joe Bogdan and Ed Rehfus. The OHSAA tournament manager is Emily Mason, OHSAA Senior Sport Administrator.

9. POSTPONED GAMES

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

10. MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Requests for media credentials must be submitted in advance by contacting Director of Media Relations, Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org), at the OHSAA. All requests for tape-delay telecasting must be made through Tim Stried. Credentials will be held for pickup at the site.