

**19.1 IMPORTANT DATES** - Due to COVID-19, all dates below are subject to change.

2020-2021 DATES	CALENDAR WEEK	ACTIVITY
Monday, August 10, 2020 - Saturday, January 16, 2021	6th - 28th	Weight training/conditioning permitted.
Monday, November 30, 2020 - Saturday, December 12, 2020	22nd - 24th	Pre-season evaluation period
Monday, December 21, 2020 - Sunday, January 17, 2021	25th - 29th	Online Rules Clinic (Mandatory for all Head Coaches)
Monday, January 18, 2021	29th	1st Practice/ Earliest Scrimmage Allowed (Current medical history/ exam, athletic participation/ parental permission, and substance misuse forms must be on file.)
Thursday, February 4, 2021	31st	Deadline for submitting Application for Jamboree and/or Invitational Tournament approval
<u>Thursday, February 11, 2021 - Saturday, February 13, 2021</u>	<u>32nd</u>	Jamborees (Eligibility must be submitted online.)
Thursday, February 18, 2021	33rd	1st Contest (If jamboree not played, eligibility must be submitted online.)
<u>Saturday, February 20, 2021</u>	<u>33rd</u>	Deadline for submitting working schedules online.
Monday, March 8, 2021	36th	Deadline for submitting GPAs online for seniors for All-Academic
Saturday, April 3, 2021	39th	Last day to add game for power rating purposes
Thursday, April 15, 2021	41st	End of Regular Season/District Representatives Named (All Classes & Divisions)
Friday, April 16, 2021	41st	Playoff Pairings Named (All Classes & Divisions)
Monday, April 19, 2021	42nd	Bi-District Round Deadline (All Classes <del>&amp; Divisions</del> )
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	42nd	Regional Round Deadline (All Classes & Divisions)
Saturday, April 24, 2021	42nd	Quarterfinal Round Deadline (All Classes & Divisions)
Friday, April 30, 2021	43rd	State Tournament - Semifinal Round (All Classes/ <u>All Divisions</u> )
Saturday, May 1, 2021	43rd	State Tournament -Finals (All Classes/ <u>All Divisions</u> )
End of Schools' Season - End of School	TBD	Weight training/ conditioning permitted. No practice/ games/tryouts allowed.
Sunday, May 16, 2021	46th	Summer Rules Begin

**19.2 CONTEST LIMITS****19.2.1 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 week 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 Saturday of the 24th week and is limited to 20 hours of coach/student-athlete contact. There is no restriction on the type of softball equipment that can be used during the evaluation period. An interschool scrimmage is not allowed during the evaluation period. 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 team shall be limited to two pre-season scrimmages.
4. A team shall be limited to one jamboree.

**19.2.2 Season:**

1. A team shall be limited to 34 games per regular season with no limit to the number of tournaments a team may participate in as long as they do not exceed the 34 game limit during the regular season as well as the four game limit in any one tournament.
2. Each game in a tournament shall count as one game toward the 34 games allowed in the season.
3. A team shall be limited to two 7-inning games in one day.

**19.2.3 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.

**19.2.4 Tournaments:**

1. There shall be no limit to the number of tournaments a team can play in as long as the 34 game limit for the regular season is not exceeded.
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.
4. In all regular season invitational tournaments, for the game to be declared an official game and count in determining a school's power ranking, it shall meet the guidelines of an official game as outlined in Bylaw 19.4. The tournament director has the authority to elect to use the LHSAA-adopted tie-breaker procedure outlined in the NFHS softball playing rules. The decision to use this tie-breaker procedure shall apply to all games in the tournament and shall be announced to the team's head coach prior to its first game. Umpires shall also be made aware of this decision prior to the start of the tournament. Once this procedure is used, it shall be used for the remainder of the game and for all other tied games throughout the tournament. If the score is tied after the teams have played six innings, the tie-breaker procedure may be applied. While using the tie-breaker, each half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order who preceded the leadoff batter in the inning. The game then proceeds a fulling inning or until a winner is determined in that inning. This tie-breaker procedure shall not be used in any other regular season games, district and non-district, or any state playoff games including the state tournament.

