



2025-2026 Baseball Regional and Sectional Host Manual

BOYS BASEBALL (CLASS 1A, 2A, 3A)			
Item	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Entry Deadline (Mon.)	June 9, 2025	June 8, 2026	June 7, 2027
Final Entry Deadline	July 1, 2025	July 1, 2026	July 1, 2027
Practice/Tryouts may begin (Mon.)	Aug 4, 2025	Aug 3, 2026	Aug 2, 2027
Cooperative Agreement Due	Aug, 7, 2025	Aug, 7, 2026	Aug, 7, 2027
Refund Deadline	Aug. 8, 2025	Aug. 8, 2026	Aug. 8, 2027
Games May Begin & Season Schedule Deadline (Wed.)	Aug. 13, 2025	Aug. 12, 2026	Aug. 11, 2027
Online Roster & Record Deadline (Tue.)	Sept. 2, 2025	Sept. 9, 2026	Aug. 31, 2027
Online Ranking	Sept. 3, 2025	Sept. 2, 2026	Sept. 1, 2027
Rosters Closed (Mon.)	Sept. 10, 2025	Sept. 9, 2026	Sept. 8, 2027
Regionals (Mon. Wed. Sat.)			
Regionals (Thurs. Sat. Wed.)	Sept. 11, 13, 17, 2025	Sept. 10, 12, 16, 2026	Sept.9, 11, 15, 2027
Sectionals (Mon..)			
Sectionals (Sat..)	Sept. 20, 2025	Sept. 19, 2026	Sept. 18, 2027
State (Fri. & Sat.)	Sept. 26, 27, 2025	Sept. 25, 26, 2026	Sept. 24, 25, 2027
Season must end (Sat.)	Nov. 1, 2025	Oct. 31, 2026	Oct. 30, 2027

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. LOCATION, DATES OF COMPETITION AND UPDATING SCORES

1. Regionals

- NEW:** Thursday, September 11, 2025 (**Quarterfinals**), Saturday, September 13, 2025 (**Semifinals**), Wednesday, September 17, 2025 (**Championship**)
- Regional host definitions
 - The regional quarterfinal host is the higher-seeded team of each regional quarterfinal game.
 - For regional quarterfinal games, the game location/time will be determined after online seeding and will be held at the home field of the higher-seeded team.
 - If the regional quarterfinal host is a different school than the IESA-designated regional host, the regional quarterfinal host needs to communicate the quarterfinal game date/time to the IESA-designated host.**
 - NEW: The regional host will hire all umpires for the regional, including play-in games.**
 - NEW:** The IESA-designated regional host will host the regional semifinal games (2) and the regional championship game at their home field.
 - The IESA-designated regional host may also be the regional quarterfinal host, depending on how they are seeded.
 - The IESA-designated regional host is the only school in a given regional who can update game information and results for quarterfinals, semifinals and the championship.
- For regional host schools on fields without lights, games should not start any later than 4:15 p.m.
- It is recommended that games not be scheduled during school time hours.
- Following online seeding, regional hosts should email a schedule to all schools assigned to the regional indicating the exact site, date, and time they are scheduled to play.
- Remind the regional champion to send a team picture to the IESA office by the Friday before sectionals.

2. Sectionals

- NEW:** Saturday, September 20, 2025 @ 11:00 a.m. - Rain reschedule date will be **Monday, September 22, 2025**
- Sectionals are played at the home field of the sectional host.
- Sectional hosts should remind the regional champions playing in their sectional to send a team picture to the IESA office by the Friday prior to playing in the sectional game.

3. State

- Quarterfinals - Friday, September 26, 2025
- Semifinals and Finals – Saturday, September 27, 2025
- The state tournament will take place at EastSide Center (1 Eastside Drive) in East Peoria

B. BASEBALLS

- For the regional quarterfinal game, the higher-seeded team in each regional quarterfinal game will be sent the Rawlings model **RIESABB** baseballs after brackets are posted - these shall be brought to and used in the quarterfinal game. The intention is that the baseballs will have arrived at the higher-seeded team's school prior to the first regional game, but in

- the event that they have not yet arrived, regional quarterfinal hosts must have the appropriate number of baseballs on hand.
2. IESA-designated regional and sectional hosts will receive Rawlings model **RIESABB** baseballs for each tournament hosted. There are enough for three (3) baseballs per regional and sectional contest scheduled, and they must be used in the regional and sectional games.
 3. Host schools must have Rawlings model **RIESABB** baseballs on hand in case the 3 baseballs sent to the school are not enough to complete the game.
- C. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAQUES**
1. The regional/sectional championship plaque will be sent to schools from the IESA supplier.
 - a. If a school has any problems receiving the plaque, contact the IESA office as soon as possible.

