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Slow-Pitch Softball

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EDUCATION-BASED ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

The National Federation of State High School Associations and the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association recognize the numerous potential benefits of participation by students in education-based activities. While education-based activities may differ between the stakeholder groups, all should be centered on optimizing the student's scholastic activity experience. Students will change, develop and expand abilities over time; coaches, administrators and parents should not only be cognizant of the fluid process, but also foster a safe, positive environment in which development can occur. Education-based activities must always be viewed as an evolving and unpredictable path.

The NFHS and the OSSAA recognize the influential role played by coaches and directors in all activities, and therefore emphasis should be placed on those individuals to instill and reinforce fundamentals and best practices, not only to minimize risk but also to promote an environment in which a student has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. The common goal for all the stakeholders involved with education-based activities should be to make the experience enjoyable and rewarding for the all.

While our position is not intended to squelch dreams of achieving a college scholarship or professional or Olympic glory, we do place emphasis on the student's entire scholastic activity experience with the goals of enhancing participation, reducing injury risk, and optimizing performance and success (however defined) during the student's high school career. The ultimate goal; Producing an individual who is competent, confident, connected to his or her peer group and community, and of high character. This essential principle is at the core of the scholastic activity experience and is fundamental to the mission of the OSSAA and NFHS.

NOTE: ALL NEW RULES, REGULATIONS, AND POLICIES ARE UNDERLINED**I. SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL DATES TO REMEMBER**

- A. January 27, 2019 - Enrollment and Site Request Form Due
- B. March 1, 2019 - Season Opens
- C. April 5, 2019 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A District Pairings Released
- D. April 8-10, 2019 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A District Meeting
- E. April 12, 2019 - Class 6A Regional Pairings Released
- F. April 15-17, 2019 - Class 6A Regional Meeting
- G. April 20, 2019 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A District Tournaments to be completed
- H. April 24, 2019 - Academic Applications must be postmarked, emailed or faxed no later than April 24 - **Form found on the Slow-Pitch Softball link at www.ossaa.com.**
- I. April 22, 2019 - Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A Regional Pairings Released
- J. April 25, 2019 - Classes 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A Regional Tournaments
- K. April 30, 2019—State tournament Classes A, 2A, 3A
- L. May 1, 2019—State tournament Classes 4A, 5A, 6A
- L. Rules Meetings: All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. Rules meetings are mandatory for head coaches and must be completed by March 1st. If you are unable to attend one of the meetings, the meeting is available online at www.ossaa.com, click on the Sports link, then Slow-Pitch Softball. Written verification of completion must be sent to the OSSAA for online meetings.
 1. January 23, 2019 – Union High School
 2. February 2, 2019 – Mangum High School at 9:00am
 3. February 6, 2019 – McAlester High School
 4. February 13, 2019 – Westmoore High School

II. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION

High schools that plan to participate in 2019 Girls Slow-Pitch Softball should complete the Spring Slow-Pitch Softball Entry Form and return it to the OSSAA on or before January 27, 2019 (**form found on forms link at www.ossaa.com**).

III. CLASSIFICATION

- A. Enrolled schools will be divided into six classifications based on the A.D.M. of each high school. The classifications will be based on the A.D.M. sheets from the 2017-2018 school year. Schools adding or dropping slow-pitch softball after the date when the classifications are released will not affect any classifications.
 1. 6A – Top 24 playing schools
 2. 5A - next 48 largest slow-pitch softball playing schools
 3. 4A - next 48 largest slow-pitch softball playing schools
 4. 3A - next 48 largest slow-pitch softball playing schools
 5. 2A and A - all remaining slow-pitch softball playing schools divided approximately equally

IV. BEGINNING OF SEASON, ALLOWED SCHEDULE, PLAY-OFF DATES, BAT TESTING AND RANKING PROGRAM

A. Scrimmage dates:

1. Classes 4A, 3A and 2A and A - February 4, 2019
2. Classes 6A and 5A - February 11, 2019

B. Teams may start playing scheduled games March 1, 2019.

C. In addition to the Activities Association sponsored championship tournament series, teams and/or individuals shall be limited to not more than the number of match games and tournaments as established by the OSSAA Board of Directors. This regulation shall apply separately to fall and spring baseball and/or softball seasons.

