



**Idaho High School Activities  
Association  
2026  
Baseball Officials Packet**

*unbottled.*

# 2026 Baseball

## Classification — based on grades 9-12

6A	1,400 and over	3A	349-175
5A	1,399-700	2A	174 and under
4A	699-350		

## 2026 Baseball Season

First date of practice	February 27
First baseball game	March 11
Pitch Count Extended	April 3
District Tournament Completion	May 2
State Regional Series Games	May 7-9
State Championships	May 14-16

***\*All teams will be required to enter rosters, schedules, pitch count for all pitchers and game scores on MaxPreps***

## Umpires

Approved officials must be used for all interschool contests. Two umpires should be used at all games. Both must be certified.

## 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 contests will be played under National Federation rules. Rule books and case books are to be picked up and signed for by the school representative at the district rules clinic.

## Idaho Rules Modifications

The National Federation of the State High School Associations Baseball Rules are the official rules for Idaho high school baseball games, except as modified by the IHSAA Board of Directors. The following modifications have been approved and must be observed:

- All varsity games must be seven innings. A game shall end when a team is behind 10 or more runs after 5 innings. Games may also be shortened by following procedures outlined by National Federation Rule 4-2-4.
- 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 fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five terms at bat, in which case it is a regulation game.

## Pitching Rules

- No pitcher may throw more than 110 pitches in a game or day if the team is playing a doubleheader/tripleheader. Only the starting pitcher will be allowed to finish a batter only when they hit the maximum limit (110 in varsity play; 85 in sub-varsity) during an at-bat but must exit the position after the hitter. \*Once a non-starter reaches a pitch limit, they do NOT get the opportunity to finish an at bat.
- A pitcher cannot throw three consecutive days no matter how many pitches they have combined to throw the previous two days.
- No varsity pitcher can throw more than 100 pitches over two consecutive days. No sub-varsity pitcher can throw more than 60 pitches over two days. Pitchers are NOT allowed to finish a batter once they reach the limit over a two-day period. That limit will result in two days of mandated rest. (Note: Swing players who play multiple days at multiple levels should combine pitches thrown and use the VARSITY chart for mandated rest.)
- Starting with the first day of practice, pitchers cannot throw more than the amount listed on the charts below. This will be for the first 30 days of practice and games (six days per week). After 30 days pitchers will use the other chart.

**\*Required Days rest is a complete calendar day**

### Varsity - First 30 Days of Season – April 2

Pitches	Required Rest
71-88	3 Days
50-70	2 Days
29-49	1 Day
1-28	0 Days

### Varsity - After 30 Days – April 3

Pitches	Required Rest
86-110	3 Days
61-85	2 Days
36-60	1 Day
1-35	0 Days

### Sub-Varsity - First 30 Days of Season – April 2

Pitches	Required Rest
50-70	3 Days
29-49	2 Days
1-28	0 Day

### Sub-Varsity - After 30 Days – April 3

Pitches	Required Rest
61-85	3 Days
36-60	2 Days
26-35	1 Day
1-25	0 Days

EXAMPLE: (after the first 30 days of practice) If a Varsity pitcher throws more than 86 pitches on Tuesday, they would be able to pitch again on Saturday. Resting on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The Idaho pitching rules must be observed by Idaho teams even when playing in other states.

5. If a school/pitcher violates the pitching rules, the game in which the violation occurred will result in a forfeit.
6. During each contest, the home team is responsible for the official book. A record of pitches should be recorded and verified by both teams after each full inning. Verification of all pitchers and pitches thrown should be agreed on by both teams after each game. Without verification of both teams, the home team book becomes official.
7. Each school will use MaxPreps to record their own team's total pitches of each game.
  - a. Pitch count will be recorded on MaxPreps by noon the date following the game or prior to their next contest whichever occurs first.
  - b. If a team plays a doubleheader, pitch count for both games will be recorded on MaxPreps by noon the date following the doubleheader or prior to their next contest whichever occurs first.

If a school fails to report the pitch count from a game to Max Preps, the violation should be reported to the board of control and the coach will be suspended for the following two games. Idaho pitching rules must be observed by Idaho teams even when playing in other states.

### **Speed-up Rules**

The IHSA Board of Directors has approved the use of the courtesy runner speed-up rule for those leagues or districts that wish to adopt the rule. In inter-leagues or inter-district competition, both teams must agree to allow the speed-up rule before it may be used.

1. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and the catcher as soon as they get on base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a runner or batter for another player in that inning.
4. For illegal substitution of a courtesy runner, such substitutes shall be disqualified for the duration of the game.

### **2026 State Tournament**

State Regional Series Dates:	May 7-8
State Regional Series Sites:	District Champions by Classification
State Championship Dates:	May 14-16
State Championship Sites:	6A Memorial Stadium, Boise
	5A Melaleuca Field, Idaho Falls
	4A CSI, Twin Falls
	3A NNU, Nampa
	2A Capital HS, Boise

### **Number of Participants**

At play-in and state tournament games, a maximum of twenty 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. A forfeiture would occur at a state play-in or tournament game if excess numbers play. All classifications will be allowed four coaches and three support personnel to be admitted without an IHSA card or tournament pass. Any coaches or support personnel exceeding that number must have either an IHSA card or purchase a tournament pass.

### **Determining Home Team**

At state play-in and championship series, the home team shall be determined by the MaxPreps end of season higher seed. With exceptions for a higher seeded team losing their seed to a lower seeded team if a head-to-head game is won by the lower seed. The high seed can earn the seed back by winning against the team that was the lower seed. The home team dugout shall be determined by the site manager.

### **Inclement Weather Procedure for State**

In the event the state play-in games and championships cannot take place in its scheduled format, the following procedure will be used:

1. All modifications will be handled in accordance with IHSA Rule 20.
2. 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.
3. Games will be shortened to 5 innings until the original game schedule can be resumed.
6. The length of championship games will be determined by the host site manager and the IHSA.
7. If it is not possible to get the games in, the tournament may be cancelled.

### **Official Ball**

The Official Baseball for all play-ins and state championships will be the Wilson A1010.

## 2026 Baseball Representation and State Regional Play-In Games

***\*At-Large teams are the next highest Idaho MaxPreps end of season ranked non-automatic qualifying teams***

6A	5A	4A
I 1	I-II 1	I 1
III 5	III 2	III 2
IV-V-VI 2	IV 2	IV 1
*4 At-Large	V 1	V 1
	VI 2	VI 1
	*4 At-Large	*2 At-Large

3A	2A
I-II 2	II 2
III 2	III-IV 2
IV-V 2	*4 At-Large
VI 2	
*4 At-Large	

***\*Seeding state regional series brackets are determined by MaxPreps Final Idaho Rankings using a 3 tier system.***

***\*Regional hosts tier will determine other tiers at each site.***

## 2026 Baseball State Regional Series

### 6A

3-Team Play-In Format  
Double Elimination Qualifier  
Winner of State Regional Series Advances to State Championships  
District Champions Host State Regional Series  
North Host District I  
West Host District III (2 hosts)  
East Host District IV-V-VI  
3 Tier System (MaxPreps) for State Regional Series Bracketing  
Tier 1 1-4 seeds  
Tier 2 5-8 seeds  
Tier 3 9-12 seeds

### 5A

3-Team Play-In Format  
Double Elimination Qualifier  
Winner of State Regional Play-In Advances to State Championships  
District Champions Host State Regional Series  
North Host District I-II  
West Host District III  
South Host District IV  
\*East Host District V-VI  
\*Highest ranked district champion of 5-6  
3 Tier System (MaxPreps) for State Regional Series Bracketing  
Tier 1 1-4 seeds  
Tier 2 5-8 seeds  
Tier 3 9-12 seeds

### 4A

2-Team Play-In Format  
Best 2/3 Game Qualifier  
Winner of State Regional Series Advances to State Championships  
State Regional Series Hosts  
Top 4 ranked (MaxPreps) District Champions  
Opponents will be based on final Idaho (MaxPreps)  
Rankings vs. District Champion Hosts

### 3A

3-Team Play-In Format  
Double Elimination Qualifier  
Winner of State Regional Series Advances to State Championships  
District Champions Host State Regional Series  
North Host District I-II  
West Host District III  
\*South Host District IV-V  
\*Highest ranked district champion of 4-5  
East Host District VI  
3 Tier System (MaxPreps) for State Regional Series Bracketing  
Tier 1 1-4 seeds  
Tier 2 5-8 seeds  
Tier 3 9-12 seeds

### 2A

2-Team Play-In Format  
Best 2/3 Game Qualifier  
Winner of State Regional Series Advances to State Championships  
District Champions Host State Regional Play-In Games  
North Host District II  
South Host District III-IV  
Top 2 ranked (MaxPreps) Non-District Champions  
Opponents will be based on final Idaho (MaxPreps)  
Rankings vs. District Champion Hosts

## 2026 Baseball State Championship Series

***\*Seeding State Championship series is determined by MaxPreps Final Idaho Rankings.***

- 4-Team Double Elimination Tournament
- Based on 4 State Regional Series Qualifiers

#2 Seed

#3 Seed

#1 Seed

#4 Seed

# Baseball Rules Changes - 2026

Fri Aug 01 2025

**1-2-9, 2-5-1h, 2-16-1h, 8-2-1, 8-2-2(a)1-7, 8-2-7, 8-4-1g(1)** – Modified that the double first base will be mandatory effective January 1, 2027 and associated rule changes.

