



Kansas State High School Activities Association

2017 SOFTBALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coach Rules Meetings

All varsity high school head coaches must complete the required KSHSAA softball rules meeting. They may complete the online meeting which is available from February 1 until March 16. The other option is to attend one of the five in-person meetings being conducted by Francine Martin. The meetings are listed below.

Softball Umpires

All registered umpires must complete the 2017 softball meeting. There will be two options this year. Umpires can complete the online meeting using the directions provided in the rules book mailing. The dates of the online meeting are February 1 – March 16. If umpires would rather attend an in-person meeting or do not feel they will be able to complete the online meeting due to technology issues, below are the in-person dates and locations. All meetings start at 7 p.m.

Monday, February 6
Chanute High School

Wednesday, February 8
Maize South High School

Thursday, February 9
Salina-Smoky Hill Service Center

Monday, February 13
Topeka-KSHSAA office

Monday, February 20
Olathe Northwest HS

Rules Tests

Please carefully read the information provided in the umpire packet or in the school test mailing. The test will be available from February 1 until March 20. After that date umpires/coaches will not be able to submit their answers. Coaches failing to submit answers by March 20 will pay a \$25 penalty and complete KSHSAA Test II. Umpires failing to submit answers by March 20 will be placed on probation or suspension. Umpires not scoring 90% on NFHS Test I will not be eligible for post-season assignment. Coaches and umpires should submit tests early to avoid any potential challenges.

Umpire Information

1. Missed Meetings – Any umpire who missed the area supervisor meeting as a result of an emergency may request consideration from the KSHSAA to make up the meeting. **This request must be submitted in writing to the KSHSAA within one week of the missed meeting.** Each case will be evaluated on its individual merits.
2. KSHSAA policies prohibit the use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by coaches, sponsors, game officials and players during interscholastic activities.
3. **Umpire's Uniform**
Softball umpires are to wear:
 - Heather gray slacks
 - NFHS approved powder blue pull-over shirt
 - Black shoes
 - Navy blue cap (no ASA caps)
 - Caps with the white KSHSAA embroidery are available from the following vendors:
 - o honigs.com
 - o All Season Sportswear – Wichita allseasonsportswear.com
 - o Hi-Tech Embroidery – Holcomb hi-techembroidery.com
4. The assignment of umpires for state championship tournaments will be based on the recommendations sent to the KSHSAA by member schools and the umpire meeting the following standards:
 - a. 90% or better score on the “open book” examination.
 - b. Attendance at one of the KSHSAA sponsored umpire meetings.
 - c. Attendance at one area supervisor meeting.
 - d. Number of recommendations by member schools.

Umpires should provide coaches with a card indicating their name and home town. Umpires should not solicit recommendations from member schools.

5. Applications for postseason assignments are due on May 5, 2017 to the KSHSAA office.

Coach Information

1. School administrators must log in and submit names of umpires recommended for postseason between May 3 and May 10, 2017. Only umpires who meet the requirements to be eligible for assignment will be listed for schools to recommend. Schools must recommend 5 and may recommend up to 8 umpires they have observed within the last two years.
2. Squad lists and pass gates for regional and state will be submitted online using form SFB-2. Coaches and administrators will fill out the form and click continue. This will allow you to get a printable version to fax to the regional sites. If your team qualifies for the state tournament you will need to update form SFB-4, the state pass gate and roster by noon the day following your tournament. The KSHSAA will use the roster submitted at that time for the program.
3. The Win-Loss Record form (SFB-3) is due to the KSHSAA by noon the day following the conclusion of your regional tournament.
4. Form S, located on the KSHSAA website under entry forms, is used to report unusual situations.
5. Only certified teachers (as established by the State Board of Education) or coaches aides approved by the KSHSAA are allowed to work with teams. No volunteer coaches are permitted.
6. Only KSHSAA registered umpires may be used by member schools in varsity games. The online officials directory has the most recent list of registered umpires.
7. No team at any level (varsity, JV, C-team, etc.) shall participate in more than 20 games of competition during a season. A student may participate in 26 games of competition during the season. This will allow students to participate at different levels during the season. Participation as a courtesy runner or a pinch runner counts as a game played.

Communication

1. Schools and umpires should communicate with each other to verify the date, time and location of all games.
2. Schools and umpires should have contracts for all games.
3. A verbal or written obligation to a school or to an umpire is a binding contract.
4. Schools should notify umpires of the school's pay procedure.

