



2012 SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

Rules Meeting Announcements

COACH RULE MEETINGS

All Varsity middle/junior and senior high head coaches must view the KSHSAA Softball or Baseball Coach rule meeting prior to the deadline. The meeting is available to view by following the directions provided from January 30th-March 21st. If a coach fails to complete the rule meeting by March 21st will be required to complete KSHSAA Test II.

SOFTBALL UMPIRES

All registered softball umpires must attend a face to face mechanics/rules meeting this year. A meeting schedule is available in the umpires rule book packet and on-line. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Failure to attend a face to face meeting will result in the umpire being placed on probation or suspension. First year umpires failing to attend the meeting will be voided. Umpires who also register for baseball will need to complete the online baseball umpire rule meeting.

BASEBALL UMPIRES

Baseball umpires must view the online baseball umpire rule meeting prior to the deadline. The rule meeting will be available from January 30th-March 21st. Failure to view the online meeting will result in the umpire being placed on probation or suspension. First year umpires failing to attend the meeting will be voided. Umpires who also register for softball must attend the face to face softball umpire mechanics/rules meeting.

RULE TESTS

The procedure for submitting answers to the open book NFHS test I have changed. Please carefully read the information provided in the umpire packet or in the school test mailing. The test will be available from January 30th until March 23rd. After that date umpires/coaches will not be able to submit their answers to the 50 random questions. Coaches failing to submit answers by March 23rd will pay a \$25 penalty and complete KSHSAA Test II. Umpires failing to submit answers by March 23rd will be placed on probation or suspension. Umpires not scoring 90% on NFHS test I will not be eligible for post-

season assignment. Coaches and umpires should submit tests early to avoid any potential challenges.

COACHES INFORMATION

1. The umpire recommendation form (SFB-1 –Softball; BSB-1-Baseball) are due May 9, 2012. Coaches are to meet with their athletic director and determine which umpires observed this year to recommend. The form is submitted on-line by the school administration.
2. Squad lists and pass gates for regional and state will be submitted on-line using form BSB-2 – Baseball or SFB-2-Softball. Coaches and administrators will fill out the form and click continue. This will allow you to get a printable version to fax to the regional sites. If your team qualifies for the state tournament you will need to go in and update forms SFB-4 and/or BSB-4, the state pass-gate and roster by noon the day following your tournament. The KSHSAA will use the roster submitted at that time.
3. The Win-Loss Record form (BSB-3; SFB-3) is due to the KSHSAA by noon the day following the conclusion of your regional tournament.
4. Form S located on the KSHSAA web-site entry forms is used to report unusual situations.
5. Only certified teachers (as established by the State Board of Education) or coaches aides approved by the KSHSAA are allowed to work with teams. No volunteer coaches are permitted.
6. Only KSHSAA registered umpires may be used by member schools in varsity games. The on-line officials directory has the most recent list of registered umpires.
7. No student or team shall participate in more than 20 games during a season. Participation as a courtesy runner or a pinch runner counts as a game played.

UMPIRES INFORMATION

1. Missed meetings – Any umpire who missed the KSHSAA sponsored rules meeting or area supervisor meeting as a result of an emergency may request consideration from the KSHSAA to make up the meeting. **This request must be submitted in writing to**

the KSHSAA within one week of the missed meeting. Each case will be evaluated on its individual merits. This option does not apply to a new umpire registering for the first time.

2. KSHSAA policies prohibit the use of tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by coaches, sponsors, game officials and players during interscholastic activities.
3. Umpires Uniform
 - Softball – cap (no ASA caps), heather gray slacks, NHFS approved powder blue pullover shirt, black shoes.
 - Baseball – cap, gray slacks, NHFS approved navy blue or black pullover shirt.
4. The assignment of umpires for state championship tournaments will be based on the recommendations sent to the KSHSAA by member schools and the umpire meeting the following standards:
 - a. 90% or better score on the “open book” examination.
 - b. Attendance at one of the KSHSAA sponsored rules meetings.
 - c. Attendance at one Area Supervisor meeting.
 - d. Number of recommendations by member schools.

Umpires should provide coaches with a card indicating their name and home town. Umpires should not solicit recommendations from member schools.
5. Applications for post season assignments are due on May 3, 2012 to the KSHSAA office.

COMMUNICATION

1. Schools and umpires should communicate with each other to verify the date, time and location of all games.
2. Schools and umpires should have written contracts for all games.
3. A verbal or written obligation to a school or to an umpire is a binding contract.
4. Schools should notify umpires of the school's pay procedure.

STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTED RULES

1. Refer to the KSHSAA Baseball/Softball Manual for additional information.
2. Pitchers in Baseball may pitch only nine innings in any one day. A pitcher is allowed a maximum accumulation of 12 innings during any 48 hour period. Please refer to Section 2.C of the KSHSAA Baseball/Softball Manual for details.
3. **Regulation games** – Refer to Section 2.F of the KSHSAA Baseball/Softball manual concerning provisions as to what constitutes a regulation game and Section 2.G on the procedure for ending a regulation game.
4. **Suspended games** – By KSHSAA adoption, a game called for any reason(s), where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (i.e. artificial lights fail, water system breaks, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order the same as they were at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.
5. **Courtesy runners** – A courtesy runner may be used for pitchers and/or catchers in baseball or softball. Entering the contest as a courtesy runner counts as one of the 20 allowable contests. A player entering the game as pinch hitter, pinch runner or courtesy runner counts as a game played, even if they were in the game for one at bat, one out etc.
6. **Double first base** may be used in regular season games provided both coaches mutually agree to their use prior to the start of the game.
7. **Inclement Weather** – The recommended procedure for inclement weather can be found in the Baseball/Softball Manual. The safety of athletes, spectators, coaches, school personnel and all others present at an athletic contest must be the first and foremost concern to the contest management and umpires. Review these procedures prior to every contest and anytime threatening weather conditions appear or are forecasted.
8. **KSHSAA Ejection Policy** – If a coach is ejected they are to leave the vicinity of the playing field. The coach may not be in the dug out or go sit in the stands. If it is the first game of a double header, they may return for the second game providing the school and/

or league policy provide for their return. The KSHSAA does not prohibit them from returning for the second game.

If a player is ejected, they must stay in the dugout and the coach is to supervise him. If they continue to be a problem, a school administrator or an assistant coach should take the player outside the dugout and away from the vicinity of the field to supervise him. If no administrator is available, the coach would have to escort the player from the dugout and away from the field. If there is no other coach to coach the team the game would be forfeited.

BASEBALL BATS

Beginning January 1, 2012, all bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum and composite bats shall be labeled as approved tamper evident, and be marked as to being aluminum or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

A bat without the BBCOR marking is illegal for use in games or practices. Coaches are responsible for making sure all bats meet the NFHS standard.

Bats that are altered from the manufacturer's original design and production, or that do not meet the rule specifications, are illegal (See 7-4-1a). No foreign substance may be inserted into the bat. Bats that are broken, cracked or dented or that deface the ball, i.e., tear the ball, shall be removed without penalty. A bat that continually discolors the ball may be removed from the game with no penalty at the discretion of the umpire.

SOFTBALL BATS

NFHS Rule 1-5-4 states "All bats shall meet the 2004 ASA Bat Performance Standard, bear either the 2000 or 2004 ASA Certification mark and not be on the ASA non-approved list found on www.asasoftball.com."

All schools and coaches must make sure any bats being used by players have the 2000 or 2004 ASA certification mark and not be listed on the ASA non-approved list as found on the ASA softball web site.

Coaches must provide the non-approved bat list for umpires to review prior to the contest. Umpires should bring a copy of the non-approved bat list to contests they umpire. The KSHSAA web site (www.kshsaa.org) is linked to the ASA web-site on the softball page.

COACHES UNIFORM

1. Softball – Rule 3-2-1 Any time a coach is in a live ball area to confer with players or an umpire, or to occupy a coach's box, the coach shall be attired in school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with coaching shorts/slacks or warm-up suits (including fleece warm-ups) in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. **Cut-offs or any type of jeans are prohibited.** Jackets are not considered part of a coach's uniform.
2. Baseball – Rule 3-2-1 One player or coach may occupy each Coach's Box while his team is at bat. While occupying a coach's box, he shall be in the uniform of his team.

POST SEASON INFORMATION

1. The KSHSAA has negotiated an agreement with Dudley and Rawlings to supply softballs and baseballs for the Regional and State Tournaments. These are the official balls for all post-season competition. The **DUDLEY Model SB-12LRFFPY (optic yellow)** and **RAWLINGS Model R-100** are the official tournament balls.
2. Regional squad lists are faxed/mailed directly to the regional tournament manager. Softball may suit up to 15 players. Baseball may suit up to 18 players.
3. State squad lists are submitted directly to the KSHSAA by noon the day after the completion of your tournament. A digital picture must also be submitted online.
4. Third and fourth place team medals will be given in state competition.
5. Regional Tournaments will be held the week of May 14-18, 2012. With the increasing number of teams involved in interscholastic ball, more two day tournaments are needed each year. All tournament assignments can be found on the KSHSAA website after April 4. (www.kshsaa.org)

STATE TOURNAMENTS

State tournaments will be held May 25-26, 2012. Site and manager information can be found on the KSHSAA website baseball and softball pages.