



Ohio High School Athletic Association

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214 • 614-267-2502 • www.ohsaa.org

May 2021

To: Regional Softball Tournament Qualifier

Congratulations on your district softball championship and your qualification to the 2021 OHSAA Regional Tournament!

Regional site managers have been instructed to provide you with information specific to their site. Many will have provided this to you along with this information at your district championship game. If they have not done this, you or your athletic administrator should contact the regional manager for any site-specific information. Please note that sites and game times are subject to change at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office. Regional pairings and regional manager information can be accessed here:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Softball/Softball-2021/2021-Softball-Statewide-Tournament-Brackets>

With turnaround time so quick between the various rounds of the tournament, we need you to complete information **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** (but no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 25) in order for this information to be used for the regional tournament and, if needed, the state tournament. Here is a link to the OHSAA website that takes you to the forms that are needed: <https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/softball/tournament-info>.

The forms include:

- School information form
- Team roster/pass list
- Season results
- Team photograph identification form
- Team stats forms
- State tournament information form
- Team media coverage form

We also need you to send a high-resolution team photo to Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Media Relations, at tstried@ohsaa.org **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** (but no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 25).

Note: Printouts of the forms are included in this packet so you can view what is available online.

If you are successful, win the regional championship and qualify for the state tournament, please send any updates to Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org) **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** (but no later than 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 1).

More information regarding the regional and state tournaments follows. Please read this information since it will hopefully answer any questions you may have. Should you reach the state tournament, you will be provided with a more extensive state tournament participants manual. We appreciate your cooperation in meeting our deadline, and best of luck to you and your team!

Sincerely,

The OHSAA Sport Management Staff

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Regional Sites

It is necessary to secure and contract sites well in advance of the regional tournament. The Executive Director is authorized to move individual game sites and or times. This CAN and MAY occur when possible to accommodate graduations and other travel concerns.

Regulations

Please review all OHSAA softball tournament regulations here:

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

Tournament Draw/Home Team Designation

The HOME teams in all semifinal and final games have been pre-drawn and will be the TOP team on the bracket.

Admission & Ticket Information

Tickets for all regional softball sites are \$12.00 per person (adult & student). All ticketing will be digital and handled by the OHSAA's online ticketing partner HomeTown Ticketing.

Batting Practice at Regional Sites

Batting practice is permitted at regional sites prior to tournament games but is not mandatory at the game field. Please make sure you check well ahead of time with the regional site manager for his/her policy and procedure.

Reminder Regarding Coaching Eligibility

All coaches in the dugout must comply with dress code regulations as described in the NFHS Rules Book and the OHSAA Softball Manual. Only coaches with valid Pupil Activity Coaching Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education are permitted to coach and be in uniform in the dugout.

Size of Squad Permitted in Dugout/On Field

In addition to the eligible coaches mentioned above, each team is limited to twenty-two (22) players in uniform.

Championship Game Awards

Team trophies will be awarded to the runner-up and champion following the regional final.

Umpires

Umpires for the regional tournament have been assigned by the Executive Director's Office. The umpires assigned for the tournaments are determined by a combination rating/voting system approved by the Board of Directors. Names of the officials will not be announced in advance of the games. Just as in all games and in accordance with NFHS Rules, the decisions and rulings of the officials will be final.

STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

State Finalists Meeting

There will be a mandatory state finalists meeting on **Tuesday, June 1, at 11:30 a.m.** This meeting will be held virtually this year via Microsoft Teams. A link will be shared with schools after winning the regional tournament. A draft of the agenda for the meeting follows in this packet.

Postponed Games/Graduation Conflicts

In the event of postponements, attempts will be made to reschedule the postponed games in their original order. Though not every situation can be accommodated, the Executive Director reserves the right to alter game schedules to accommodate graduation conflicts. **Please make certain to complete the school information sheet that requests you to submit your graduation date/time.**

Hotel Information

Hotel reservations are **not** made for competing teams. However, information on available hotels in the Akron-Canton area along with room rates has already been provided to each school (see a hotel flyer later in packet for the preferred hotel). The Akron/Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau is pleased to assist you with hotel reservations. The CVB can also assist on directions along with area attractions, points of interest and restaurants. Here is a link to additional information on Akron/Summit County as prepared by the CVB:

www.visitakron-summit.org/flipbooks/softball21.

Regulations

Please review all OHSAAs softball tournament regulations here:

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

Tournament Draw/Home Team Designation

The HOME teams in all semifinal and final games have been pre-drawn and will be the TOP team on the bracket.

Admission & Ticket Information

Tickets for all state softball contests are \$15.00 per person (adult & student). All ticketing will be digital and handled by the OHSAAs online ticketing partner HomeTown Ticketing.

