



2020-21 Girls Softball Series Terms and Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSA Constitution, the Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2020-21 IHSA Class 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A Girls Softball Tournament Series.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Classifications in the IHSA Girls Softball State Series will be determined according to IHSA Policy 17 (Classification System).

II. DATES AND SITES

A. All play will follow the schedule below. Games will be played at the site of the highest seed.

Regional Quarterfinals: Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Regional Semifinals and Finals: Regional semifinals and final may be played June 2, 3, 4, or 5, 2021. Dates will be designated by the higher seed. If no Regional Quarterfinals, both Semifinals can be played Wednesday June 2, 2021.

Sectional Semifinals: The Sectional semifinal games may be played on Tuesday, June 8, and Wednesday, June 9. Both semifinals can be played Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

Sectional Final: The Sectional final (Championship) shall be played on Thursday, June 10, Friday, June 11, or Saturday, June 12, 2021.

Super-Sectionals: The Super-Sectional games shall be played on Monday, June 14, 2021.

Sites for Regional, Sectional, and Super-Sectional games shall be announced on the IHSA web site.

The Class 1A/2A/3A/4A Girls Softball State Final tournament will be held on Wednesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 17, 2021 at the Louisville Slugger Sports Complex, Peoria, Illinois.

III. ON-LINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSA-sponsored sport/activities included in the **2020-21 Entry Policies and Procedures**.

A. On-line Entries

All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSA School Center on the IHSA Website at

www.ihsa.org. The deadline for entry is April 19, 2021. **The 2020-21 Entry Policies and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.**

B. Late Entries:

Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrative officer in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

C. Breach of Contract By-Law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure)

To withdraw without penalty, the Principal must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the school's withdrawal from the respective sport prior to the seeding meeting date and/or the date the List of Participants is due for that sport.

If a school withdraws after the seeding meeting date/List of Participants due date but before the first competition, the school will be charged a \$100 penalty and, if applicable, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee provided for in the Terms & Conditions.

If a school does not officially withdraw prior to the first competition and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a \$100 penalty, the cost of game officials and the host school guarantee according to the Terms & Conditions for the respective sport.

D. Eligibility

All member schools in good standing may enter one team under the provisions of IHSA By-law 3.054.

E. Affirmative Action

Only girls shall be permitted to participate in the state series except as provided in the IHSA Affirmative Action Policy.

IV. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. GoFan is the official digital ticketing partner of the IHSA State Series and the only digital ticketing option that can be provided in IHSA State Series contests.

B. Admission Prices (1A/2A and 3A/4A):

1. **Regional — \$5.00 per session (if admission is charged)**
2. **Sectional — \$6.00 per session**

3. **Super-Sectional — \$7.00 per session**

4. **State Final — \$10.00 per game.**
Digital tickets only via Go Fan
<https://gofan.co/app/school/IHSA>

5. **Baby in Arms** Free Admission to all tournament levels of competition

C. Rights Fees for TV and Radio:

1. **Television Rights Fees** to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSA are contained in the IHSA Television Policy section of the current IHSA Handbook with Illustrations

2. **Radio Rights Fees** to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSA are contained in the IHSA Broadcast Policy section of the current IHSA Handbook with Illustrations.

3. Policy regarding the softball state series media requirements for each Local Manager is contained in these Terms and Conditions.

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING MEETINGS

A. Class 1A and Class 2A: In class 1A and 2A, all state tournament series will begin in Regionals with initial seeding done by sub-sectionals. Seeding for the tournament series will be done by sub-sectionals. See IHSA Covid-19 Information.

B. All state tournament series will begin with a sectional complex except where excessive travel is a factor. This is determined by the IHSA administration. Where this occurs the tournament series will begin with sub-sectionals. Seeding for the tournament series will be done by sub-sectionals.

C. The successive tournament series shall be designated respectively as regional, sectional, super-sectional and state final. The IHSA Office will select all super-sectional host sites. All schools including the Chicago Public Schools entered in the state series will be assigned to a sub-sectional or sectional complex based upon geography.

D. Seeding and Pairings: The seeding shall be done on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 for Class 1A/2A/3A/4A. The seeding will be done online in the Schools Center by all coaches. All coaches will be required to fill out the online data form which contains information about their team. Information on all schools in your tournament will be available for each coach to review prior to making their seeds online. Pairings will be released on the IHSA website.