Organized practice for slow-pitch softball may begin no earlier than December 1.

Organized practice is defined as school or anticipated school personnel directly or indirectly giving individual or team instruction concerning the fundamentals of a particular sport.

From the close of the season for slow-pitch to the start date of December 1 no organized practice in that sport may take place. However, certified school coaching personnel for that sport are permitted to provide instruction in that sport in a physical education class during the regular school day.

If a member school does not schedule a physical education class during the regular school day, then an additional period may be scheduled immediately after the close of the regular school day, not to exceed one hour for the purpose of conducting a physical education class, and instruction in a particular sport may be provided by certified school coaching personnel to students during that additional one-hour period.

Time spent transporting student participants to an off-site facility or from one school site to another for the purpose of providing instruction in a particular sport during a physical education class or during the one hour period immediately following the school day shall not be counted toward the time allowed for off-season instruction. The practice period shall begin immediately upon the arrival of the athletes.

Outside of tournament games, each game played shall be counted as a match game.

For the 2019 softball season, teams shall be limited to not more than 22 match games plus 3 tournaments or 25 match games plus 2 tournaments. Junior high teams are limited to 14 match games plus 2 tournaments. Junior high teams may play a third tournament if the regular season schedule is reduced by 3 games.

In a pool play tournament, if there is an opportunity to play two or more games after the conclusion of pool play, then all pool play games shall count against the regular season limitation. A 9th grade student is eligible to participate on both the junior high and senior high team, but is limited to the total number of tournaments in which the high school team participates.

No team shall be permitted to scrimmage another school in softball after the state basketball tournament for that particular class without being charged a game for each scrimmage. No instructional time will be lost because of travel to a scrimmage or because of the scrimmage itself. A scrimmage is defined as competition against another school without keeping records, such as scores, etc.

D. Generally, if the contest, meet, or tournament limits for a particular activity have been exceeded by either a school team or by individual participants from a school, the following sanctions will be applied:

1. The head coach in that activity shall be suspended from coaching in any regular season contests, at the same level, in the same activity, for the remainder of the current regular season and any championship play-off events for that school year.
2. The head coach in that activity may also be suspended from coaching any regular season contests, at the same level, in the same activity, in the subsequent season for that activity.
3. The school will not be allowed to host any play-off contests in that activity during the school year in which the violation occurred.
4. The program will be placed on warning for a period of one year.

E. Teams may play in any number of festivals. A softball festival is defined as any number of teams that come together to play at predetermined times against predetermined opponents. Each game played in a festival will count as one of the twenty-two allowed regular season games. No trophies, plaques, medals, or awards of any kind can be awarded during festival play. conditions on those coaching and/or activity management responsibilities.

Schools are encouraged to play festivals on non-school days in order to reduce loss of school time and if played on a school day, games cannot begin before 10:00 a.m. In the event one game of a regular season scheduled tournament is completed, and the remainder of the tournament is cancelled (not postponed) due to inclement weather or any other act of nature, a school may submit a written request to the OSSAA Staff seeking permission to schedule one additional regular season game. This contest must be played prior to the beginning of the playoffs series.

F. There will be no play of regular season or tournament games on Wednesday, if school is in session. Weekend tournaments, defined as tournaments scheduled Thursday through Saturday, may not begin prior to 10:00 a.m. and no game shall be scheduled to begin later than 9 p.m. Tournaments scheduled to be played Monday through Friday,

(excluding Wednesday, if school is in session) may not be scheduled to begin prior to 4:00 p.m. and no game shall be scheduled to begin later than 9 p.m. No more than 5 days shall be missed with any part of a day to be counted toward the total of five days. If there is an athletic hour at the end of the regular school day, missing that hour shall not count against the total of five days. OSSAA play-off games will be excluded from the five (5) day total.

- G. All bats will be tested prior to the regional tournament, and at the State Tournament site. Every bat used in the regional or state tournament MUST be tested prior to the first game for each respective team.