Team Admittance and Passes

Each team will be provided commemorative state tournament passes to be used for admission to Firestone Stadium for any game of the OHSAAs State Tournament. The passes will be picked up prior to your entry to the stadium. Additionally, eight complimentary passcodes for online tickets are provided for you to distribute to school administrators.

State Tournament Practices

Pre-game practices are permitted on adjacent fields that will be assigned and covered/reviewed at the finalists meeting.

Reminder Regarding Coaching Eligibility

All coaches in the dugout must comply with dress code regulations as described in the NFHS Rules Book and the OHSAAs Softball Manual. Only coaches with valid Pupil Activity Coaching Permits issued by the Ohio Department of Education are permitted to coach and be in uniform in the dugout.

Size of Squad Permitted in Dugout/On Field

In addition to the eligible coaches mentioned above, each team is limited to twenty-two (22) players in uniform.

STATE TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Championship Game Awards

Team trophies will be awarded to the runner-up and champion following the state final. In addition, twenty-three (23) medals will be provided to the runner-up and championship team.

Umpires

Umpires for the state tournament have been assigned by the Executive Director's Office. The umpires assigned for the tournaments are determined by a combination rating/voting system approved by the Board of Directors. Names of the officials will not be announced in advance of the games. Just as in all games and in accordance with NFHS Rules, the decisions and rulings of the officials will be final.

2021 OHSAA State Softball Tournament

Firestone Stadium, Akron

Virtual Finalists Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 1, 2021 – 11:30 a.m.

- I. **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS – Doug Ute** (OHSAA Executive Director) and **Melvin Blake** (State Tournament Manager)
- II. **TICKETING – Jacki Windon** (OHSAA Director of External Affairs)
 - a. Participants, Coaches and Team Personnel (Melvin to Cover)
 - b. School Administrators (Comps)
 - c. Spectators
- III. **MEDIA INFORMATION – Tim Stried** (OHSAA Director of Media Relations)
 - a. Team Forms
 - b. Media Requests and Coverage
 - c. Souvenir Programs
 - d. Team Photos
 - e. Post-Game Interviews and Championship Game Post-Game Procedures
- IV. **HOTEL AND AKRON AREA INFORMATION – Mary Tricaso** (Director of Sales, Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau)
- V. **OHSAA INFORMATION – Doug Ute**
 - a. Graduation Issues and Ceremonies On-Site
 - b. Participation Certificates
 - c. Sporting Behavior
 - d. Ceremonial First Pitches on Saturday
 - e. Runner-Up and Championship Medals/Ordering Extras
 - f. Non-Interscholastic Participation Regulation (Non-School Teams)
- VI. **TOURNAMENT INFORMATION – Melvin Blake**
 - a. COVID Protocols
 - b. Pre-Game Practice Schedule/Practice Fields
 - c. Inclement Weather
 - d. Maps
 - e. Important Locations – Pass Gate/Entries, Player Drop Off, Parking, Dugouts, Media Area, Etc.
 - f. Athletic Trainers and EMS
 - g. Championship Game Practices after Winning Semifinals
- VII. **UMPIRES, BATS, ETC. – Jerry Fick** (OHSAA Director of Officiating Development, Softball)
- VIII. **QUESTIONS**

Hilton **Garden Inn**™ Akron-Canton Airport

OFFICIAL HOTEL OF THE OHSAA



STATE FINALS

Our Hotel

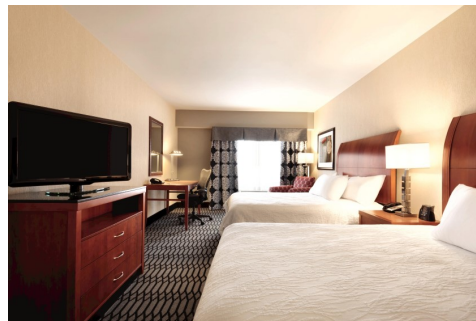
- ◇ Choose from Double Queen or King Rooms
- ◇ Exclusive Tournament rate of \$109 plus tax
- ◇ Only 11.8 miles from Firestone Stadium
- ◇ Call today for your coaches packet!

Team Benefits

- ◇ Complimentary team laundry
- ◇ Complimentary case of water upon arrival
- ◇ Complimentary meeting space based on availability

For more information

- ◇ Contact Sarah today at 330.526.2406
- ◇ Visit us online at www.akroncantonairport.hgi.com
- ◇ Email Sarah at Sarah.Jackson@hilton.com



The Hilton Garden Inn

Akron Canton Airport

5251 Landmark Blvd.

North Canton, OH 44720

P: 330.526.2406

F: 330-966-5265