

10.1 IMPORTANT DATES

<i>2019-2020 DATES</i>	<i>CALENDAR WEEK</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>
Monday, August 12, 2019 – Sunday, January 26, 2020	6th – 30th	Weight training/conditioning permitted. No practice/contests allowed.
Sunday, December 1, 2019 – Saturday, December 21, 2019	22nd – 24th	Pre-season evaluation period
Monday, January 27, 2020	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 6, 2020	31st	Deadline for submitting Application for Jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval
Monday, January 13, 2020 – Sunday, February 6, 2020	28th – 32nd	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Thursday, February 20, 2020 – Saturday, February 22, 2020	33rd	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Saturday, February 22, 2020	33rd	Deadline for submitting schedules online.
Monday, February 24, 2020	34th	1st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
Monday, March 16, 2020	37th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All Academic
Monday, March 16, 2020	37th	Deadline for submitting All-Star Nominations
Sunday, March 22, 2020	38th	All-Star Selection Committee Meeting
Saturday, April 18, 2020	41st	Last date to add a game for power rating purposes.
Saturday, April 25, 2020	42nd	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (All Classes)
Monday, April 27, 2020	43rd	Playoff Pairings Named (All Classes)
Thursday, April 30, 2020	43rd	Bi-District Deadline (Classes 5A, 4A 3A, 2A, 1A, B & C and Division II) Single game
Friday, May 1, 2020	43rd	Regional Round Deadline (Divisions V) Single game
Tuesday May 5, 2020	44th	Regional Round Deadline (Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and Divisions I, II, III and IV)
Saturday, May 9, 2020	44th	Quarterfinal Deadline (Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A, B and C and Divisions I, II, III, IV and V)

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 - Saturday, May 16, 2020	45th	State Tournament – All Classes and Divisions - McMurry Park, Sulphur
Sunday, May 17, 2020	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 pre-season evaluation period. The evaluation period shall run from the Monday of the 22nd week to the Friday of the 24th week and is limited to only 20 hours of coach/student-athlete contact during that period. 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. An evaluation period cannot be mandatory and cannot be used as a tryout. An evaluation period cannot be mandatory and cannot be used as a tryout. Under no circumstances, including inclement weather, shall there be an extension of the evaluation period.
3. A player shall be limited to two (2) pre-season scrimmages. A player 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 regular season games and tournament games.
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. There shall be no limit to the number of tournaments a team can play as long as the 34 game limit for the regular season is not exceeded.

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

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 postseason play in any division higher than stated above.

10.3.2

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

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 or wear a helmet.

10.4 PITCH COUNT

10.4.1 The pitch count rule will be based on the number of pitches thrown to a batter with the same arm 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.

10.4.2 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.

Note: 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.

10.4.3 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.

10.4.4 Pitches allowed per day with rest requirements (with the same arm)

LHSAA Pitching Regulations	
Maximum Daily Pitches	Required Rest (Days)
1-34	0
35-59	1
60-84	2
85-115	3

Example: if a pitcher throws 85 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 115.

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

10.4.5 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:

1. They will have to forfeit the game in which the violation occurred
2. The head coach will have to serve a one-game suspension as soon as the violation is verified by the LHSAA.

10.4.6 This pitch count rule applies to all varsity and sub-varsity games, and will be used during regular season, the playoffs, and the state tournament.

- 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 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 regular and postseason 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 Only the teams that are certified as the first-place representatives from the district shall automatically qualify for postseason play from that district. If a district championship is tied, all tied teams shall share the championship honors and shall qualify for postseason play from that district.

10.8.3 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.

10.8.4 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, B and C all teams shall be seeded (1-32) 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:

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

10.10.2 When a team's opponent is an out-of-state team, the classification of the out-of-state team shall all be weighted equally. There will be no play up points factored into an out-of-state opponent. When a school plays an out-of-state school that has any games on its schedule after the LHSAA's final playing date, those games shall not be used in determining the school's power ranking.

