

Softball Important Dates and NMAA Handbook Points of Emphasis

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, January 30, 2012 (Week 32) - First official practice date. As a reminder, schools are limited to one scrimmage prior to your first official game, per NMAA Handbook.

February 1 – February 29, 2012 – Softball Rules Clinic available online.

Sunday, April 1, 2012 (Week 41) – Softball Rosters and Schedules due online. Remember to ensure that your schedules, rosters (with names spelled correctly) and team photos must be posted online. This information is **vital** for the seeding process and for the production of the program for the state tournament.

Saturday, April 28, 2012 (Week 44) – Classes 3A, 4A and 5A deadline to post all scores and district results for state softball seeding by 5:00 PM!

Sunday, April 29, 2012 (Week 45) – Classes 3A, 4A and 5A softball brackets released.

Saturday, May 5, 2012 (Week 45) – Class A/AA deadline to post all scores and district results for state softball seeding by 5:00 PM!

Sunday, May 6, 2012 (Week 46) – Class A/AA softball brackets released.

Wednesday, May 9 – Saturday, May 12, 2012 (Week 46) – NMAA State Softball Championships.

NMAA HANDBOOK POINTS OF EMPHASIS

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 6.1.3 and 6.17.1)

The use of any of the following inducements constitutes undue influence resulting in ineligibility for all high school athletic participation for 180 school days/365 calendar days:

- A. Participant living with coach, principal, teacher, or school official without legal guardianship
- B. Any inducement to get parents or students to change residence for athletic/non-athletic purposes.

- C. Offer or acceptance of money.
- D. Reduction or remission of regular tuition (other than need-based financial aid available to all applicants).
- E. Offer or acceptance of board, room, or clothing.
- F. Offer or acceptance of money for work in excess of amount regularly paid.
- G. Transportation to school by any school official.
- H. Offer or acceptance of school privileges not normally granted to other students.
- I. Free or reduced rent for parents.
- J. Offer for payment of moving expenses for parents.
- K. Any Student, family or individual that contacts a coach about attending a school where he or she coaches must be informed that they need to contact the principal, admissions department or guidance department if they have an interest in transferring.
- L. Any meeting with coaches regarding prospective student athletes or their families should be at the request of the family to the individual(s) responsible for school administration and or admissions, and must take place at the school.

Participant, Coach/ School Personnel Ejection (NMAA Handbook, 7.7.2)

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 and approved by your local athletic director 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 cumulative 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 necessary by the Director.

B. 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 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 cumulative 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 providing the other game(s) is being played at a site other than that of the coach's team.
- Any violation of this policy may result in further sanctions as deemed necessary by the Director.

Process of Appeals for Coach or Participant Ejections

1) Only incidents wherein a misapplication of rules has occurred are subject to appeal. Ejections which are a result of an official's judgment are not subject to appeal.

2) The NMAA office must receive a **complete** game film and a letter which specifies the purpose for the appeal prior to the next contest. This information can be generated by the head coach but the request for appeal must be approved and signed off on by the school's Principal and Athletic Director. The letter must contain the following information:

- a. Game location, time, date and level of play.
- b. Time in game at which ejection occurred.
- c. Incidents leading up to the ejection.
- d. Rule that was misapplied, including NFHS rulebook citation.

Disclaimer: Please note that the appeals process will not be in place during regular season tournaments due to timing issues. For example, if a participant is ejected in a tournament game on Thursday and his/her team plays again on Friday, it would be extremely difficult for the investigative process to take place. However, if the ejection were to happen on the final day of a tournament (i.e., Saturday), it would be possible for a full review and investigation to take place.

3) Once the information is received from the school, the NMAA will conduct an investigation into the matter. The NMAA office will review the game film and letter from the school and will contact the officiating crew from the game to confer with them relative to the ejection.

4) If, after the NMAA completes the investigation, it is found that a rule is misapplied, the ejection will be overturned. The final decision to overturn an ejection rests with the NMAA Executive Director.

Schools reserve the right to submit game film to the NMAA office at any time for review by staff and by officiating evaluators. Officials are held accountable for their performance and the NMAA will review any film provided to the office and officials will be sanctioned accordingly, if found prudent through the investigative process.

