

2025-2026 Boys Baseball

Terms and Conditions

Member School Responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of each member school to control its interscholastic athletic program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association.
- It is the responsibility of each member school to protect the health of and provide a safe environment for each participating student.
- In order to promote the character development of participants and to enhance the integrity of educating students, coaches and all others associated with their programs and events, member schools should adhere to fundamental values such as respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility.

****Note:** Illustrations for many of the sections listed in the Terms and Conditions may be found in the IESA Handbook. Each school is sent a copy of the Handbook each year. In addition, the IESA Handbook may be accessed online from the IESA website (www.iesa.org).

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Seventh and eighth grade enrollment as of September 30 of the previous school year, according to figures supplied to the IESA by the member school, shall determine the classification of each school. The teams will be divided equally into three classes each containing 1/3 of the participating schools. The smallest 1/3 of the schools entered in baseball will be designated as Class 1A, the next smallest 1/3 will be designated as Class 2A, and the largest 1/3 of the schools will be designated as Class 3A. If two or more schools have the same enrollment number and that number happens to be where a split occurs, all schools with the same enrollment number shall be placed in the smaller class.

II. DATES AND SITES

State Series Assignments may be accessed on the IESA website. Schools that are willing to host a regional and/or a sectional that is not set should contact **Chris Frasco, Administrator for Baseball**, immediately. Regional hosts must be set by **September 2**. Sectional hosts will be accepted until **September 18**. If no school offers to host a sectional by the deadline, then the host of the sectional will be determined via a coin flip between the regional champions conducted in the IESA Office.

Item	2025-26	2026-27
Entry Deadline (Mon.)	June. 9, 2025	June. 8, 2026
Final Entry Deadline	Jul. 1, 2025	Jul. 1, 2026
Practice/Tryouts may begin (Mon.)	Aug. 4, 2025	Aug. 3, 2026
Cooperative Agreement Due	Aug. 7, 2025	Aug. 7, 2026
Refund Deadline	Aug. 8, 2025	Aug. 8, 2026
Games May Begin & Season Schedule Deadline (Wed.)	Aug. 13, 2025	Aug. 12, 2026
Online Roster & Record Deadline (Tue.)	Sept. 2, 2025	Sept. 1, 2026
Online Ranking	Sept. 3, 2025	Sept. 2, 2026
Rosters Closed (Mon.) 4:00 p.m.	Sept. 10, 2025	Sept. 9, 2026
Regionals (Thurs, Sat, Wed..)	Sept. 11, 13, 17 2025	Sept. 10, 12, 16 2026
Sectionals (Sat.)	Sept. 20, 2025	Sept. 19, 2026
State (Fri. & Sat.)	Sept. 26, 27, 2025	Sept. 25, 26, 2026
Season must end (Sat.)	Nov. 1, 2025	Oct. 31, 2026

A. Regional Tournaments---September 11, 13, 17

NEW: First Round games for those regionals that have 5, 6, 7, or 8 teams assigned to them must be held on Thursday, September 11. Semi-final games shall be held on **Saturday, September 13**, and the regional championship game on **Wednesday, September 17. The higher seeded team will host the quarterfinal games. NEW: The regional host will host the regional semifinals and championship games** The exact playing time schedule for the semi-final and championship games will be set by the regional host. The higher-seeded team will host all first-round games unless schools mutually agree to switch sites. The higher seeded team in each regional game shall be the home team. Games must be played in bracket order. It is the responsibility of regional host to update the regional brackets online following each day of regional play.

*** NEW: The regional host will hire the umpires for all regional games, including quarterfinal games..**

B. Sectional Tournaments--Saturday, September 20

When a sectional site has not been determined, the two regional winners shall make contact, determine the sectional site, and notify the IESA Office as soon as possible. If both schools desire to host, a coin flip will be conducted by the IESA Office to determine who will host. **The starting time for all sectional games shall be 4:00 pm. A coin flip will determine the home team for all sectional games.**

C. State Tournament—Friday/Saturday, September 26/27

The State Tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday of Week 13 in the IESA standardized calendar. **A coin flip will determine the home team for all state games.**

D. State Tournament Sites

The Class 1A, 2A, and 3A tournaments will be held at EastSide Centre in East Peoria. East Peoria Central will be the host school. The IESA Baseball Advisory Committee randomly drew state pairings at its most recent meeting. In case of bad weather on state dates, contact the IESA Office and watch the updates on the IESA website. State tournament information will be given to all qualifying teams as soon as sectional contests are concluded.

The State Final schedule for Class 1A will be as follows:

Friday, September 26 (Quarterfinals)

Game 1-- 9:30 a.m.	Sectional H Winner vs. Sectional A Winner
Game 2-- 11:30 a.m.	Sectional D Winner vs. Sectional B Winner
Game 3-- 2:00 p.m.	Sectional G Winner vs. Sectional E Winner
Game 4-- 4:00 p.m.	Sectional F Winner vs. Sectional C Winner

Saturday, September 27 (Semi-finals & Finals)

Game 5-- 9:30 a.m.	Winners of Games 1 and 2
Game 6-- 11:30 a.m.	Winners of Games 3 and 4
Game 7-- 2:00 p.m.	Losers of Games 5 and 6 (<i>Third Place</i>)
Game 8-- 4:00 p.m.	Winners of Games 5 and 6 (<i>Class 1A State Championship</i>)

****No game will be allowed to start earlier than scheduled.****

The State Final schedule for Class 2A will be as follows:

Friday, September 26 (Quarterfinals)

Game 1--10:00 a.m.	Sectional E Winner vs. Sectional F Winner
Game 2--12:00 noon	Sectional A Winner vs. Sectional D Winner
Game 3-- 2:30 p.m.	Sectional B Winner vs. Sectional G Winner
Game 4-- 4:30 p.m.	Sectional C Winner vs. Sectional H Winner

Saturday, September 27 (Semi-finals & Finals)

Game 5--10:00 a.m.	Winners of Games 1 and 2
Game 6--12:00 noon	Winners of Games 3 and 4
Game 7-- 2:30 p.m.	Losers of Games 5 and 6 (<i>Third Place</i>)
Game 8-- 4:30 p.m.	Winners of Games 5 and 6 (<i>Class 2A State Championship</i>)

****No game will be allowed to start earlier than scheduled.****

The State Final schedule for Class 3A will be as follows:

Friday, September 26 (Quarterfinals)

Game 1--10:00 a.m.	Sectional D Winner vs. Sectional E Winner
Game 2--12:00 noon	Sectional A Winner vs. Sectional F Winner
Game 3-- 2:30 p.m.	Sectional H Winner vs. Sectional G Winner
Game 4-- 4:30 p.m.	Sectional B Winner vs. Sectional C Winner

Saturday, September 27 (Semi-finals & Finals)

Game 5--10:00 a.m. Winners of Games 1 and 2

Game 6--12:00 noon Winners of Games 3 and 4

Game 7-- 2:30 p.m. Losers of Games 5 and 6 (**Third Place**)

Game 8-- 4:30 p.m. Winners of Games 5 and 6 (**Class 3A State Championship**)

****No game will be allowed to start earlier than scheduled.****

III. ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

A. Regional Entry Form

In baseball, principals of competing schools must complete a copy of the Regional Entry Form using the online form that is available on the IESA website (www.iesa.org). Once the form has been completed, by clicking on the words "Update Entries", the information is automatically available to the regional host and to the IESA Office. The baseball regional entries are due by the posted Online Roster and Record Deadline.

Teams shall be ruled ineligible to compete in any tournament series contest unless the Regional Entry Form has been completed.

The Regional Entry Form shall be used to list up to 18 certified contestants for state tournament series play. Only those individuals listed on the Regional Entry Form are allowed to sit on the team bench during state series play.

