

State Championship Information and Points of Emphasis

Official State Championship Ball

Wilson A1010 PRO SST www.wilson.com

Important Dates

Monday, February 1st (Week 32) – First official practice date

Prior to First Contest – Roster for eligibility due on-line

Friday, April 16th (Week 42) – Team Photo due online

Saturday May 1st (Week 44) – Last day for regular season games for Class 3A-5A

Sunday, May 2nd (Week 45) – Seeding/Selection for Class 3A-5A

Tuesday, May 4th (Week 45) – Last day for regular season games for Class A/2A

Wednesday, May 5th (Week 45) – Seeding/Selection for Class A-2A

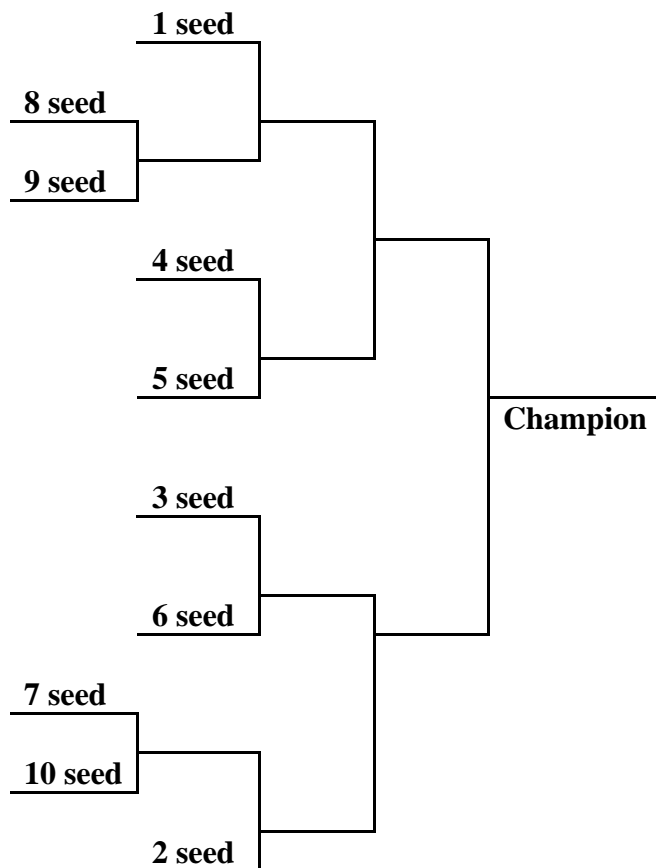
Friday or Saturday, May 7th or 8th (Week 45) – Class A-5A First Round of State (single game)

Wednesday-Saturday, May 12th-15th (Week 46) – Class A-5A State Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals

Post Season Information

State Qualifying Procedures for Class A/2A:

1. Class A/2A will be combined for regular season play; however, each class will hold its own separate postseason state tournaments. (the district alignment and classification breakdown for Class A/2A can be viewed in the baseball bylaws of Section 7 of the NMAA Handbook; Unit 3 of this Rules Clinic)
2. 10 Teams will advance to the playoffs in each class with no automatic qualifiers.
3. 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 on Wednesday May 5th. 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.
 - d. Teams from the same district will be guaranteed not to play each other in the first round
4. A 10-Team Bracket as shown below will be used for each tournament:
(see next page)



****NOTE: First Round Games (8 vs. 9 & 7 vs. 10) will be held during Week #45. The higher seed will host this game. See next page for clarification on scheduling details for the first round games.***

Class A-2A State Championships

First Round Winners will advance to the final field of 8. These 8 teams (in each class) will begin the state championships on Wednesday, May 12th and will conclude on Friday May 14th with the championship game at Isotopes Park. Home team during the final field of 8 will be decided by a coin toss between coaches. The higher seed will make the call before the coin is tossed. The quarterfinals are set to be played at Rio Rancho HS for Class A and Cleveland HS for Class 2A, with the semifinals for both Class A & 2A at Cleveland HS. These locations are subject to change. A tentative schedule for the entire tournament can be viewed on the NMAA website.

