
7.12 BASEBALL

7.12.1 General Rules/Policies

- A. Classes** - There are four classes during regular season play: A-2A, 3A, 4A, 5A
There will be five classes for the state playoffs (A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A) as Class A-2A will split to form their own tournaments at the conclusion of the regular season.
- B. Practice Date** - Practice may begin Monday of Week #32. The season ends when the school is eliminated from or does not qualify for post-season play.
- 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.
- D. Pitching Restrictions** - Pitchers may throw a maximum of 12 innings in a 72-hour period, regardless of the length of a game.

In state tournament play, a pitcher may throw a maximum of 12 innings during the first round. A pitcher may also throw a maximum of 12 innings during the quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals (final 8).

- E. Protests** - As per National Federation Rules, a protest must be placed/filed in the scorebook prior to the next pitch, to be considered. The schools involved and umpires are required to submit a report, in writing, to the NMAA within 72 hours of the time/date of the protest. Failure to perform either of the identified conditions shall constitute a waiver of the protest option where applicable.
- F. NMAA District Clinic** – The head coach from each declared baseball school must complete the district clinic online at www.nmact.org between February 1st and February 28th (February 29th in a leap year). Failure to comply shall result in a \$100 fine to the school which will be assessed on March 1st.
- G. State Association Adoption(s)** - The following options in the National Federation Baseball Rulebook have been adopted by a vote of the schools:
- 1. NFHS Rule 4-2-2 (10-Run Rule):** A game is ended any time after 5 innings or after 4½ innings when the visiting team is ten or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat, or when the home team is behind by 10 or more runs and has completed its turn at bat (after five innings).
 - 2. NFHS Rule 4-2-3 Regulation Games:** If weather or darkness interferes with play so that the game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game.
 - a.** If five full innings have been played or if the home team has scored an equal or greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns at bat; or
 - b.** If play has gone beyond five full innings:

If the game is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; except that if the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, the final score shall be as recorded when the game is called.

3. **Suspended Game:** If a game is terminated for any reason (weather, darkness, mechanical failures, etc.) and does not meet the requirements of a regulation game, it will then be treated as a suspended game. The game will be continued from the exact point of suspension with the line-up and batting order of each team the same as it was the moment of suspension.
 - a. **Suspended District Games** - All suspended district games must be completed as indicated above. The game should be completed at its original site, on a date agreed upon by both schools, if feasible. Should circumstances not allow for this (travel/expenses, scheduling conflicts), the following protocol should be followed:

If the two schools meet at a later date, the suspended game will be completed first as part of a doubleheader. This may cause the suspended game to be played at a different site than originally scheduled. However, the home team in the scorebook will be the same as it was originally.
 - b. **Suspended Non-District Games** - All suspended non-district games must be completed as indicated above using the same criteria as district games. However, if the two schools involved are more than 150 miles apart in distance, the game does not have to be completed unless both schools agree to do so.
 - c. **Continuation of Suspended Game** - In state tournament play, any suspended game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All state games must be played out to seven innings or more (unless the state adopted 10-run rule ends the game earlier).
4. **Unable to Continue Suspended Game** - If circumstances do not allow for a suspended game to be completed, no win, loss, or tie will be given to either team.
5. **Undetermined Winner** - A regulation game where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a tie for both team's record.

H. Speed-Up Rules - The following speed-up rules have been adopted (Ref. NFHS Baseball Rulebook):

Courtesy Runners:

1. At any time the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
 2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
 3. A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
 4. The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation.
 5. A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute.
- I. Uniformed Coaches** - Coaches must be in complete uniform prior to the start of the game. If coaches are not in complete uniform, they will be restricted to their team's dugout.

7.12.2 Umpires

- A. Officials working any NMAA sanctioned event must be registered through the Association. Schools are required to use two (2) NMAA/NMOA officials/umpires for regular season sanctioned contests. When available, three (3) umpires are used at the NMAA State Baseball Tournament.
- B. Schools are subject to a fine for using non-registered officials for games.

7.12.3 District Alignments 2008-09/2009-10

Class 5A – Baseball

of Schools 23

District	District	District	District	District
1-5A	2-5A	3-5A	4-5A	5-5A
Cibola	ABQ. High	Alamogordo	Carlsbad	Eldorado
Cleveland	La Cueva	Gadsden	Clovis	Highland
Gallup	Sandia	Las Cruces	Hobbs	Los Lunas
Rio Rancho	Santa Fe	Mayfield		Manzano
West Mesa	Valley	Oñate		Rio Grande

Class 4A – Baseball

of Schools 25

District	District	District	District	District	District
1-4A	2-4A	3-4A	4-4A	5-4A	6-4A
Aztec	Bernalillo	Chaparral	Artesia	ABQ. Academy	Belen
Farmington	Capital	Deming	Goddard	Del Norte	Grants
Kirtland Central	Española	Santa Teresa	Roswell	Moriarty	St. Pius
Piedra Vista	Los Alamos	Silver		Valencia	Volcano Vista
Shiprock	Taos				

