



2018 BASEBALL

Season Overview Bulletin



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In high school sports, you can be a part of something bigger than yourself.

You can be part of a team.

Wearing the uniform of your high school comes with big responsibility. Your community cheers for you. Your teammates count on you. And you have the opportunity to make history by competing for a state championship. Do you have what it takes?

This message presented by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and the Louisiana High School Athletic Directors Association.



2018 GENERAL INFORMATION

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>DATE/INFORMATION</i>
LHSAA Baseball Rules	Completely familiarize yourself with Article 10 of the 2017-18 LHSAA Handbook.
Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.	Monday, August 7, 2017-Sunday January 21, 2018
Pre-season evaluation period	Sunday, November 26, 2017-Saturday, December 16, 2017
1 st Official Practice/ Earliest scrimmage allowed	Monday, January 22, 2018
Application Deadline for Jamborees and/or Invitational Tournament	Thursday, February 1, 2018
Jamborees	Thursday, February 15 - February 17, 2018 1. Jamborees must have a minimum of 3 teams and 2 games. 6 total inning. 2. Host schools must submit approval form and payment by Thursday, February 1, 2017. 3. Fees are \$50 per varsity team and \$50 per sub-varsity team. 4. No other financial reports or additional payments are required by the LHSAA.
1 st Regular Season Contest Dates	Monday, February 19, 2018
Reporting Weekly Game Results	The winning school is required to enter the score of the contest online no later than 12:00 midnight on the date of the contest for all games. Schools failing to report the score shall be fined \$50 per occurrence.
All-Academic Nomination Deadline	Monday, March 12, 2018
Deadline to Add Games to Schedule for Power Rating Purposes	Saturday, April 14, 2018
End of Regular Season	Saturday, April 21, 2018 (Every team shall report online all varsity game results played that day no later than 10:00 PM.)
Dispute Power Rating	Sunday, April 22, 2018 - Disputes of records or power rating shall be submitted to fbuckner@lhsaa.org between 8AM and 12:00 Noon.
District Chairperson Certification	The District Chairperson shall report the teams in his/her district that finished in 1st place and tied for 1st place in the district as soon as this is determined. The official reporting form is found in the Baseball Section on the LHSAA website.
PLAYOFFS: Bi-District Deadline	April 24, 2018 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & DIVISION II April 25, 2018 - Class 1A, B & C
Regionals Round Deadline	Friday, April 27, 2018 - IV & V Saturday, April 28, 2018 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & DIVISIONS I, II & III April 30, 2018 - Class 1A, B & C

<i>CATEGORY</i>	<i>DATE/INFORMATION</i>
Quarterfinals	MAY 4-5, 2018 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A & Division I, II & III MAY 4, 2018 - Classes 1A, B, C & DIVISIONS IV & V
State Tournament - All Classes and Divisions - McMurry Park, Sulphur	Wednesday, May 9, 2018 - Saturday, May 12, 2018
All Star	Friday, May 25, 2018 - Saturday, May 26, 2018
Summer Rules Begin	Monday, May 13, 2018

NEW PITCHING RULES 17-18

10.4 The pitch count rule will be based on the number of pitches thrown to a batter during an at bat – pitches thrown for balls, strikes, foul balls, and balls put in play are the only pitches that will count toward the final total; pickoff attempts, warm up pitches, pitches ruled as a no pitch by the umpire, and extra pitches allowed by an umpire because of injury will not count toward the pitch total. A pitcher will be allowed to finish pitching to a batter if his maximum pitch limit is met during the at bat, but he must be replaced after the hitter or his substitute has completed his at bat.

The pitching rule applies even though a game may be called by an umpire due to darkness, inclement weather, or any other factor that may cause it to end before it has become an official game.

Each team will be required to have someone responsible for counting pitches and the home team will also provide an “official pitch counter.” The recorders will compare pitch counts at the end of each inning at a spot designated by the home team – if there is a discrepancy on the number of pitches, the number that 2 of the 3 counters have will be the official count; if all three have a different number then the number indicated by the official pitch counter will be considered the official pitch count. It is suggested that the official pitch count recorder not be located in the home team dugout.

Pitches allowed per day with rest requirements:

1. If a pitcher throws 1-30 pitches in a day, no rest is required.
2. If a pitcher throws 31-50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest is required before he can pitch again.
3. If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest is required before he can pitch again.
4. If a pitcher throws 76 or more pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest is required before he can pitch again.

Example: if a pitcher throws 76 pitches on Tuesday, he cannot pitch again until Saturday – the rest period is determined by calendar days not hours – it does not matter what time a game starts or ends.

The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown in one day is 125.

The coaches from both teams must initial an official LHSAA form confirming the pitch counts for all pitchers involved in their game.

Both coaches must enter the pitch count of their pitchers when entering their scores on the LHSAA website.

If a team is found to have violated the pitch count rule, they will have to forfeit the game in which the violation occurred and the head coach will have to serve a one-game suspension as soon as the violation is verified by the LHSAA.

This rule applies to all varsity and sub-varsity games. It will be used in the regular season as well as the playoffs.

DISTRICT SCHEDULING MEETING

- The District Chairperson shall notify all district members at least ten (10) days in advance of the date, time and place of meeting.
- Member schools shall declare in writing, at the meeting, if they will play a varsity schedule and/or if they will play for district honors.
- The District Chairperson and the school's principal shall notify the LHSAA in writing of the school(s) that will not play for district honors and/or varsity schedules.
- The district principals shall approve the schedule.
- The chairperson shall take and keep the minutes of the meeting.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPORTING WEEKLY SCORES

Reminder - Game results must be entered by midnight on the date of the game. The **winning** school will be fined if the results have not been entered.