II. STATE SERIES TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. PLAYING RULES

1. NFHS Baseball Rules Book
2. IESA Baseball Terms and Conditions
3. IESA Exceptions to NFHS Rules

B. GAMES

1. The host school shall not make its playing fields available to the visiting teams for practice sessions.
2. Regional and sectional hosts assign dugouts prior to play and communicate this with team(s) coming to their site.
3. Home team designation
 - a. Regionals - The higher-seeded team in the bracket shall be designated as the home team even if the game is held somewhere other than the higher-seeded team's traditional home field.
 - b. Sectionals - A coin flip will determine the home team for the sectional game.
 - c. State Finals - A coin flip after arrival to the state finals will determine the home team for state finals games.
4. All games must be played in the designated order and the order may not change unless the IESA grants permission.
5. A pre-game conference with officials and head coaches is required to take place prior to all contests.
6. Each team will receive a 10-minute pre-game team defensive warm-up time on the playing diamond.
7. A team failing to field the required number of starting players (9) within thirty (30) minutes of the scheduled game time shall forfeit the game.
 - a. The IESA office and tournament host school must be notified of such a decision. A game that is played even though the school failed to field the required number of starters within 30 minutes of the scheduled game time cannot be protested.
 - b. *Q: The game was scheduled for 11:00 am, opponent arrived at 11:25 am. What time do I start the game?*
A: The start time of the game will be 11:30 am.
8. All tournament play shall be single elimination with the winning team advancing from regional to sectional and from sectional to state level competition.

C. TICKET GATE ADMISSION

1. Ticket gate admission is not allowed for regional and sectional games.
2. For the state quarterfinals, semifinals, 3rd place, and championship games, there will be a ticket gate.
 - a. The school/team personnel information entered on the online roster form is who will be allowed free entry into the state finals should a school advance to that level.
 - b. The IESA pass cards are intended for use by the school administration (superintendent, principal, assistant principal, athletic director). School administrators who wish to have a guest accompany them at the state finals must present the IESA pass card at the ticket gate to allow the guest free entry.

D. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Regionals and Sectionals
 - a. Participating schools can be assessed on a per-game basis to cover operating deficits of a regional or sectional tournament. Host schools must contact the IESA for approval to assess prior to assessing other schools in the regional and/or sectional.
 - b. Any outside vendor besides concessions at state tournament events shall be contracted at least one month in advance through the IESA.
 - c. All concessions revenues may be kept by the host school.
2. State Finals
 - a. All receipts and vouchers for workers and expenses from the host school shall be forwarded to the IESA office within one (1) week for approval by the Executive Director.
 - b. The following items will not be approved as expenditures - payment for substitute teachers, rental of playing facilities, cost of utilities used during a tournament unless approved by the Executive Director.
 - c. 1/3 of the profit shall be returned to the host school and 2/3 of the profit is retained by the IESA. Any deficit expenditures will be paid by the IESA.
 - d. Any outside vendors besides concessions at state tournament events shall be contracted at least one month in advance through the IESA.
 - e. Concession revenues are retained by the host school/facility.

E. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Field conditions should be conducive to a state series game - this includes clear markings of foul areas, baselines, the batter's box, the on-deck circle for both teams and the grass and surrounding areas should be properly maintained.
2. Schools serving as a host must have signage in accordance with the Concealed Carry Act 430 ILCS 66.
 - a. This includes an IESA event that is held on a school's property and IESA events held at a non-school site (sports complex, park, etc.).
3. Medical personnel:
 - a. The IESA encourages schools to notify local EMTs and police department and inform them when hosting.
 - b. Medical personnel (i.e. athletic trainer) should be on-site during every state series contest.
 - c. It is recommended that state series hosts have an AED on-site. If one is not available, the IESA recommends that the host school works with area schools to see if a portable one is available to borrow.
4. The tournament manager must always be visible/present for every contest for officials and teams to communicate with.
5. Review the school's emergency plan with those who will be working the contests.
6. While the host school for any activity must assume primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control, this is a mutual responsibility. Visiting schools must also take such measures as necessary to ensure proper behavior on the part of their own students and spectators.
7. Hosts are encouraged to provide concessions so that teams and fans that are traveling can eat.
8. Hosts are encouraged to provide music and play it consistently for all teams for all contests.
9. Any coach, player and/or fan ejected from an IESA Baseball contest (regular season or state series) is subject to the penalties outlined in the IESA Handbook. Host school administrators should notify the IESA if an ejection of one or more of these individuals takes place.

III. UMPIRES/OFFICIALS

It is the responsibility of the host to provide for the security of the umpires. The host should be present to escort umpires on and off the playing area for all contests. Fans/coaches must not be allowed into the umpires' dressing area for any reason. Officials' rating sheets are online in the baseball entry center. Please make sure that each coach is aware that they can fill out state series umpire evaluations online.

