

# 2026 Ohio High School Athletic Association



## State Softball Participant Manual



June 3 – June 7, 2026  
Firestone Stadium, Akron, OH

## WELCOME FROM THE OHSAA

Congratulations on qualifying for the OHSAA State Softball Tournament Semifinals and Finals! The student-athletes, coaches and fans have a unique opportunity to experience and compete at Firestone Stadium, in Akron, OH. The Akron/Summit Convention and Visitors Bureau and City of Akron Sports and Athletic Division are excited to host the state semifinals and finals and look forward to providing a positive championship experience.

This participant manual is to be utilized in conjunction with the OHSAA Tournament Regulations and provides pertinent information for teams and administrators planning to attend the event. Coaches and administrators are encouraged to share pertinent information regarding parking, tickets, venue policies, etc. with parents and fans.

Again, congratulations on your outstanding achievements thus far this season, and for qualifying for this year's state tournament semifinals and finals. I understand the dedication and hard work it takes to achieve this opportunity and wish you all the best of luck this week!

Respectfully,



Sport Administrator - Softball  
Ohio High School Athletic Association

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### OHSAA STAFF CONTACTS

**Kelly Schoenly**, *OHSAA Sport Administrator/Tournament Manager*      Cell: 614-313-9563      [kschoenly@ohsaa.org](mailto:kschoenly@ohsaa.org)  
**Tim Stried**, *OHSAA Director of Media Relations*      Cell: 614-406-0475      [tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org)  
**John Kronour**, *OHSAA Director of Sport Administration*      Cell: 937-581-5275      [jkronour@ohsaa.org](mailto:jkronour@ohsaa.org)  
**Jerry Fick**, *OHSAA Director of Officiating Development*      Cell: 513-673-9900      [jfick@ohsaa.org](mailto:jfick@ohsaa.org)

### AKRON STAFF CONTACTS

**Melvin Blake**, *City of Akron/Game Manager*      Cell: 330-208-5884      [mblake@akronohio.gov](mailto:mblake@akronohio.gov)  
**Cindy Coontz**, *Akron Summit CVB*      Phone: 330-374-8935      [ccoontz@visitakron-summit.org](mailto:ccoontz@visitakron-summit.org)

## TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**State Tournament Site.** Firestone Stadium located in Akron, OH

Firestone Stadium  
1575 Firestone Pkwy,  
Akron, OH 44301

**Coaches' Meeting.** There will be a mandatory pre-tournament meeting for participating coaches, school administrators, Director of Officiating Development and OHSAA staff. This meeting will be virtual and take place on **Monday, June 1, 2026 at 11:00AM ET.**

**Administration.** The administration and conduct of the OHSAA State Softball Tournament shall be under the control and direction of the Sport Administrator and is subject to the standards and requirements set forth by OHSAA guidelines. The Executive Director, or designated representative, has the authority to make procedural or protest decisions during the event.

**The Tournament Committee.** The OHSAA Tournament Committee will consist of the following individuals. All decisions such as weather rules and protests are to be handled through this committee. A majority vote is required for all action.

Kelly Schoenly, OHSAA Sport Administrator  
Jerry Fick, OHSAA Director of Officiating Development  
Melvin Blake, City of Akron/Game Manager

**Home/Visitor Team Determination and Dugout Assignments.** The home team shall be the team listed on the top of the bracket and will occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout. The visiting team will be the bottom team listed on the bracket and shall occupy the 1<sup>st</sup> base dugout.

**Game Ball.** The optic yellow Rawlings C12RYL-OH softball will be used for all tournament games.

**Team Meals.** Coaches wishing to order food for the team must have the food delivered to the team bus or have it delivered to the Team Entrance for pick up. The OHSAA and staff at Firestone Stadium are not responsible for coordinating food pick up.

**Parent-Team Meeting Areas.** Designated parent meeting areas shall be established for teams to meet after the games. Please ask parents not to congregate around the media interview areas, and to wait for the team in the designated areas. See below for locations. Home team: picnic area outside left field. Visiting team: bleachers outside right field.



Home Team Parent Meeting Location (Picnic area)

Visiting Team Parent Meeting Location (Bleachers near right field)

# STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**\*The Executive Director, or his or her designee, is authorized to change game dates/times when necessary.  
This will primarily be done to work around graduations.**

<b>Wednesday, June 3th</b>	
Game 1 10:00 am	Semifinal #1 Division I
Game 2 12:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division I
Game 3 3:00 pm	Semifinal #1 Division VI
Game 4 5:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division VI

<b>Thursday, June 4th</b>	
Game 5 10:00 am	Semifinal #1 Division VII
Game 6 12:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division VII
Game 7 3:00 pm	Final Division I
Game 8 5:30 pm	Final Division VI

<b>Friday, June 5th</b>	
Game 9 10:00 am	Semifinal #1 Division III
Game 10 12:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division III
Game 11 3:00 pm	Semifinal #1 Division IV
Game 12 5:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division IV
Game 13 8:00 pm	Final Division VII

<b>Saturday, June 6th</b>	
Game 14 10:00 am	Semifinal #1 Division V
Game 15 12:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division V
Game 16 3:00 pm	Semifinal #1 Division II
Game 17 5:30 pm	Semifinal #2 Division II
Game 18 8:00 pm	Final Division III

<b>Sunday, June 7th</b>	
Game 19 11:00 am	Final Division IV
Game 20 1:30 pm	Final Division V
Game 21 4:00 pm	Final Division II

# PRACTICE SCHEDULE

**Practice Opportunities.** The practice field adjacent to the stadium will be available for teams. Teams will be assigned a time at which they may practice. Please see the game schedules listed further in this manual. Teams are responsible for bringing their own equipment for practice (bats, balls, etc.).

