



**Idaho High School Activities  
Association  
2024  
Softball Coaches Packet**

***unbottled.***

# 2024 Softball

## Classification — based on grades 9-12

5A	1,280 and over	2A	319-160
4A	1,279-640	1A	159 and under
3A	639-320		

## 2024 Softball Season

First day of practice	February 23
First game	March 6
Dist. completion date	May 11
State Play-ins	May 11
State Tournament	May 16-18

\*All teams will be required to enter rosters, schedules and scores on MaxPreps.

## Game Limitations for Each Team

A team is limited to 22 games or 20 games plus one tournament, not to exceed 24 games. If a school loses a scheduled tournament game or a school is unable to attend a tournament due to reasons beyond their control, the school can reschedule lost games.

## Game Limitations for Individuals

During the regular season, athletes are permitted to play in no more than 154 innings in a 22 game schedule, or 168 in a 24 game schedule. For a game in which the score is tied at the end of seven innings, the extra innings shall be considered as an extension of the seventh inning. A contestant who exceeds the limitations of regular season participation will become ineligible for district, state or any other additional IHSAA sponsored competition of that sport.

## Rules

All Idaho contests will be played under National Federation (NFHS) Softball Rules. Rules books and case books will be distributed to school representatives at the district rules clinics.

## Idaho Rules Modifications

NFHS rules shall be followed, except as modified by the IHSAA Board of Directors. IHSAA modifications:

- Length of game:** This rule is in effect for all games at the state tournament. All varsity games shall be seven innings with the exception of the 10-run rule. A game shall end any time after the fifth inning when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat. Fast pitch games may also be terminated by mutual agreement of both coaches prior to the start of the contest and acknowledged by the umpire-in-chief under the following conditions:
  - When a team is ahead by 15 runs after three innings of play.
  - When a game exceeds the time limit of 1 ½ hours.
- Called game:** If weather or darkness causes a tied game to be called, such game shall be considered a suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time.
  - If a game is called before five full innings have been played and the score is not tied, such game shall also be considered a suspended game, unless the home team has scored a greater number of runs in four or four-and-a-fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat, in which case it is a regulation game.
- Baseline:** The baseline shall be 60 feet.
- Ball:** A 12" ball shall be used. The yellow optic ball may be used in fast pitch for league play and district tournaments, and

the official ball – Dudley Thunder Heat WT-12-Y-FP. – will be used at all play-in and state tournament competition.

- Tie-Break procedure:** Each half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order who precedes the lead-off batter in the inning. The game then proceeds a full inning or until a winner is determined in that inning. This procedure shall start at the beginning of the eighth inning or at the game time limit previously agreed upon by both coaches.
- Double First Base:** Idaho permits the use of a double first base in all levels of play and when in use, will be governed by NFHS rules.

## Umpires

IHSAA certified umpires must be used for all interscholastic contests. Two umpires should be used at all games.

## 2024 State Tournament

Dates:	May	16-18
Sites:	5A	Post Falls HS
	4A	Coeur d'Alene/Lake City HS
	3A	Moscow SD Community Fields
	2A	Orofino HS
	1A	Genesee HS

## Number of Participants

At play-in and state tournament games, a maximum of seventeen players may be in uniform at the start of the contest. Violation of this rule will result in the school being assessed a maximum fine for dressing more than the approved number of players at a state play-in or tournament game with forfeiture of the game if excess numbers play. All classifications will be allowed four coaches and three support personnel to be admitted without an IHSAA card or tournament pass. Any coaches or support personnel exceeding that number must have either an IHSAA card or purchase a tournament pass.

## Determining Home Team

At state play-in games, the home team shall be determined by the flip of a coin. At the state tournament, the highest seeded team shall be the home team. The home team dugout shall be on the first base side.

## Home Run Fence

When state fast pitch tournaments are held at fields that do not meet NFHS standard distance for the home run fence, a fence shall be installed at 210', if possible.

## Inclement Weather Procedure for State

In the event the state tournament cannot take place in its scheduled format, the following procedure will be used:

- All modifications will be handled in accordance with IHSAA Rule 20.
- All games will use Idaho Rules Modifications 1a and 1b.
- Alternate sites, if available, must be within reasonable distance to the original site so as not to incur additional travel/lodging costs for teams that have traveled.
- Games will be shortened to 5 innings until the original game schedule can be resumed.
- All games on the consolation side of the bracket will be cancelled. Championship semifinal games will be 5 innings.
- The length of championship games will be determined by the host site manager and the IHSAA.
- If more than 4 teams remain in the tournament, and it is not possible to get the games in, the tournament may be cancelled.

NOTE: It is very possible that not all classifications will make the same decisions at each step of the protocol above.

**2024 Softball Representation**

<b>5A</b>		<b>4A</b>		<b>3A</b>	
I-II	1.5	I-II	1	I	1
III	4.5, .5	III	2	III	3
V-VI	1.5	IV	2	IV	1.5
		V	1	V	1.25
		VI	2	VI	1.25
<b>2A</b>		<b>1A</b>			
I-II	2	II	3*		
III	2	III	3*		
IV	.5	*plus next two best MaxPreps seeds			
V	1.5				
VI	2				

**State Play-ins**

**5A Play-in**

1-2B Prairie HS  
 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time  
 3F Sat., May 11

**5A Play-in**

5-6B Twin Falls HS  
 1:00 p.m.  
 3E Sat., May 11

**3A Play-in**

4B Burley HS  
 1:00 p.m.  
 5B/6B Sat., May 11

**2A Play-in**

4A OK Ward Fields, Pocatello  
 1:00 p.m.  
 5B Sat., May 11

**2024 Bracketing**

Qualifying teams will be seeded into the state bracket according to the final rankings through and including all regular season and district tournament games. The high seed is considered the home team for all games in the tournament.

