

10.1 IMPORTANT DATES

<i>2017-2018 DATES</i>	<i>CALENDAR WEEK</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>
Monday, August 7, 2017 – Sunday, January 21, 2018	6th – 30th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, November 26, 2017 – Saturday, December 16, 2017	<u>22nd - 24th</u>	Pre-season evaluation period
Monday, January 22, 2018	30th	1st Official Practice/Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/exam, athletic participation/parental permission and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Thursday, February 1, 2018	31st	Deadline for submitting Application for Jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval
Monday, January 8, 2018 – Sunday, February 4, 2018	28th – 32nd	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Thursday, February 15, 2018 – Saturday, February 17, 2018	33rd	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Saturday, February 17, 2018	33rd	Deadline for submitting schedules online.
Monday, February 19, 2018	34th	1st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 12, 2018	37th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All Academic
Monday, March 12, 2018	37th	Deadline for submitting All-Star Nominations
Sunday, March 18, 2018	38th	All-Star Selection Committee Meeting
Saturday, April 14, 2018	41st	Last date to add a game for power rating purposes.
Saturday, April 21, 2018	42nd	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (All Classes)
Sunday, April 22, 2018	43rd	Playoff Pairings Named (All Classes)
Tuesday, April 24, 2018	43rd	<u>Bi-District</u> Deadline (Classes 5A, 4A 3A and 2A <u>and Division II</u>)
Wednesday, April 25, 2018	43rd	<u>Bi-District</u> Deadline (Classes 1A, B, & C)
Friday, April 27, 2018	43rd	Regional Round Deadline (Divisions IV and V)
Friday, April 27, 2018 – Saturday, April 28, 2018	43rd	<u>Regional</u> Round Deadline (Classes 5A, 4A, <u>3A and 2A and Divisions I, II, III</u>)
Monday, April 30, 2018	44th	<u>Regional</u> Round Deadline (Classes 1A, B, & C)
Friday, May 4, 2018 – Saturday, May 5, 2018	44th	Quarterfinal Deadline (Classes 5A, 4A 3A and 2A and Divisions I, II, III)
Friday, May 4, 2018	44th	Quarterfinal Deadline (Classes 1A, B, & C <u>and Divisions IV and V</u>)

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 - Saturday, May 12, 2018	45th	State Tournament – All Classes and Divisions - McMurry Park, Sulphur
Friday, May 25, 2018 and Saturday, May 26, 2018	47th	All Star Game
Sunday, May 13, 2018	46th	Summer Rules Begin

10.2 CONTEST LIMITS

10.2.1 Pre-Season:

1. For the two-week period prior to practice officially starting, a school is permitted to also throw and condition as part of the strength and conditioning workouts after school. This throwing is limited to warming up and long toss. Bullpen workouts and infield/outfield drills are not allowed during these workouts.
2. *Between the 22nd and the 24th* week of the NFHS calendar, a school shall be permitted a one-week pre-season evaluation period. The evaluation period shall run from Sunday through Saturday and is limited to 20 hours of coach/student-athlete contact. There is no restriction on the type of baseball equipment that can be used during the evaluation period. An interschool scrimmage is not allowed during the evaluation. Under no circumstances, including inclement weather, shall there be an extension of the evaluation period.
3. A team shall be limited to two (2) pre-season scrimmages. A team shall be limited to one (1) jamboree.

10.2.2 Season:

1. A team shall be limited to 34 games per regular season in any combination of games and tournaments keeping the 4 tournaments per season limit (10.2.4).
2. Each game in a tournament shall count as 1 game toward the 34 games season limit.

10.2.3 Doubleheaders:

1. A school may play an unlimited number of doubleheaders (two games on the same day against the same team) in a season.
2. All doubleheaders shall count as two games.

10.2.4 Tournaments:

1. A team shall be limited to four tournaments in a season.
2. A team shall be limited to four games in a tournament, including out of state events.
3. No tournament shall begin prior to Thursday of any week except during a holiday period when school is not in session. To compete in a tournament that begins prior to Thursday, the school shall be out of school because of a holiday period.

10.3 GENERAL - Schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and shall compete in districts as adopted by the LHSAA Executive Committee. The schools in each district shall consist of both select and non-select admission schools.

10.3.1 Effective for the 2016-2017 season and thereafter, for the sport of baseball, schools shall be sub-divided into select admission and non-select admission schools for playoff competition.

10.3.2 A non-select admission school shall be a public school that has a designated attendance zone and a charter school whose charter mandates that the school have an open admission policy and does not include admission requirements for the selection and retention of its students. For playoff competition, schools that are classified as select and non-select schools shall compete in Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C.