**1-4-4** – Clarified what is allowed on a school's official baseball uniform.

**1-6-3** – Clarified what is not allowed to be worn by a player to record or transmit audio or video feeds.

**2-10-3** – Clarified the definition of a player-to-player defensive meeting.

**3-4-6** – Clarified the difference from a player-to-player meeting and a charged conference.



## NEWS RELEASE

### Double First Base Introduced into High School Baseball

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elliot Hopkins

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (July 8, 2025) — Beginning with the 2027 season, a double first base will be required in high school baseball games to minimize the risk of collisions by runners and fielders.

This rule revision was one of 10 proposed by the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee during its annual meeting held June 8-10 at The Alexander hotel in Indianapolis. The rules changes were accepted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

New language was added to Rule 1-2-9 noting that the double first base must be white and a contrasting solid color. The white portion of the base is located in fair territory while the colored half is located in foul territory, split by the first base foul line. There is to be no space between the two portions of the double base.

"Adding the double first base is symbolic to the evolution of the sport. It will immediately address running lane violations, and it will further protect the players from the violent collisions that have occurred at first base," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Baseball Rules Committee. "By reducing collisions and enhancing safety, it preserves both the integrity of competition and the well-being of those who play."

Several subsequent rules changes, including Rule 8-2-2a, outline how batter-runners and fielders shall use the double first base. The batter-runner should use the colored base on an initial play at first base unless a fielder is drawn into foul territory to receive a dropped third strike, in which case,

the batter-runner would use the white portion of the base. Once the batter-runner reaches first base, the batter-runner must always return to the white base, including when leading off, returning on a pick-off attempt or tagging up on a fly ball.

A batter-runner may use either side of first base on a base-on-balls or on an extra-base hit to the outfield when there is no chance of a play to be made at first base.

Interference is to be called on batter-runners if they only touch the white portion on a force play at first and collide with the fielder. Similarly, it is obstruction if a defensive player only touches the colored portion of the base and collides with the batter-runner.

Rule 2-5-1h was added to note that it is a fair ball if a batted ball hits or bounds over any part of the white portion of the double first base. Alternately, it is a foul ball if a batted ball hits or bounds over any part of the colored portion of the base (Rule 2-16-1h).

Rule 3-4-6 was added to address defensive player meetings as charged conferences. Each team, when on defense, may be granted not more than one player-to-player meeting during an inning. Umpires shall deny any subsequent defensive team requests for that half-inning. Additionally, Rule 2-10-3 was added to define a player-to-player defensive meeting as having two or more defensive players.

“A player-to-player defensive meeting is a natural and essential part of the game—whether it’s strategy, encouragement or clarification, but having multiple meetings in a half-inning adds additional time that lengthens a contest and is not in the best interest of the game,” Hopkins said. “A charged conference, however, involves direct coaching intervention with either a coach or a non-playing representative and is intended to provide instruction. The distinction ensures we honor both the flow of the game and the role of coaching.”

Two rules changes were approved to bring the Baseball Rules Book in line with all NFHS rules. Language added to Rule 1-4-4 allows a school’s name, nickname, logo, mascot and/or player’s name to be permitted on a uniform top and/or pants beginning in 2027.

In addition, Rule 1-6-3 states that “no player shall wear any audio (microphone) or video (camera) device during the game.”

A complete listing of the baseball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). Click on “Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Baseball.”

According to the 2023-24 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, baseball is the fourth-most popular boys sport with 471,701 boys participating in 16,146 high schools across the country.

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**About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 18 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,800 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 8 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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## 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 DOWNLOAD** the Certificate of Completion

# YOU MUST

submit your Certificate of Completion  
to your district commissioner / interpreter.



## 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
- ✓ At the conclusion of the course, **PRINT / SAVE CERTIFICATE.**

# YOU MUST

Submit your Certificate of Completion  
to your commissioner or interpreter.