State Association Adopted Rules

1. Refer to the KSHSAA Baseball/Softball Manual for additional information.
2. **Regulation Games** – Refer to Section 2.F of the KSHSAA Baseball/Softball Manual concerning provisions as to what constitutes a regulation game and Section 2.G on the procedure for ending a regulation game.
3. **Suspended Games** – By KSHSAA adoption, a game called for any reason(s), where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e. artificial lights fail, water system breaks, 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 the same as they were at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.
4. **Courtesy Runners** – A courtesy runner may be used for pitchers and/or catchers in softball. Entering the contest as a courtesy runner counts as one of the 26 allowable contests. A player entering the game as pinch hitter, pinch runner or courtesy runner counts as a game played, even if they were in the game for one at bat, one out etc.
5. **Double First Base** may be used in regular season games provided both coaches mutually agree to their use prior to the start of the game.
6. **Inclement Weather** – The recommended procedure for inclement weather can be found in the Baseball/Softball Manual. The safety of athletes, spectators, coaches, school personnel and all others present at an athletic contest must be the first and foremost concern to the contest management and umpires. Review these procedures prior to every contest and anytime threatening weather conditions appear or are forecasted.

7. **KSHSAA Ejection Policy** – If a coach is ejected they are to leave the vicinity of the playing field. The coach may not be in the dugout or go sit in the stands. If it is the first game of a double header, they may return for the second game providing the school and/or league policy provide for their return. The KSHSAA does not prohibit them from returning for the second game.

Coaches ejected from a contest must complete the NFHS course "Teaching & Modeling Behavior" before they may coach in their next regularly scheduled contest.

If a player is ejected, he/she must stay in the dugout and the coach is to supervise him/her. If they continue to be a problem, a school administrator or an assistant coach should take the player outside the dugout and away from the vicinity of the field to supervise him/her. If no administrator is available, the coach would have to escort the player from the dugout and away from the field. If there is no other coach to coach the team the game would be forfeited.

Players ejected from a contest must complete the NFHS course "*Sportsmanship*" before their next date of competition.

Softball Bats

NFHS Rule 1-5-4 states "All bats shall meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard, bear either the 2000 or 2004 ASA Certification mark and not be on the ASA non-approved list found at: www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment.

All schools and coaches must make sure any bats being used by players have the 2000 or 2004 ASA certification mark and are not listed on the ASA non-approved list found on the ASA softball website. Coaches must provide the non-approved bat list for umpires to review prior to the contest. Umpires should bring a copy of the non-approved bat list to contests they umpire. The KSHSAA website (www.kshsaa.org) is linked to the ASA website on the softball page.

Coach's Uniform

Softball – Rule 3-2-1. Any time a coach is in a live ball area to confer with players or an umpire, or to occupy a coach's box, the coach shall be attired in school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with coaching shorts/slacks or warm-up suits (including fleece warm-ups) in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. **Cut-offs**

or any type of jeans are prohibited. Jackets are not considered part of a coach's uniform.

Postseason Information

1. The KSHSAA has negotiated an agreement with Dudley to supply softballs for the regional and state tournaments. The **DUDLEY Model SB-12L Cork Center (4H-311Y, optic yellow)** is the official tournament ball.
2. Regional squad lists are faxed/mailed directly to the regional tournament manager. Softball may suit up to 15 players.
3. State squad lists are submitted directly to the KSHSAA by noon the day after the completion of your tournament. A digital team photo must also be submitted online.
4. Third- and fourth-place team medals will be given in state competition.
5. Regional tournaments will be held the week of May 15-18, 2017. With the increasing number of teams involved in interscholastic ball, more two-day tournaments are needed each year. All tournament assignments can be found on the KSHSAA website after April 1. (www.kshsaa.org)

State Tournaments

The state tournament will be played on Thursday, May 25 and Friday, May 26, 2017, weather permitting. Site and manager information can be found on the KSHSAA website softball page.

State tournament sites are:

Class 6A – Lawrence, Rock Chalk Park

Class 5A – Wichita, Two Rivers Youth Complex

Class 4A DI – Salina, Bill Burke Complex

Class 4A DII – Emporia, Trusler Sports Complex

Class 3A – Manhattan, Twin Oaks Complex

Class 2-1A – Pratt, Green Sports Complex

DP/Flex

Coaches must determine if they will use the DP/FLEX before turning in line up cards to the umpires. Coaches and umpires can find additional information on how to use the DP/FLEX on the KSHSAA website softball page. Additional resources are available at nfhs.org. Umpires can go to the NFHS Central Hub in their Arbiter account for more resources.