



ACTIVITY UPDATE

2018 IESA BASEBALL

Here are some important date reminders and other pertinent

information:

- Try-outs/Practice May Begin: July 30
- Games May Begin: August 11
- Regionals: September 11, 15, 17
- Sectionals: September 22---11:00 a.m.
- State Finals: September 28-29, EastSide Centre, East Peoria



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NEW - Online Season Schedule:

Schools are required to submit their regular season schedule online by August 11, 2018. Schools will complete this requirement by logging in to the Baseball Entry Center. You will need the AD password provided to your school. After each contest, the coach should record the result of the game. That way, the coach will not have to list the results of all games at one time when completing the Regional Entry Form. It will be easier and more accurate to record the game results immediately after each game.

NEW - Bat Regulations:

The following bats are legal for use in 2018 IESA contests:

- a. Any non-wood bat containing a silkscreened or permanently marked BBCOR label as detailed in section 1-3-2 of the NFHS baseball rules book or;
- b. Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop provided the bat barrel diameter does not exceed 2 1/4 inches or;
- c. Any bat 30 inches and under that has a greater than minus three drop and a barrel diameter no larger than 2 5/8 inches provide that bat contains the USA Baseball logo or;
- d. Any wood bat that meets the NFHS standards as detailed in section 1-3-2 and 1-3-3 of the NFHS baseball rules book.

NOTE 1: Any bat 31 inches and over must meet the NFHS bat guidelines and contain the BBCOR label.

NOTE 2: Any bat 31 inches and over and has a greater than a minus 3 drop with the USA Baseball logo is an illegal bat.

NOTE 3: Any non-wood bat with a barrel diameter greater than 2 5/8" is illegal.

NOTE 4: Effective with the 2019 season, no bat with a 2 1/4" barrel will be legal.

NEW - Pitching Re-Entry Rule:

Effective with the 2018 season, Any pitcher (either the starting pitcher or any relief pitcher) withdrawn from the mound or game may return to the pitching position once per game as long as it is within the legal re/entry rule.

New - Regional Semi-Final Times:

Schools that are selected as regional hosts must start the first game of the regional semi-finals no later than 11:00 a.m. Additionally, games must be played in bracketed order. The first semi-final game which generally involves the number 1 seeded team shall be the first semi-final game of the day on Saturday.

New - Regional Hosts--Umpire Responsibilities

Schools that are selected as regional hosts will only have the responsibility to hire the umpires for the two regional semi-finals games played on Saturday and the championship game played on Monday. The hosts of the play-in regional games that are scheduled to be played on Tuesday will be responsible to hire the umpires. Once the seeds are released on the Friday preceding the Tuesday play-in games, the schools hosting those games will need to hire the umpires for their game. The reason the play-in game hosts are asked to hire the umpires is it is very difficult for the regional host to hire umpires when it is not known where the play-in games will be played.

New - Regional Baseball Distribution:

Schools that are selected as regional hosts will receive 9 Rawlings baseballs to use during the two semi-final games and the championship game. They will be shipped directly to the host school. Schools that host the play-in games will receive 3 Rawlings baseballs for the one game they host. Those balls will be shipped as soon as the seeds and subsequent pairings are released on Friday, September 7.

Coaches Attire

While coaches at the IESA level are not required to wear a team uniform, coaches are expected to dress appropriately. Cut-offs, and flip flops are inappropriate for interscholastic contests. Coaches who do not wear a team uniform should at the minimum wear some type of school shirt with school colors with appropriate shorts/pants/athletic shoes.

PITCH COUNT LIMITATIONS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Effective with the start of the 2017-18 school year, a pitch count limitation went into effect instead of a pitching inning limitation. The same pitch count limitations are in effect for both the regular season and the state series. The limitations are a combination of a maximum number of pitches that can be thrown in one day and the amount of rest between throws based on the number of pitches. The chart below list the pitch count limitations and required rest.

IESA PITCH COUNT LIMITATIONS---REGULAR SEASON AND STATE SERIES

PITCH COUNT PER DAY	REQUIRED DAYS OF REST	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PITCHES ON NEXT APPEARANCE	NEXT APPEARANCE CAP Note: Pitch count caps are soft, meaning that the pitcher will be afforded the opportunity to finish the at bat if the maximum is reached in the middle of an at-bat.
1-20	0 days	70 pitches	A pitcher who throws 1-20 pitches may pitch on two consecutive days without rest. The maximum number of pitches that can be thrown on the second day is 70. A pitcher who throws on two consecutive days must rest for one day.
21-35	1	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 21-35 pitches must rest for one day. After one day of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
36-50	2	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 36-50 pitches must rest for two days. After two days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
51-65	3	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 51-65 pitches must rest for three days. After three days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.
66-90	4	Up to 90	A pitcher who throws 66-90 pitches must rest for four days. After four days of rest, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a cap of 90 pitches.

