

State Championship Information and Points of Emphasis

Official State Championship Ball

Wilson A1010 PRO SST www.wilson.com **(MUST BE USED DURING 1st ROUND OF STATE)**

**NOTE – Beginning THIS YEAR, ALL baseballs used at the high school & middle school level must have the NOCSAE/SEI certification mark in addition to the NFHS stamp.*

Official Bat of the NMAA

Wilson DeMarini Pro Maple Composite Wood Bat – Special pricing/promotions through the Albuquerque Baseball Academy (505-856-2255) & Gardenswartz Team Sales (505-884-1234)

Important Dates

Monday, February 3rd (Week 32) – First official practice date
Monday, April 1st (Week 40) – Rosters and Schedules due on-line
Friday, April 17th (Week 42) – Team Photo due online
Saturday, May 2nd (Week 44) – Last day for regular season games for CLASSES 2A-5A
Sunday, May 3rd (Week 45) – Seeding/Selection for CLASSES 2A-5A (done by NMAA staff)
*Coaches input forms for seeding due by 8am
Wednesday, May 6th (Week 45) – Class 2A First Round of 16 (single game)
Friday & Saturday, May 8th & 9th (Week 45) – Class 3A-5A First Round of 16 (best of 3 series)
Saturday, May 9th (Week 45) – Last day for regular season games for CLASS A
Sunday, May 10th (Week 46) – Seeding/Selection for CLASS A (done by NMAA staff)
*Coaches input forms for seeding due by 8am
Wednesday-Friday, May 13th-15th (Week 46) – Class 2A Quarters/Semis/Finals
Thursday-Saturday, May 14th-16th (Week 46) – Class 3A-5A Quarters/Semis/Finals
Friday-Saturday, May 15th-16th (Week 46) – Class A Semis/Finals

Seeding & Selection Information

The NMAA staff will seed & select teams for the 2020 State Championships.

The NMAA staff will utilize the following criteria to seed & select
(none weighted more than the other):

- Finish in regular season district play
- Head to Head
- Wins against district champions regardless of class
- Overall Records
- MaxPreps Rankings
- Member School Input

****In the event of a tie among criteria points, head to head will be used to break the tie. If there is no head to head competition, or the head to head competition is tied, then MaxPreps Rankings will be used to break the tie.****

ALL SEEDING/SELECTION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. A LINK TO ACCESS THE DISTRICT PLACEMENT FORM (to be submitted by District Chairs) AND THE MEMBER SCHOOL INPUT FORM (to be submitted by Head Coaches) WILL BE AVAILABLE AND SENT VIA E-MAIL AS THE SEASON PROGRESSES.

*NOTE – The deadlines to submit coaches' input and district placement forms will be 8am on the day of the seeding/selection meetings.

Post Season Information

Class A:

1. 4 teams advance to the playoffs.
2. The district champion will automatically advance to the playoffs.
3. The remaining teams will be selected "at large" by the Seeding/Selection Committee (NMAA Staff). There will be 2 at large teams selected.
4. The tournament will be a 4-team single elimination bracket with the semifinals-finals held during Week #46.
5. During the semifinals the higher seed will serve as the home team (unless the higher seed opts to be visitors). During the finals, a coin flip will determine home/visitor with the higher seed calling the toss.

Class 2A-5A:

1. 16 teams advance to the playoffs.
 2. The district champion will automatically advance to the playoffs.
 3. The remaining teams will be selected "at large" by the Seeding/Selection Committee. There will be 12 at large teams selected from Class 3A, 11 from Class 5A, and 10 from Class 2A & 4A.
 4. In the first round of 16 for Class 2A, a single game will be held to determine who advances to the quarterfinals. The higher seed will determine the home site. This game should be played on Wednesday of Week #45.
 5. In the first round of 16 for Classes 3A-5A, a two out of three series will be played with the winner of this series advancing to the quarterfinals. The higher seed will determine the home site and will act as the home team for all games.
 6. Protocol for scheduling of the first round series (2 out of 3) for Classes 3A-5A is as follows:
 - a. Game 1 should be played on the Friday of Week #45, no earlier than 3pm and no later than 7pm.
 - b. Game 2 should then be played on Saturday (Week #45), no earlier than 10am and no later than 11am.
 - c. Game 3 (if necessary) should be played following the conclusion of Game 2. The recommended time between games is 30-45 minutes.
- *NOTE – Deviations from this schedule must be approved by the NMAA.
7. During the quarterfinals the higher seed will serve as the home team (unless the higher seed opts to be visitors). During the semifinals and finals, a coin flip will determine home/visitor with the higher seed calling the toss.