Unethical or Unprofessional Behavior Engaged in by a Coach or Other School Personnel

Coaches/other school personnel who engage in unethical or unprofessional behavior shall be subject to sanctions by the Director, in accordance with the tenets of Pursuing Victory with Honor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, publicly disagreeing with the judgment of contest officials, entering officials' locker rooms before or after games, demeaning contest opponents, or otherwise publicly defaming or attacking the credibility of officials or opponents. An example of this

behavior would be providing negative quotations in newspaper or other media outlets about officiating performance or about opponents. The sanctions for such violations would be as follows:

FIRST OFFENSE: Minimally, a one game suspension and placement of the offending coach on probationary status for that year.

SECOND OFFENSE: Disqualification of the coach from post-season competition for that year.

Video Recording/Telecasts/Radio Broadcasting Consent Rule/Procedures (NMAA Handbook, 7.7.8)

A. Practice Sessions/Scrimmages

Radio broadcasting, video recording, or telecasting a practice session or scrimmage by anyone not connected with the participating school(s) is prohibited without the consent of the school(s) involved.

B. Regular Season Contests

Radio broadcasting, video recording, or telecasting a regular season contest is prohibited without the consent of the host school. Exception: The visiting school may video record the contest as long as it is not for broadcast for public viewing. This does not prohibit use of film and tape for sports clips by media representatives.

NOTE: Video recording, photographing, or other electronic aids (excluding stat devices) cannot be used for study or coaching purposes until after the completion of the contest.

Q1: What sanctions will be imposed by the NMAA if school personnel (coaches, volunteers, teachers, administrators, etc.) are found guilty of video recording a game in which their school is not involved, without the proper written consent of both schools participating?

A1: Minimally, the violating school will forfeit all future regular season games and possibly post-season tournament games against the opponent(s) being video-taped. Other sanctions, as determined by the Director, may be imposed. 6

SELECTION AND SEEDING PROCESS FOR STATE TOURNAMENTS
--

Selection /Seeding (NMAA Handbook, 7.11.1)

Members of the NMAA Staff will be responsible for the entire Seeding and Selection process in all team sports.

Selection process for the 16 team format for classes 1A thru 5A in the sports of basketball and softball and 2A thru 5A in the sport of baseball.(NMAA Handbook, 7.11.2)

- A. District Champions will automatically advance to the playoffs.
- B. The remainder of the teams will be selected by the NMAA Staff 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. Head to Head

3. Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts, regardless of class.
4. Input from NMAA staff members
5. Overall Records
6. Elimination – which teams from that particular class do not fit the format due to their lack of success during the current year.
7. New Mexico High School Coaches Association Poll
8. Member School Input

****NOTE:** One district team cannot be seeded or selected higher than another if they came out of district as a lower seed, with regular season taking precedence over tournament play. In the event of a tie in the regular season district standings, the NMAA Staff may use district tournament results or any other head to head competition to determine the selection/seeding order between the two teams that are tied.

Example 1: The district teams are Alamogordo, Gadsden, Las Cruces, Mayfield and Oñate. In basketball, prior to the district tournament, the teams are seeded as follows:
Gadsden – 1, Oñate – 2, Mayfield – 3, Las Cruces – 4, Alamogordo – 5

Scenario: Las Cruces enters the district basketball tournament as the 4 seed, but upsets Mayfield, Oñate, and Gadsden and wins the tournament championship. Gadsden (regular season champion) and Las Cruces (tournament champion) both automatically advance into the field of 16. However, should both Mayfield and Oñate receive At-Large berths, by rule Gadsden must be seeded above Oñate, Oñate above Mayfield, and Mayfield above Las Cruces because regular season play takes precedence over tournament play.

Seeding Process/Criteria for all Classes in Softball (NMAA Handbook, 7.11.3)

- A. Teams will be seeded 1-16.
- B. The higher seed will be the host site for first round games.
- C. There is neither order nor priority in the seeding criteria listed below:
 1. Finish in district play and/or district tournaments.
 2. Head to Head
 3. Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts, regardless of class.
 4. Input from NMAA staff members
 5. Overall Records
 6. Elimination – which teams from that particular class do not fit the format due to their lack of success during the current year.
 7. New Mexico High School Coaches Association Poll
 8. Member School Input