The following penalty is in effect for schools that fail to submit their online roster, record, and seeding information by the posted deadlines in boys and baseball:

- a. First offense: School will be placed on probation.
- b. Second consecutive offense: School will be able to participate in the state series of the current year but will not be able to participate in the state series the following year unless the school pays a \$250 fee for reinstatement to the state series.

Schools may make changes to the Regional Entry Form anytime up until the Rosters Closed deadline. Prior to that deadline, schools may make changes by going online, updating the form, and clicking on "Update Entries". After the Rosters Closed deadline, no changes will be permitted to the Regional Entry Form. Please check the dates for the Rosters Closed deadline listed on the calendar.

It is the ultimate responsibility of all competing teams for all athletic activities to insure that each participant listed on the Regional Entry Form is eligible. Regional hosts for all athletic activities are also required to check each contestant on the Regional Entry Form.

B. Entry Fees

The entry fee is \$65. The entry deadline boys baseball was [June 9, 2025](#)

The final entry deadline for boys baseball was July 1.

The penalty fee assessed to a school which does not participate in an athletic activity for which it is registered without notifying the IESA Office or withdraws from the state series after the seeding meeting/online ranking deadline for a given activity shall pay a \$50.00 penalty, the cost of the officials for the contest which they forfeited, that school's share for one contest for any deficit, and any other penalties (including monetary) as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director. The \$50.00 penalty fee shall be paid directly to the host school.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

To enter any of the tournaments a girl/boy must be eligible under all of the eligibility rules and conditions of the IESA.

A. Participation

No student is eligible to participate at the same academic grade level for two different school years in the same sport. This is true whether the student attended a member or a non-member school. Participation in one interscholastic contest in a sport constitutes one season of eligibility in that sport.

No student shall be a member of an interscholastic team using ninth grade or high school students.

Athletic activities designated as seventh grade shall consist of contestants in grades five through seven. In all other athletic activities, fifth through eighth graders are eligible to participate.

B. Residence and Transfer

A student shall be eligible if he/she attends the member school in the district in which he/she resides.

If the parents of a student move from one school district to another during the school year, the student may retain eligibility for the remainder of the school year provided the student continues to attend the school in the district from which the parents moved.

In cases where ISBE has granted a legislative waiver for children of certified staff members to attend the school tuition-free, the student shall have eligibility at the school where the certified staff member is employed.

A transfer student is one who transfers from one school to another school after the first day of classes at his/her school.

A student who transfers from one school to another school shall be eligible to participate under the following guidelines:

- a. The student would be eligible to participate in a sport at their new school during the current school year if during the IESA designated season for a sport, the student had NOT participated in a tryout, organized practice, or contest in that sport at their previous school. See By-Law 2.072 regarding student status as a member of a team.
- b. A student who transfers from one school to another and is eligible in accordance with section (a) above shall become eligible to participate in contests for the new school on his/her eleventh day of attendance at the new school in any sport or activity and provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

C. Scholastic Standing

All contestants shall be in grades five through eight and shall not have passed eighth grade standing.

A student shall be doing passing work as determined by the local school district in all school subjects and the school shall certify compliance with this

For all IESA activities, athletic as well as non-athletic, passing work shall be checked weekly. Eligibility will be applied to the Monday through Saturday following the week that was checked. Students must be passing each subject each week to be eligible. Grades shall be cumulative for the school's grading period.

The eligibility check shall be the same day each week unless school is not in session; then it must be taken on the last day of student attendance that week.

For fall sports, the first eligibility check shall be made following the first full week of attendance at the beginning of the school year. During the succeeding weeks of the school year, the eligibility check shall begin the week prior to the first contest in an activity.

D. Age

A student shall be eligible through age fifteen (15). If a student in baseball becomes sixteen (16) before the final event in the state tournament series, he is not eligible to participate in the sport. A student must be born on or after [October 1, 2010](#) to be age eligible to participate at any time during the season.

Each student must provide the principal of his school with certification of his birth before practice or participation in any athletic activity. This must be a birth certificate or hospital record or a thermostatic copy of such. A baptismal certificate is not acceptable.

E. Physical Examination

No student shall be permitted to compete in a tryout, practice, or game unless he/she has filed with his/her principal a certificate of physical fitness that has been issued by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner as set forth in the Illinois State Statutes not more than 395 days preceding such tryout, practice, or contest in any athletic activity.

Any student who is not allowed to participate in interscholastic activities as the result of a physician's directive may not return to play until they have received written clearance from a physician.

F. Amateurism

As the result of participating in the IESA Baseball state series (regional, sectional, state) a student in a member school may accept any award (except cash) which does not exceed \$100.00 in fair market value.

A student in a member school may accept a school letter for an interscholastic sport, regardless of cost.

Violation of the provisions of By-Law 3.070 shall cause ineligibility in the sport in which the violation occurred. An official ruling must be secured from the Executive Director before any student who violates these rules may be reinstated to eligibility.

G. Participating Under an Assumed Name

In the event students participate in interscholastic competition under any other name than their own, the principal shall immediately suspend violators from further interscholastic participation. The future interscholastic participation of violators and/or persons contributing to a violation shall then be considered by the Board of Directors.

H. Coaching School Participation

A student who is a member of the school team in a sport may participate, depending on local school district policy, in any coaching school/camp during that interscholastic sport season.

A coaching school/camp is defined as any program sponsored by an organization or individual which provides instruction in sports theory and skills to groups of persons.

Students may participate in and/or receive private lessons, school physical conditioning programs, and be used for demonstration purposes in coaches' clinics.

I. All-Star Participation

No athletic team from any member school may compete against an "all-star" team.

J. Open Gym and Summer Participation

Schools may open their gymnasiums or facilities for recreational activities to students or other persons who reside in or outside their district under the following conditions:

1. A variety of recreational activities are available during the course of the year.
2. There is no coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in any sport at any time.
3. Participation is voluntary and is not required directly or indirectly for membership on a school squad.
4. Comparable opportunities are afforded to all participants.

Open Gym Illustrations

Q. What procedures should schools use to ensure all students are adequately notified of opportunities to participate in open gyms?

A. Schools must publicize open gyms in a manner that ensures all students have a reasonable opportunity to be informed regarding dates and times of open gyms. Schools may utilize public address announcements, flyers, written announcements or newsletters to notify students regarding open gyms.

Q. May a school conduct a sport specific open gym?

A. Yes, provided a variety of recreational activities are available during the course of the year.

Q. May a coed school conduct a gender specific open gym?

A. No.

Q. Is it permissible for a coach to play with or against students from his/her own school during out-of-season open gym programs?

A. Yes.

K. Provisions for Out-of-Season Contact

After the official ending date of a sport season (according to the date listed in Division 4 of the IESA Handbook) students from the same member school may play together in a sport provided the school has no affiliation with the activity. In addition, a coach may coach the students from the school provided he/she is not coaching the students as an official representative of the school and is not receiving any school compensation for coaching.

V. SEASON AND TEAM LIMITATIONS

No member school participating in the baseball state tournament series shall organize, hold tryouts, or practice prior to Monday of Week 5 (August 4, 2025).

A member school may conduct its first interscholastic contest in baseball no earlier than Wednesday of Week 6 (August 13, 2025). Its last interscholastic contest in baseball shall be no later than (November 1, 2025).

Only schools which have an established school team which has participated in at least three (3) interscholastic contests prior to the Online Roster and Record deadline during the current season may participate in team competition in Association-sponsored tournaments.

Member schools may not permit students to participate as school representatives in interscholastic activities with high school or non-school groups.

Member schools are not allowed to practice against other schools, including high schools, or allow students from their own school to practice with a different school.

All interscholastic competition shall be considered a game.

No athletic team from any member school may compete against an "all-star" team.

