

13. SOFTBALL – GIRLS

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day.
Exception: teams and individuals may play and participate in 3 games per day on a non-school day one time during the regular season.
- 1.2) Teams – No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates.
Note: Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy.
- 1.21) Any scheduled game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc., is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost records.
- 1.22) Any team exceeding the regular season participation limitation shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.
- 1.3) Individuals
- 1.31) An individual in grades 9-12 may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus OHSAA-sponsored tournaments.
- 1.32) An individual in grades 7-8 may play on a maximum of 21 playing dates plus one postseason or league/conference tournament.
- 1.33) If an individual plays a game at any level on separate dates, each game counts toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game on Monday and a varsity game on a Wednesday. Participation in both games counts as two dates toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)
- 1.34) If an individual plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game in the same day, each contest does not count toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game on a Thursday. Participation in both games counts as one date toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)
- Note:** If the games described in 1.34 are occurring simultaneously, that same individual may not re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred.
- 1.4) Interrupted Games
- 1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF 4-3-1), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.
- 1.42) A game which has gone five innings and is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed and the following situation prevails shall be a suspended game:
The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead.
A suspended game that is not completed at a later date due to the inability to reschedule is considered a “No Contest,” not counted in the won-lost statistics, and both teams are permitted to schedule another contest.
- 1.43) Games cannot end in a tie. Games are either won, lost or suspended.
- 1.5) Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion (10 run rule applicable).
- 1.6) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
- 1.7) Previews – A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Softball Rules.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) Softball Players Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season:

A sports regulation identified as the Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date stipulates that a softball athlete who has not participated for the school team in softball that season must cease non-interscholastic softball competition on the date that regular season competition is permitted to commence in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided all other applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in softball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in softball shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in softball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: **March 27, 2021** – No non-interscholastic competition permitted on or after this date.

- 2.2) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of softball during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2).
- 2.3) A member of a school Softball squad sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic Softball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
 - 2.31) The new definition of a member of a school softball squad is any student who was rostered on an interscholastic team in 2020. This definition serves until the start of the 2021 season. Once the 2021 season has commenced, the definition reverts to any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter.
 - 2.32) The number of interscholastic softball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together or participate together in any non-interscholastic event. Rotating players that would exceed this number (4) is not permitted and the use of any substitute players on a non-interscholastic roster would be counted as one of the 4 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.

Note: Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic softball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of softball are exempt from this limitation.
 - 2.33) There is no limit on the number of softball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend (May 28, 2021)–July 31, provided the players have concluded their school season.
 - 2.34) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
 - 2.35) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.4) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic softball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school softball squad, until the student's school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.
- 2.5) All-Star Games – “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school softball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-Interscholastic Competition. The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.
- 2.6) Participation in indoor Softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2020 – February 1, 2021, for student-athletes.

3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at OHSAA.org. Please note the removal of the no-contact period for August, 2020 only.

4) No Contact Period – Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period – Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at OHSAA.org.

5) Penalties

- 5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic softball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic softball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic softball season or the ensuing softball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.
- 5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspen-

sion, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Executive Director may deem appropriate.

6) Transfer Bylaw

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, <http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school softball within 12 months of the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests, scrimmages, and the OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #15.

7) Other Bylaws and Regulations

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at OHSAA.org. For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 on the Eligibility Page at OHSAA.org.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 9-12

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 22, 2021.

2) First game — March 27, 2021.

3) The pitching distance shall be 43 feet.

4) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 26, 2021.

5) Tournament seed/drawing meeting — May 2, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

6) Coaching and Season end — Saturday after state tournament (June 12, 2021).

7) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview.

7.1) Scrimmages or previews scheduled against Special Olympics teams, or a team of similar designation, may be approved by the OHSAA to be played in addition to the maximum allowable number of scrimmages or previews. A waiver for approval of such contests can be found on the “Softball” section of the OHSAA website (OHSAA.org). This waiver must be submitted to, and approved by, the OHSAA softball administrator prior to the contest taking place.

8) Regular season games permitted (team) — Maximum of 27 (on 27 playing dates).

9) Rules — National Federation Softball.

10) Uniform Rules — National Federation Softball.

11) Officials:

11.1) Varsity — Regardless of the number of officials, all must be OHSAA Class 1.

Note: A Class 2 official may be used in emergency situations only with permission from the OHSAA Officiating Department. If a Class 2 official is used in a varsity game, the Class 1 shall be the lead Official and determine which official will work the plate.

11.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Regardless of the number of officials, minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 required.

11.3) Freshmen — Regardless of the number of officials, all must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

11.4) If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches mutually agree.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — GRADES 7 & 8

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 22, 2021.

2) Date first game may be played — March 27, 2021.

3) The pitching distance shall be 40 feet.

4) Coaching and Season end — June 12, 2021.

5) Scrimmages permitted — A maximum of two scrimmages per year.

6) Regular season games permitted — Maximum 17 and one postseason, league/conference tournament not to exceed four games.

7) Rules — National Federation Softball.

8) Uniform Rules — National Federation Softball.

SOFTBALL 2020-2021

9) **Officials — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.**

Softball	2021	2022	2023	2024
Coach — No Contact Period	N/A	8/1-8/31/21	8/1-8/31/22	8/1-8/31/23
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	2/22	2/21	2/20	2/19
Season Begins	3/27	3/26	3/25	3/23
Sectional	5/8-5/15	5/7-5/14	5/6-5/13	5/4-5/11
District	5/17-5/22	5/16-5/21	5/15-5/20	5/13-5/18
Regional	5/26-5/29	5/25-5/28	5/24-5/27	5/22-5/25
State	6/3-6/5	6/2-6/4	6/1-6/3	5/30-6/1
Season Ends	6/12	6/11	6/10	6/8
Easter	4/4	4/17	4/9	3/31

SOFTBALL — GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

2021-2025-2029	2022-2026-2030	2023-2027-2031	2024-2028-2032
I	II	III	IV
IV	I	II	III
III	IV	I	II
II	III	IV	I