Bats that have been tested prior to the State Tournament must be re-tested at the State Tournament site. A different sticker than the one used during the Regional tournaments will be used at the State Tournament.

Any batter entering the batter's box with an untested bat will be automatically out, and the coach from that team will be restricted to the dugout for the remainder of the contest.

- H. No student shall play on two different teams in the same tournament.
 I. Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A district tournaments are to be completed by April 20, 2019.
 J. Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A regional tournaments shall be played on April 25, 2019.
 K. Class 6A regional tournaments are to be completed by April 25, 2019.
 L. State championships for Classes A, 2A, and 3A will be April 30 and May 1 for Classes A, 2A, and 3A.
 M. The OSSAA has an on-line ranking program for use by school administrators, coaches, and the general public. The program is accessible at the OSSAA website (www.ossaa.com).

For the sports of Football, Fall Baseball, Spring Baseball, Basketball, Fast-Pitch Softball, Slow-Pitch Softball, Volleyball, Soccer, Wrestling (all match scores and team results of invitational tournaments) and Golf (team score), it is mandatory that results from each regular season contest be entered into the ranking program within 24 hours of the conclusion of the contest throughout the season. Once any athletic activity, with the exception of Cross Country, Swimming, Track and Field, and Tennis, enters the play-off series for that activity, those results must also be entered within 24 hours of the conclusion of the play-off contest.

Any coach failing to report the score within 24 hours of the conclusion of a contest will initially be notified in writing of his or her failure to comply by OSSAA Staff. A copy of that correspondence will be sent to the coach's school administrator as well. A second incident of failure to report will result in the coach being placed on warning for a period of one year. A third, and each subsequent failure to report will result in the suspension of the coach for the next contest.

V. SLOW PITCH RANKING COMMITTEE

Coaches will be required to rank each week according to the ranking schedule posted on each school's respective ranking page at OSSAARankings.com. Coaches will rank 16 teams each week, the high and the low ranking will be dropped. Rankings will open at NOON on Friday of each week and close on Monday at NOON.

A committee selected by the Slow Pitch Coaches Association will monitor the rankings each week. Should a particular team be dropped more than 5 positions in a rankings from one week to the next, the committee will contact that coach for justification for the rankings he or she submitted. Should the justification not meet the established criteria for dropping a team more than 5 positions, the offending school's rankings will be voided and the team penalized 16 points in the current weeks rankings.

VI. NOISE MAKERS

For indoor activities: Boom boxes or any type of device that plays music, sounds, or voices, and noise makers of any kind such as air horns, cow bells, etc. will not be allowed to function/operate. This will also apply to pre-game/contest and post-game contest activities. This rule applies to both regular and post-season games/contest.

For outdoor activities: Noise makers are allowed at outdoor activities unless they interrupt the normal game/contest procedure of announcers, bands, cheer squads, drill teams or any other game/contest related activities. The game officials have the authority to stop the use of any noisemakers or disruptions that interrupt the normal game/contest procedures. This rule applies to both regular and post-season games or contests.