**Practice Field (next to stadium)** Located on the corner of Wilbeth Rd and Firestone PKWY just south of the Stadium on the same side of the road. \*See below for map

There will be four batting cages available between the fields behind the outfield fence in center field. Your team will be assigned a batting cage time. There is an L screen in each cage.



## FACILITY INFORMATION

**Locker Rooms/Showers.** Locker room facilities will not be available for teams. Locker rooms will only be used during a weather delay.

**Restrooms.** Restrooms are located underneath the main seating at field level and outside on the south side of the stadium.

**Field Lights.** A coach's request to turn on field lights must be made through the umpire-in-chief. Lights will be turned on only upon completion of a full inning unless the umpire-in-chief feels that conditions warrant immediate use.

**Dugouts and Field.** Please take note of the information below regarding the field at Firestone Stadium.

- **NO sunflower seeds or shelled nuts**
- **NO food**
- **NO tobacco products**
- **NO chewing gum**
- **NO metal cleats**
- **NO smoking**
- **NO driving stakes**
- **NO fireworks, poppers, sparklers**
- **NO dumping of liquids (e.g. Gatorade)**

\*Water is the only liquid that may be dumped on the field



# DAILY GAME SCHEDULE

**ALL game dates and/or times are subject to change at discretion of the Executive Director or his or her designee.  
Pre-game practice shall be held on the designated practice field.**

## START TIME – GENERAL TIMELINE

1:45 - 1:15 prior to game time	Home Team Pony Field/ Visiting Team Cages
1:12 - 42:00 prior to game time	Visiting Team Pony Field/Home Team Cages
37:00 - 27:00 prior to game time	Home Team Infield Practice – Game Field
26:00 - 16:00 prior to game time	Visiting Team Infield Practice – Game Field
15:00 prior to game time	Pregame Umpire/Coach Meeting - Photo
10:00 prior to game time	Player Introductions & National Anthem
Game time + 1 minute	First pitch

- When the previous game runs long, infield practice will begin when field is available and follow the timeline as outlined.

## 10:00 AM START TIMELINE- EXAMPLE

8:15 – 8:45	Home Team on Pony Field/ Visiting Team in Cages
8:48 – 9:18	Visiting Team on Pony Field/ Home Team in Cages
9:23 – 9:33	Home Team Infield Practice
9:34 – 9:44	Visiting Team Infield Practice
9:45	Umpire/Coach Pre-Game Conference/Umpire Photos at Home Plate
9:50	Player Introductions & National Anthem
10:01	First Pitch

# TEAM BENCH LIST AND TRAVEL PARTY INFORMATION

**Travel Party/Bench Limit.** A total of 28 Individuals shall be admitted without charge to occupy the dugout. These individuals include a maximum of 22 Players in uniform, and additional personnel including but not limited to coaches, managers, statisticians, team physician(s), athletic trainers, and team personnel.

A commemorative bag tag which will be picked up upon arrival at Firestone Stadium or in advance by one of the coaching staff members. Individuals provided with this commemorative bag tag will be required to show this tag to be admitted and be allowed stadium access at the Team Entrance. Bag tags may grant admission at the main entrance.

## TICKET AND PROGRAM SALES INFORMATION

All OHSAA Tournament tickets will be conducted online. There will be tickets sold at the gate; however, advance purchase is preferred. A QR code will be available at the gate, which will direct them to purchase an online ticket. Every person who pays admission shall receive an electronic ticket. Ticket prices for the OHSAA State Softball Tournament are as follows. No pre-sale or other discounts will be available.

**Adult** - \$16.00

**Student** - \$10.00

**5 and under:** free

**Programs will be available for purchase via credit card only for \$5.00**

**Re-entry is permitted on a case-by-case basis into the stadium and will be managed by the Firestone Stadium staff.**

**Administrator tickets.** Each school athletic administrator will be sent codes for digital tickets that will provide complimentary tickets for eight (8) school administrators to the contest(s) in which his or her school participates. Please note we do not provide parking for this event! No parking passes will be given for administrators.

### Fan Ticketing information

- Fans may visit [www.ohsaa.org/tickets](http://www.ohsaa.org/tickets) to purchase tickets.
- HTT will provide customer support to those purchasing tickets.  
By phone: (614) – 896- 3003  
By email: [fansupport@hometownticketing.com](mailto:fansupport@hometownticketing.com)

## MERCHANDISE

EA Graphics is the official provider of apparel for the OHSAA. Championship memorabilia will be available for purchase on site located on the third base side. Fans may also purchase apparel online [HERE](#).