Points of Emphasis (details of each below)

-NMAA Pitching Regulations (see UNIT 3 of Rules Clinic)

-NMAA Bat Regulations

-Protests

-Game Limitation Bylaws

-Alumni Games

-Umpires / Coach Feedback

-Universal District Tiebreakers

-NEW NMAA Bylaws

-Sportsmanship Bylaw 7.7.4: Crowd Control

-Bench/Dugout Decorum

NMAA Bat Regulations

The NMAA Bylaws state the following in Section 7.12.7:

Only wood or composite wood (NO metal) bats may be used. This rule shall be in effect for ALL levels of high school play.

A. Wood Bats – Any single piece wood bat shall be deemed legal as long as it adheres to NFHS standards as listed in the baseball rules book. These standards state that a single piece wood bat must be no more than 36 inches in length with a barrel no more than 2 ¾ inches in diameter.

B. Composite Wood Bats – Composite wood bats shall be deemed legal as long as they adhere to NFHS standards which state that the bat must be BBCOR certified. This certification must be permanently displayed on the bat by way of a BBCOR stamp.

C. BBCOR Certified Metal Bats – All BBCOR metal (aluminum or composite metal) bats are illegal for use during NMAA sanctioned high school contests. These bats may, however, be used in practice.

Per these bylaws, any team traveling to New Mexico to play a high school contest at an NMAA Member School must use wood/composite wood bats. However, just as in previous years, the NMAA has decided that a host school may allow for an out of state team to use BBCOR certified metal bats. This should be determined well in advance and game officials should be contacted so that they are aware of the situation upon arrival to the contest. Should the host school allow for the out of state team to use BBCOR certified metal bats, the NMAA member school must still adhere to NMAA bylaws and thus must use wood/composite wood bats.

If an NMAA Member School is traveling outside New Mexico for a high school contest, they must follow the host state association's bylaws regarding bat regulations. Most other states follow NFHS rules regarding bats, which allow for the use of any BBCOR certified bat (metal, composite wood, etc.) or a single piece wood bat. This allows for the NMAA member school to choose what they would like to use when playing outside New Mexico.

It should also be noted that the above bylaws pertain to all levels of HIGH SCHOOL baseball only. Middle school programs must adhere to normal NFHS standards and thus BBCOR certified metal bats can be used. However, if a middle school student is participating at any high school level, this student must use a wood/composite wood bat.

Although BBCOR certified metal bats cannot be used during high school contests, they may be used during practice. The NMAA recommends that all metal bats from past years that are not BBCOR certified should not be used.

Protests

Per the NMAA Board of Directors meeting in June of 2010, protests will NOT be allowed in the sport of baseball.

Game Limitations – Innings of Play & Courtesy Runner

NMAA Bylaws state the following in Section 7.12.1.C:

Game Limitation – Each varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-six (26) total games. Each sub-varsity team or individual is limited to twenty-three (23) total games. This includes regular season and invitational tournament games.

1. Innings of Play - If a school plays two games at different levels (i.e. JV & Varsity) back to back on the same day, at the same site, and against the same school, a student-athlete may participate in 10 innings between the two contests and only count this as one game towards his/her game limitations.

NOTE – If a player participates in a contest as a courtesy runner only, this will not count towards that player's game limitations for the season.

Alumni Games

Per the NMAA Board of Directors meeting in June of 2015, NMAA Bylaws state the following regarding alumni games in Section 7.6.4:

Schools will be allowed to sponsor an alumni game prior to their first regular season game (if approved by the Local School Administration) which will not count against their scrimmage limit.

Umpires / Coach Feedback

Coaches will again have the opportunity to provide feedback to the NMAA office regarding umpires throughout the regular season. Participation has been limited in this area in recent years, so our office asks that you please take part in 2020. The feedback platform will again be available through The Arbiter, but if you have questions on how to gain access, please contact the NMAA office. The information provided by our coaches will be used for training purposes and as part of the selection process for state tournament officials.

Universal District Tiebreakers

Per the NMAA Board of Directors meeting in March of 2009, all districts in each sport will have universal tiebreakers put into place by the NMAA to establish district standings. Those tiebreakers for baseball can be seen in the baseball specific bylaws located in Section 7 of the NMAA Handbook (or within Unit 4 of this clinic)

NEW NMAA Bylaws

Bylaw 7.7.2.C – Ejection Policy (New Addition for incidents involving “battery”)

- Participant: Battery (the use of force against another resulting in harmful or offensive contact)
 - Suspension from 15% of the sport's game limitation – same level, may not participate at any level until all sanctions are completed. The “15% of the sport's game limitation” will be rounded up to determine the final suspension (i.e. sub-

varsity football has a game limitation of 9; 15% of 9 is 1.35 so the suspension is 2 games).