State Qualifying Procedures for Class 3A-5A:

The 3A-5A tournament will again be a 16 team bracket. District Champions ***ONLY*** will automatically qualify for the State Tournament, with the remaining spots chosen as at large bids. These teams will be selected and all 16 schools will be seeded during the Seeding & Selection meeting held on Sunday, May 2nd. The first round format has been changed for the 2010 tournament (per March 2009 Board of Directors Meeting) and will be a single game held at the site of the higher seed who will act as the home team (unless a district champ is seeded below a non-district champ, which then the district champ would host regardless of seed).

Scheduling Details for First Round Games in ALL CLASSES:

First Round Games are set to be played as follows:

- Played on either Friday May 7th or Saturday May 8th
- Friday games must be played at 3pm if a school does not have lights, or any time between 3pm and 7pm if a school does have lights
- Saturday games must be played between the hours of 10am and 1pm
- Schools must agree upon a day/time. If no agreement can be made the NMAA will step in to set these details

*Note – Due to school graduations, the NMAA may adjust this schedule to accommodate those schools that may have a conflict (if possible). Otherwise the schedule above must be followed.

Class 3A-5A Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals

Each winner of First Round of 16 game will advance to the state quarterfinals in Albuquerque beginning either Wednesday May 13th (Class 3A) or Thursday May 14th (Class 4A-5A). The tournament will conclude with 3 championship games held at Isotopes Park, one on Friday May 15th for Class 3A and two on Saturday May 16th for Class 4A-5A. Home team during the final field of 8 will be decided by a coin toss between coaches. The higher seed will make the call before the coin is tossed. The quarterfinals and semifinals will be played at UNM, La Cueva HS, Eldorado HS, Rio Rancho HS, and Sandia HS. These locations are subject to change. A tentative schedule for the entire tournament can be viewed on the NMAA website.

*Note – Due to school graduations, the NMAA may adjust this schedule to accommodate those schools that may have a conflict (if possible).

Coaches Meeting

The NMAA will host a coaches meeting the night before the tournament (Tuesday for Class A-2A; Wednesday for Class 3A-5A). Coaches will pick up their tournament “packet” at the NMAA office as part of this meeting. This packet will include tournament information, player and coach passes, schedules/brackets, and other important documents. If the head coach cannot attend this meeting, please be sure to make arrangements for someone to be there to represent your school.

Passes

All coaches, players, and managers must be listed on-line in order to receive a pass for entry to the State Baseball Championships. Any coaches, players, or managers not listed on our website prior to Friday May 7th will be charged \$20 per pass in the form of an invoice to the school. Schools are limited to 18 players and 2 managers within the online roster.

Tickets

Spectator tickets (wristbands) will be issued at UNM and each High School Site for \$5. These wristbands may be used for all games played on the day this is purchased. A new wristband must be purchased for each round (quarterfinals and semifinals).

For championship games at Isotopes Park, tickets may be purchased at \$6 for Students/Seniors, and \$8 for adults. One ticket will be valid for all championship games, however NO-REENTRY into the Stadium will be allowed. An additional ticket must be purchased at regular price for reentry.

Advanced online ticket sales will be offered for all games at Isotopes Park ONLY! This includes all five championship games and two 5A semifinal games. These tickets can be purchased at www.ticketleap.com.

Brackets/Results

All brackets/results will be posted on the NMAA website immediately following each contest.

Selection and Seeding Process for State Tournaments

Selection /Seeding Committees for Classes 3A-5A

Committees in baseball as follows:

A. Each district will select a person to represent that district by particular sport. The person can be anyone such as, but not limited to, an athletic director, administrator, former coach, or a community member. It cannot be a current coach of that particular sport.

B. The NMAA will appoint an at-large person to serve on each Committee who has a good overall knowledge of the sport in New Mexico and can be totally unbiased to this particular position.

C. An NMAA staff member will chair each particular Committee. The NMAA staff member will not vote unless there is a tie, and will serve as the Committee facilitator.

D. Districts will be required to select their representative by particular sport to serve on the seeding/selection Committees. The deadlines are as follows:

Spring Sports: March 1

Selection Process for 16-Team Format for Classes 3A, 4A and 5A

A. District Champions will automatically advance to the playoffs.

B. The remainder of the teams will be selected by the Selection Committee using the following criteria. There is neither order nor priority in the criteria listed below:

1. Finish in district play and/or district tournaments.
2. Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts.
3. Input from Committee members.
4. Overall records.
5. Elimination – what teams from that particular class do not fit the 16-team format due to their lack of success during the current year.