VI. COACH QUALIFICATIONS

To serve as a Head or Assistant Coach, athletic coaches in member schools in the sports in which the school participates in the IESA state series must:

- (a) be regularly licensed by the ISBE as a teacher, administrator or school service personnel (i.e. counselor, social worker, speech therapist, etc.); or
- (b) be a retired teacher/coach from an IESA or IHSA member school; or
- (c) be a college student coaching as part of an official student teaching assignment; or
- (d) be certified through an IESA approved coaches education program, AND
- (e) be officially employed by the local school board of the member school.

The following courses have been approved by the IESA Board of Directors: IESA/Human Kinetics Coaching Essentials course; IHSA/Human Kinetics Coach Principles or Coaching Orientation course, or NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course

A person with a substitute only license must complete one of the approved coaching education courses in order to serve as a coach.

High school students may be assigned to assist with the coaching of athletic teams in a member school provided they are under the direct supervision of an individual who is qualified to coach.

Any coach who does not meet the IESA coaching qualifications as detailed above will be suspended for a minimum of two games and will not be permitted to coach again until he/she completes an IESA approved coaching education course. This includes practices as well as contests.

Additional sanctions may be applied by the Board of Directors to schools with multiple violations for non-compliance with the coaching education By-Law.

GENERAL

Q. What does the phrase 'regularly certified to teach in the schools of Illinois' mean?

A. You are a person who has fulfilled the requirements of state law to teach by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Q. If I am not a licensed teacher or administrator and, therefore, need to complete one of the approved coaching education courses, how often do I have to take the approved coaches education course?

A. Once.

Q. All of my coaches including my cheer coach are certified teachers. Can we require that they complete the coaching education course?

A. Yes. This would be a local policy requiring such completion.

STUDENT TEACHERS

Q. May a student teacher assist with the coaching of an athletic team?

A. Yes, provided it is part of the student teaching experience.

Q. May student teachers continue coaching their student teaching assignments after the regular student teaching period ends?

A. Yes, provided their college or university authorizes the continuation.

VOLUNTEER COACHES

Q. May a person volunteer to coach without pay at a member school?

A. Yes. However, whether a person is paid to coach or is a non-paid volunteer, the person must meet the qualification requirements of By-Law 2.110 and its sub-sections.

MINIMUM AGE OF NON-FACULTY COACHES

Q. Is there an age minimum for non-faculty and/or non-certified personnel who coach?

A. The Board of Directors interprets the provisions of this By-Law to require non-faculty and/or non-certified coaches to be a high school graduate or equivalent.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS COACHES

Q. I have a high school student assisting our wrestling squad. My head coach was ejected from the contest. May the high school student take over as the head coach for the remainder of the match?

A. No. You would have to forfeit the remaining matches of the meet unless there is an individual in attendance who meets the coaching education requirement in attendance who can assume the duties of the head coach.

Q. May the high school student we have assisting my volleyball coach be the only coach in the gym when my head coach had to miss practice?

A. No. The high school student who is assisting can never assume coaching duties unless he/she is under the direct supervision of a coach qualified under the provisions of 2.110.

Q. May we use high school students to demonstrate skills during practice or as team managers?

A. Yes.

RETIRED TEACHERS

Q. Does the provision for coaching by retired teachers refer only to persons immediately retired from teaching, or to retired teachers regardless of the date of their retirement?

A. The by-law simply states "...a retired teacher from an IESA or IHSA member school." This statement is interpreted literally, it permits a school to utilize any retired teacher from a member school as a coach.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHING LICENSE

Q. May a person with a substitute only license coach?

A. No. However, if they complete an IESA approved coaching education course, they are eligible to coach.

COACHING CERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED

Q. Are there any IESA activities where the coach of a given activity would not be required to meet the coaching education requirements?

A. Yes. Coaches/instructors for music, speech, scholastic bowl and chess are not required to meet the coaching education requirements.

VIII. SEEDING

- A.** In baseball, regional seeding will be conducted using an online procedure. In general, seeding shall be done as if an actual meeting were taking place using traditional seeding criteria except that the procedure is done online rather than an actual meeting.

B. Online Ranking and Seeding

All schools entering the baseball state series must enter the following information online by the appropriate deadlines in the IESA standardized calendar [Sept 2, 2025]:

- Season Schedule with results
- Regional Entry Form
- Special Comment Section regarding your team's season

The following penalty is in effect for schools that fail to submit their online roster and record and/or seeding information by the posted deadlines in boys and baseball:

- a. **First offense:** School will be placed on probation and will not be able to seed their regional but their regional will seed them.
- b. **Second consecutive offense:** School will be able to participate in the state series of the current year but will not be able to participate in the state series the following year unless the school pays a \$250 fee for reinstatement to the state series.

A team withdrawing from competition following the online ranking deadline shall be declared as a forfeit. The remaining teams will not be re-seeded.

The following steps should be followed to seed the regional tournaments.

SEEDING PROCEDURES

A school that fails to enter their season schedule, results, and Regional Entry Form by the online roster and record deadline has no say regarding any seed. Other schools in their regional will be still be able to seed them.

Schools will rank all participating schools in their regional except their own, based on the information each team submitted online. Each school will have one day to complete this step of the online seeding process. The ranking step occurs: [September 3, 2025](#)

Factors to consider when seeding

- a. Season Record
- b. Quality of team's competition
- c. Smaller schools (1A or 2A) schools competing against larger schools (Class 3A)
- d. Head to Head competition
- e. Record against common opponents

The IESA will confirm all seeds and break any ties. ***Note: The IESA will break all ties by a coin flip. The seeding results submitted by each team participating in the regional will be posted in the Baseball Entry Center after the completed brackets have been posted.***

Note: No school may enter the state series unless they have participated at least three interscholastic contests during the current season prior to online seeding.

A regional game which is not played because one of the teams withdraws from competition following the regional online seeding, shall be considered a forfeit. The forfeiting team is subject to penalty. The remaining teams shall not be re-seeded.

All games are to be played in the proper order and shall not be changed unless permission is granted by the IESA. Games should not be played during school hours. The following tournament formats schedule must be followed, whichever is applicable.

In four-team regional tournaments, seed #1 vs. seed #4 in game one in top bracket; and seed #2 vs. seed #3 in game two in bottom bracket. The two winners of these games will then meet for the regional championship. Since there are only four teams in the regional, the semi-finals would be played on Wednesday and the championship game would be played on Saturday.

In five-team regional tournaments, seed #1 vs. bye and seed #4 vs. seed #5 in game one in top bracket. In the second round, game two will pair seed #1 against the winner of game 1 and game three will pair seed #2 vs. seed #3. The two winners of games two and three will then meet for the regional championship. Since there are only five teams in the regional, game one must be played on Monday; the semi-finals (games two and three) would be played on Wednesday; and the championship game would be played on Saturday.

In six-team regional tournaments, seed #1 receives a bye and seed #4 vs. seed #5 in game 1 in top bracket; seed #2 draws a bye and seed #3 vs. seed #6 in game 2 in bottom bracket. In the second round, game three will pair seed #1 against the winner of game 1 and game four will pair seed #2 against the winner of game 2. The two winners of games three and four will then meet for the regional championship. With six teams in the regional, games one and two must be played on Monday; semi-finals (games three and four) on Wednesday; and the championship game on Saturday.

In seven-team regional tournaments, seed #1 receives a bye and seed #4 vs. seed #5 in game 1 in top bracket; seed #2 vs. seed #7 in game 2 and seed #3 vs. seed #6 in game 3 in bottom bracket. In the second round, game four will pair seed #1 against the winner of game 1 and game five will pair the winners of games #2 and #3. The two winners of games four and five will then meet for the regional championship. With seven teams in the regional, games one, two, and three must be played on Monday; semi-finals (games four and five) on Wednesday; and the championship game on Saturday.