A. REGIONALS

1. Officials must be registered by the Illinois High School Association - this can be confirmed on the IESA website.
2. Regional umpires shall be paid \$65 each per game.
 - a. Each school pays **\$65.00** for each regional game in which they participate. It is the responsibility of the host to contact each school in the regional to inform them of their expected reimbursement amount for umpires and when this is to be provided (at the conclusion of the regional tournament or by the completion of each game).
 - b. **NEW: The regional host is responsible for hiring two IHSA licensed umpires for the regional, including the quarterfinal games. The cost of the umpires is to be split by each of the competing teams.**
 - c. The IESA-designated regional host will contract and hire two IHSA-licensed officials for both the regional semifinal and the regional championship game, the costs of which are to be split by the schools participating in each of those individual games (cost is the same as outlined in III.A.2).

Please keep the following items in mind as the host for the regional:

- Provide water for players AND umpires
- There will be no regional financial reports to submit by the host school because you cannot charge for admission.
- Be sure the outfield grass is mowed (infield grass as well if the site has a grass infield).
- Base lines, batter box, and outfield foul lines are properly and clearly chalked.
- Be sure holes in the pitching mound and batters box have been filled in and "stomped down".
- Fences and back stops are safe. This may not be the easiest item to correct but back stops should not allow a ball to roll through the back stop when a catcher misses the ball. If the back stop is in need of repair, the hosts should fix the back stop prior to hosting.
- An administrator on site who can tend to problems should they arise is the key to handling situations.
- Please be sure restrooms are in working order.
- The host should provide the book and an official scorer for all games.
- It is the host's responsibility for proper supervision, especially for umpires after the contest.
- Even if you are not playing in a given contest please understand that you still are the host and you are exactly that--a "host" school that is responsible for the regional contest.

B. SECTIONALS

1. IESA will hire and pay the umpires for the sectional game at the rate of \$75.00 each per game.
 - a. The contract for these sectional officials will be included in the ball box sent to the host schools.
 - b. The host school should contact these umpires as soon as possible, and no later than one week, prior to the sectional game to confirm location, date, and time.
 - c. The IESA mail checks from the IESA office to the sectional umpires following the sectional contest.

Please keep the following items in mind as the host for the sectional:

- Provide water for players AND umpires.
- Be sure the outfield grass is mowed (infield grass as well if the site has a grass infield).
- Base lines, batter box, and outfield foul lines are properly and clearly chalked.
- Be sure holes in the pitching mound and batters box have been filled in and "stomped down".
- Be sure fences and back stops are safe. This may not be the easiest item to correct but back stops should not allow a ball to roll through the back stop when a catcher misses the ball. If the back stop is in need of repair, the hosts should fix the back stop prior to hosting.
- There must be an administrator on site who can tend to problems should they arise.
- Please be sure restrooms are in working order.
- The host should provide the book and an official scorer for all games including official pitch count.
- It is the host's responsibility for proper supervision, especially for umpires after the contest.
- Even if you are not playing in a given contest please understand that you still are the host and you are exactly that--a "host" school that is responsible for the sectional contest.

C. STATE

1. IESA will hire and pay the officials for the state quarterfinals, semifinals, 3rd place, and the championship games.

IV. ONLINE HOST ADMINISTRATION

A. ACCESSING HOST ADMINISTRATION

1. Go to the IESA Website and click on the red MEMBER LOGIN button on the left side of the webpage.
2. Choose the school from the drop-down menu and enter either the school or AD password.
3. If the assignments have been completed for the activity, a Regional/Sectional Host Administration Area on the school's baseball entry will appear when clicking the link ENTRY CENTER LOGINS/REGISTRATION AND ENTRY CENTER LOGINS.
4. If a school is hosting multiple activities, all of tournaments will show a link.
 - a. Click on HOST ADMIN for the tournament to update it.
5. Once logged into the school's member center, hosts will be able to see Regional/Sectional Host Administration. Choose this link to access:
 - a. Email regional/sectional's coaches or administrators
 - b. Access this host manual
 - c. Set regional dates, times and locations
 - d. Enter regional/sectional results
 - e. Download regional entry data
 - f. View regional rosters
 - g. Check regional brackets
 - h. Check sectional qualifiers
6. To view the regional entry forms for your tournament, click on VIEW ALL REGIONAL ENTRIES.
 - a. If you are creating a program for your tournament, you will be able to download all the regional entry information for your tournament.
 - i. Click DOWNLOAD REGIONAL ENTRY DATA.
 - ii. Choose PC or Mac.
 - iii. Click GET DATA.
 - iv. Save the resulting file to your hard drive as an .xls file.