1. Go to www.lhsaaonline.org and log in using your assigned username and password.
2. Once you are logged in:
 - A. Click the Power Rating tab
 - B. Click Baseball Power Rating
 - C. Once your schedule appears, select and edit the game
 - D. Enter your game score and results
3. After scores have been entered, make sure you click **SAVE**. The system will automatically generate an email and send it to the opponent team's coach for him to confirm the scores and results. These games will show highlighted in **yellow**, which means the opponent team's coach needs to confirm the scores and results.
4. When a request for confirmation email is received, use the following instructions:
 - A. Have the games confirmed by 4:00 PM the following day of the game being played.
 - B. If confirmation of a game is not completed by this time, the game will stand reported online.
 - C. Go to the LHSAA member site using your assigned username and password.
 - D. Games that need to be confirmed by this coach, will be highlighted in **blue**.
 - E. If scores are correct, click **CONFIRM AND SAVE**. If there is a discrepancy, click **DISPUTE** and enter the reason of the dispute and save. The system will automatically send an email to the LHSAA notifying them of the discrepancy. All disputed games will show highlighted in **red**.

DETERMINING POWER RATING

(Section 10 of the 2017-18 LHSAA Handbook)

10.10 DETERMINING POWER RATING

10.10.1 *The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:*

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD OR SUBTRACT	ADD
Win (20 points) Same Class Higher Class Lower Class	N/A Add 2 points for each class up N/A	Opponent's Wins
Loss (0 points) Same Class Higher Class Lower Class	N/A Add 2 points for each class up N/A	Opponent's Wins
Double Forfeit	Add 1 point to team that defeated both teams forfeiting	Opponent's Wins
Tie (5 points) Out of State	Add ½ point if opponents has a tie	Opponent's Wins
		Opponent's Wins

10.10.2 Contests played against out of state opponents, sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tie breaker) matches shall not count in determining the school's power rating.

PRACTICE REGULATIONS

1. Shall not engage in more than three (3) hours of practice activities on those days which one (1) practice is conducted.
2. Shall not engage in more than five (5) hours of practice activities on those days during which more than one (1) practice is conducted.
3. The maximum length of any single practice session shall be three (3) hours.
4. A practice session is defined as any sport skill related activity, on court or on field, involving student-athletes by a member of the coaching staff.
5. On days when more than one (1) practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, two (2) hours of rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice. Rest/recovery time shall be defined as void of any team or individual activity including but not limited to weight training sessions, conditioning sessions, skull sessions, film sessions, or any other similar athletic session.
6. Schools shall not schedule multiple practices on consecutive days and student-athletes shall not participate in multiple practices on consecutive days.

PLAYOFFS

PLAYOFFS 10.11 PLAYOFFS

- 10.11.1** All playoff games shall be played on a “home and away” basis through the quarterfinal round for Classes 1A, B, C and Divisions IV and V. All playoff games shall be played on a “home and away” basis through the second round for Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and Divisions I, II and III.
- 10.11.2** In all rounds of playoff games, the officials’ association shall be assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.
- 10.11.3** In “home and away” games, both schools shall mutually agree on the playing date and time of the contest. If the date of the game cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the game shall be played on the deadline cited in Rule 10.1, Important Dates, in this section. If the game time cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m. Playoff games shall not be played on dates that conflict with district, regional, or state track and field meets without mutual agreement of both schools.
- 10.11.4** If a playoff game is postponed because of inclement weather, darkness, or some other approved unforeseen reason, the Executive Director may grant an extension for the game. The following shall apply in granting the extension:
1. The playoff schools shall request a day-by-day extension to play the game.
 2. The game shall be played on the next day if possible.
 3. Both schools shall mutually agree before a game may be played on a Sunday.
 4. The game site may be moved to another location in the state so that play can be completed by the deadline.
 5. If a postponed game is played on the day before or after the next scheduled round, the Executive Director shall not grant an extension to the school that won the postponed game. The game shall be played the next day unless that day is a Sunday or unless a game on that day conflicts with a district, regional, or state track and field meet (if applicable).
 6. In Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and Divisions I, II and III, in the rounds of play that are decided by a best two out of three series, the following guide-lines shall apply:
 - a. If no games are completed due to any reason prior to the Monday after the scheduled end of the series, the series shall be reduced to a single elimination game.
 - b. If only one game has been completed due to any reason prior to the **Tuesday** after the scheduled end of the series, the series shall be reduced to a single elimination game, and the game that was played shall be the game of record. **The LHSAA shall serve as mediator to ensure each series is completed.**
 - c. If two games have been completed and the series is tied and the third and final game cannot be played due to any reason prior to the Monday after the scheduled end of the series, Rule 10.11.4.2 shall be applied, and the final game shall be played on the next possible date.

- 10.11.5 The playoff system for Classes 5A, 4A, 3A and 2A and Divisions I, II, and III shall be as follows:
1. ***Bi-District*** Round - Single elimination game at home field of the higher seeded team as determined under Rule 10.10, Power Ranking, in this section.
 2. ***Regional*** Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team.
 3. Quarterfinal Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team.
 4. Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament at a site to be determined by the Executive Committee.



THE LHSAA WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING 2017 - 2018 PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS IN LOUISIANA

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