1. When a school plays an out-of-state school all contests played that count on their regular season record shall be used to calculate a school's power ranking.
2. If an out-of-state opponent plays more than 34 regular season games by the time of the LHSAA's final playing date, only the results of the first 34 games played shall be applied in the LHSAA's Wild-Card Program.

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

10.11 PLAYOFFS - NON-SELECT

10.11.1 All playoff games shall be played on a "home and away" basis through the quarterfinal round for Classes 1A, B, and C. All playoff games shall be played on a "home and away" basis through the second round for Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A.

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. If the Executive Director grants the exception, the following shall apply:
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, 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 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.
- 10.11.6** Any division or class that has a bye in their bracket has the opportunity to play an “Exhibition” game with another team that has a ‘bye’ on their bracket. Exhibition games must be played before their first game in the playoffs.
- 10.12** **PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS - NON-SELECT**
- 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)

10.12.1 The visiting team is responsible for their travel expenses.

10.13 **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - NON-SELECT**

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 Executive Director shall secure possible sites for the state championship tournament(s) for all classes and present them to the Executive Committee for selection. 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

10.14 Division Championships (In all Divisions)

10.14.1 The playoff system for Divisions I, II, III, IV and V shall be as follows:

1. Regional Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team (Division V shall play a single-elimination contest)
2. Quarterfinal Round - Best two out of three series at the home field of the higher seeded team. (Division V shall play a single elimination contest)
3. Quarterfinal winners - Single elimination game at the home field of the higher seeded team as determined under Rule 10.10, Power Ranking, in this section.
4. Semifinal winners shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination game at the home field of the higher seeded team as determined under Rule 10.10, Power Ranking, in this section.

10.14.2 The higher seeded team as determined under Rule 10.10, Power Ranking, shall be the home team.

10.14.3 The umpires utilized shall be selected and assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.

10.14.4 Game time shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 6:00 p.m.

10.14.5 If a game is rained out, the home team shall have the authority to change the dates and/or tournament site.

10.14.6 The home team shall be responsible for the following:

1. Organizing and managing the game
2. Managing game finances
3. Reporting each game's results to the LHSAA and media

10.14.7 During the week of the championship game, the home team is allowed to practice on its home field if the game is to be played there. If playing in a neutral site, a participating team shall not practice on the game field during the entire week. Violation of this rule shall result in the offending team being removed from the championship.

10.14.8 Financial Arrangements (all Divisions, all rounds of play)

1. Admission Prices shall be set by mutual agreement of the participating schools
2. The home team retains the rights to 100% of concession sales and souvenir program sales.
3. Disbursement of revenue from gross ticket receipts shall be divided equally among schools after officials' game fee is deducted.
4. Home team shall be responsible for securing and compensation for the following:
 - a. Officials Hotel Fee (if necessary)
 - b. Official Scorekeepers
 - c. Ticket Sellers and Takers
 - d. Security
 - e. Ground Crew
 - f. Baseballs and other items necessary to conduct the game
 - g. Field Rental (if necessary)
5. The visiting team is responsible for their travel expenses.

10.14.9 The visiting team's principal or athletic director must make a request with the home team's principal or athletic director at the time the two schools mutually agree on the playing date and time to be guaranteed at least 30 percent of the stadium's seating capacity for a playoff game.

10.14.10 Championship Game Only

1. The LHSAA shall provide game balls
2. The LHSAA shall provide state championship trophies for first and second place teams
3. The LHSAA shall provide most valuable player awards
4. The LHSAA shall retain the right to allow title sponsor to assist in the presentation of awards.
5. The LHSAA shall retain the right to hang sponsor signage at the baseball facility.
6. The LHSAA shall reserve the exclusive right to sell championship game t-shirts, caps, and other souvenir items and shall retain 100% of the sales of souvenir items sold at the championship.
7. Home teams shall be required to distribute and sell numbered tickets for the state championship game.
8. The LHSAA shall receive five percent (5%) of net ticket receipts after payment of officials' fees and other deductions to be paid within 30 calendar days of the event.