

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 Play-In 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

Play-In Dates:	May 7-9
Play-In Sites:	District Champions by Classification
Championship Dates:	May 14-16
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 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 play-in series brackets are determined by MaxPreps Final Idaho Rankings using a 3 tier system.***

2026 Baseball State Play-In Series

6A

3-Team Play-In Format
Double Elimination Qualifier
Winner of Play-In Advances to State Championships
District Champions Host Play-In Series

North Host	District I
West Host	District III (2 hosts)
East Host	District IV-V-VI

3 Tier System (MaxPreps) for Play-in 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 Play-In Advances to State Championships
District Champions Host Play-In 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 Play-in 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 Play-In Advances to State Championships
Play-In 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 Play-In Advances to State Championships
District Champions Host Play-In Series

North Host	District I-II
West Host	District III
South Host	District IV-V
East Host	District VI

3 Tier System (MaxPreps) for Play-in 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 Play-In Advances to State Championships
District Champions Host 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 Championship series is determined by MaxPreps Final Idaho Rankings.***

- 4-Team Double Elimination Tournament
- Based on 4 Play-In Series Qualifiers

#2 Seed

#3 Seed

#1 Seed

#4 Seed