****Note:** One district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another who came out of district as a lower seed with regular season taking precedence over tournament play. As per Board of Directors, September 27, 2006.

Points of Emphasis (details of each below)

-Coaches Decorum (behavior of Assistant Coaches)

-Universal District Tiebreakers

-Out of Season Coaching During the School Year

-Eligibility of Student Athletes

-Undue Influence

-Pursuing Victory With Honor

-Protests

-Incident Reporting

-Participant, Coach/School Personnel Ejection Policy

Coaches Decorum

The NFHS has made a rule change regarding the behavior of assistant coaches. This was discussed in Unit 2, but please be aware umpires across the state will be enforcing this new rule regularly. It is the job of the head coach to keep his entire team, including assistant coaches in line, and with this new rule, the head coach can be punished for the actions of his assistants.

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 (Unit 3)

7.4 OUT-OF-SEASON COACHING DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

There shall be no out-of-season coaching during the school year of current or potential athletes, including feeder-school students beginning at the 7th grade (8th grade in schools that do not allow 8th grade participation at the high school level), with the exception of an athletic class or one hour a day Monday through Friday for those sports programs that do not have an athletic class. This provision applies to all school coaches, paid and volunteer. This rule prohibits coaching these individuals on any team (school or non-school sponsored) out-of-season during the school year.

7.4.1 Violations for Out-of-Season Coaching During the School Year

Violation of this rule will result in the following sanctions:

First Offense: The member school will be fined \$2,500.00, which must be by the member school prior to its participation in any further contests in that particular sport. The coach who is violation of the rule will be instructed to adhere to this rule.

Second Offense: The member school will be fined \$5,000.00, which must be paid by the member school prior to its participation in any further contests in that particular sport. The NMAA will also contact the Public Education Department Licensing Department and inform them of the offending coach's "unethical practices" in connection with his or her coaching license.

Third Offense: The coach will be suspended for up to two year. The member school will be placed on probation with possible suspension of up to two years for post-season competition.

Q1: Can a high school coach coach a club sport during the school year?

A1: Yes, as long as the club team is made up of students who are not current or potential/feeder school athletes as identified above. For example, a boy's basketball coach may coach a girls'

Q2 If a district does not allow 8th graders to participate at the high school level, who are considered the potential/feeder school students?

A2: Students in the 8th grade and above are considered the potential/feeder school students.

<p>Q3: <i>If a district allows 8th graders to participate at the high school level, who are considered the potential/feeder school students?</i></p> <p>A3: <i>Students in the 7th grade and above are considered the potential/feeder school students.</i></p>
<p>Q4: <i>A coach's daughter plays on his high school team. Can he coach her in club?</i></p>
<p>Q5: <i>Can a volunteer, non-paid individual help with stats for a particular school and then coach a club team out-of-season during the school year which includes current/potential/feeder school students of that same school?</i></p> <p>A5: <i>Yes, as long as he/she is not assisting at any practices or working in any other coaching capacity on the bench or sideline during a regular or post-</i></p>
<p>Q6: <i>Can a coach (paid or volunteer) travel to events with a club team which includes current/potential/feeder school students as long as he/she is not serving as their coach?</i></p> <p>A6: <i>No, because he/she still has contact with those current/potential/feeder school students in the club</i></p>
<p>Q7: <i>If a coach resigns after his/her season is over and coaches a club team with current/potential/feeder athletes, then re-signs a contract with that same school for the next season, is this acceptable?</i></p> <p>A7: <i>No. The school will be subject to the \$2500 fine.</i></p>

7.4.2 Coaching Student Athletes Outside of School/Player Following Coach

If a Student participates on a non-school team (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club settings, etc.) that is affiliated with or coached by a coach from a school other than the one the Student attends, or has attended, and then transfers to that school, regardless of change in bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the Student has been recruited to attend that school or transferred to that school for athletic reasons and the Student will be ineligible for all high school athletic participation for 180 school days/365 calendar days. If the Student transfers to a school that his/her coach has relocated to within the past year, regardless of change in the Student's bona fide residence, it will be assumed that the Student transferred to that school for athletic reasons and he/she will be ineligible there for all high school athletic participation for 180 school days/365 calendar days.