C. Regional/Sectional Host Requirements

All regional and sectional hosts are obtained on a volunteer basis. Any school interested in hosting should contact the IESA Office. It is recommended that in addition to the tournament manager, an administrator or other school representative from the host school be in attendance at all times for state tournament series contests.

The IESA and its Board of Directors require an administrator or school representative (other than the participating coaches) be in attendance at all home contests. It is recommended that in addition to the tournament manager, an administrator or other school representative from the host school be in attendance at all times for state tournament series contests.

Schools serving as a host must have signage in accordance with the Concealed Carry, Act 430 ILCS 66. This includes an IESA event that is held on your school property and IESA events help off-premise (i.e. a park).

*Diamonds for all regular season and state series games shall be 80 feet square with the pitching distance at 54 feet. The distance from home plate to the middle of second base is 113 feet, 1 5/8 inches. All other sections of NFHS rule 1-2 should be followed. If a school desires to host the championship games of the regional and/or a sectional contest their field must have the specifications listed above and a fence 225 feet or more from home plate. The recommended minimum distance from home plate to the backstop is 20 feet. Schools should not apply to host a regional or a sectional if their field does not meet these requirements. In cases where no field meets these specifications, then the schools assigned to the regional

will meet to determine the regional host. First-round and semi-final regional games which are played at the site of the higher seeded teams do not have to meet the home run distance. [1-2-1]

IX. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

A. Assignment and Advancement of Teams

Class 1A teams will be assigned to one of sixteen (16) regional tournaments. Likewise, Class 2A teams will be assigned to one of sixteen (16) regional tournaments and Class 3A teams will be assigned to one of sixteen (16) regional tournaments. All tournament play shall be single elimination.

A regional game which is not played because one of the teams withdraws from competition following the regional online seeding, shall be considered a forfeit. The forfeiting team is subject to penalty. The remaining teams shall not be re-seeded.

XI. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

A. Class 1A, 2A, 3A

The winners of the sixteen (16) regional tournaments will advance to sectional tournament play. The winners of the eight sectional tournaments will advance to state tournament play.

The regional host shall enter the results of each game on the IESA website.

D. The following policy has been adopted by the IESA Board of Directors if weather should cause an undue delay in completing a regional and/or sectional tournament:

- **STEP ONE:** If the weather conditions persist at the Regional or Sectional facility, the IESA may elect to designate an alternative field to complete play.
- **STEP TWO:** If it is not possible to move the playing field and the games have not been played prior to the start of state play, then the higher seed will advance.
- **STEP THREE:** If the teams remaining have the same seed, then a coin flip will be performed by the IESA office between the two teams on the Thursday prior to the start of the State Tournament play on Friday.

XII. TOURNAMENT RULES

A. Rules of Play

In all regional games, the higher-seeded team is automatically the home team even if the game is held somewhere other than the higher-seeded team's traditional home field. In all sectional and state final games, the home team shall be determined by a coin flip.

The current National Federation Rule Book is adopted as the official rules of play for the state tournament series with exceptions listed below as well as Section 4.014 of the 2025 IESA Handbook.

B. Exceptions to the National Federation Rules

****Regulation baseball uniforms are not necessary. A minimum uniform shall be a baseball cap, shoes, long pants, and a T-shirt with numbers. Rubber-soled, rubber-cleated baseball, or metal cleats may be used**

****A regulation game shall be played to a full 7 innings (6 ½ if the home team is ahead). However, by mutual agreement before a game begins, teams may play a 5 inning or 6 inning contest at which time the game will be considered a regulation contest. For regular season play only, no inning shall start 2 hours and after the first pitch of the game. Any inning in progress shall be completed. If teams are tied after the time limit has been reached, it shall be considered a tie game. The current 10 run, 12, run, and 15 run rules remain in place. (4-2-1)**

**** All regular season games that require extra innings to determine the winner shall start with a runner on second base and no outs. The runner placed on 2nd base shall be the player in the batting order position previous to the leadoff batter of the extra inning. Each team has the opportunity to bat each inning. The game is over when one team has the lead at the end of an inning.**

**** All state series games shall be played to 7 innings except in the case of a mercy rule game and the third-place game of the state finals. The third-place game shall be played to whichever happens first: 7 innings or 2 hours in time limit. The time limit is consistent with regular season rules, no inning may begin after 2 hours from the first pitch. If both teams are tied after this point, the game will continue using the international tie breaker rule until a winner is determined.**

****Diamonds for all regular season and state series games shall be 80 feet square with the pitching distance at 54 feet. The distance from home plate to the middle of second base is 113 feet, 1 5/8 inches. All other sections of NFHS rule 1-2 should be followed. If a school desires to host the semi-final**

and championship games of the regional and/or a sectional contest their field must have the specifications listed above and a fence 225 feet or more from home plate. The recommended minimum distance from home plate to the backstop is 20 feet. Schools should not apply to host a regional or a sectional if their field does not meet these requirements. In cases where no field meets these specifications, then the schools assigned to the regional will meet to determine the regional host. First-round regional games which are played at the site of the higher seeded teams do not have to meet the home run distance. [1-2-1]

****The use of Safe-Base, or a manufactured reproduction thereof, shall be mandatory in all regular season and tournament play. No game shall be played unless the Safe-Base is in use. The rules pertaining to Safe-Base shall be as follows: The batter-runner should use the orange portion only on the first attempt at first base. A runner is never out for touching the white base rather than the orange portion. Once the runner reaches first base, the runner shall then use only the white base. The defensive player may use only the white portion of the bag in making any play at first. One exception-- On a missed third strike the first baseman may use the orange portion for the putout throw from the catcher. A batted ball must hit totally in the orange to be foul. [1-2-9]**

****The on-deck batter may use either on-deck circle. The on-deck batter may only move to the on-deck circle during a dead ball. The on-deck batter must remain in the on-deck circle unless the batter switches hitting positions at which time the umpire would have the discretion to allow the on-deck batter to change circles.**

****The ten-run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 runs or more after 4½ innings, or after the 5th inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. A 12 run rule is in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 12 runs or more after 3½ innings, or after the 4th inning, if either team is 12 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. A 15 run rule is also in effect and the game shall end when the visiting team is behind 15 runs or more after 2½ innings, or after the 3rd inning, if either team is 15 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. [2-17-1, 4-2-2]**

****It is strongly recommended that coaches be attired in school colors although adult coaches are not required to be in the uniform of the team. [3-2-1].**

****In any instance in which a team does not have an eligible substitute for a player who becomes ill, injured, or is ejected from the lineup by an umpire, the player last removed from the lineup by the team coach, who is otherwise eligible to play, shall be used as a substitute, taking the batting-lineup position of the replaced player. When a team's last available substitute enters the game as part of a multiple substitution, the team coach shall advise the umpire and official scorekeeper which player is to be considered the last player removed from the lineup. [3-1-3]**

BATS (NFHS Rule 1-3-2)

****The following bats are legal for use in 2025 IESA contests:**

- Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in section 1-3-2 of the NFHS baseball rules book or;
- Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop and a barrel diameter of 2 5/8 inches provided that bat contains the USA Baseball logo or;
- Any wood bat that meets the NFHS standards as detailed in section 1-3-2 and 1-3-3 of the NFHS baseball rules book.

NOTE 1: All bats 31 inches and over must meet the NFHS bat guidelines and contain the BBCOR label.

NOTE 2: All bats with a 2 1/4" barrel diameter are illegal.

NOTE 3: Any bat with a USSSA logo is illegal.