Pairings for the first round of games of the State Final Tournament(s) will be made by chance drawings at the Spring Sports Drawing. It is the responsibility of each competing school entered in the state series to complete the IHSA Season Summary Sheet prior to the seeding of schools. The school must complete their school form online in their Schools Center no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day that the online seeding is conducted. Non-compliance may result in IHSA review and possible sanctions imposed upon the school.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

A. Time Schedule:

1. **Starting times for regional quarterfinal games will be 4:30 p.m., unless the contest host has requested, and been determined by the higher seed.** Starting times for all games will be announced by the local manager, but in the Regional, Sectional and Super-sectional tournaments, games should not be played during school hours. The following starting times are recommended to the host schools: 4:30 p.m. for afternoon games, 6:30 p.m. for night games, and 11:00 a.m. for Saturday games.

2. If a Regional or Sectional host has the facilities, they may request to host the Regional or Sectional semifinals in a single session. The request must be made in advance of the start of the state series to the IHSA. If approved, the double-header must be played on the first scheduled day of semifinal play in the respective tournament.

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

A. The thirty-two (32) Regional champions shall advance to one of eight (8) Sectional tournaments.

B. The winners of the eight (8) Sectional tournaments shall be assigned to four (4) Super-Sectional games.

C. The winners of the four (4) Super-sectional games shall be entered in the State Final Tournament.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

A. **Determining Home Team:** The home team in tournament games shall be determined according to the following procedure:

1. In all Regional games, the highest seeded team is the home team. The Regional host school local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).

2. In Sectionals that feed from Regionals, the top team on the bracket will be the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the bottom team on the bracket will be the home team for the Sectional final game. The

Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).

3. In Sectional complexes, the home team in each Sectional semifinal contest and the Sectional final game will be determined by the highest seed. In the southernmost sectional in Class 4A, the home team in each sectional semifinal game will be determined by the highest seed. The bottom team on the sectional bracket will be the home team in the sectional championship. The Sectional host school/local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).

4. In Super-Sectional games, the home team in each contest will be determined by a coin flip, which will be called by the team from the bottom of the bracket. The host school/local management shall determine the team benches (dugout).

5. In the State Final tournament, at a meeting of the coaches of the teams participating in the State Final tournament, home team privileges shall be determined by a coin flip. Home team privileges for all State Final tournament games shall be determined at this meeting. The visiting team shall occupy the first base team bench (dugout) and the home team shall occupy the third base team bench (dugout). In the event the coach of the participating team(s) is not in attendance at this meeting, the State Final manager shall conduct the appropriate coin flip(s) to determine home team for all State Final tournament games. The team from the bottom of the bracket shall call the coin toss.

B. Rules of Play:

1. The current edition of Official Softball Rules of the National Federation for 12-inch Fast Pitch are adopted as the official rules of play for the state series tournaments unless otherwise specifically indicated in these Terms and Conditions or in printed instructions.

2. The host school for all tournament games shall provide the official scorekeeper.

3. The decisions of the game umpires are final. The IHSA Board of Directors will not review decisions of umpires whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of rules.

C. Playing Regulations:

1. All Tournaments will be conducted on a single elimination basis.

2. Tournament games will be seven innings except games in which one team has a lead of ten or more runs at the end of the fifth inning (at the end of 4 ½ innings if the team in the lead is at bat in the last half of the inning) or at the end of any inning thereafter shall be terminated by the umpire. If a team is winning by 15 runs at the end of 4 innings (3½ if home team is winning) the game should be considered complete.

D. Postponement of Games:

1. If a game in any tournament must be postponed because of rain or wet grounds, or if a game is called by the umpires because of rain, darkness, or other reasons that are in accordance with the National Federation Softball Rules, it is ruled a "suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time" unless provisions of Rule 4-2-3 have been met making it a regulation game. Any game that is not an official game will be considered a suspended game.

2. Postponed or called game(s) in opening round game(s) must be rescheduled for the next day, excluding Sundays.

3. If a coin toss has been made and the game does not begin and is rescheduled, the original coin toss shall stay in effect.

4. In all cases where postponements are necessary, tournament games must take precedence over all games.

5. It is recommended that no start or continuation of a suspended game will begin later than 10:00 p.m.

6. The local manager will be in charge of all site assignments for the tournament, including postponed or called games.

7. The local manager shall keep the IHSA informed during bad weather situations.

E. Suspended Game:

1. If a game is called with the score tied after enough innings have been played to make it a regulation game as provided in Rule 4-2-3, it shall be considered a "suspended game and shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time." Play shall be resumed the following day at the exact point where the game was terminated.

2. Suspended game(s) in opening round game(s) must be rescheduled for the next day, excluding Sundays.

3. If a coin toss has been made and the game does not begin and is rescheduled, the original coin toss shall stay in effect.