**All Classifications:**

#4 Seed

#5 Seed

#1 Seed

#8 Seed

#2 Seed

#7 Seed

#3 Seed

#6 Seed

# Softball Rules Changes - 2024

By NFHS on September 01, 2023

**1-8-6:** Permits electronic information to be transmitted to the dugout from anywhere outside of live ball area.

**Rationale:** The rule change reflects current technology and still requires that electronic devices used for coaching purposes may only be used in the dugout but does not stipulate where the video is recorded or how it is transmitted.

**3-2-3:** Beginning January 1, 2027, uniforms may only bear a single manufacturer's logo, school name, school logo, mascot and/or the participant's name. Advertisements, messages, team slogans, etc., will no longer be permitted.

**Rationale:** Consistent language has been established for NFHS sports that describe what information is permitted on the uniform. A player's name, school name, school nickname, school mascot and/or the school logo may be placed on the uniform.

**3-2-5:** Removes the color restriction for headbands and ribbons.

**Rationale:** Adds consistency amongst headwear requirements for other NFHS sports.

**3-2-7:** Defines where a wristband with a playbook/playcard may be worn. If worn by the pitcher, the wristband with a playbook/playcard must be worn on the non-pitching wrist or arm.

**Rationale:** Clarifies where this equipment can be worn. This change will prohibit wristbands from being worn on the belt. It remains legal for players to keep the wristband with a playbook/playcard in their back pocket.

**4-2-7, 10-2-3e, h:** The umpire may call (end) a game if playing conditions in or around the facility become unacceptable to safely continue the game.

**Rationale:** Provides rule justification when an umpire ends a contest due to unacceptable playing conditions to continue play in addition to weather.

**6-1-2c, 2-47:** The pitcher may now have both feet off the ground at the same time as long as both feet remain within the 24-inch width of the pitching plate and the pitcher does not replant the pivot foot. A definition for a replant was added.

**Rationale:** The rule change permits both feet to disengage from the playing surface while delivering a pitch. The addition of Rule 2-47 defines that a replant of the pivot foot occurs when the pitcher pushes off the playing surface from anywhere other than the pitcher's plate prior to the act of delivering the pitch.

**6-2-2:** Pitchers can only use dirt, powdered rosin or comparable drying agents that are listed on the USA Softball's certified equipment webpage to dry the hand.

**Rationale:** Clarifies the difference between tape and other non-approved substances on the pitching hand or fingers versus the use of approved substances under the supervision and control of the umpire.

## **2024 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES**

1-5-1c, 1-6-1, 1-7-1, 2-4-3, 1-6-1b, 7-1-2 PENALTIES 2 & 3, 7-4-4

## **2024 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Game Management
2. Unacceptable Conditions
3. Unreported vs. Illegal Substitutions
4. Pitching Mechanics: Replant



## Required Student Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Online Instructions

Follow these instructions to access the free,  
**NFHS Online Student Mental Health & Suicide Prevention**

- ✓ Go to the IHSAA website - [www.idhsaa.org](http://www.idhsaa.org)
- ✓ Click on the **SAFETY & WELLNESS** tab
- ✓ Select **SMHSP COURSE**
- ✓ Select state and click on **ORDER COURSE**
- ✓ Fill in required information to sign-in or create account
- ✓ Follow instructions to start course
- ✓ At the conclusion of the course, **PRINT / SAVE CERTIFICATE.**

# YOU MUST

submit your Certificate of Completion  
to your administrator.

If experiencing technical difficulties, contact the  
**Help Desk at (317) 565-2023**



## Required Concussion Course

Online Instructions

### Idaho Concussion Training: When In Doubt – Sit Them Out

- ✓ Go to the IHSAA website - [www.idhsaa.org](http://www.idhsaa.org)
- ✓ Click on **OFFICIALS** on the tab
- ✓ Select **Concussion Course**
- ✓ Enter required information
- ✓ Click **BEGIN CERTIFICATION**
- ✓ Take the 15 question **Pre-Test**
- ✓ Watch the 20-minute **Training Video**
- ✓ Take the 15 question **Post-Test**
- ✓ Once passed, click **Congratulations! Redeem Your Certificate**
- ✓ **PRINT** or **DOWLOAD** the Certificate of Completion

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# Required Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course

## Online Instructions

Follow these instructions to access the free,  
**NFHS Online Sudden Cardiac Arrest Course**

- ✓ Go to the IHSAA website - [www.idhsaa.org](http://www.idhsaa.org)
- ✓ Click on the **OFFICIALS** tab
- ✓ Select **SCA COURSE**
- ✓ Select state and click on **ORDER COURSE**
- ✓ Fill in required information to sign-in or create account
- ✓ Follow instructions to start course
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## GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING CONTESTS DURING **LIGHTNING DISTURBANCES**

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a default policy to those responsible for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of contests based on the presence of lightning.

### **Proactive Planning**

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during events.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby shelters.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
  - a. When thunder is heard, or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and take shelter immediately.
  - b. Thirty-minute rule: Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
  - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Hold periodic reviews for appropriate personnel.

For more detailed information, refer to the *Guidelines for Lightning Safety* section contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

**CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX**



School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#: \_\_\_\_\_

This individual was ejected for committing an unsportsmanlike act.

**IHSAA Rule 4-3 is in effect.**

This ejection was not the result of an unsportsmanlike act.

**IHSAA Rule 4-3 is not in effect.**

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