

IESA RETURN-TO-PLAY



SOFTBALL

Additional information may be found at:

<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/sfc/servlet.shepherd/document/download/069t000000CyCndAAF?operationContext=S1>

Season Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practice May Start: August 3 ▪ Contests May Start: August 15 ▪ Regional Tournament: Sept. 21-26 ▪ Season Must End: Oct. 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular season play should be limited to within conference, OR other schools in the same general geographical area, (approximately a 30 mile radius), OR EMS region only
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Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students must be meeting all eligibility requirements (grades, age, residency, etc.) ▪ Students must have a current physical on file prior to practice. ▪ E-learning students may be eligible provided the local district allows their participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
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Team Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools limited to a maximum of 2 contests per week and no tournaments/events of more than 3 teams. Exception: baseball/softball could play 3 games in a given week if one of the events was a DH. ▪ Schools must meet the 3-contest minimum to be eligible for the Regional tournament. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools with multiple teams (i.e. Varsity/JV, A/B) may allow each team/division the maximum number of contests per week; HOWEVER, students should not exceed the maximum number of contests per week.
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State Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only a regional tournament will be conducted. ▪ The higher seeded team will host each contest and be responsible for hiring the two contest officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
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Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spectator and group gatherings subject to IDPH guidelines during this time. ▪ Outdoors, multiple groups of 50 are allowed if thirty feet of space is maintained between groups, up to a maximum 20% the capacity of the space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adherence to all CDC guidelines regarding hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. ▪ If practical, limit spectators to immediate household members or guardians of participants.

Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Individuals should not congregate in common areas prior to or following the meet. ▪ If an Illinois COVID Region or County is placed in Phase 3 or lower of the Governors Restore Illinois Plan, all sports for schools in that Region or County will be suspended or cancelled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Athletes must be at least 6-feet apart in dugout areas, or players seated 6-feet apart in bleachers behind dugout.
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ATHLETES: Face coverings must be worn at all times when not engaged in training, competing or other strenuous activity. ▪ ATHLETES: Face coverings must be worn whenever athletes are in the dugout or not actively participating in the contest. ▪ COACHES: Face coverings must be worn at all times when not actively engaged in strenuous physical activity. ▪ SPECTATORS: Face coverings should be worn except for when eating, drinking, or when outside and able to maintain a safe social distance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is recommended that programs require physicians notes for individuals who have a medical contraindication to wearing a face covering. Face coverings must fully cover the mouth and nose, and that they must fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps. Reusable face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry completely after each use. ▪ Face coverings may also be removed while eating or drinking.

Confirmed Team Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create notification process for all athletes, coaches, event staff, officials and spectators if the school learns of suspected or confirmed cases at practice or a contest. 	