

### 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.

**Note:** Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy. Doubleheaders count as two contests.

- 1.21) 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) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.

##### 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

Reference the General Sport Regulation for Non-Interscholastic Participation in General Sport Regulation 7 for what is permitted in and outside of a school season and penalties that shall apply if violated, as outlined in Bylaw 11.

A softball athlete who has not participated for the school in softball that season must cease non-interscholastic softball competition by Saturday, March 23, 2024 order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided 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: Saturday, March 23, 2024

- 2.1) There is no limit on the number of softball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning with the last day of their school season – July 31.
- 2.2) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the six player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.3) Indoor softball is defined as the game of softball, adapted to play in an indoor facility. Participation in indoor Softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7, for student-athletes if played indoors from November 1, 2023 – February 1, 2024. Interscholastic coaches may coach their own interscholastic players on an indoor softball team.

### 3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at OHSAA.org.

### 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) 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 number 15.

### 6) 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 19, 2024**
- 2) First game — **March 23, 2024**
- 3) The pitching distance shall be 43 feet
- 4) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — **April 15, 2024**
- 5) Tournament seed/drawing meeting — **April 28, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**
- 6) Coaching and Season end — Saturday after state tournament **June 7, 2024**
- 7) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview
- 8) Regular season games permitted (team) — Maximum of 27
- 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 19, 2024**
- 2) First Game — **March 23, 2024**

- 3) The pitching distance shall be 40 feet
- 4) Coaching and Season end — June 7, 2024
- 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.
- 9) Officials — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

## SOFTBALL CALENDAR

Softball	2024	2025	2026	2027
Coach — No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/23	8/1-8/31/24	8/1-8/31/25	8/1-8/31/26
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	2/19	2/17	2/16	2/15
Season Begins	3/23	3/22	3/21	3/20
Sectional	5/4-5/11	5/3-5/10	5/9-5/16	5/10-5/15
District	5/13-5/18	5/12-5/17	5/17-5/23	5/17-5/22
Regional	5/22-5/25	5/21-5/24	5/25-5/30	5/24-5/29
State	5/30-6/1	5/29-5/31	6/4-6/6	6/3-6/5
Season Ends	6/8	6/7	6/13	6/11

## SOFTBALL — GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

2022-2026-2030	2027-2031-2035	2024-2028-2032	2025-2029-2033
II	III	IV	I
I	II	III	IV
IV	I	II	III
III	IV	I	II