The following are examples of legal and illegal non-wood bats. This list is not intended to be all inclusive or all exclusive:

Examples of Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats That Do Not Contain a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
31	28	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	22	2-3/4"	Illegal—Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally, this bat will not contain the BBCOR label
30	20	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	20	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
28	19	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	28	2-3/4"	Illegal—Maximum barrel diameter is 2-5/8". Additionally, this bat will not contain the BBCOR label.
29	26	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled

30	27	2-5/8"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
32	22	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	25	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
30	27	2-1/2"	Legal assuming BBCOR labeled
30	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal

Examples of Legal and Illegal Non-Wood Bats That Are Marked With a USA Baseball Logo			
Length	Weight	Barrel Diameter	Status
30	20	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
31	20	2-5/8"	Illegal—All bats 31" and over for use in IESA contests must meet NFHS guidelines including BBCOR label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball logo. A 31" bat must be BBCOR labeled.
28	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	18	2-1/4"	Illegal—No bat with a 2-1/4" barrel diameter is legal
31	21	2-5/8"	Illegal—All bats 31" and over for use in IESA contests must meet NFHS guidelines including BBCOR label. It does not matter if this bat has a USA Baseball logo. A 31" bat has to be BBCOR labeled.
27	15	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
29	19	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	18	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	20	2-1/2"	Illegal—Any bat with a USA Baseball logo must have a 2-5/8" barrel diameter.
30	22	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat
30	25	2-5/8"	Legal assuming USA Baseball Logo is silk screened on bat

NOTE: Effective January 1, 2012 any bat with a BESR label is illegal.

**In addition to the penalty as listed in NFHS rule 7-4-1 for the use of an illegal bat, a player who uses an illegal bat shall be immediately ejected from the contest and cannot return to that contest under any circumstance. [7-4-1]

**The Suggested Speed-Up Rules pertaining to courtesy runners have been adopted. [2-33-1]

Any state series game that is suspended for reasons of weather, darkness, or mechanical failure (i.e. lighting problems, power outage, water system problems), **and does not meet game ending regulations as described in rule 4-2-3, will be treated as a suspended game and continued from the point of suspension when the game is able to resume. The line-up and batting order shall be the same as the lineup and batting order at the point of suspension. Pitching limitations will still apply whenever the game is resumed. The coach of the team trailing at the time of the suspension may forfeit the contest at which time the game will be considered a complete game. [4-2-3, 4-2-4]

**When a regular season game is stopped for any reason, the school administration of the participating schools may choose to do one of the following:

- Suspend the game and mutually agree to resume the game at the point of suspension at a later date and time; or
- the team losing at the time of the suspension can forfeit and the team winning at this time would claim this as a win on their record; or
- the team winning at the time of the suspension can forfeit and thus the team losing at this time would claim this as a win on their record; or
- the schools mutually agree to record the game as a "no game." [4-2-3, 4-2-4]

** Portable pitching mounds be allowed for postseason play under the following conditions: 1. The size of the portable mound will be as such where a pitcher may step back off the pitching rubber, stride towards home plate during a pitch, or execute a pick off move to any base without stepping off the mound. 2. The size of the portable mound will be as such where a pitcher may step back off the pitching rubber, stride towards home plate during a pitch, or execute a pick off move to any base whereas the slope in each direction would be equivalent to that of a normal regulation dirt mound. 3. The portable mound will be free of any defections, including holes, tears, and loose material on any parts of the mound.

Pitching Count Limitations

IESA PITCH COUNT LIMITATIONS---REGULAR SEASON AND STATE SERIES

PITCH COUNT PER DAY	REQUIRED DAYS OF REST	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PITCHES ON NEXT APPEARANCE	NEXT APPEARANCE CAP Note: Pitch count caps are soft, meaning that the pitcher will be afforded the opportunity to finish the at bat if the maximum is reached in the middle of an at-bat.
1-20	0 days	70 pitches	A pitcher who throws 1-20 pitches may pitch on two consecutive days without rest. The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown on the second day is 70. A pitcher who throws on two consecutive days must rest for one day.
21-35	1	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 21-35 pitches must rest for one day. After one day of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
36-50	2	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 36-50 pitches must rest for two days. After two days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
51-65	3	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 51-65 pitches must rest for three days. After three days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
66-90	4	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 66-90 pitches must rest for four days. After four days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.

Any pitcher (either the starting pitcher or any relief pitcher) withdrawn from the mound or game may return to the pitching position once per game as long as it is within the legal re-entry rule. [3-1-2 note]

**** Post Season Pitch Count:** Each team's coach must input their pitch counts for each pitcher into the IESA website by Noon the following morning for all post season games. If a coach does not input their pitches, all available pitchers would drop down one tier of available pitches in the pitching limitations chart for the next game. (90 to 70, 70 to 50) (Post season only)

**** The IESA baseball administrator will check at the end of the regular season to see if coaches entered pitch counts throughout the season. If a coach did not enter any pitches at all during the regular season, the coach will be disqualified from post-season play.**

Illustrations for the above

Q: My pitcher has a maximum of 90 pitches to throw today. My "intent" is to limit the pitcher to 20 pitches so he can throw the next day. In the middle of an at-bat the pitcher reaches 20 pitches. What happens if he ends up throwing 25 pitches because he finished the at-bat?

A: The pitcher would have to rest one day if he threw between 21-35 pitches. The "soft-cap" does not apply here. The soft cap applies when the maximum number of pitches for a day has been reached. In this instance, the maximum for the day was 90 pitches; not 20. By allowing the pitcher to throw 25 pitches, one day of rest must now follow.

Q: My pitcher can throw 90 pitches today. In the middle of an at-bat, he reached his 90th pitch. Can he finish the at-bat?

A: Yes. This is a soft-cap issue and a pitcher can finish the at-bat when it is the maximum number of pitches in a day is reached in the middle of an at-bat.

Q: My starting pitcher is removed from the mound during the third inning but remained in the game as the shortstop. Can he return to the mound in the 5th inning to finish the game as the pitcher?

A: Yes, assuming he has sufficient numbers of daily pitches remaining. Starting pitchers can return to the mound once per game.

Q: I removed my starting pitcher from the game in the second inning and he returned to the mound in the 4th inning. Because he does not hit very well, I want to pinch hit for him in the 6th inning. What is his playing status if I pinch hit for him?

A: In this instance, the player has to be removed from the game. Although you legally entered him back in the pitching position (starting pitchers may re-enter as the pitcher once per game) once you pinch hit for him, regulation re-entry rules prohibit him from re-entering the contest.

Q: I removed my starting pitcher in the 4th inning. He did not stay in the game. Can he re-enter in the pitching position to get the final out of the game?

A: Yes, assuming he has sufficient number of daily pitches remaining and he re-enters according to the re-entry rules.

Q. I brought in a relief pitcher to face one batter in the 5th inning. After he retired that batter he stayed in the game as the right fielder. Can he pitch to one batter in the bottom of the 7th inning?

A. Yes. Effective with the 2018 season, relief pitchers removed from the mound may return to the game as the pitcher as long as he has sufficient pitches remaining for the day.

Q. Our game was suspended due to weather conditions in the middle of the 4th inning. Can my pitcher complete the game the next day?

A. Maybe. Once a pitcher throws 21 pitches, at least one day of rest is required. In this instance, if he threw 21-35 pitches before the game was suspended, he cannot pitch until he has had at least one full day of rest making him ineligible to pitch the next day.

Q. My team has advanced to the semi-finals of the Class 3A state tournament. Can my pitcher throw 45 pitches in the semi-final game and then come back and throw 20 pitches in either the third place or championship game?

A. Maybe. It all depends on the number of pitches that your pitcher can throw that day. If he can throw 90 pitches on Saturday, then he can throw in both games in any combination up to a maximum of 90 pitches. If he can only throw 50 pitches on Saturday and he throws 45 in the first game, then he would only have 5 pitches to throw in the second game. The pitching limitation is based on the number of pitches allowed on a given day and it is no longer based on innings.

