

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF COMPETITION

- **Saturday, September 21, 2023 @ 11:00 A.M.** *(rain date will be Monday, September 23)*
- **Sectionals are played at the home field of the sectional host.**

Note: Sectional hosts should remind the regional champions playing in their sectional to send a picture to the IESA office by the Friday prior to playing in their sectional game.

B. SOFTBALLS

- IESA-designated sectional hosts will receive two Rawlings model #RIESASB softballs. These must be used in sectional games.
- Host schools must have Rawlings model #RIESASB softballs on hand in case the two softballs sent to the school are not enough to complete the game.

C. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAQUES

- The sectional championship plaque will be sent directly to sectional hosts from the IESA supplier.
- The IESA supplier is in Princeton - A&M Products - (815) 875-2667.
- 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

- NFHS Softball Rules Book
- IESA Softball Terms and Conditions
- IESA Exceptions to NFHS Rules

B. PREPARATION

- Home team designation – **A coin flip will determine the home team for the sectional game.**
- The host school shall not make its playing fields available to the visiting teams for practice sessions.
- Sectional hosts assign dugouts prior to play and communicate this with the team coming to their site.
- 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.
- 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 a school's property and IESA events held at a non-school site (sports complex, park, etc.).
- Hosts are encouraged to provide music and play it consistently for all teams for all contests.
- Hosts are encouraged to provide concessions so that teams and fans that are traveling can eat.

C. WARM-UP

- Each team will receive a 10-minute pre-game team defensive warm-up time on the playing diamond.
- A pre-game conference with officials and head coaches is required to take place prior to the sectional game,

D. GAMES

- 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.
 - 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.

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.

E. TICKET GATE ADMISSION

- **Ticket gate admission is not allowed for sectional games.**

F. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- Participating schools can be assessed on a per-game basis to cover operating deficits of a sectional game.
- Host schools must contact the IESA for approval to assess prior to assessing other schools in the regional and/or sectional.
- All concessions revenues may be kept by the host school.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The IESA encourages schools to notify local EMTs and police department and inform them when hosting.
- The tournament manager must always be visible/present for every contest for officials and teams to communicate with.
- 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.
- Any coach, player and/or fan ejected from an IESA Softball 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

A. SCHEDULING AND PAYMENT

1. **IESA will hire and pay the umpires for the sectional game at the rate of \$75.00 each per game.**
 - The contact information for the officials will be in the hosting center.
 - **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.
 - The IESA will **mail checks** from the IESA office to the sectional umpires **following the sectional contest.**

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 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 softball entry center.
- Please make sure that each coach is aware that they can fill out state series umpire evaluations online.
- Officials must be registered by the Illinois High School Association - this can be confirmed on the IESA website.

HOW TO ACCESS AND NAVIGATE HOST ADMINISTRATION FEATURES ON IESA.ORG

1. Go to the IESA Website and click on the **red MEMBER LOGIN** button at the upper right of the page.
2. **Choose your school** from the drop-down menu and **enter either the school or AD password**.
3. If the regional assignments have been completed for the activity, a Regional/Sectional Host Administration Area on the school's softball 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.
5. Click on HOST ADMIN for the tournament to update it.
6. Once logged into the school's member center, hosts will be able to see Regional/Sectional Host Administration.
As a sectional host, use this link to access:
 - Email the sectional coaches or administrators
 - Access this host manual
 - Check sectional qualifiers
 - Input the results from the sectional game
 - Update the record of the sectional champion

