

2021

**Ohio High School Athletic Association
State Softball Tournament**



**June 3, 4 & 5, 2021
Firestone Stadium, Akron**

Participating Team Manual

WELCOME FROM THE OHSAA

Congratulations! You are one step closer to winning the ultimate prize, a state championship. With the shortened week, many things will happen in the next few days, and this small booklet is designed to help things go smoother. Note that, while most of this will be covered at our state tournament virtual meeting, this provides you information after your regional championship.

Though some of you may have been fortunate enough to play in the state tournament previously at Akron Firestone Stadium, this is certainly the goal of every team and every coach. As the day enters, we cannot stress the importance of “Respecting the Game.” Playing in the state tournament in front of a great crowd at a great venue puts each coach, player and team on center stage. Emotions will be high; your team’s effort will be the best it has been all year, and each player will have a sense of urgency knowing there is ‘no tomorrow.’ There will only be eight teams entering Saturday who are still playing softball in Ohio – a tremendous accomplishment! The umpires have also achieved a milestone and will put forth their best effort. Please respect this and respect the efforts of many who have worked to make this a memorable experience for you, your players and your school community.

The OHSAA; Akron/Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau; City of Akron Sports and Athletic Division, and the staff at Firestone Stadium welcome you, are here to assist you and wish you the best of luck during your participation in one of the greatest high school softball tournaments in the country!

Sport Management Staff
Ohio High School Athletic Association

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

***Executive Director is authorized to change game dates/times when necessary. This will primarily be done to work around graduations.**

Thurs., June 3 – 10:00 a.m.	Division I Semifinal
Thurs., June 3 – 12:30 p.m.	Division I Semifinal
Thurs., June 3 – 3:00 p.m.	Division IV Semifinal
Thurs., June 3 – 5:30 p.m.	Division IV Semifinal
Fri., June 4 – 10:00 a.m.	Division III Semifinal
Fri., June 4 – 12:30 p.m.	Division III Semifinal
Fri., June 4 – 3:00 p.m.	Division II Semifinal
Fri., June 4 – 5:30 p.m.	Division II Semifinal
Sat., June 5 – 10:00 a.m.	Division I Final
Sat., June 5 – 1:00 p.m.	Division IV Final
Sat., June 5 – 4:00 p.m.	Division III Final
Sat., June 5 – 7:00 p.m.	Division II Final

CONTACT INFORMATION

Doug Ute, <i>OHSAA Executive Director</i>	Office: 614-267-2502	Cell: 740-262-0259	dute@ohsaa.org
Melvin Blake, <i>Game Manager</i>	Office: 330-375-2855	Cell: 330-208-5884	mblake@akronohio.gov
Mary Tricaso, <i>Director of Sales</i> Akron Summit Convention/Visitors Bureau	Office: 330-374-8926	Cell: 330-714-0400	mtricaso@visitakron-summit.org
Beau Rugg, <i>OHSAA Director of Officiating and Sport Management</i>	Office: 614-267-2502	Cell: 614-738-3559	brugg@ohsaa.org
Jerry Fick, <i>OHSAA Director of Officiating Development</i>	Office: N/A	Cell: 513-673-9900	swdoc@fuse.net

TEAM PASSES AND PASS GATE INFORMATION

Twenty-two players, manager/head coach, assistant coach, scorekeeper, plus five others (30 total) will be admitted at the pass gate by the official OHSAA pass list certified by the principal of the high school. These are the individuals permitted in the team dugout. This pass list will be used at the pass gate for all sessions of the tournament. The official pass list will include space for admission for the bus driver and one guest (shall not be in the dugout or bench area). Credentials provided to these 30 individuals will provide admission for any of the 12 games of the state tournament.

Any additional players, coaches, etc. that are NOT on the official pass list to the contest will require a pre-purchased digital ticket. Tickets are \$15. Each school athletic administrator will be sent pass codes for digital tickets that will provide complimentary tickets for eight school administrators to the contest(s) in which your school participates.

TICKET INFORMATION

All tickets for spectators will be digital and handled through the OHSAA's electronic ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing. Passcodes for purchasing tickets being issued by the athletic administrators from the participating schools according to the spectator capacity limit established by Akron Firestone Stadium. Schools are asked to make sure the passcodes are distributed to family members and loved ones of the student-athletes and participants first. To ensure family members and loved ones gain access to tickets, encourage them to purchase their tickets well in advance of your school's contest. No refunds will be issued unless a contest is not played, and there will be no sale of hard tickets at Akron Firestone Stadium. All tickets are \$15 per person per contest.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Hotel reservations are **not** made for competing teams. However, hotel 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 this manual 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.

PARKING AND FAN INFORMATION

There is adequate parking available for fans and anyone not riding the team bus to Firestone Stadium. Parking in the lots and streets around the Firestone Stadium complex is free.