Q. My pitcher has pitched 7 innings. The score is tied after 7 innings. May he continue to pitch in the 8th inning since the game is tied?

A. Maybe. A pitcher is allowed a maximum of 90 pitches in one day if he has had the required rest between outings. Assuming he has 90 pitches available in one day and in this instance he has only thrown 80 pitches after 7 innings and the score is tied, he still has 10 pitches remaining that day. A pitcher who pitches more than he is allowed is considered an ineligible player at that point and the game shall be forfeited in accordance with By-Law 5.071.

Q. Our game is in the top of the 7th inning. My pitcher has 4 pitches left to throw before he will reach his maximum for the day. After his 4th pitch of the inning, the count on the batter is 2-2. Can he finish pitching to the batter?

A. Yes. However, once the batter has completed his at bat, in this instance, the pitcher must be immediately removed from the mound. Coaches need to have a new pitcher ready to come into the game when the pitcher has been removed from the mound.

Q. My pitcher threw 10 pitches on Monday and only 7 pitches on Tuesday. How many pitches can he throw on Wednesday?

A. None. A pitcher who throws on two consecutive days must rest for at least one full day before he can pitch again. In this instance, the next time the pitcher could throw would be on Thursday---up to a maximum of 90 pitches.

Q. Our regional championship game was scheduled for Monday. Due to weather, it was not played until Tuesday. On Tuesday, my best pitcher threw 85 pitches and shut out the opponent. Can he pitch in the sectional championship game on Saturday?

A. No. When a pitcher throws between 66 and 90 pitches, the pitcher must rest for four days before he can pitch again. In this case, he would have only rested three days (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday) which would make him ineligible to pitch on Saturday.

Q. Our regional championship game was scheduled for Monday but was not played until Tuesday due to weather. However, I noticed that our opponent for the sectional was able to play on Monday. Their starting pitcher will be able to throw in the sectional on Saturday because he has had four days of rest but if my #1 pitcher throws 66 or more pitches on Tuesday he will not be able to throw on Saturday because he will not have had four days rest. Is this fair?

A. The rules are in place for the safety of the pitchers. The rules do not take into account for any weather delays. In this instance, you will either want to limit your #1 pitcher to 51-65 pitches in the regional championship being played on Tuesday so he can throw again on Saturday or if he pitches 66-90 pitches on Tuesday, he will be ineligible to pitch on Saturday.

NOTE: Each team is responsible for counting its own team's pitches and the opposing team's pitches. The head coach or designee will compare pitch counts with the opposing team after every even-numbered inning and at the conclusion of the game. If teams report different pitch count numbers to one another, the teams will split the difference and will use that number as the pitcher's official number. If splitting the difference results in a number that ends in a decimal, the teams will round that number up to the next whole number. For example: Following the 2nd inning, Team A has recorded 32 pitches for its pitcher. Team B has recorded 36 pitches for Team A's pitcher. The official pitch count number for Team A's pitcher will be 34 pitches. Another example: Following the 4th inning, Team A has recorded 63 pitches for its pitcher. Team B has recorded 60 pitches for Team A's pitcher. Since splitting the difference results in 61.5 pitches, the official pitch count number for Team A's pitcher will be 62 pitches.

Pitching Limitation Penalty

In addition to automatic forfeiture of the contest, should a pitcher throw more than the maximum number of pitches allowed, the coach of the team shall be ineligible to coach for the next two interscholastic contests at the level where the violation occurred and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim.

C. Tournament Team Limitations

Each tournament team shall consist of a maximum of 18 uniformed players whose names appear on the Regional Entry Form. No changes will be permitted on the Regional Entry Form after the Roster Closed deadline. The Roster Closed deadline is set at 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday preceding the start of the regional.

All tournament play shall be single elimination with the winning team advancing from regional to sectional and from sectional to state level competition. If an opponent incurs a violation in the state series that requires a contest or contests to be forfeited, the following policy will be followed:

- If the violation affects only one round of competition, the opponent within that round will be advanced on to the next round of competition within the state tournament series.
- If the violation affects more than one round of competition, no opponent from the preceding rounds of competition shall be advanced to the next round of competition within the state tournament series.
- The advancement of opponents shall be determined by the IESA Office.

When a sectional site is undetermined, the two regional winners shall make contact, determine the sectional site, and notify the IESA Office as soon as possible. If both schools desire to host, a coin flip will be conducted by the IESA Office to determine who will host. **Starting time for the sectional is set for 11:00 a.m.**

XIII. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. Authority

By authority of the IESA Constitution and By-Laws, the Board of Directors shall interpret and enforce the Terms and Conditions.

B. Failure To Appear And Forfeiture Of Contest

Any school that withdraws from the IESA state series without notifying the IESA Office or withdraws from the state series after the seeding meeting shall pay a \$50.00 penalty, the cost of the umpires for the contest which they forfeited, and that school's share for one contest of any deficit assessment.

A team failing to field the required number of starting players within 45 minutes of the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game. The IESA Office and tournament host school must be notified of such.

No state series contest shall be forfeited due to weather conditions. If the administrator of any participating school determines he or she cannot reach the tournament site due to weather conditions, the host school shall reschedule that particular game as soon as possible. The IESA Office and the opposing schools shall be notified of the rescheduling. Other contests scheduled on that particular date may still be held.

Any coach or school official who withdraws a team from the field of play under any circumstances prior to the official completion of the game shall forfeit all rights to protest, except when the principal of the forfeiting school believes circumstances which affected the health, safety, or welfare of the students required such action, he or she may file a protest.

C. Baseballs

Regional-- Schools that host one of the first-round games on **September 11** will receive three (3) baseballs once the host of the play-in games is determined. The regional host will receive (9) baseballs, (3) for each semifinal game on **September 13** and (3) for the championship game on **September 17**.

Sectional-- Each Sectional host will receive three (3) Rawlings RIESA baseballs to be used for the sectional. Host schools must have some identical balls on hand in case the (3)balls are not enough to complete the game. One ball shall be given to the loser of each game and two balls shall be given to the winner of each game.

D. Players and Team Personnel

No team will be allowed in uniform more than 18 players whose names must appear on the Regional Entry Form. Only students who are currently eligible to participate in an interscholastic contest shall appear at the contest in the uniform of their school.

E. Awards

Plaques shall be awarded to the regional and sectional winners, and trophies to the champion, runner-up, third and fourth place winners at the state final competition. Twenty-six individual medals will be presented to the first, second, third, and fourth-place team winners in the state final competition.

E. Conduct of Coaches, Players, Fans

Any player ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible:

- **First offense:** For the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level of competition (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim). In addition the player must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course online prior to regaining eligibility. Receipt of course completion must be acknowledged by the IESA Office prior to the player regaining eligibility.
- **Second Offense:** For the next five (5) interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition to a \$100.00 fine.
- Player may also be subject to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.

Examples:

A basketball player is ejected twice during the course of the season. That player is not allowed to participate in the next five basketball contests (at that level of competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim) following the second ejection and must pay a \$100.00 fine.

A player is ejected one time during the baseball season for unsportsmanlike conduct and one time during the basketball season also for unsportsmanlike conduct. Following the second ejection, that player is not allowed to participate in the next five basketball contests following the second ejection and must pay a \$100.00 fine.

Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible:

- **First offense:** For the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level of competition (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim). In addition the coach must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course online and pay a \$100.00 fine prior to regaining eligibility. Receipt of course completion must be acknowledged by the IESA Office prior to the coach regaining eligibility.
- **Second Offense:** For the next five (5) interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition to a \$250.00 fine
- Coach may also be subject to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.

Examples:

A basketball coach is ejected twice during the course of the season. That coach is not allowed to attend the next five basketball contests (at that level of competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim) following the second ejection and must pay a \$250.00 fine.