VII. PLAY-OFF STRUCTURE FOR CLASS 6A

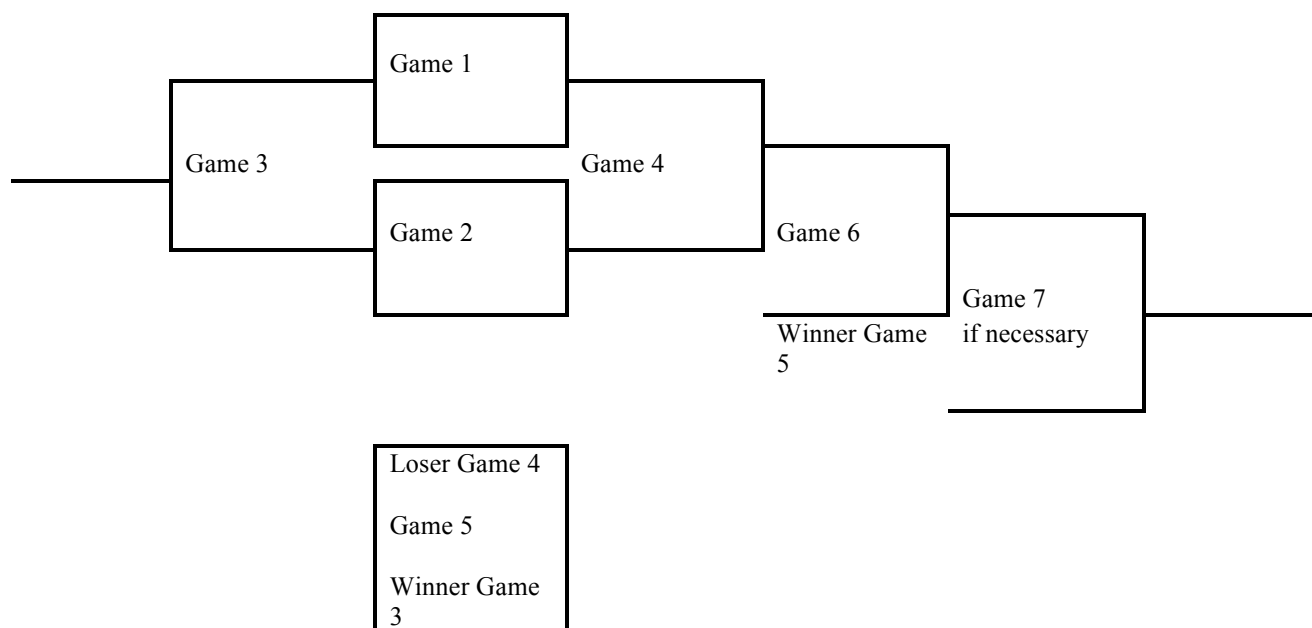
- A. There are no districts. There will be eight double elimination regional tournaments. The regional tournament shall be played in one day. The winner of each regional tournament will advance to the state championship tournament.
 B. Four teams will be assigned to each of the eight regional tournaments. The regional tournament sites will be assigned by the OSSAA. **Note:** An assigned site may be changed by unanimous vote of all the schools assigned to the tournament and with OSSAA approval. When determining playing sites for OSSAA assigned play-off tournaments, fields must have lights and that have scraped (dirt) infields will be given first priority, if possible. Please notify the OSSAA of any changes.

- C. Regional tournament assignments will be released April 12, 2019 to the OSSAA website by 4:00 p.m. All information regarding regional tournaments will be posted to www.ossaa.com. There will be nothing sent to the school by regular mail. The assigned chairman of each regional should schedule a regional tournament meeting no earlier than April 15, 2019 and no later than April 17, 2019.
- D. The regional tournament is to be completed by April 25, 2019.
- E. At the regional tournament meeting the following should be decided:
 - 1. The host school shall furnish the balls and umpires should be agreed upon. Two umpires are to be used in each game. The umpires should be certified OSSAA softball umpires (have paid enrollment fee and passed the current season National Federation Slow-Pitch Softball Test).
 - 2. Draw the tournament bracket. The regional tournament will be a true double elimination tournament. **NOTE:** For additional bracket information, refer to Part VI.
 - 3. Plan, in general, for the tournament.
- F. When the regional tournament is completed, regional winners should immediately call the OSSAA and give their team's won-lost record.

