



**Idaho High School Activities
Association
2025
Softball Officials Packet**

unbottled.

2025 Softball

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		

2025 Softball Season

First day of practice	February 28
First game	March 12
District completion date	May 10
State Play-ins	May 10
State Tournament	May 15-17

*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.

2025 State Tournament

Dates:	May	15-17
Sites:	6A	Eagle/Rocky Mtn HS
	5A	Skyview HS
	4A	Skyview HS
	3A	Quad Park, Caldwell
	2A	Quad Park, Caldwell

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 (with exceptions for Game #15 if necessary). The home team dugout shall be determined by the site manager.

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.

2025 Softball Representation

6A		5A		4A	
I-II	1	I-II	1.5	I	1
III	5.5	III	2.5	III	2.5
V-VI	1.5	IV	2	IV	1.5
		V	.5	V	2
		VI	1.5	VI	1
3A		2A			
I-II	1.5	II	2*		
III	2.5	III	2*		
IV-V	2	*plus next two best MaxPreps seeds			
VI	2				

State Play-ins

6A Play-in

3F Burley HS
 1:00 p.m.
 5-6B Sat., May 10

5A Play-in

1-2B Lewiston HS
 1:00 p.m. Pacific
 3C Sat., May 10

5A Play-in

5A Blackfoot HS
 1:00 p.m.
 6B Sat., May 10

4A Play-in

3C Glens Ferry HS
 1:00 p.m.
 4B Sat., May 10

3A Play-in

1-2B Lewiston HS
 3:00 p.m. Pacific
 3C Sat., May 10

2025 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 (with exceptions for Game #15 if necessary).

6A-3A:

#3 Seed

#6 Seed

#2 Seed

#7 Seed

#1 Seed

#8 Seed

#4 Seed

#5 Seed

2A:

#2 Seed
(first round bye)

#3 Seed

#6 Seed

#1 Seed
(first round bye)

#4 Seed

#5 Seed

Softball Rules Changes - 2025

By NFHS on August 15, 2024

[softball](#)

[Download a PDF version](#)

1-8-6 EXCEPTION & PENALTY: A high school softball coach is now able to use electronic devices in the dugout for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense. The penalty from Rule 3-6-11 was added to Rule 1-8-6 as well, with violators subject to ejection unless the offense is ruled to be of a minor nature.

Rationale: The committee has made these changes to support the use of emerging technology within the sport of softball. Being a permissive rule, the use of this one-way electronic communication will allow those who choose to embrace the technology an additional option to communicate with the catcher while on defense.

3-6-11: This rule change specifies that coaches are prohibited from using the device to communicate with any other team member while on defense or any team member while on offense and the coach cannot use the device outside the dugout/bench area.

Rationale: Clarifies that a coach may use an electronic device for one-way communication to the catcher while the team is on defense.

9-3-2b: When a baserunner who is declared out for being hit by a fair batted ball, the batter-runner is credited with a fielder's choice in the scorebook.

Rationale: This change corrects an error in the rules book that awarded a base hit in this instance.

2025 SOFTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

Figure 1-1, Figure 1-3, 1-3-4, 1-3-5, 1-6-6, 1-7-1, 2-47, 3-2-3, 3-2-12 NOTE, 3-6-12, 5-1 Table, 5-1-1o, 6-1-2c, 8-1-2a EFFECTS 3, 8-6-4, 10-1-6

2025 SOFTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Team's Role in Pace of Play
2. Situational Awareness



Required Concussion Course

Online Instructions

Idaho Concussion Training: When In Doubt – Sit Them Out

- ✓ Go to the IHSAA website - 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

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
- ✓ 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 district commissioner or interpreter.



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

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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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.