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

**19.3.1** For playoff competition, schools that are classified as select schools shall compete in ~~five~~ divisions as determined by the select schools, or a committee from their number. ~~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 playoff competition in any division higher than stated above a division higher than assigned. The declaration to compete in a higher division is sport specific and shall be in effect for two years.

**19.3.2** The number of innings a pitcher may pitch during a calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) shall be determined by the school's principal.

**19.3.3** The optic yellow softball shall be used as the official game ball in all regular season games including all invitational tournaments, state playoff games, and the state tournament.

#### **19.4** OFFICIAL GAME

**19.4.1** 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.

**19.4.2** If a game is terminated before it has been completed, the following stipulations shall apply:

1. It shall be an "official game" in accordance with the NFHS Softball 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 in the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.
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 in the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.
5. A game terminated at any time for mechanical reasons (light failure, etc.) shall be treated as a suspended game and resumed as outlined in the NFHS Softball Playing Rules.

**19.4.3** The 15-run rule shall apply after three innings of play or the 10-run rule shall apply after five innings. This rule shall be mandatory in regular and postseason contests.

#### **19.5** DISTRICT PLAY

**19.5.1** Each district committee and all district 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."

**19.5.2** As long as the LHSAA's constitution is not violated, a district shall determine its own method for determining first place representatives in state playoffs by the deadline cited in Bylaw 19.1, "Important Dates" section.

**19.5.3** 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 vote.

#### **19.6** REPORTING TEAMS FOR PLAYOFF COMPETITION

**19.6.1** Each district champion shall submit an official LHSAA District Final Standing Form by 10:00 pm on the deadline cited in Bylaw 19.1, "Important Dates" section and must be verified and signed by the head coach and the school's principal. Failure of the district champion to submit the required information by the established deadline dates shall be fined \$100. Additionally, the school shall be placed in the lowest position of the rankings and is subject to being excluded from playoff consideration. Additional days to certify a district's playoff representative shall not be honored. Completed forms must be submitted via email.

## 19.7 QUALIFYING PROGRAM

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

CLASS	QUALIFIERS
5A	32
4A	32
3A	32
2A	32
1A	32
B	<del>32-24</del>
C	16

DIVISION	QUALIFIERS
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) may be filled using the remaining teams from those being considered for wildcard.

### 19.7.2 Criteria for Wildcard Selection

1. Only the teams certified as first place district representatives shall automatically qualify for the state playoffs.
2. The remainder of the byes on the bracket shall be filled with wildcard teams, (teams that did not automatically qualify), by placing them on the bracket starting with the highest power ranking and continuing in descending order.

### 19.7.3 Determining Power Rating:

1. The power rating for each school shall be determined as follows:

RESULT OF CONTEST	ADD	ADD
Win (20 points)	Same Class	N/A
	Higher Class	Add 2 points for each class up
	Lower Class	N/A
Loss (0 points)	Same Class	N/A
	Higher Class	Add 2 points for each class up
	Lower Class	N/A
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

2. A school's power rating shall be the total power points of games played divided by the number of total games played during the regular season.
3. Contests played against sub-varsity opponents and district playoff (tie-breakers) games shall not count in determining a school's power rating.