VIII. BRACKETING FOR REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS - CLASS 6A

- A. For seeding purposes, teams use the coaches' rankings from OSSAA rankings program. The top 16 teams listed will be considered as ranked teams. Unranked teams will use won/loss percentage. A minimum of fifteen games played will be required for seeding purposes. The OSSAA may reduce the number of games needed for seeding purposes if there are long periods of inclement weather during the softball season. **NOTE:** If a participating coach cannot be present at the seeding meeting, the absent coach's team record should be called into the tournament chairman. If necessary, the majority of the coaches present should make the absent coach's selection.
- B. The following criteria will be used in all athletic contests that are OSSAA play-off tournaments when brackets are drawn on the local level:
 - 1. Four team regionals - Rate and seed two teams using the coaches' rankings from OSSAA rankings program. Unranked teams will use won/loss percentage. The third best record shall choose either line #2 or line #3 of the bracket, which automatically places the fourth team by record on the opposite line.
 - 2. Three Teams – Rate and seed the teams using ratings from OSSAA rankings program. Unranked teams will use won/loss percentage. The team with the highest ranking will be placed on the top of the bracket. The team with the second highest ranking will be placed on the bottom of the bracket. The team with the highest ranking receives the bye, placing #2 against #3.
 - Team A will be the team with the highest ranking and they will receive the bye.
 - Team B will be the team with the second highest ranking.
 - Team C will be the team with the third highest ranking.
 - Game 1-Team B plays Team C
 - Game 2-Loser game 1 plays Team A
 - Game 3-Winner game 1 plays Team A
 - Game 4-If one team has one loss and one team has no losses, they play
 - Game 5-If necessary
 - or**
 - Game 4-If all teams have one loss, Team B plays Team C
 - Game 5-Winner Game 4 plays Team A
- C. A copy of each regional tournament bracket and records of all teams should be mailed or faxed to the OSSAA. The chairman should supply teams with brackets. **NOTE:** The OSSAA FAX number is (405) 840-9559.

BRACKET FOR 6A REGIONAL TOURNAMENT



X. STATE TOURNAMENT - CLASS 6A

- A. The OSSAA will draw the bracket and select the sites for the State Championship Tournament. The state championship is single elimination and will be played in a one day format on May 1, 2019.
- B. The assignment criteria will be as follows:
 1. The state tournament teams will be seeded one through eight. The two highest seeded teams shall be cross-bracketed with the two lowest seeded teams, and the two second highest seeded teams will be cross-bracketed with the two second lowest seeded teams. **NOTE:** The seeding and bracketing for the Class 6A state tournaments will be done by the OSSAA.
 2. All seeds will be based on ratings from the coaches' ratings from OSSAA rankings program. (See XIV - Assignments and Seeding of Play-off Tournaments)

XI. DISTRICT PLAY-OFF STRUCTURE FOR CLASSES 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A AND A

- A. Each respective class will have sixteen double elimination district tournaments. The district tournament shall be played in one day (Exception: Five-team districts in Classes 2A and A may be played in two days.). The winner of each district tournament will advance to one of four regional tournaments.
- B. District tournament assignments will be released April 5, 2019 to the OSSAA website by 4:00 p.m. All information regarding district tournaments will be posted to www.ossaa.com. There will be nothing sent to the school by regular mail. The assigned chairman of each district should schedule a district tournament meeting no earlier than April 8, 2019 and no later than April 10, 2019. The district tournament is to be completed by April 20, 2019.
- C. At the district tournament meeting the following should be decided:
 1. The district tournament site will be assigned by the OSSAA.
 2. Umpires should be agreed upon. Two umpires are to be used in each game. The umpires should be enrolled OSSAA softball umpires (paid enrollment fee and passed the current season National Federation Slow-Pitch Softball Test).
 3. Draw the tournament bracket. **NOTE:** For additional bracket information, refer to Part X.
 4. Plan, in general, for the tournament.
- D. When the district tournament is completed, district winners should immediately call the OSSAA and give their team's won-lost record.

XII. BRACKETING FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS - CLASSES 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A AND A

- A. For seeding purposes, teams will use rankings posted at OSSAA rankings program. The top 15 teams listed will be considered as ranked teams. Unranked teams will use won/loss percentage. Tied percentage records shall be decided

by a coin toss. A minimum of fifteen games played will be required for seeding purposes. The OSSAA may reduce the number of games needed for seeding purposes if there are long periods of inclement weather during the softball season. **NOTE:** If a participating coach cannot be present at the seeding meeting, the absent coach's team record should be called into the tournament chairman. If necessary, the majority of the coaches present should make the absent coach's selection.

- B. The following criteria will be used in all athletic contests that are OSSAA play-off tournaments when brackets are drawn on the local level:

1. Three Teams – Rate and seed the teams using ratings from OSSAA rankings program. Unranked teams will use won/loss percentage. The team with the highest ranking will be placed on the top of the bracket. The team with the second highest ranking will be placed on the bottom of the bracket. The team with the highest ranking receives the bye, placing #2 against #3.