7.4.3 Athletic Classes

- A. During the school year, but outside a particular sport season (out-of-season), a member school may allow participation in that particular sport during an athletic period. The participation may not last longer than the allotted class time. For schools not having an athletic period/class, a block of one (1) hour time may be used each school day for sports participation. Interschool competition/scrimmages are prohibited during the off-season.
- B. Out-of-season during the school year, schools with athletic classes cannot have team or individual meetings or film sessions before school, at lunch time, after school, evenings, or on weekends with student athletes enrolled in the athletic class. Contact with the student athlete enrolled in the athletic class is limited to only the in-school length of that athletic class.

Q1: Can the one hour block of time be used in different increments to total 5 hours during the school week? For example, can I practice 2 hours on Monday and 3 hours on Tuesday?

A1: No. Rule 7.4.1 states one (1) hour each school day. These hours may not be used cumulatively.

7.4.4 Open Gymnasium or Facility

During the school year, out-of-season coaching in a particular sport by a coach of that sport is prohibited, with the exception of one-hour per day or one sport specific athletic class, but not both, each school day. For purposes of this rule, an “open gym” does not count toward the one-hour period. An “open gym” means any school gymnasium or other facility which is expressly made available to the general student population without any coaching, training or instruction other than in the safe use of the facilities, and no person is restricted from observing the activity.

Q1: An athlete is enrolled in an athletic class during the school day. Can he/she participate in open gym after school?

A1: Yes, based upon the definition of open gymnasium

Q2: If an athlete is enrolled in an athletic class, can he/she participate in a weightlifting/conditioning program after school?

A2: Yes, as long as there is no instruction by an adult, the weightlifting/condition program is open to the general student population, and attendance is not required for school team membership.

Eligibility of Student-Athletes

If an ineligible student-athlete is accidentally or intentionally permitted to participate in an interscholastic contest, forfeit of the contest and other sanctions will be automatic and mandatory after reported to the NMAA Executive Director.

Undue Influence

All member schools agree to conduct their interscholastic/performance and athletic activities according to the rules and regulations of the National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) and the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA). It is the duty of the administration to address the particular situation where there is a question of undue influence. (See NMAA Handbook 6.17.1)

The use of any of the following inducements constitutes undue influence:

Participant living with coach, principal, teacher, or school official without legal guardianship

Any inducement to get parents or students to change residence for athletic/non-athletic purposes

Offer or acceptance of money

Reduction or remission of regular tuition (other than need-based financial aid available to all applicants)

Offer or acceptance of board, room, or clothing

Offer or acceptance of money for work in excess of amount regularly paid

Transportation to school by any school official

Offer or acceptance of school privileges not normally granted to other students

Free or reduced rent for parents

Offer for payment of moving expenses for parent

Pursuing Victory with Honor

At its best, athletic competition can hold intrinsic value for our society. It is a symbol of a great ideal: *Pursuing Victory with Honor*. The love of sports is deeply embedded in our national consciousness. The values of millions of participants and spectators are directly and dramatically influenced by the values conveyed by organized sports. Thus, sports are a major social force that shapes the quality and character of the American culture. In the belief that the impact of sports can and should enhance the character and uplift the ethics of the nation, we seek to establish a framework of principles and a common language of values that can be adopted and practiced widely. The main principles are as follows:

Promote sportsmanship and foster good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the "Six Pillars of Character": trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

Conduct sports programs in a manner than enhances the mental, social and moral development of athletes and teaches positive life skills that will help them become personally successful and socially responsible.

Consistently demonstrate and demand scrupulous integrity and observe and enforce the spirit as well as the letter of the rules.

The highest administrative officer of the organization with sports programs must maintain ultimate responsibility for the integrity and quality of those programs...and must assure that education and character-development responsibilities are not compromised to achieve sports performance goals and that the academic, emotional, physical and moral well-being of athletes is always above desires and pressures to win.

Prominently discuss the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship during the recruiting process and in promotional and descriptive materials, and specifically determine that the athlete has or will develop the character to succeed.

The leadership of sports programs at all levels must ensure that coaches, whether paid or voluntary, are competent to coach in three areas: 1) character-building and sportsmanship, 2) first-aid and the physical capacities and limitations of the age group coached, and 3) coaching principles and rules and strategies of the sport.