Class 3A – Baseball

of Schools 24

District	District	District	District	District
1-3A	2-3A	3-3A	4-3A	5-3A
Bloomfield	Pojoaque	Cobre	Dexter	Cuba
Miyamura	Raton	Hatch	Lovington	Hope Christian
Tohatchi	Robertson	Hot Springs	NMMI	Laguna Acoma
Wingate	SF Indian	Socorro	Portales	Sandia Prep
	St. Michael's		Ruidoso	Thoreau
	W. Las Vegas			

Class A/2A – Baseball

of Schools 33 (16 – A, 17 – 2A)

District	District	District	District
1	2	3	4
Gallup Catholic (A) Navajo Prep (2A)	McCurdy (A) Mesa Vista (2A) Peñasco (2A) Questa (A)	Cimarron (A) Monte del Sol (2A) Mora (2A) Pecos (2A)	Clayton (2A) Grady (A) Logan (A) San Jon (A) Tucumcari (2A)

District	District	District	District
5	6	7	8
Capitan (A) Lordsburg (2A) Mesilla Valley (2A) Tularosa (2A)	Estancia (2A) East Mountain (2A) Magdalena (A) Santa Rosa (2A)	Dora (A) Elida (A) Floyd (A) Melrose (A) Texico (2A)	Eunice (2A) Gateway Christian (A) Lake Arthur (A) Loving (2A) Valley Christian (A)

**NOTE – For Class A-2A, schools will only be eligible to participate in the State Tournament for the Classification listed above in parenthesis.*

7.12.4 District Tie-breaker procedures

(to be used by ALL districts within the sport of baseball)

- A. A school must play each member of the district to be eligible for the championship.
- B. District placement is determined by district play record
- C. District Tiebreakers – Two Teams
 - 1. In case of a tie in district record, the team with the better head to head record in district play will have earned higher placement.
 - 2. If the two tied teams have the same head to head record in district play, a run differential from the district games between the tied teams will be used to determine placement. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game. Each team involved uses either a plus or minus run differential; if a team wins by 7, they are credited +7; the other team has a deficit of -7 in the calculation.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, a run differential from ALL district games will be used to determine placement. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
 - 4. If the two teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.
 - 5. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff.
- D. District Tiebreakers – More Than Two Teams

1. In case of a tie in district record, the team with the better head to head record in district play between the tied teams will have earned higher placement.
2. If the tied teams have the same head to head record in district play, a run differential will be used based on all of the head to head district games between the tied teams. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
3. If all teams are still tied, a run differential from ALL district games will be used to determine placement. 10 runs will be the maximum allowed for any one game.
4. If the teams are still tied, a coin toss will determine placement.
5. This process, including the coin toss, is administered by the NMAA staff. The official declaration of results is the responsibility of the Association staff

*****NOTE:** *If any step in this process leads to the placement of a team or teams, but still leaves two teams in a tie, the tiebreaker system from Section C will be used as it will revert back to the two team tiebreaker procedure.*

Example A:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with a 2-2 record. Team A defeated Team B by a score of 5-2 and 3-1; therefore, Team A has earned the higher placement.

Example B:

Team A and Team B are tied at the end of the season with a 2-2 record. Team A defeated Team B by a score of 4-1 and Team B defeated Team A by a score of 3-2. Team A would have +3 and -1 run differential, totaling +2, while Team B would have -3 and +1 run differential, totaling -2. Therefore, Team A has earned the higher placement.

Example C:

Teams A, B and C are all tied with a 2-2 record. The results of the district games are as follows:
 Team A (4) vs. Team B (2)
 Team A (2) vs. Team C (3)
 Team B (5) vs. Team C (1)

Results: Team A +1, Team B +2, Team C -3
 Therefore, Team B has earned the highest placement, with Team A receiving the second highest placement and Team C finishing last.

Example D:

Teams A, B and C are all tied with a 2-2 record. The results of the district games are as follows:
 Team A (4) vs. Team B (2)
 Team A (2) vs. Team C (3)
 Team B (4) vs. Team C (1)