A coach is ejected one time during the baseball season for unsportsmanlike conduct and one time during the basketball season also for unsportsmanlike conduct. Following the second ejection, that coach is not allowed to participate in the next five basketball contests following the second ejection and must pay a \$250.00 fine.

Any fan ejected from a contest shall not be allowed to return to future contests until he/she has completed the NFHS Sportsmanship course online and has presented proof of completion to the school administration. Any fan ejected from an IESA state finals tournament may not return to the tournament if there are games remaining to be played in that tournament.

Any player or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct who fails to sit out the remaining interscholastic contest(s) as required in By-Laws 5.101 and 5.102 shall cause the team(s) to forfeit that contest and possibly receive other penalties as determined by the Executive Director.

Any school that receives two ejections in a school year (which includes players, coaches, and fans) shall be required to communicate in writing through the school's administration with the Sportsmanship Review Panel on the steps the school is taking to address the issue. The panel may recommend additional sanctions to the Board of Directors if they deem necessary. The Sportsmanship Review Panel shall consist of an IESA administrative staff member, a member of the sportsmanship advisory committee as well as no less than one member of the Board of Directors.

Students participating in the state series in violation of IESA By-Laws, or other persons found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, may be barred by the Executive Director from the remainder of the state tournament series and future interscholastic activities.

If players or representatives of any school entered in a tournament are found guilty of carelessly or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school or other visiting schools, the players or representative's school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in repairing or replacing such property or equipment.

G. Facilities

The host school shall not make its playing fields available to the visiting teams for practice sessions other than for the customary scheduled batting practice and infield just before game time.

H. State Tournament Information

The state tournament host will be required to send packets of information to all sectional hosts to pass on to their sectional winners.

I. Media

Space shall be made available for news media personnel covering the state series and host schools should make every effort to accommodate the media. Reporting information to the news media shall be the responsibility of each tournament manager and strongly recommended. Media shall be prohibited from being in live-ball area.

J. Signs, Banners, And Noisemakers

The displaying of signs, banners, placards, balloons, or constructed frames through which players run is prohibited. Local tournament managers should not permit these devices to be brought into the playing areas. Tournament managers should not permit spectators to bring mechanical noise-making devices, megaphone, radios, or tape players into the playing area of the state tournament contest.

K. Video-Taping

Video-taping of regular season and state series contests by fans and spectators is allowed. Video-taping of contests by coaches during a game is governed by NFHS rule.

L. Other

No alcoholic beverages shall be served at any IESA activity where there are students participating

IX. SPORTSMANSHIP

It is the clear obligation of students, school staff, boards of education, and all other official representatives of member schools in all interscholastic relationships to practice and promote the highest principles of sportsmanship and the ethics of competition, and it is the obligation of the member school to maintain proper crowd control at all interscholastic activities. The Association shall have no responsibility for crowd control nor for the actions of school representatives. The Board of Directors shall have full authority to penalize any member school, any of whose representatives or spectators may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated these obligations.

The IESA and its Board of Directors require an administrator or school representative (other than the participating coaches) be in attendance at all home contests. It is recommended that in addition to the tournament manager, an administrator or other school representative from the host school be in attendance at all times for state tournament series contests.

The IESA and its Board of Directors recommends that a school have a policy in place when it is necessary to deal with a fan ejection(s).

For all contests, game officials will be required to fill out and submit a special report form for an ejection within 48 hours of the incident. In addition, the host school administrator on duty should also complete a special report form within 48 hours and return it to the IESA office following any ejection.

Students participating in interscholastic contests in violation of the By-Laws, or other persons found to be in gross violation of the ethics of competition or the principles of good sportsmanship, may be barred by the Executive Director from interscholastic activities.

If players or representatives of any school entered in an IESA state series tournament are found guilty of carelessly or maliciously breaking, damaging, or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school or other visiting schools, such as damaging baskets or backboards during warm-up drills, breaking or damaging lockers, etc., destruction to other teams equipment, buses, etc., such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in repairing or replacing such property or equipment.

EJECTION OF A PLAYER: Any player ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible:

- **First offense:** For the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level of competition (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition the player must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course online prior to regaining eligibility. Receipt of course completion must be acknowledged by the IESA Office prior to the player regaining eligibility.
- **Second Offense:** For the next five (5) interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition to a \$100.00 fine.
- Player may also be subject to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.

Examples:

1. A baseball player is ejected twice during the course of the season. That player is not allowed to participate. That player is not allowed to participate in the next five baseball contests (at that level of competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim) following the second ejection and must pay a
2. A player is ejected one time during the baseball season for unsportsmanlike conduct and one time during the baseball season also for unsportsmanlike conduct. Following the second ejection, that player is not allowed to participate in the next five baseball contests following the second ejection and must pay a \$100.00 fine.

EJECTION OF A COACH: Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible:

- **First offense:** For the next two (2) interscholastic contests at that level of competition (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition the coach must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course online and pay a \$100.00 fine prior to regaining eligibility. Receipt of course completion must be acknowledged by the IESA Office prior to the coach regaining eligibility.
- **Second Offense:** For the next five (5) interscholastic contests at the level at which the ejection occurred (and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim), in addition to a \$250.00 fine
- Coach may also be subject to other penalties the IESA or the school may assess.

Examples:

1. A baseball coach is ejected twice during the course of the season. That coach is not allowed to attend the next five baseball contests (at that level of competition and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim) following the second ejection and must pay a \$250.00 fine.
2. A coach is ejected one time during the baseball season for unsportsmanlike conduct and one time during the baseball season also for unsportsmanlike conduct. Following the second ejection, that coach is not allowed to participate in the next five baseball contests following the second ejection and must pay a \$250.00 fine.

EJECTION OF A FAN: Schools will be held responsible for any fan that is ejected. A fan that is ejected from a contest must watch the National Federation of High School Associations Sportsmanship video prior to returning to watch contests and provide proof to the IESA Office that the video was viewed.

Any player or coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct who fails to sit out the remaining interscholastic contest(s) as required in By-Laws 5.121 and 5.122 shall cause the team(s) to forfeit that contest and possibly receive other penalties as determined by the Board of Directors.

MULTIPLE EJECTIONS IN A SCHOOL YEAR: Any school that receives two ejections in a school year (which includes players, coaches and fans) will require that school administration be required to communicate in writing with the Sportsmanship Review Panel on the steps the school is taking to address the issue. The panel may recommend additional sanctions to the Board of Directors if they deem necessary.

Illustrations for Sportsmanship

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Q. | May a coach who is ineligible for a contest due to a suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct travel with the team to the contest or attend the contest? |
| A. | No. |
| Q. | If a player or coach is ejected from a 7 th grade game, when is he/she eligible to participate? |
| A. | A player or coach ejected from a 7 th grade contest may not play or coach in the 8 th grade contest scheduled on the same evening. <i>Furthermore, whenever the next 7th grade contest is scheduled, the player or coach is required to miss that contest and all contests between until the NFHS Sportsmanship course is completed and the IESA receives the \$100 fine.</i> |
| Q. | My coach was ejected from a 7 th grade game on Tuesday. Our next 7 th grade game is not scheduled until two weeks from that day. Our county 8 th grade tournament is scheduled to start this coming Saturday. Is my coach allowed to coach in the 8 th grade county tournament? |
| A. | <i>No. Coaches are required to miss all contests for the remainder of the day once they have been ejected, the next two contests at the level at which the ejection occurred and all contests in between. Since your coach was ejected in the 7th grade contest, he/she could not coach the 8th grade county tournament and would have to miss the next two 7th grade contests, complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course and the IESA must receive the \$100 fine before they can coach again.</i> |
| Q. | What is the definition of Unsportsmanlike Conduct? |
| A. | Unsportsmanlike Conduct is defined as the following: fighting, verbal abuse/dissent directed toward an official or opponent, racial or ethnic slurs, profanity/obscene gestures, flagrant/violent fouls, taunting/trash talking/baiting, cheating, throwing/abusing equipment, physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent, and unauthorized leaving of the team bench. |
| Q. | If a player is disqualified for committing five personal fouls in a baseball game, must he/she sit-out the next contest? |
| A. | No. By-Law 5.121 only applies when players are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. |
| Q. | If a girl is ejected from the first game of a softball doubleheader, is she eligible to play the second game of the doubleheader? |
| A. | No. She would have to miss the second game that day and the team's next scheduled game. She also must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course and the IESA must receive the \$100 fine before she can play. |
| Q. | What is the umpire's/referee's role in enforcing By-Law 5.120? |
| A. | Game officials are not responsible for enforcing the By-Law. Officials must report the ejection to the IESA Office and the member school within 48 hours of the incident. |