**19.8 SEEDING THE BRACKET**

- 19.8.1** Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A ~~and B~~ shall be seeded 1-32, Class B shall be seeded 1-24 and Class C shall be seeded 1-16 according to their power ranking. In Select Divisions I, II, III, IV and V all teams shall be seeded 1-16 according to their power rankings.
- 19.8.2** All teams that automatically qualify for the playoffs and those teams selected as wildcard teams shall be seeded in each class and division.
- 19.8.3** 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.
- 19.8.4** Tie breaking procedures to be used when two or more schools have the same power rating:
1. If two schools are tied and played each other during the season, the school that won the most games against the other school shall be the higher seeded team.
  2. If after applying the first criterion and the tie is not broken or if the two schools did not play each other during the season, or if there are more than two schools involved in a tie, the tie shall be broken by applying class play percentage (schools that were played in the individual school's classification). The school with the higher percentage shall be the higher seeded team.
  3. If after applying the second criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in district play shall be the higher seeded team.
  4. If after applying the third criterion and the tie is not broken, the school with the highest won-loss percentage in overall regular season play shall be the higher seeded team.
  5. If a tie still remains, the higher seeded team shall be determined by having a "draw" conducted by the LHSAA office.

**19.9 PLAYOFFS - NON-SELECT**

- 19.9.1** In all rounds of playoff games, the officials' association shall be assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.
- 19.9.2** In "home and away" games, both schools shall mutually agree on the date and playing 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 Bylaw 19.1, "Important Dates" section. If the game time cannot be reached by mutual agreement, the starting time shall be 3:30 p.m. for the home team that does not have lights. Starting time for the home team that does have lights should be 4:30 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.
- 19.9.3** 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. In all rounds of play, 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.
- 19.9.4** Any 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 after the End of the Regular Season/District Representatives Names date listed in Bylaw 19.1, "Important Dates" section and before their first playoff games.

**19.10 PLAYOFF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS – NON-SELECT**

- 19.10.1** Admission prices prior to the game shall be set by the home team.
- 19.10.2** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the home team retains rights to concession sales.
- 19.10.3** Disbursement of revenue from ticket receipts (after officials are paid) in both home and away games shall be divided equally among schools.
- 19.10.4** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the cost of umpires (at least two) shall be split between the schools from total gross receipts.
- 19.10.5** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the visiting team is responsible for its own travel expenses.
- 19.10.6** In all classes, through the quarterfinal round, the home team is responsible for:
1. Official Scorer
  2. Ticket Sellers and Takers
  3. Ground Crew
  4. Security (maximum two)
  5. Game Softballs and other items necessary to conduct game

**19.11 STATE TOURNAMENT – NON-SELECT**

- 19.11.1** The Executive Committee shall select a host site for the state tournament. The state tournament shall be conducted at the selected location on the dates cited in Bylaw 19.1, “Important Dates” section. The state tournament shall be conducted on as many days as necessary so that no team has to play two games on any one day.
- 19.11.2** The tournament shall be organized and administrated by the Executive Director and his/her staff.
- 19.11.3** Each tournament game shall be officiated by umpires selected by the LHSAA Director of Officials from a neutral association. If possible, officials shall be from the same association.
- 19.11.4** Quarterfinal round winners in all classes shall play for the state championship in a single-elimination tournament.
- 19.11.5** Games shall be seven innings.
- 19.11.6** The 15-run rule after three innings and 10-run rule after five innings shall be in effect.
- 19.11.7** Games that are not completed the day they are scheduled shall be terminated according to NFHS Fast-Pitch Softball Rules as outlined in Bylaw 19.4, “Official Game” section.
- 19.11.8** Teams shall be allowed a maximum of 24 individuals to enter the tournament for free. Those 24 must include any/all coaches, players in legal uniforms, managers, trainers and/or statisticians and must be listed on the required Team Roster form. Once a Team Roster has been submitted per Bylaw 6.13.6, “Athletic Contest” section, it shall be considered final. Additional tickets shall be purchased at the ticket window for full price. Any additional tickets purchased must enter through the spectator entrance and will not be allowed in the dugout. Only one team bus driver, per bus, will be allowed to enter through the Team Entrance and must have school I.D. Any member school(s) and/or including by not limited to the individuals mentioned above, found in violation of this Bylaw shall be fined under the “Penalty Code” section.
- 19.11.9** The LHSAA shall not honor a protest regarding a contest official’s judgment call and/or playing rule interpretation.
- 19.11.10** Postponed or suspended games shall be rescheduled for Sunday and/or Monday if necessary.
- 19.12** 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 LHSAA share of the ticket receipts, each participating non-select team shall receive 60% of the ticket receipts pro-rated on per a game played basis.