Protests

Any school filing a protest or complaint may be required to submit in writing a full statement of the facts to the NMAA Executive Director. The protest or complaint shall be signed or co-signed by the school's administrative head. The Director shall send a copy to the administrative head of the school against which the protest or complaint has been made if applicable. The NMAA Executive Director shall have the authority to investigate and take action.

Incident Reporting

If a player, coach or fan is ejected from a contest or if misbehavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct occurs by any of these individuals, the contest official witnessing the incident is responsible for reporting it to the NMAA office.

If an official acts in an inappropriate manner or if his/her performance is adversely affecting the participants of a contest, the coach or administrator from any of the participating schools may report the incident to the NMAA office.

Incident reports must include the date and site of the contest, the level of competition and whether the contest was boys' or girls' (where applicable), as well as a detailed narrative of the events leading up to the ejection or other incident. Incident reports of any nature must be sent to the NMAA office within 24 hours of the occurrence by fax (505-923-3114), email (dsanchez@nmact.org) or mail (6600 Palomas Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109).

Participant, Coach/ School Personnel Ejection

A. Participant Ejection

When a participant is ejected/disqualified from any contest/game for unsportsmanlike conduct, the minimum penalty shall be as follows:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE**

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game at the same level and may not participate at any level until the one-game suspension has been served.
- The ejected participant must complete the NMAA's online Pursuing Victory with Honor course.
- Verification of program completion must be submitted to the NMAA prior to returning to competition.

2. **SECOND or SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES**

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game minimally and depending upon the individual case, a more restrictive penalty may be imposed as determined by the Director, including a meeting with the Director or his designee and the coach and school administrator.
- The involved school and official are required to notify the Association, in writing, of each offense or be subject to additional sanctions.

Note: Participant ejections are concurrent throughout the year and not per sports season.

Example: If a student-athlete is ejected from a football game, and this same student-athlete is then ejected from a basketball game, this would be considered his second offense.

Participant Ejection Clarification:

- Student athletes may not dress out in uniform, participate in warm-up, or be directly involved with the contest in any way.
- Student athletes may attend the contest, sit on the bench, or stand on the sideline if approved by the local school administration.
- Student athletes may travel with the team for out of town contests if approved by the local school administration.
- Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed

S

School Personnel Ejection

A coach/school employee who is ejected from an athletic contest/game, regardless of sport, is required to meet the following criteria:

1. **FIRST OFFENSE**

- Sit out the next contest/game minimally, at all levels. This penalty is the responsibility of the local school district to impose. This sanction is subject to final approval by the NMAA after such violation is reported within a reasonable time frame but prior to the next contest.
- Complete the NMAA's online Pursuing Victory with Honor course.
- Verification of program completion must be submitted to the NMAA prior to returning to participation.

- The member school will be required to pay a \$100.00 sanction to the NMAA.

2. SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES

- Automatic suspension from the next contest/game minimally and depending upon the individual case a more restrictive penalty may be imposed as determined by the Director, including a meeting with the Director or his designee.
- Mandatory completion of the National Federation of High Schools' (NFHS) Fundamentals of Coaching Course.
- The member school will be required to pay a \$250.00 sanction to the NMAA. The fine will be doubled for subsequent offenses.

NOTE: Coaching/School Personnel ejections are concurrent throughout the school year and not per sports season. Example: If a football coach is ejected from a football game in the fall, and the same coach, who now coaches baseball, is ejected from a baseball game in the spring, this would be considered his second offense.

Failure to comply or repeated offenses may result in up to a one year suspension, a monetary fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or suspension of the school from the Association for the activity in which the coach was involved. The coach/school representative may be required to meet with the Director or his designee in Albuquerque at the NMAA Office.

Coach Ejection Clarification:

- Coaches must leave the playing facility of the scheduled contest 30 minutes prior to the start of the event. The coach may have absolutely no further communication with any team personnel (coaches, team members, managers, trainers, etc.) until the contest is concluded.
- Coaches may travel with the team for out of town contests in the capacity of a chaperone, but must adhere to the rule stated above prior to and during the contest.
- Coaches may attend contests of other teams during the sit out period

C. Coach/Player/Participant Ejection

A coach/player/participant using tobacco, alcoholic beverages, or illegal drugs while participating in an athletic event will be ejected. Additional sanctions, appropriate to the violation, may be imposed by the Director. (See 2.2.2)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE OF THE 2009 BASEBALL RULES CLINIC

GOOD LUCK!

