

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND POINTS OF EMPHASIS



1. Important Dates/Deadlines

- First day of regular season practice – Monday, February 4, 2019
- Online Rules Clinic available – Friday, February 1, 2019
- Deadline for completion of online rules clinic – Thursday, February 28, 2019
- Deadline for Max Preps Rosters and Schedules – Monday, April 1, 2019
- Deadline for Max Preps Team Photos – Friday, April 19, 2019
- Class 3A-5A seeding input, district results due by 8:00am – Sunday, May 5, 2019
- Class 3A-5A brackets released – Sunday, May 5, 2019
- Class 3A first round – Wednesday, May 8, 2019
- Class 4A-5A first round – Friday or Saturday, May 10 or 11, 2019
- Class A/2A seeding input, district results due by 8:00am – Sunday, May 12, 2019
- Class A/2A brackets released – Sunday, May 12, 2019
- Class A/2A-3A State Championships – Wednesday, May 15 – Friday, May 17, 2019
- Class 4A-5A State Championships – Thursday, May 16 – Saturday, May 18, 2019

2. State Tournament Information

- Official State Championship Ball – Wilson A9011 SST
- State tournament – Wednesday-Saturday, May 15-18, 2019
- Sites – Cleveland HS, Rio Rancho HS, UNM
- Weather – In cases of extreme delays due to inclement weather, subsequent rounds may be changed to a single elimination format
- Umpires – Per NMAA policy, the NMAA office will select officials for ALL championship sport events. The NMAA will provide an online tool that coaches can utilize throughout the season to provide feedback on individual officials. This input will be gathered by the NMAA to select this year's championship umpires. The input provided should be both positive and negative to ensure that the selection process achieves the ultimate goal of bringing the best officials in New Mexico to the State Tournament
- Coach Packet – Will be provided to each coach prior to the state championships

3. State Seeding & Selection

- Teams will be seeded 1-16
- There is neither order nor priority in the seeding criteria listed below:
 - Finish in regular season district play
 - Head to Head
 - Wins against district champions regardless of class
 - Overall Record
 - MaxPreps Freeman 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

4. District Tie-Breaking Procedures

- Tiebreaking procedures for softball can be seen in the softball specific bylaws located in section 7 of the NMAA Handbook (or within Unit 3 of this clinic)

5. International Tie-Breaker

- The ITB shall be used to break ties during any regular season games held in New Mexico as well as in the post-season

6. Lightning/Severe Weather

- The NMAA has provided a document outlining severe weather policies and procedures on the NMAA Sports Medicine page:
<https://www.nmact.org/sports-medicine-advisory-committee>
- Please familiarize yourself with the following document:
https://www.nmact.org/file/NMAA_Lightning.pdf

7. Concussions

- As per 2010 New Mexico State Legislation, a coach shall not allow a student athlete to participate in a school athletic activity on the same day that the student athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a brain injury or has been diagnosed with a brain injury
- The student athlete may not return to athletic participation for a minimum of 240 hours (10 days) after he/she received a brain injury
- Only when the student athlete no longer exhibits any sign, symptom or behavior consistent with a brain injury and has received medical clearance from a licensed health care professional may he/she return to athletic participation
- Additional information can be found on the NMAA Sport Medicine website

8. Protests

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

9. NMAA Event Limits for Softball

- 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 games and invitational tournament games

10. Max Preps Requirements

- Deadline for Rosters and Schedules – Monday, April 1, 2019
- Rosters must be maintained after the April 1st deadline
- Deadline for team photo – April 19, 2019
- There is a \$250 fine for failure to meet Max Prep requirements

11. DP/Flex

- The NMAA has provided a rule explanation guide for the use of a DP/Flex player
- Please use the following link on the NMAA Softball website to review these guidelines:
https://www.nmact.org/file/DP_Flex.pdf

12. General Reminders

- Jewelry – Jewelry is not permitted during competition. Tape used to conceal earrings, nose rings, etc. will not be allowed. Religious and medical-alert “medals” may be worn if taped and worn under the uniform.
- Batter’s Box – It is the responsibility of the host site to ensure the batter’s box is properly marked prior to and during each game
- Lineup Cards – Substitutes need to be placed on the bottom of the line-up card underneath “Substitutes.” It is also a best practice to list the head coaches’ name on the line-up card.

13. Umpires – Survey, Registration, Groups, Assignments, Payment

- The NMAA will provide an online tool that coaches can utilize throughout the season to provide feedback on individual officials. This input will be gathered by the NMAA to select this year's championship umpires. The input provided should be both positive and negative to ensure that the selection process achieves the ultimate goal of bringing the best umpires in New Mexico to the State Tournament
- Each school is asked to identify and refer to the local group leader one new softball umpire
- Schools are reminded they must assign and pay officials as per NMAA/NMOA policy, see pre-season mail out information

14. Awareness Games

- If you plan to alter your normal game uniforms for awareness games (i.e. breast cancer) contact the NMAA in advance of your scheduled game so that game umpires may be made aware

15. "Compete with Class" Sportsmanship Initiative

- "Compete with Class" is a New Mexico sportsmanship initiative developed through a collaboration process involving athletic directors, coaches and school administrators as well as input from student and adult communities with the purpose of restoring the placement of interscholastic activities in an educational perspective and providing our state with a sportsmanship program that would be embraced and called our own.
- "Compete with Class" Program Info
 - Designed to help better understand the true value of interscholastic athletic and activities – *to educate and prepare our youth for the future*
 - Based on three Core Values
 - Respect
 - Integrity
 - Responsibility
 - "Stay in Your Lane" Curriculum
 - Outlines expectations for the various entities involved in interscholastic athletics (administration, coaches, participants, parents, fans, and officials)
 - For complete guidelines please visit the NMAA website
- Softball specific areas
 - Record keeping
 - Conduct in dealing with umpires
 - Adherence to letter and spirit of NFHS softball rules
 - Adherence to team, school and NMAA regulations and policies
 - Honoring the contracted event schedule

16. **NEW** – Crowd Control (NMAA 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.

17. Ejection Policies (NMAA Bylaw 7.7.2)

- Athlete Ejections (NMAA 7.7.2.B)
 - Minimum one meet suspension
 - Must complete online *NFHS Sportsmanship Course* prior to return
 - Athletes who receive a third ejection in the same school year are suspended from athletic competition for 365 days
- Coach Ejections (NMAA 7.7.2.C)
 - Minimum one meet suspension
 - Must complete online *NFHS Teaching & Modeling Behavior* course prior to return (\$20 course paid by coach, certificate of completion sent to NMAA)
- *See NMAA Handbook for detailed information on the Ejection Policies

18. Out-of-Season Coaching (NMAA Bylaw 7.4)

- A Coaching Staff is allowed 7.5 hours of total contact time per week (during days when school is in session only) to work with student athletes grades 8-12 during the off-season
- 7th graders are excluded from out-of-season coaching
- Sports specific and sports specific conditioning classes are to be included within this allowable timeframe
- 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