Activity	Entry Center Links
Concussion	Concussion Testing
Athletic Director	
Golf	Entry Center
Girls Softball	Entries Host Admin
Boys Baseball	Entries Host Admin
Cross-Country	Entries
Girls Basketball	Entries 7th Host 8th Host
Boys Basketball	Entries 7th Host 8th Host
Chess	Entries
Boys Wrestling	Entries
Girls Volleyball	Entries 7th Host 8th Host
Bowling	Entries
Scholastic Bowl	Entries
Track & Field	Entries Host Admin

V. SETTING REGIONAL/SECTIONAL DATES AND LOCATION INFORMATION

A. SETTING REGIONAL/SECTIONAL DATES AND LOCATIONS

1. IESA-designated regional hosts must provide the venue name(s), address(es), city and game times for all regional games.
 - a. Since the regional quarterfinal games are played at the home field of the higher-seeded team, the IESA-designated regional host is responsible for contacting these schools after brackets are posted for venue location address and time.
 - b. This information will generate a map and directions to the game location. After entering the information check the website to make sure the Google map is correctly mapping the location.
 - c. Venue information will be automatically linked to the bracket and posted on the IESA website on the activity assignments page.
2. Sectionals must be played on the IESA-designated date and time.
3. The comment section will allow the host school to add information, such as concessions being offered, parking is available in the north lot, etc.
4. Make sure to click UPDATE after filling in all fields. Information will not be saved if you exit without clicking UPDATE.
5. If weather becomes an issue in your regional and/or sectional, update the new dates and times on the website.



The screenshot shows the 'Boys Baseball Host Administration' page. A red arrow points to the 'Set Regional Dates/Locations' button under the 'Regional 9' section. The page is divided into two columns: 'Regional 9' and 'Sectional E'. Both columns have buttons for 'Set Regional/Sectional Date/Location' and 'Set Regional/Sectional Results'. The 'Set Regional/Sectional Results' button is labeled 'OPEN'.

IESA-designated regional hosts need to contact these schools to determine field location and game time information.

Boys Baseball Host Administration

[Entry Menu](#) - [Regional Entry Form](#) - [Host Administration](#)

Regional 9 Locations

Update as often as needed. All fields are optional.

Game 1 – Seed 4 v. Seed 5

Venue **Date**

Address **Time**

City (just city)

[Check to see if Google understands this address: 1301 Eagle Avenue, Washington](#)

Game 2 – Seed 3 v. Seed 7

Venue **Date**

Address **Time**

City (just city)

[Check to see if Google understands this address: 1100 North Main St, Washington](#)

Game 3 – Seed 3 v. Seed 6

Venue **Date**

Address **Time**

City (just city)

[Check to see if Google understands this address: 1 Eastside Dr., East Peoria](#)

Game 4 – Seed 1 v. Winner Game 1

Venue **Date**

Address **Time**

City (just city)

[Check to see if Google understands this address: 2005 South Main St, Eureka](#)

Game 5 – Winner Game 2 v. Winner Game 3

Venue **Date**

Address **Time**

City (just city)

[Check to see if Google understands this address: 2005 South Main St, Eureka](#)

Game 6 – Winner Game 4 v. Winner Game 5

Venue **Date**

Address **Time**

City (just city)

[Check to see if Google understands this address: 2005 South Main St, Eureka](#)

Regional 9 Final Scores		Entry Menu - Regional Entry Form - Host Administration	
A Morton JHS		A Morton JHS	2
B BYE		Status	▼
A Washington Central	6	B Washington Central	0
Status	▼		
B Eureka	2		
		A MORTON JHS	10
A Washington MS	12	Status	▼
Status	▼	B East Peoria Central	4
B Lincoln JHS	0		
		A Washington MS	8
		Status	▼
A East Peoria Central	7	B East Peoria Central	9
Status	▼	Champ record after regionals	
B Stanford Olympia	0	26 ▼ - 1 ▼	

Update Final Score

VI. ENTERING REGIONAL/SECTIONAL RESULTS

A. RESULTS MUST BE POSTED ON THE IESA WEBSITE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EACH GAME.

B. ENTERING REGIONAL RESULTS

1. To enter results:
 - a. Under the score column, enter the final score of the contest.
 - b. Click UPDATE in the lower right-hand corner.
 - c. Winners will automatically be advanced to the next round.
 - d. If a game is suspended or a team forfeits, this can be selected under the drop-down menu labeled STATUS.
 - e. If the game ended normally, the winner will advance based on the score.

C. ENTERING SECTIONAL RESULTS

1. To enter results:
 - a. Click SET SECTIONAL RESULTS.
 - b. Under the score column, enter the final score of the contest.
 - c. Under the win column, select the winning school.
 - d. Click the UPDATE button in the lower right-hand corner so that winners can be advanced to the next round. If you do not click this button, your information will not be saved.