No coolers, glass bottles, cans, or alcoholic beverages are permitted in Firestone Stadium. There is also no re-entry into the stadium. Please encourage fans to bring all necessary items with them before they enter the ballpark.

As of the April revised Ohio Department of Health Director's Order, spectators are permitted to sit in pods of 10 and they do not have to be from the same household. However, that pod must still maintain six-feet social distancing from other pods or individuals. All other individuals must continue to maintain six-feet social distancing.

The ODH Director's Order also says all spectators must continue to wear facial coverings outdoors if they are unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their family/household (an individual also does not need to wear a facial covering if one of the exceptions is met). Even though CDC guidelines were updated on April 27, the CDC still says "While generally safe for vaccinated people to be outdoors without a mask, CDC continues to recommend requiring masking in crowded settings and venues where there is a decreased ability to maintain physical distance until widespread vaccination coverage is achieved." Also note that a local health department has the authority to enact more stringent policies than the Health Director's Order.

TEAM PHOTOS

The OHSAA's designated photographer will take a photograph of each team in the outfield prior to each semifinal contest. Photos of the runner-up and championship teams will also be taken following the awards ceremony on Saturday.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMS

Souvenir programs will be sold at the state tournament and provided to the participants at no cost. Procedures for submission of materials for the program by the state qualifiers will be provided by the OHSAA Office.

MEDIA INFORMATION

Credentials may be obtained by contacting Tim Stried, Director of Media Relations at the OHSAA, at 614-267-2502, ext. 124, or tstried@ohsaa.org. All media arrangements are to be made prior to the state tournament. Approval of all television broadcasts, video streaming, radio broadcasts and audio streaming of state tournament contests must be approved in advance and are subject to a rights fee charge.

PREGAME INTRODUCTIONS

Player introductions will be done with both teams on the baselines and individual names of ALL players and coaches introduced. Additionally, there **may** be a ceremonial first pitch thrown out prior to each of the games, which may slightly alter the starting time for the contests.

UMPIRE DECISIONS

It is an honor for umpires to be selected to work the state tournament. Umpires will work in four-person crews and have been selected through the system adopted by the OHSAA's Board of Directors that includes input from coaches and school athletic administrators. As is the case all season long, all decisions/calls made by umpires are FINAL. There is no video replay.

Jerry Fick, the OHSAA's Director of Officiating Development for softball, will be in attendance at all state tournament contests.

DUGOUTS AND OUTFIELD FENCE DIMENSIONS

The home team will be in the third base dugout and the visiting team will be in the first base dugout. The permanent, six-foot-high homerun fence is 200 feet down the left and right field lines and 225 feet to straightaway center field.

SUSPENDED GAMES / ORDER OF GAMES

Though the schedule of games is set up in advance, the OHSAA Executive Director is authorized to **change the order of contests** to accommodate graduation dates/times. Teams were asked to submit graduation dates after their district championship contests. Though efforts will be made to accommodate each school, there will still need to be flexibility and understanding for schools with graduation conflicts. In the event of suspended games or postponed games, the OHSAA and Firestone Stadium staff will remain in contact with schools regarding rescheduled times. The Firestone Stadium administrators and grounds crews will have the final authority on playing contests depending upon the condition of the field.

PLAYER LIMITATIONS

OHSAA Tournament Regulations permit 22 players in uniform for OHSAA tournament games. Only these 22 are permitted on the field for warm-ups as well as in the dugout during the contest. Should your team win its semifinal game, players may be replaced on the 22-player roster so long as they are eligible student-athletes. Also, all coaches must be in required attire.

If any player not listed on the 22-player roster were to participate in a contest, she would be deemed an ineligible participant and that contest would be a forfeiture.

Additionally, please remind all players on your teams **NOT** to participate in any tryouts, practices or contests with any upcoming summer/travel (non-school) team OR in any all-star game. Doing so would violate the non-interscholastic regulation and render the player immediately ineligible. Please remind each of your players.

THURSDAY GAME SCHEDULE

ALL game dates and/or times are subject to change at discretion of the Executive Director

Division I State Semifinal: Thursday, June 3 – 10:00 a.m.

8:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
8:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
9:25 – 9:35	Home Team Infield Practice
9:36 – 9:46	Away Team Infield Practice
9:47 – 9:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
9:52 – 10:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
10:01	First Pitch

Division I State Semifinal: Thursday, June 3 – 12:30 p.m.

11:00	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
11:00	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
11:55 – 12:05	Home Team Infield Practice
12:06 – 12:16	Away Team Infield Practice
12:17 – 12:22	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
12:22 – 12:30	Player Introductions & National Anthem
12:31	First Pitch

Division IV State Semifinal: Thursday, June 3 – 3:00 p.m.

1:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
1:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
2:25 – 2:35	Home Team Infield Practice
2:36 – 2:46	Away Team Infield Practice
2:47 – 2:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
2:52 – 3:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
3:01	First Pitch

Division IV State Semifinal: Thursday, June 3 – 5:30 p.m.

4:00	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
4:00	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
4:55 – 5:05	Home Team Infield Practice
5:06 – 5:16	Away Team Infield Practice
5:17 – 5:22	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
5:22 – 5:30	Player Introductions & National Anthem
5:31	First Pitch

FRIDAY GAME SCHEDULE

ALL game dates and/or times are subject to change at discretion of the Executive Director

Division III State Semifinal: Friday, June 4 – 10:00 a.m.

8:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
8:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
9:25 – 9:35	Home Team Infield Practice
9:36 – 9:46	Away Team Infield Practice
9:47 – 9:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
9:52 – 10:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
10:01	First Pitch

Division III State Semifinal: Friday, June 4 – 12:30 p.m.

11:00	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
11:00	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
11:55 – 12:05	Home Team Infield Practice
12:06 – 12:16	Away Team Infield Practice
12:17 – 12:22	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
12:22 – 12:30	Player Introductions & National Anthem
12:31	First Pitch

Division II State Semifinal: Friday, June 4 – 3:00 p.m.

1:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
1:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
2:25 – 2:35	Home Team Infield Practice
2:36 – 2:46	Away Team Infield Practice
2:47 – 2:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
2:52 – 3:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
3:01	First Pitch

Division II State Semifinal: Friday, June 4 – 5:30 p.m.

4:00	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
4:00	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
4:55 – 5:05	Home Team Infield Practice
5:06 – 5:16	Away Team Infield Practice
5:17 – 5:22	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
5:22 – 5:30	Player Introductions & National Anthem
5:31	First Pitch

SATURDAY GAME SCHEDULE

ALL game dates and/or times are subject to change at discretion of the Executive Director

Division I State Final: Saturday, June 5 – 10:00 a.m.

8:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
8:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
9:25 – 9:35	Home Team Infield Practice
9:36 – 9:46	Away Team Infield Practice
9:47 – 9:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
9:52 – 10:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
10:01	First Pitch

Division IV State Final: Saturday, June 5 – 1:00 p.m.

11:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
11:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
12:25 – 12:35	Home Team Infield Practice
12:36 – 12:46	Away Team Infield Practice
12:47 – 12:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
12:52 – 1:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
1:01	First Pitch

Division III State Final: Saturday, June 5 – 4:00 p.m.

2:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
2:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
3:25 – 3:35	Home Team Infield Practice
3:36 – 3:46	Away Team Infield Practice
3:47 – 3:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
3:52 – 4:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
4:01	First Pitch

Division II State Final: Saturday, June 5 – 7:00 p.m.

5:30	Home Team: Pre-game practice on Pony Field
5:30	Away Team: Pre-game practice on Colonial Salt Field
6:25 – 6:35	Home Team Infield Practice
6:36 – 6:46	Away Team Infield Practice
6:47 – 6:52	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
6:52 – 7:00	Player Introductions & National Anthem
7:01	First Pitch

CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AWARDS CEREMONIES

Awards Ceremony to Follow Each Championship Game

(NOTE: This procedure is subject to modification due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

The presentation of trophies and awards is the culmination of a great season by both teams. We ask head coaches, assistant coaches and administrators to assist with players maintaining and exhibiting good sportsmanship before, during and after the awards presentation. A few important aspects of this that are expected:

- Each player and coach is expected to have the medal placed around their neck
- Each player and coach should KEEP the medal around their neck and maintain this during the presentation
- Each player and coach should remain on the baseline during the awards presentation for the opposing team

After the first wave of celebrating has subsided, please assist by having your team form a line along the baseline in front of your dugout. The following is the order of presentation:

Runner-Up Team

The runner-up awards will be presented first. As the name of each player and coach is called, they will report to the awards table for their award. After they receive their award, they will return to their place along the baseline. The head coach will be called last. While the coach is at the table, the captain, co-captains or seniors will be asked to come forward for the team trophy presentation. Please remain in position until all awards have been given to the championship team as well.

Championship Team

The championship awards will be presented next. As the name of each player and coach is called, they will report to the awards table for their award. After they receive their award, they will return to their place along the baseline. The head coach will be called last. While the coach is at the table, the captain, co-captains or seniors will be asked to come forward for the team trophy presentation.

Twenty-three (23) medals are awarded at the state tournament level. Since many teams have more individuals on their roster than the number of awards given, **please review this carefully** prior to the championship game so there are no 'hurt feelings' for those that do not receive awards. If there are others that you wish to order medals for (other assistant coaches, managers, trainers, etc.), this can be done through contacting Travis Nethers at Croton Craft Awards at 1-800-947-5521 or crotoncraft@gmail.com.

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FIRESTONE STADIUM COMPLEX



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



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