## PARKING AND FAN INFORMATION

**Parking.** Parking in the streets around the Firestone Stadium complex is free. Fans will be able to park in the Bridgestone Parking Deck after all the parking on the street is full. See maps below for parking locations.

**Entry and Personal Items.** No electronic speakers, coolers, glass bottles, cans, or alcoholic beverages are permitted in Firestone Stadium.

**Concessions.** Concessions for the entire tournament will be available near the main entrance and on the third base side toward the edge of the parking lot.

**Artificial Noisemakers.** Noisemakers are permitted provided they do not interfere with the game as determined by the site manager or officials. **Noisemakers cannot be used DURING LIVE PLAY.** Please help your fans understand the noise should subside when the pitcher is ready to go. Air Horns and noisemakers that require electric or alternate sources of power are not permitted in the facility.

## TEAM PHOTOS

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

## MEDIA INFORMATION

Media credentials may be requested by contacting Tim Stried, Director of Media Relations at the OHSAA ([tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org)). All media arrangements are to be made prior to the state tournament. Approval of all state tournament broadcasts must be approved in advance and are subject to a rights fee charge.

**Note:** Live video at the state tournament is only permitted by the NFHS Network.

## PREGAME INTRODUCTIONS

Player introductions will take place prior to the national anthem. Players may huddle with their team and when announced, line up on the baseline. All starters, non-starters and staff will be announced.

Teams will be informed in advance whether any pre-game presentations will take place (i.e. national anthem singer, awards presentation, etc.) Start times will be adjusted accordingly to accommodate these pre-game presentations.

## UMPIRE INFORMATION

Umpires will be selected and assigned by the OHSAA Director of Officiating Development through the system adopted by the OHSAA's Board of Directors. A four-person crew will be assigned for each game.

Jerry Fick, the OHSAA's Director of Officiating Development for softball, will attend all state tournament games.

## SUSPENDED GAMES / ORDER OF GAMES

The OHSAA Executive Director or his designee is authorized to change the order of contests to accommodate graduation dates/times. Game time consideration will be given to accommodate graduations.

In the event of suspended games or postponed games, the OHSAA will remain in contact with schools regarding rescheduled times. Collaboration with the OHSAA staff, Firestone Stadium administrators, and the OHSAA director of officiating development will have the final authority on playing contests depending upon the weather and the condition of the field.

Due to the volume of games, the OHSAA and Firestone Stadium reserves the right to utilize the Pony Field to play semifinal games in the event of severe weather delays.

In the event of a weather delay, the home team will be escorted to the home locker room and the visiting team will be escorted to the press area. Teams waiting to play in the next game will be directed back to their bus/vehicle of transportation to the venue.

## CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AWARDS CEREMONIES

The presentation of trophies and awards is the culmination of a great season by both teams. We ask that all teams act in a cautious and responsible manner. Below are a few important things to remember:

- Each player and coach are expected to have the medal placed around their neck.
- Each player and coach shall keep the medal around their neck and maintain this during the presentation.
- Each player and coach should remain on the field during the awards presentation to the opposing team.
- School administrators and tournament staff may be on the field and will present the medals or trophy.

Teams will have a short time to briefly celebrate when the game ends. After the first wave of celebrating has subsided, coaches are asked to line the team up on the baseline facing the pitcher's mound.

The OHSAA shall provide twenty-eight (28) medallions for the bench list/travel party of both the runner-up and championship team. The Tournament Director will confirm the names to be announced during the awards ceremony in the event there are last-minute changes. Additional medals may be ordered through Croton Craft Awards, [crotoncraft@gmail.com](mailto:crotoncraft@gmail.com).

### **Runner-Up Team**

The runner-up awards will be presented first. As the name of each player and coach is called, they will step forward and the coach from the school will place the medal around his/her neck. After receiving the award, the athlete will return to the line with the remainder of the team.

The coaching staff will be called last. There will be a brief speech by an OHSAA member. Then, the trophies will be presented.

Please remain in position until all awards have been made to the championship team as well.

### **Championship Team**

The championship team shall be respectful and attentive during the presentation to the runner-up team. As the name of each player and coach is called, they will step forward and the coach from the school will place the medal around his/her neck. After receiving the award, the student-athlete will return to the line with the remainder of the team.

The coaching staff will be called last. An OHSAA Staff member will present a speech congratulating the team. The trophies will be presented.

### **Post-Game Interviews**

Post-game interviews will take place following each game. The head coach and two or three players will be asked to answer questions facilitated by the media. The Firestone Stadium staff will work with each team to notify the coach when it is his or her turn to conduct the interview.

### **Administrators Assisting with Awards**

School administrators and tournament staff will be on the field to present the medals or trophy. Field credentials are not required. **Toward the end of the game, administrators are asked to come down to the first base side to enter the field.**

# AKRON FIRESTONE STADIUM



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