- 10.3.3 A select admission school shall be a public or non-public school that has an admission policy to select the students who attend the school. Select admission schools shall include:
1. All non-public schools
 2. All university laboratory schools
 3. All magnet schools
 4. Dual-curriculum schools that include at least 25% of their enrollment as select admission students who do not live in the designated attendance zone
 5. Charter schools whose charters include admission requirements for the selection and retention of its students

10.3.3.1 For playoff competition, schools that are classified as select schools shall compete in five divisions. Schools in Class 5A shall compete in Division I; schools in Classes 4A and 3A shall be combined and compete in Division II; schools in Class 2A shall compete in Division III; schools in Class 1A shall be compete in Division IV; and classes B and C shall be combined and compete in Division V. A select school may choose to compete for championship honors in playoff competition in any division higher than stated above. The declaration to compete for championship honors in any higher division is only for the sport of baseball and shall only apply to the 2017-18 sport season.

10.3.3.2 In a classification year, the school shall make a written request to play in a higher division in a sport no later than the noon deadline to declare to play in a higher division.

10.3.3.3 Schools shall be allowed to place a memorial patch not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches that will be uniformly placed on the jersey in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform. It is recommended the patch be placed on the jersey sleeve or front in an area not to interfere with the number.

10.3.3.4 Only an assigned baseball coach and/or player shall coach from a coach's box. A coach shall not be required to dress in a uniform. All first and third base coaches shall be required to wear protective coaching helmets for all LHSAA sanctioned competitions including scrimmages, jamborees, tournaments, non-district, district, and playoff competition.

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.

10.5 **OFFICIAL GAME** - A regulation game shall be seven innings unless shortened by inclement weather or darkness after it has become official or been extended to extra innings because of a tied score after seven innings.

10.5.1 If a game (including a state playoff game) is terminated before it has been completed:

1. It shall be an “official game” in accordance with Rule 4, Section 2 of the NFHS Baseball Playing Rules.
2. A game that is terminated for any reason prior to becoming an “official game” shall be suspended, and if continued at a later date, it shall be resumed from the point of suspension (interruption) as if the game had not been terminated. If possible, each team’s lineup and batting order shall be exactly the same (subject to the rules of the game) as at the time of suspension.
3. A tied game that is terminated at any point before it has been played to completion shall be suspended. If continued at a later date, the game shall resume as outlined above.
4. If a tie exists when reverting to the last completed inning in an official game that was terminated at the end of one-half inning before it had been played to completion, the game shall be suspended. If continued at a later date, the game shall resume as outlined above.
5. A game terminated at any time for mechanical reasons (light failure, etc.) shall be treated as a suspended game and resumed as outlined above.

10.5.2 “Speed-up” rules outlined in the NFHS’s baseball rules book shall apply to all contests.

10.5.3 The game shall end when the visiting team is behind 10 or more runs after 4 1/2 innings, or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. The 10-run rule shall apply to all contests played including district, non-district, and playoff contests.

10.6 **DISTRICT PLAY**

10.6.1 Each district committee and all districts’ schools shall comply with the constitutional provisions pertaining to competition within the district. This requirement is explained in the constitution in Article 6, “District Affairs.”

- 10.6.2 As long as the LHSAA's constitution is not violated, a district shall determine its own method for determining its first place team representative in state playoffs by the deadline cited in Rule 10.1, Important Dates, in this section. Failure to name a representative(s) by the deadline may result in a school(s) being omitted from the state playoffs. Additional days to certify a district's playoff representatives shall not be allowed.
- 10.6.3 Before a district game forfeit can become official, it shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the district's principals. All principals in the district shall be afforded an opportunity to participate in this decision. Refer to rule 6.20 in Section 6 "Forfeiture of Contests."

10.7 REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION

- 10.7.1 The district chairperson shall report the name of the first-place team and teams tied for first place on the official LHSAA District Chairperson Certification Form to the LHSAA by 10:00 p.m. on the deadline cited in Rule 10.1, Important Dates, in this section.
- 10.7.2 Only those schools that automatically qualify for the state playoffs shall submit the official LHSAA District Final Standings Form by 10:00 p.m. on the deadline cited in Rule 10.1, Important Dates, in this section. The form must be verified and signed by the head coach and the school's principal. If a team fails to submit the required information by the established deadline dates, the school shall be fined \$100 per occurrence/per sport. Additionally, the school shall be placed in the lowest position of the rankings and is subject to being excluded from playoff consideration. Forms submitted by email shall only be accepted from the principal, athletic director, or coach's register email address listed on the contact information of the LHSAA Members' Only website.

10.8 QUALIFYING PROGRAM

- 10.8.1 Qualifying teams shall be allotted to each class and division as follows:

<i>CLASS</i>	<i>QUALIFIERS</i>
5A	32
4A	32
3A	32
2A	32
1A	32
B	32
C	32

<i>DIVISION</i>	<i>QUALIFIERS</i>
I	16
II	16
III	16
IV	16
V	16

If a bye(s) on the bracket exists due to any qualifiers not being represented from a district, the bye(s) shall be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wildcard.