- Complete the NFHSLearn “Sportsmanship” course, submit certificate of completion to the school Athletic Director.
- Attend a meeting with the NMAA Executive Director.
- A local sanction as determined by the local school administration and approved by the NMAA, if necessary.
- Any subsequent ejection will result in student athlete being removed from athletic competition for 180 school days / 365 calendar days.

Bylaw 7.7.9.B – Video Recording/Telecasts/Broadcasts

Regular Season Contests - Radio broadcasting, telecasting, or video streaming a regular season contest is prohibited without the consent of the host school. This does not prohibit use of film and tape for sports clips by media representatives. Video recording is allowed.

Bylaw 7.12.1.D.1 – Pitch Count Threshold

At the varsity level, a pitcher may throw 120 pitches in any three-day period. At the sub-varsity level, a pitcher may throw 105 pitches in any three-day period.

**Note – the new regulation applies a 3-day maximum instead of a 1-day maximum. This will limit the number of total pitches an athlete can throw during tournaments (including state) and all other regular season games that are held within 3 days (i.e. Thurs-Sat).*

Bylaw 7.12.1.D.2 – Posting of Pitch Counts

Coaches must post the pitch counts for all players from each game to MaxPreps, along with results, within 24 hours. Failure to post pitch count numbers to MaxPreps within 24 hours will result in the following:

1st Offense – Warning

2nd & Subsequent Offenses – Head Coach will be suspended for one game

Sportsmanship Bylaw 7.7.4: Crowd Control

Bylaw 7.7.4 – A school is responsible for the conduct of its team, coaches, students, and fans at any interscholastic event in which the school is participating. The Executive Director may invoke penalties upon a member school for actions, which violate the principles of “Compete with Class.” These actions include, but are not limited to, hindering the normal progress of an event, creating situations that may lead to the restriction or discontinuance of interscholastic competition, or endangering or threatening the personal safety of any individuals involved. Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, students, and/or spectators may cause the school or individual to be placed on probation or suspension for 180 school days/365 calendar days.

Bench/Dugout Decorum

Players are not allowed to stand or kneel outside their dugout/bench and make “cat-calls” or any other disparaging remarks while the other team is taking infield practice. Rooting for your team is an integral part of high school baseball. However, making disparaging remarks toward your opponent does not improve the game; in fact, it detracts from the contest. The purpose of interscholastic sports is educational. Chants/intentional distractions/loud noises (natural or artificial) directed at the opponent’s pitcher prior to his pitching, or the batter getting ready to hit, or a fielder getting ready to make a play is not good sportsmanship. We should strive to have our

young people play to the best of their ability and let their natural talent be the barometer of their success.

This is unsportsmanlike behavior and not in line with the NMAA's Compete with Class initiative, thus shall not be tolerated in interscholastic baseball. Umpires and coaches need to work together for the benefit of the students they officiate and teach. It is these game situations that provide coaches and umpires excellent "teachable moments" to reinforce proper behavior and perspective. The positive values that are learned at the baseball diamond will serve the young people long after their high school careers have ended.

Compete with Class Sportsmanship Initiative

"Compete with Class" is a New Mexico sportsmanship program designed to help better understand the true value of interscholastic athletics and activities – to educate and prepare our youth for the future.

The NMAA defines sportsmanship as, "the act of treating others in a respectful manner; taking personal accountability for one's actions and responding with integrity while engaged in competition" and is rooted in three core values: Respect, Integrity and Responsibility:

RESPECT:

Treat the traditions of the game and opponents with respect. Refrain from engaging in or tolerating disrespectful conduct including verbal abuse of opponents and officials, profane or belligerent "trash-talking," taunting and unseemly celebrations. Win with grace and lose with dignity.

INTEGRITY:

Honor the rules of the game and avoid gamesmanship. Adhere to high standards of fair play. Focus on education and character development goals. Refrain from engaging in or tolerating dishonesty, cheating or dishonorable conduct.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Be a positive role model on and off the field. Take accountability for your actions. Accept your mistakes. Possess self-control and learn from adversity. Further the mental, social and moral development of athletes and teach life skills that enhance personal success and social responsibility.

The NMAA is excited to continue promoting this sportsmanship initiative and we encourage all administrators, coaches, student-athletes, and community members to do their part in building a strong culture of character and good sportsmanship amongst interscholastic athletics in New Mexico.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE OF THE 2020 NMAA BASEBALL RULES CLINIC