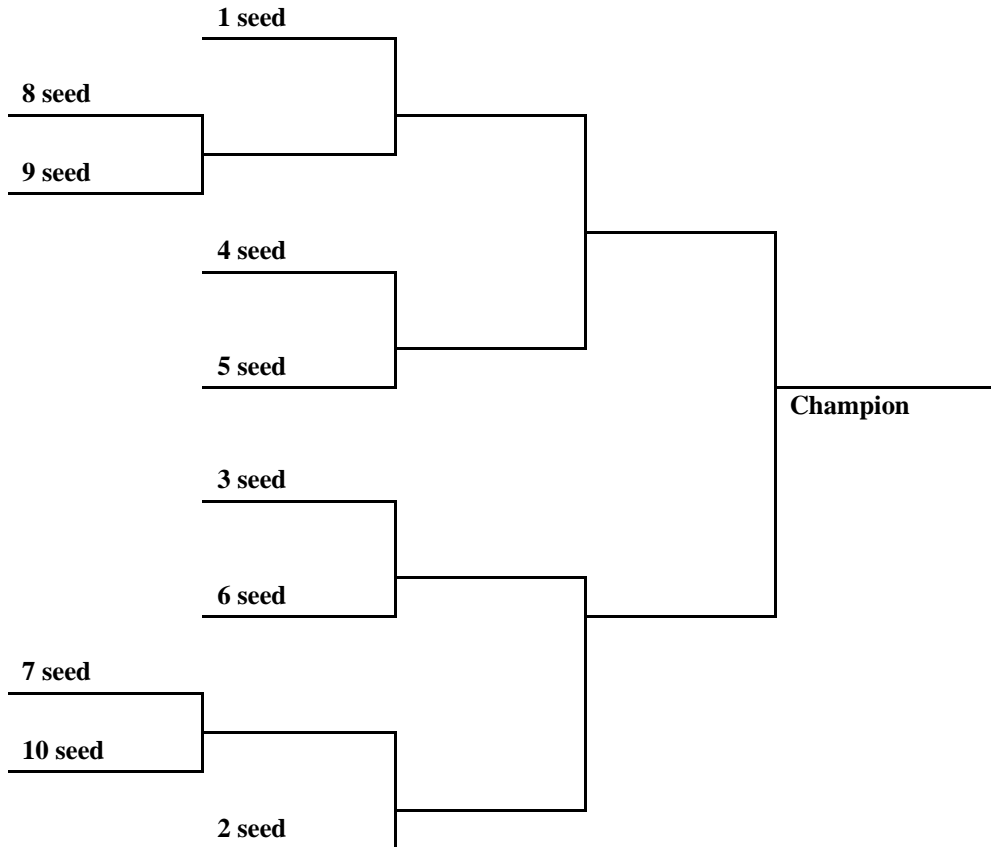
Results: Team A +1, Team B +1, Team C -2
 Therefore, Team C is placed in 3rd place with the worst run differential. Teams A and B are still tied, however, and thus the two team tie breaker system will now be used. In head to head competition between Team A and B, Team A was 1-0 and has earned higher placement and 1st Place. Team B is placed in 2nd.

7.12.5 State Tournament Information

- A. Dates:** Week #45 – 1st Round for all classes
Week #46 – Quarters, Semis and Finals for all classes

B. State Qualifying Procedures for Class A and AA:

- 1. Class A/2A will be combined for regular season play; however, each class will hold its own separate postseason state tournaments.
- 1. 10 Teams will advance to the playoffs in each class with no automatic qualifiers.
- 2. All ten teams in each class will be selected at large by the NMAA Staff. The NMAA Executive Director, one Associate Director, and Assistant Director of baseball will serve on the committee that will select AND seed this ten team field. The following criteria will be used (in no order nor priority):
 - a. Finish in district play and/or district tournaments.
 - b. Performance against other teams including champions or runner-ups from other districts.
 - c. Overall records.
 - d. Record against teams within class.
 - e. Teams from the same district will be guaranteed not to play each other in the first round
 - f. A 10-Team Bracket as shown below will be used for each tournament:



****NOTE: First Round Games (8 vs. 9 & 7 vs. 10) will be held during Week #45. The higher seed will host this game.***

C. State Tournament Format for Classes AAA-AAAAA

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 11 at large teams selected from Classes 3A and 5A and 10 at large teams selected from Class 4A.
4. In the first round of 16, a single game will be held to determine who advances to the quarterfinals. The higher seed will determine the home site, unless the lower seed is a district champion. If two district champions meet in the first round, the higher seed will host the series.

D. Roster Limitation:

Each team is limited to eighteen (18) uniformed squad members. Rosters may not be changed during the tournament from the original list submitted.

- E. Officials’ Fees** - Fees for state tournament officials are based on the number of games called plus mileage and per diem if applicable.

7.12.6 Financial Information for the 1st Round of 16

A. Class A-5A 1st Round Hosts

1. Each host school will be responsible for paying any expenses that may be incurred during the 1st Round. This includes game officials, tournament personnel, and any other expenses that may occur from hosting the event.
2. The host school will determine if there will be a gate charge for attendance to these events. However, if there is a price set on admittance, it will be \$5. The revenues brought in from this gate will go directly to the school. No money will need to be sent to the NMAA or visiting schools.

7.12.7 School Co-op Participation

Two Class A schools with a combined enrollment of 125 students or less can petition the director to co-op in the sport of baseball. At least one of the schools must show proof that they do not have enough willing participants to field their own team.