



KANSAS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

2021 SOFTBALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due Dates

Requirement	Head Coach/School Administrators	Umpire	Avenue
KSHSAA Rules Meeting	February 3 - March 16	February 3 - March 16	Online
NFHS Rules Test	February 3 - March 16	February 3 - March 16	Online
Postseason Application	---	May 7, 2021	Online or mail
Postseason Votes	May 5 - May 12	---	Online
Postseason Squad List	SFB-2 due May 12 to regional manager SFB-4 due noon day after regional conclusion	---	Online Online
Win-Loss Record	SFB-3 due May 12 to KSHSAA - 3A, 2-1A SFB-3 due May 15 to KSHSAA - 6A, 5A, 4A	---	Online

Points of Emphasis

1. Bat certification marks and USA Softball's list of Non-Approved Bats with Certification Marks, 2. Damaged bat vs. illegal bat penalties, 3. Contact with the pitcher's plate, 4. Inspection of equipment.

Rules Changes

1-5-1e, 2-4, 2-4-3, 7-4-2 PENALTY NOTE: Damaged bats are defined.

Rationale: Clarifies that a damaged bat is removed from the game without penalty.

6-1-1: Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot in contact with the pitcher's plate.

Rationale: Clarifies that the pivot foot must be in contact with the pitcher's plate, rather than on the top surface of the pitcher's plate.

9-1-1 EXCEPTION c: A run is not scored if the runner advances to home plate during action in which the third out is made by the preceding runner who is declared out on an appeal play.

Rationale: Clarifies that on any appeal play, a run is not scored if the third out is made by a preceding runner.

Umpire Information

1. Missed Area Meetings – Any umpire who missed the 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.
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. Umpire's Uniform

Softball umpires are to wear heather gray slacks, NFHS approved powder blue pullover shirt, black shoes and navy blue cap (no ASA caps).

Caps with the white KSHSAA embroidery are available. Check www.kshsaa.org.

4. The assignment of umpires for state championship tournaments will be based on 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 umpire 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.

Coach Information

1. School administrators must log in and submit names of umpires recommended for postseason between May 5 and May 12, 2021. Only umpires who meet the requirements to be eligible for assignment will be listed for schools to recommend.

Schools must recommend five and may recommend up to eight umpires they have observed within the last two years.

2. Squad lists and pass gate information for regionals will be submitted online using form SFB-2. 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 update form SFB-4, the state pass gate information and roster, by noon the day following your tournament. The KSHSAA will use the roster submitted at that time for the program.
3. Coaches or administrators will fill out the Win-Loss Record form (SFB-3) by putting in games and results after each contest during the season. The records for each school will be reflected in the postseason assignment groupings. It is important schools put in games as they are played so correct seeding may take place.
4. Form S, located on the KSHSAA website under 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 online officials directory has the most recent list of registered umpires.
7. No team at any level (varsity, JV, C-team, etc.) shall participate in more than 20 games of competition during a season. A student may participate in 26 games of competition during the season. This will allow students to participate at different levels during the season. Participation as a courtesy runner or a pinch runner counts as a game played.

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 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.

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 USA non-approved list found at:

www.teamusa.org/usa-softball/play-usa-softball/certified-usa-softball-equipment.

All schools and coaches must make sure any bats being used by players have the 2000 or 2004 ASA certification mark and are not listed on the USA non-approved list found on the USA softball website. 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 website (www.kshsaa.org) is linked to the USA website on the softball page.

Postseason Information

1. The **DUDLEY Model SB-12L Cork Center (4H-311Y, optic yellow)** is the official tournament ball.
2. Regional squad lists are submitted to the regional tournament manager. Softball may suit up to 15 players.
3. State squad lists are submitted directly to the KSHSAA by noon the day after the completion of your tournament. A digital team photo must also be submitted online.
4. Regional tournaments will be held the week of May 17-20, 2021. 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 1 (www.kshsaa.org).

State Association Adopted Rules

1. Refer to the KSHSAA *Baseball/Softball Manual* for additional information.
2. Regulation Games – Refer to Section 3.F of the *KSHSAA Baseball/Softball Manual* concerning provisions as to what constitutes a regulation game, and Section 3.G on the procedure for ending a regulation game.
3. 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.
4. Courtesy Runners – A courtesy runner may be used for pitchers and/or catchers in softball. Entering the contest as a courtesy runner counts as one of the 26 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 any time threatening weather conditions appear or are forecasted.
7. **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 dugout or sit in the stands. If it is the first game of a double header, they may return for the second game, as long as the school and/or league policy provides for their return. The KSHSAA does not prohibit them from returning for the second game.

Coaches ejected from a contest must complete the NFHS course "Teaching & Modeling Behavior" before they may coach in their next regularly scheduled contest.

If a player is ejected, he/she must stay in the dugout and the coach is to supervise him/her. 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/her. 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.

Players ejected from a contest must complete the NFHS course "*Sportsmanship*" before their next date of competition.