- 10.8.2 Qualifying Selection Process** - After the established deadline for reporting teams for playoff competition, schools shall have from 8:00 a.m. through 12:00 noon on the day following the deadline to review, appeal, or dispute the school's won-loss record and/or power rankings which shall be posted on the LHSAA website. An appeal request to correct a school's won-loss record and/or to dispute the power ranking of an individual school must be submitted in writing by the principal by the 12:00 noon deadline. After 12:00 noon, when all requests, appeals, and disputes have been addressed, the official brackets shall be posted. Once the brackets are posted on the LHSAA website, the plan becomes final and no changes shall be made.
- 10.8.3** Only the teams that are certified as the first-place representatives from the district shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs from that district. If a district championship is tied, all tied teams shall share the championship honors and shall qualify for the state playoffs from that district.
- 10.8.4** In completing the playoff bracket, all other teams qualifying for the state playoffs shall be selected on the basis of the established power rating system. Schools that fail to play 15 contests during the regular season, including district play and tournament games, shall be ranked separately using the same ranking system that is used to rank schools that played at least 15 contests or more during the regular season. These schools shall be ranked at the bottom of the bracket and seeded accordingly until all remaining positions on the bracket are filled.
- 10.8.5** The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams (teams that did not automatically qualify) with the highest power rating in descending order to fill the bracket.
- 10.9 SEEDING THE BRACKET** - In Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A and B, all teams shall be seeded (1-32) according to their power rating. In Class C, all teams shall be seeded (1-16) according to their power rating. In Divisions I, II, III, IV and V, all teams shall be seeded (1-16) according to their power rating.
- 10.9.1** Tie-breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating are as follows:
1. If two schools that are tied played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the highest seeded school.
 2. If the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in the tie, the tie shall be broken by applying the classification play percentage. The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded school.
 3. If after applying Rule 2, the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in district play shall be the higher seeded school.
 4. If after applying Rule 3, the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded school.
 5. If after applying Rule 4, the tie is not broken, the school that finished in the highest position in the district shall be the higher seeded school.
 6. If a tie still remains, the higher seeded school shall be selected by having a "draw" conducted in the LHSAA office by the baseball seeding committee.

10.10 DETERMINING POWER RATING

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

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

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.

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.

10.12 PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS (all classes)

10.12.1 Admission Prices shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools

10.12.2 The home team retains the rights to concession sales.

10.12.3 Disbursement of revenue from gross ticket receipts shall be divided equally among schools before any deductions.

10.12.4 Home team shall be responsible for securing and compensation for the following:

1. Contest Officials
2. Official Scorekeepers
3. Ticket Sellers and Takers
4. Security
5. Ground Crew
6. Baseballs and other items necessary to conduct the game
7. Field Rental (if necessary)

10.12.5 The visiting team is responsible for their travel expenses.

10.13 STATE TOURNAMENTS

10.13.1 The Executive Committee shall accept statewide bids to host baseball tournaments in all classes and divisions.

10.13.2 Quarterfinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament in all classes.

- 10.13.3** The state championship tournament(s) for all classes and divisions shall be played at McMurry Park in Sulphur. The semi-finals and the finals shall be scheduled to be played on the Wednesday - Saturday of Week 45. The Executive Director shall select/appoint the tournament director.
- 10.13.4** For all LHSAA state baseball tournaments, the umpires utilized shall be selected and assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.
- 10.13.5** The tournament director and the Executive Director or his/her designee shall set game times.
- 10.13.6** If a state tournament is rained out, the Executive Director shall have the authority to change the dates and/or tournament site.
- 10.13.7** The tournament director shall be responsible for the following:
1. Organizing and managing the overall tournament and games
 2. Managing tournament finances
 3. Reporting each game's results to the LHSAA and media
- 10.13.8** During the week of the tournament, a participating team shall not practice on the game field during the entire week or until the tournament is completed. Violation of this rule shall result in the offending team being removed from the tournament.
- 10.13.9** The LHSAA shall reserve the exclusive right to sell tournament t-shirts, caps, and other souvenir items and shall retain 100% of the sales of all other souvenir items sold at the tournament. The host organization shall retain 100% of concession sales and souvenir program sales.
- 10.13.10** From the gross ticket receipts, less the LHSAA Building Surcharge, the LHSAA shall receive 80% of the ticket receipts. The host organization shall receive 20% of the ticket receipts. From the 80% of the ticket receipts received by the LHSAA, each participating team shall receive 60% of the ticket receipts prorated on a per-game played basis. Each out-of-town team shall be reimbursed 40 cents per mile (map mileage), one way, for travel expenses, and each team shall be paid an \$8 per-player-per-day meal allowance with a limit of 20 players per team. This limit shall also include two coaches per team. Reimbursement shall be based on two days stay. An exception, however, shall be schools located 150 miles or more (map mileage), city limit to city limit from the city in which the tournament is conducted. Teams traveling more than 150 miles shall be allowed a three-day maximum stay due to travel distance if they remain in the tournament. Each team shall arrange its own lodging.
- 10.13.11** If the LHSAA realizes a financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rate basis from the participating team guarantees:
1. Facility rental
 2. Facility staffing and game administration charges
 3. Contest officiating fees and mileage
 4. Twenty percent of gross ticket sales to the LHSAA
 5. Twenty percent of gross ticket sales to the host organization
 6. Team meal allotment
 7. Team travel expenses