- 19.13** If the LHSAA realizes a financial loss after the following expenses have been paid, the loss shall be deducted on a pro-rated basis from the participating team guarantee:
1. Facility rental
  2. Staffing and game administration charges
  3. Contest officiating fees and mileage
  4. Rooming charges for officials
- 19.14** STATE TOURNAMENT PLAYOFFS - SELECT
- 19.14.1** Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the semifinal and final regional and quarterfinal rounds of the playoff system for Divisions I, II, III, IV and V shall be a single elimination game at the home field of the higher seeded team as determined by Bylaw 19.7.3, "Power Ranking" section. In all select divisions, all teams shall be seeded 1-16 according to their power ranking.
- 19.14.2** In all Divisions, the umpires utilized shall be selected and assigned by the LHSAA Director of Officials.
- 19.14.3** Game time for the regional and quarterfinal rounds of play shall be set by mutual agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached, the starting time shall be 6:00 p.m.
- 19.14.4** Games shall be seven innings.
- 19.14.5** The 15-run rule after three innings and 10-run rule after five innings shall be in effect.
- 19.14.6** Games that are not completed the day they are scheduled shall be terminated according to NFHS Fast-Pitch Softball Rules as outlined in Bylaw 19.4, "Official Game."
- 19.14.7** If a playoff game is rained out, the home team shall have the authority to change the dates and/or tournament site.
- 19.14.8** 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
- ~~**19.14.9** 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.~~
- 19.14.9** Financial Arrangements (all Divisions, all rounds of play for regional and quarterfinal round 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. The cost of umpires (at least two) shall be split between the schools from total gross receipts.
  4. Disbursement of revenue from gross ticket receipts shall be divided equally among schools after officials' game fee is deducted and any other game deductions.
  5. Home team shall be responsible for securing and compensation for the following:
    - a. Official Scorekeepers
    - b. Ticket Sellers and Takers
    - c. Security
    - d. Ground Crew
    - e. Softballs and other items necessary to conduct the game
    - f. Field Rental (if necessary)
  6. The visiting team is responsible for its travel expenses.

**19.14.10** 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% of the stadium's seating capacity for a playoff game.

**19.15** STATE TOURNAMENT - SELECT

**19.15.1** Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, select softball teams in all divisions shall compete for state championship honors at a site or sites selected by the select schools, or a committee chosen from their number. A tournament director shall be selected who in association with the select schools, or a committee chosen from their number shall organize, administer, and set the tournament playing schedule. The tournament shall consist of a single elimination game, semifinal and final rounds of play.

**19.15.2** ~~Championship Game Only~~ The LHSAA shall:

- ~~The LHSAA shall~~ Provide official game balls from the current LHSAA sponsor.
- ~~The LHSAA shall~~ Provide state championship trophies for first and second place team.
- ~~The LHSAA shall~~ Provide most valuable player awards.
- Provide All-Academic certificates for select school honorees.
- ~~The LHSAA shall~~ Retain the right to allow title sponsor to assist in the presentation of awards.
- ~~The LHSAA shall~~ Retain the right to hang sponsor signage at the softball facility.
- ~~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.
- ~~The LHSAA shall~~ Receive five percent of net ticket receipts after payment of tournament expenses including officials' fees and \$2.00 building maintenance fee to be paid within 30 calendar days of the event.

**19.15.3** Disbursement of revenue from ticket receipts, after all expenses, including officials' game fees, have been paid, shall be divided among schools. Participating schools shall be responsible for their own travel expenses, meals, and hotel expenses if necessary.