The above chart can also be accessed at the following link:

http://www.iesa.org/documents/activities/IESA-BBB_LimitationRule.pdf

It is the responsibility of each coach to keep a record of the number of pitches each pitcher throws each game. During the game, the umpire has no responsibility in adjudicating pitch count matters. IESA will not be monitoring the number of pitches each pitcher throws for regular season contests. This will be the responsibility of each coach. IESA is working on a system that will allow you to enter your pitch counts into some type of online database that will help you keep track of when your pitcher can throw again after each outing. But, you are expected to abide by the rule for the health and safety of each pitcher. However, it is naïve to think that there will not be a discrepancy in a given game. Each team is responsible for counting its own team's pitches and the opposing team's pitches. The head coach or designee will compare pitch counts with the opposing team after every even-numbered inning and at the conclusion of the game. If teams report different pitch count numbers to one another, the teams will split the difference and will use that number as the pitcher's official number. If splitting the difference results in a number that ends in a decimal, the teams will round that number up to the next whole number. For example: Following the 2nd inning, Team A has recorded 32 pitches for its pitcher. Team B has recorded 36 pitches for Team A's pitcher. The official pitch count number for Team A's pitcher will be 34 pitches. Another example: Following the 4th inning, Team A has recorded 63 pitches for its pitcher. Team B has recorded 60 pitches for Team A's pitcher. Since splitting the difference results in 61.5 pitches, the official pitch count number for Team A's pitcher will be 62 pitches.

Coaches: Do not worry so much about how many pitches an opposing team's pitcher can throw on a given day. Worry about how many pitches your pitcher can throw and do the right thing and keep your pitcher within the IESA pitch count rules. The pitching limitation rules are in place for the health and safety of the student-athlete. Your responsibility is to keep track of your pitchers. Once the season begins, information will be sent to all schools as to how you are to keep track of pitches thrown during the state series. But, for regular season games, you keep track of your own pitchers and during games, meet with the opposing coach as detailed above and resolve differences as noted above. Umpires will NOT be involved in any disputes or keeping track of pitches.

Online Roster/Record Deadline/Online Ranking

Host schools will conduct their regional seed meetings completely online. The process for inputting information will be mandatory for all schools participating in the activity. Information on how to complete the online seeding process will be included in the initial baseball mailing. Schools are reminded that they must go online by September 4 to complete the Regional Entry Form which can list up to 18 players for the state series and update their regular season contests. Online Ranking will then take place on Wednesday and Thursday, September 5 & 6 with seeds to be released on Friday, September 7.



Rosters will close on Monday, September 10. After Monday, September 10, no changes will be allowed to your roster. As a reminder to all schools, the seeds given by each school to the other schools in the regional will be available for all to see. It is your responsibility to seed teams in a fair manner.

Dugout Locations for Regional & Sectional/Restroom Availability

State series host schools determine the dugout locations for competing teams at the regional and sectional level. At the state finals in East Peoria, the home team shall occupy the third base dugout. Regional and sectional hosts must have restrooms available for fans. Concession availability is also encouraged especially for the Saturday regional semi-final contests and for the Saturday sectional contests.

Coaches Must Remain in Dugouts

A point of emphasis is being made with all umpires to strictly enforce the rule requiring coaches to remain in the dugout during live ball situations. This will be strictly enforced at the state finals should your team advance to the IESA finals that are held at the EastSide Centre, September 28-29.

Other Points of Emphasis

**Schools should be sure to chalk the foul lines of their diamonds beyond 1st and 3rd base. This will not only help the players but will be particularly helpful to the umpires to determine if a ball is fair or foul.

**Coaches should do whatever they can to help to keep games moving along so they can be completed in a realistic amount of time. NFHS rule 6-2-2 will be enforced at the state finals. After the completion of the final out in the previous half-inning, the pitcher will have one minute to complete his five warm-up throws. Umpires at the state finals will have a stopwatch to monitor the time.

**If a player hits a home run, the batter must be able to reach home plate safely. Coaches are encouraged to minimize the celebrations at the home plate area.

Starting in 2020, any baseball used must meet the current NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture and the baseball shall be stamped as such. **Note: In the 2018 NFHS rule book that will be sent to all participating schools, it indicates that baseballs must meet this requirement effective in 2019. That rule has been changed to being implemented in 2020. This will give all schools two full years to be in compliance with this rule. The majority of baseballs now being sold will contain the NOCSAE stamp so this requirement should not be too much of a burden. But, to be on the safe side, be sure any baseballs you purchase in the future contain the NOCSAE stamp so you are in compliance by 2020.

**Similarly, also starting in 2020, NFHS rules will require chest protectors worn by catchers must be NOCSAE approved. While this is still two years away, you need to be aware of this as "old" chest protectors without the NOCSAE stamp cannot be worn. If your school purchases the chest protector for your catchers, be sure it is NOCSAE approved.