- Q.** May players who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct travel with the team to the next contest or attend the contest?
- A.** Yes, but the ineligible player may not dress for the contest.
- Q.** What happens to a player who is ejected during the regional baseball final and the team loses the regional contest?
- A.** The ejected player must sit out the next interscholastic contest at that level of competition, and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim, in which he or she participates. Example: A 7th grade boy is ejected in the 7th grade regional baseball championship game. The team loses the championship game. This student also plays on the 8th grade team. This boy would not be eligible to play in any remaining 8th grade baseball contests as the 7th grade season is over and the By-Law states he must sit out the next (2) interscholastic contest at that level and all other interscholastic contests at any level in the interim. He would have to miss the first (2) track meet of his 7th grade year assuming he participates in track. If he does not participate in track, then he would have to miss the first (2) contests of his 8th grade year in any interscholastic contest. The player would also need to complete the NFHS sportsmanship course and the IESA must receive the \$100 fine before they can participate.
- Q.** Can the decision of the game official to assess an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty be appealed?
- A.** No. That is a decision of the contest official and By-Laws 2.129 and 5.078 prohibit the decisions of game officials to be appealed.
- Q.** A coach receives two technical fouls in a game and therefore is required by rule to be ejected from the game. Is the coach or player required to sit out the next two contests?
- A.** Yes. Receiving two direct technical fouls is considered being ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Q.** When a student is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and has to sit out the next (2) games and also becomes academically ineligible for the next game, will the student serve both periods of ineligibility at the same time?
- A.** No. The student will be academically ineligible for the next week and then the student will serve the penalty for the ejection once the student has regained academic eligibility.

XV. GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL INITIATIVE/AWARENESS CONTESTS

- A.** Uniform color must be legal under NFHS rules. Example: Breast cancer awareness pink uniforms would not be legal as a home uniform as baseball requires a white home uniform.
- B.** A permanently attached commemorative patch may be worn but must adhere to NFHS rules.
- C.** Initiative/awareness color specific headbands/wristbands are allowed (i.e. pink headbands). Note that all team members must be uniform in color with regard to headbands/wristbands.
- D.** Other items that may be color specific for initiative/awareness: socks, shoelaces, shooting shirts, shoes.

XVI. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Regional & Sectional Tournaments

Each member school hosting a regional or sectional baseball tournament shall remit to the IESA 30% of the gross receipts for admissions. Expenditures not permitted shall be detailed on the financial report forms. Each school hosting a regional and/or a sectional will receive a Rawlings baseball at no charge. The host school shall retain any profit from the tournament.

If there is a deficit in regional or sectional athletic tournament finances, participating schools may be assessed by the host school on a per-game basis. Assessments shall be paid directly to the host school and shall not be sent by participating schools until the financial report is approved by the Executive Director.

B. State Tournament Prices

All concession revenue may be kept by the host school.

Outside vendors besides concessions must be contracted at least one month in advance through the IESA Office and not the host school.

Admission prices:

State Tournament admission prices are as follows:

NEW: Digital Tickets are available through GoFan. THE IESA HAS MOVED TO ONE TICKET PRICE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AT THE STATE SERIES

State --

Friday Only- Digital Tickets- \$8.00 ALL AGE GROUPS

Friday Only- Cash Option- \$10.00 ALL AGE GROUPS

Saturday Only- Digital Tickets- \$8.00 ALL AGE GROUPS

Saturday Only- Cash Option- \$10.00 ALL AGE GROUPS

XVII. AWARDS

Plaques shall be awarded to the regional and sectional winner, and trophies to the champion, runner-up, third, and fourth place winners at the state final competition.

Twenty-six individual awards will be presented to the first, second, third, and fourth place team winners in the state final competition.

XVIII. OFFICIALS

Contest officials shall make all decisions regarding the rules of play. Their judgments and decisions cannot be protested.

A. State Final Umpires

The IESA Office shall contract the umpires for the state finals. **Three (3)** umpires will be contracted for each state final tournament game. All umpires shall be licensed by the Illinois High School Association.

B. Regional and Sectional Umpires

Regional---**NEW: The regional host school shall contract the umpires for ALL regional games, including the quarterfinal games.** Two umpires licensed with the Illinois High School Association shall be contracted. Umpires must be licensed with the IHSA. Preferably, no officials should be contracted from cities playing in the regional tournaments. At the regional level, each school shall pay the cost of one umpire for each game in which they participate.

Sectional---The IESA shall contract two umpires for the contest. Only IHSA licensed umpires shall be used. Sectional umpires will be sent checks directly from the IESA Office after completion of the sectional game.

C. Payment

Regional -- \$65.00 per game

Sectional -- \$75.00 per game (2 umpires assigned and paid by the IESA Office).

State -- \$85.00 per game (3 umpires assigned and paid by the IESA Office).

The following procedure shall be in effect for payments to officials in both the regular season and state series when contests are postponed or suspended:

- When an official is notified before arriving at the site there shall be no compensation

- When an official arrives at the site and the contest is suspended or cancelled before the contest begins, the official shall be paid one-half of the game fee.
- If the contest begins and then is suspended until the next day, the official shall receive the full game fee for the contest which began and then a full fee for the completion of the contest the next day.

D. Provide for Umpires

It is highly recommended, especially in the early part of the season, that water is made available to the umpires between innings.

XVIV. VASITY/NON-VARSITY DEFINITIONS AND POLICY

Both Varsity and Non-Varsity

- **Designation of contest:** The level of competition for a contest is regularly specified on the contract which schools enter into for a given contest. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the principals/official representatives of all competing schools prior to the contest, the level of competition specified on the contract designates the level of the competition.
- **Season limitations:** Season limitations apply to varsity and non-varsity teams. The school season ends for varsity athletes and non-varsity athletes on the date of the school's last contest at their level in the particular sport.
- **Team limitations:** Team limitations apply to varsity and non-varsity teams.
- **Individual player limitations:** Individual player limitations apply to both varsity and non-varsity teams (per day limitations).
- **Eligibility requirements:** Eligibility standards and requirements apply to both varsity and non-varsity athletes.

Varsity Only

- **Officials:** A varsity contest may be played only if licensed officials can be obtained.
- **Schedule:** Only varsity contests count toward a teams required minimum and maximum number of contests.
- **Varsity team is identified by the school at the start of the season.** That team fulfills a schedule of contests arranged for the varsity team. This team is considered to be the team that comprises the most skilled competitors in the sport and is the team which is the school's representative at its highest level of competition, including the state series.

Non-Varsity Only

- **Officials:** A below varsity level contest may be officiated by members of the coaching staff, faculty and /or administrative staff from any of the competing schools if the contracted official does not show or the school could not obtain a licensed official for the contest.
- **Format:** By agreement of the participating schools, the format of the contest may be altered.