4. Suspended tournament games will take precedence over all other games.

5. It is recommended that no start or continuation of a suspended game shall begin later than 10:00 p.m.

6. The local manager will be in charge of all site assignments for the tournament, including suspended games.

F. Bad Weather Guidelines for Regional Play:

1. Should bad weather force a postponement or suspension of a game(s) the following guidelines shall control:

2. Games shall be played in bracket order.

3. Double-headers may be played if both coaches agree.

4. If both coaches do not agree then the game must be scheduled the following day, excluding Sundays.

5. All regional games must be completed before the Sectional games can begin. It is recommended that no start or continuation of a suspended game will begin later than 10:00 p.m.

6. The local manager shall keep the IHSA informed during the bad weather.

7. In the event that the games cannot be completed then the highest seeded team remaining shall advance to the Sectional. The local manager should contact the IHSA prior to this determination.

G. Bad Weather Guidelines for Sectional Play:

1. Games shall be played in bracket order.

2. Double headers may be played if both coaches agree.

3. It is recommended that no start or continuation of a suspended game will begin no later than 10:00 p.m.

4. The local manager shall keep the IHSA informed.

5. In the event that the Sectional game(s) cannot be completed, the highest seeded team remaining shall advance to the Super-Sectional.

H. Bad Weather Guidelines for Sites at the Regionals and Sectionals:

1. If play cannot continue at the higher seed site any playable site can be used to complete play with IHSA approval.

I. Bad Weather Guidelines for Super-Sectional Play:

1. Super-sectional games can be played up to the start of the first game at the state tournament.

2. It is recommended that no start or continuation of a suspended game will begin no later than 10:00 p.m.

3. The local manager shall keep the IHSA informed.

4. In the event that the Super-sectional game cannot be completed, one coin toss will determine which team advances to the state tournament.

J. Guidelines for Play at the State Final in Case of Bad Weather

1. The first priority is to crown a champion.

2. If the consolation game cannot be played, a tie will be awarded to both teams.

3. If the tournament can only be played on one day due to bad weather, then five inning games will be played and warm up time will be determined by the state final manager and the IHSA.

4. In the event of delays, the Championship game and the Consolation games may be reversed.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. State Final Passes:

For the State Final Tournament games, each Super-Sectional winner will receive:

1. thirty-one (31) passes for its players and other team personnel

2. one (1) state final event pass to properly licensed medical personnel for each team participating in the state final. The pass would be available for either a licensed (i.e., certified) athletic trainer or team physician. This individual must be listed on the school's Team Data Form.

B. Signs and Banners:

The display of signs, banners, placards or similar items at IHSA state series events is permitted, provided:

1. they are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use;

2. they reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school/community;

3. they are not displayed on the field of play or in a manner which interferes with play;

4. they do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators; and

5. they are not safety hazards.

C. Damage to Property and Equipment:

If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

D. Practice Facilities:

In the Regional, Sectional, Super-Sectional and State Final Tournament, the hosting schools shall not make the facilities available to the incoming teams for practice, other than customary scheduled batting practice and infield prior to the start of the game.

E. Media Requirements:

1. Provide Space:

Space shall be set aside to provide for news media representatives covering the state series whether they are from newspapers, radio stations, commercial television stations and/or cable television stations.

2. Radio and TV Originators:

It is the responsibility of the Local Manager to accept applications, approve requests to originate radio broadcasts, which will be processed according to the IHSA Broadcast Policy. It is the responsibility of the Local Manager to direct requests to televise play-by-play of a game to the IHSA Office, which will be processed according to the IHSA Television Policy.

a. Television Rights Fees for all levels of competition below the State Final level shall be paid to the host school and shall become part of the revenue to be shared by the member school(s) and the Association according to the financial terms stipulated in these Terms and Conditions.

b. Radio Broadcast Rights Fees are not required for any level of competition in this series (except State Final). Local Managers shall permit radio play-by-play originations of the competition.

c. Television and/or Radio Stations which do not apply in advance, or which do not pay required rights fees prior to the start of competition in each respective level in this state series, shall not be given credentials nor allowed access to the facility to originate. Sponsors of the originations for television and radio shall be only those so stipulated in the respective IHSA Television and Broadcast policies.

3) Required Reports:

Reporting information to the news media and/or the IHSA Office, as stipulated in instructions to Local Managers, shall be the responsibility of each Local Manager and is required.

F. Videotaping:

Videotaping will be allowed provided the local manager has a comparable area for both competing schools to videotape. When one school requests the video space, then the local manager shall provide similar space to both competing schools. Non competing schools and spectators will be allowed to videotape games in the stands, provided they do not obstruct the view of participants and spectators.

G. Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products:

The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

H. Use of inhalers:

A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois school code.

I. Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series Events:

The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of

any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include, but not necessarily be limited to, prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

J. Prayer at IHSA State Series

Contests: Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

K. Failure to Appear:

All teams entered in the tournament are expected to participate. The original entry is a final entry. Failure to appear for scheduled games unless satisfactory arrangements are made with the local manager in advance of the game will be regarded as a breach of contract and schools that are guilty of such violation will be subject to penalty under the provisions of By-law 6.041.

L. Players in Team Uniforms:

In each of the tournaments, no school shall have in uniform more than twenty-two (22) players. Only those eligible player(s) or coaches may serve as coaches at first and third base.

M. Softballs:

The Wilson 9011 WTA9011BSST (Poly Core) ball is preferred.

N. Players Bench:

A maximum of 31 individuals officially connected with the school shall be permitted to occupy the players' bench.

O. Conduct of Coaches and Players:

1. No coach, player or other person officially connected with the team shall be permitted to smoke or chew tobacco on the bench or playing field either during practice or while a game is in progress.

2. No coach or other school official shall, during the progress of a game, be allowed on the field of play except by permission of the game umpires.

3. Except for those coaches or eligible players who may be serving as coaches at first or third base and players legally in the "on deck circle", all other coaches, managers, sub-

stitutes and players awaiting their turn at bat shall remain on the player's bench. Umpires will be instructed to enforce this rule.

4. The captain and the head coach shall be the official spokespersons and the sole representatives of their team in all communications with the umpires.

5. Abusive remarks to game umpires by coaches or players shall be regarded as unsportsmanlike conduct and shall be punishable under the provisions of By-Law 2.040.

P. Artificial Noise

Artificial Noisemakers: All artificial noisemaking devices shall be excluded from the dugouts and the field.

Q. AED: Host schools must have an AED available and on site at all IHSA post season contests.

X. AWARDS

A. Regional: A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each Regional.

B. Sectional: A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each Sectional.

C. Super-Sectional: A plaque will be awarded to the winner in each Super-Sectional.

D. State Final:

1. A trophy will be awarded to teams finishing first, second, third and fourth places in the State Final Tournament.

2. A total of thirty-one (31) medallions will be presented to the schools of the first four placing teams at the State Final Tournament. In addition, the superintendent, principal, the athletic director and a certified athletic trainer or team physician, provided one is listed on the school's State Final Program Information, will be presented with a medallion. No other trophies or awards of any kind may be presented in the tournament series. Only thirty-one (31) team/school representatives, the superintendent, principal, the athletic director and certified athletic trainer or team physician, may participate in the awards presentation.

These awards will be furnished by the State Association and are not an expense charge upon the individual tournament.

XI. OFFICIALS

A. Appointment and Fees:

Umpires for all tournaments must be licensed by the IHSA. Preference shall be given first to those umpires who have certified ratings, then to those who have recognized ratings.

1. Regional tournaments:

Umpires (two per game) for all Regional games shall be secured by the higher seed/host. A third umpire may be secure at the

host's expense. If a regional game is postponed due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to use the same umpiring crew. If an umpire(s) is unavailable on the rescheduled date, the local manager will appoint a replacement. Each official will receive a fee of \$63.00 per game. The higher seed will pay the officials.

2. Sectional tournaments:

Umpires (three per game) for the Sectional games shall be secured by the higher seed/host. If a Sectional game is postponed due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to use the same umpiring crew. If an umpire(s) is unavailable on the rescheduled date, the higher seed/host will secure a replacement umpire(s). Each official will receive a fee of \$78.50 per game. The host team will pay the officials.

3. Super-Sectional games:

Umpires (three per game) for the Super-Sectional games will be assigned by the IHSA Office. If a Super-sectional game is postponed due to inclement weather, every effort will be made to use the same umpiring crew. If an umpire(s) is unavailable on the rescheduled date, the IHSA Office will appoint the replacement umpire(s) in conjunction with the local manager. Coaches of participating schools and registered officials will have an opportunity to assist the IHSA Office in ranking officials who are being considered for this assignment. Each official will receive a fee of \$106.50. The IHSA will pay the officials through ArbitorPay.

4. State Final Tournaments:

Each official will receive a fee of \$140.00 per game and Head Official \$125. The IHSA will pay the officials through ArbitorPay.

5. State Series Officials Fee for Suspended or Postponed Contest:

a. An official is notified before arriving at the site—No compensation.

b. An official arrives at the site and the contest is suspended/cancelled before it begins—A show up fee is provided to the officials, which is one half of the game fee.

c. Contest is started, and then is suspended until the next day—Official gets full fee for the started game and then a full fee for the completion of the game the next day.

d. Fees to be paid by IHSA

B. Smoke and Tobacco Policy

Umpires working tournament games shall not smoke or chew tobacco on the playing field or designated smoke free areas during practice or while a game is in progress.