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



## 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).



## Completing an Ejection Report in Dragonfly

1. In the “Assignments” screen, select the game where your ejection report took place.
2. At the bottom of the page, select the “Add Document”, “IHSAA Ejection Report”

A screenshot of the Dragonfly software interface. The top section has two rows: "Officials" with "No Officials found" and "Workers" with "No Workers found". Below this is a "Key People" section featuring a profile icon and the name "Clint Sanders" with his title "Athletic Director | ID Test School 1" and email "clint.idtest1@dragonflyathletics.com". The bottom section is titled "Game Documents" and contains an "Add Document" button. A dropdown menu is open from this button, showing three options: "IHSAA Ejection Report", "Incident Report", and "Yellow Card Report". To the right of the dropdown, the text "0 game documents to show." is visible.

3. Complete all fields (all required). **Be aware that once you have submitted, it cannot be edited. It will also be viewable to all ADs and Commissioners at that time.**

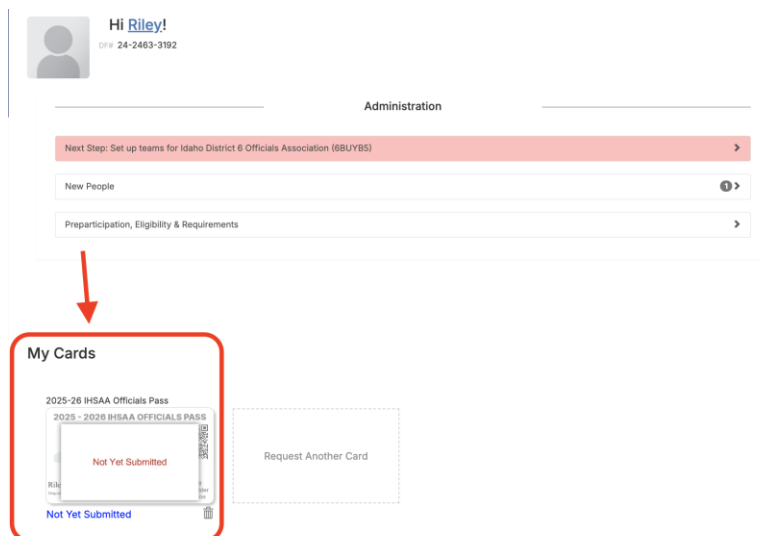
Please ensure when completing the report please do the following:

- **Use language from the rule book in your sport that constitutes an ejection.**
- Be clear and concise and only report information relevant to the ejection.
- Do not include editorial comments or opinions, just facts.
- If the ejection is for language, please use the language that the player/coach used without paraphrasing or characters to replace letters.



## **Applying for a IHSAA Officials Pass in Dragonfly**

1. Before the pass will show up as an option for you to apply for, you must first register with IHSAA as an official in one sport + pay the \$35 fee for the pass.
2. Once the above is completed, you will be able to apply for the pass. To begin this process, on your “Today” page, you will see the following under “My Cards”, select the “2025-26 IHSAA Officials Pass”:



3. Complete the questions in part 1 (much of which will be auto-filled using your information already in Dragonfly).
4. Upload a headshot or use your Dragonfly photo ensuring it meets all the requirements listed.
5. You will then be able to submit your request for the card. Cards will be reviewed at least once a week. Once your card is approved, you will receive a email.
6. To retrieve your card in the app, select “Cards” in the bottom right corner of the “Officials” app. This will what you use to gain access for yourself and one guest to contests. There will be no paper/ laminated cards printed.



## ATHLETIC OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS

Believing that mine is an important part in the nationwide school athletic program, I pledge to act in accordance with these principles:

- I will honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss
- I will study the rules of the game, observe the work of other officials and will, at all times, attempt to improve myself and the game
- I will conduct myself in such a manner that attention is drawn not to me, but to the young people playing the game
- I will maintain my appearance in a manner befitting the dignity and importance of the game
- I will cooperate with the news media in the interpretation and clarification of rules and/or other areas related to good sportsmanship but I will not make statements concerning "calls" after a game
- I will uphold and abide by all rules of the IHSAA and the National Federation (NFHS)
- I will shape my character and conduct so as to be a worthy example to the young people who play under my jurisdiction
- I will give my complete cooperation to the school that I serve and to the IHSAA which I represent
- I will cooperate and be professional in my association with coaches and other officials and will do nothing to cause them public embarrassment
- I will keep in mind that the game is more important than the wishes of any individual