Team A will be the team with the highest ranking and they will receive the bye.

Team B will be the team with the second highest ranking.

Team C will be the team with the third highest ranking.

Game 1-Team B plays Team C

Game 2-Loser game 1 plays Team A

Game 3-Winner game 1 plays Team A

Game 4-If one team has one loss and one team has no losses, they play

Game 5-If necessary

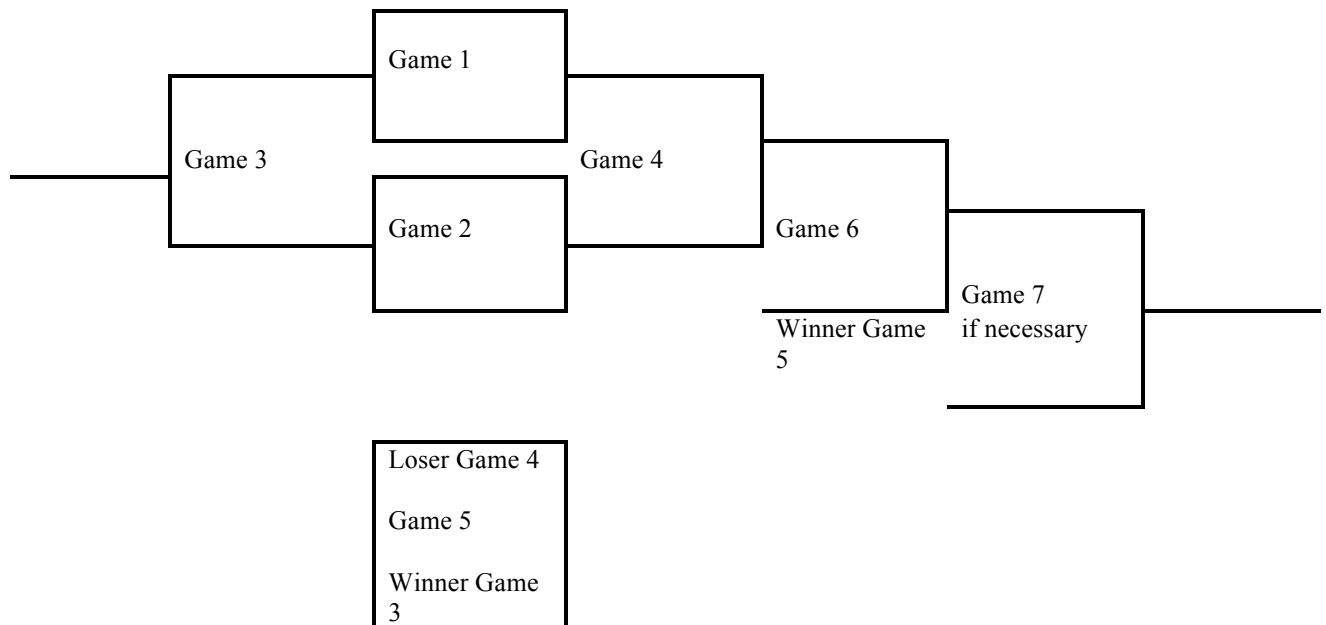
or

Game 4-If all teams have one loss, Team B plays Team C

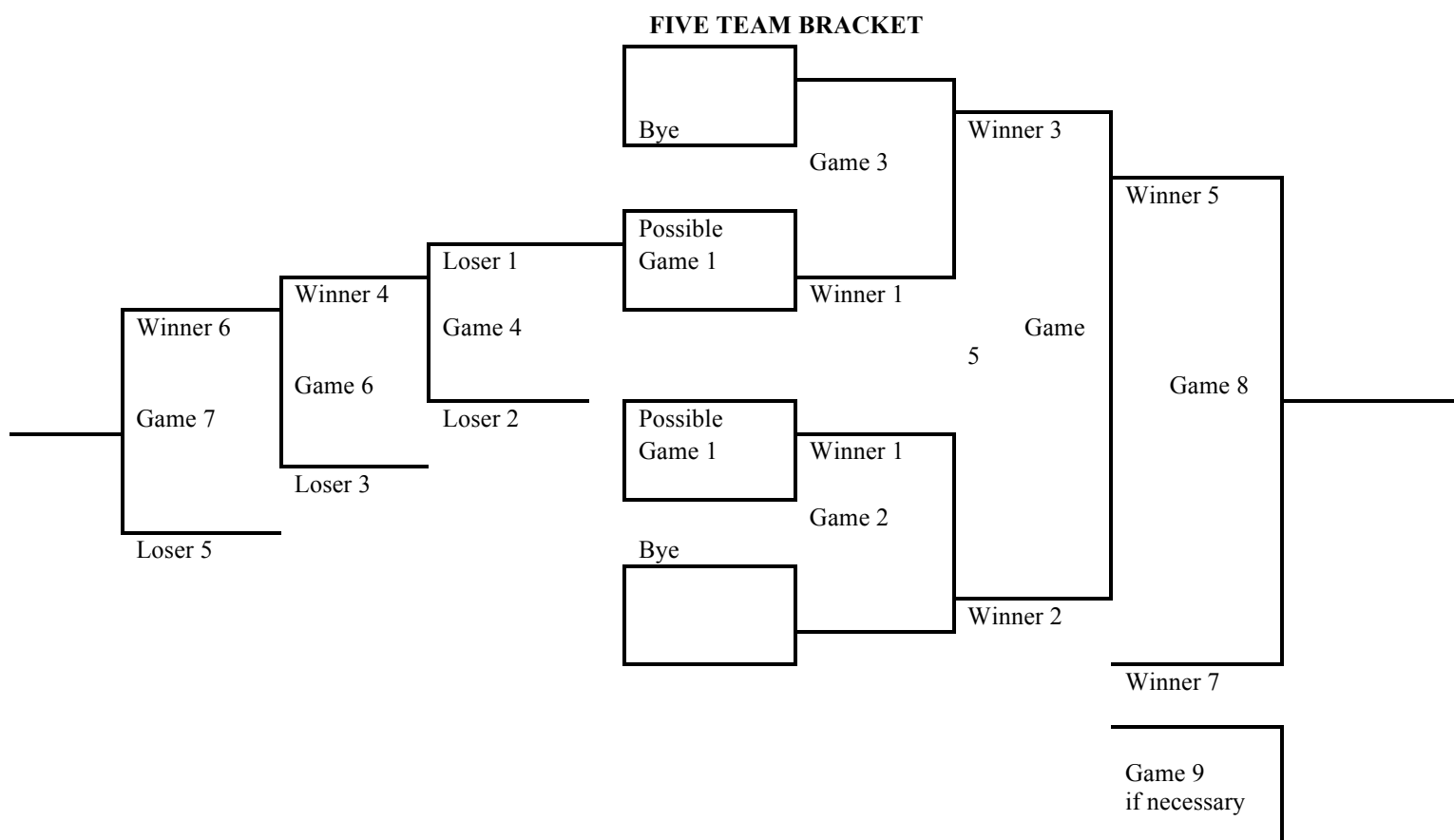
Game 5-Winner Game 4 plays Team A

2. Four Teams - Rate and seed two teams on using ratings from OSSAA rankings program which are to be placed on the top and bottom of the bracket, respectively, by rating. The third best ranking shall choose either line #2 or line #3 of the bracket, which automatically places the fourth team by record on the opposite line.

FOUR TEAM BRACKET



3. Five Teams - An eight point bracket shall be used. Rate and seed two teams on a percentage record of games won and lost which are to be placed on the top and bottom of the bracket, respectively, by record. The third best record shall choose either line #4 in the top half or line #5 in the bottom half of the bracket, which automatically places the fourth team by record in the opposite half of the bracket. The fifth best record shall choose either line #3 in the top or line #6 in the bottom of the bracket. **NOTE:** All byes will be placed in the first round of tournament competition. When there is more than one bye on the bracket, the two seeded teams with the best record shall receive byes. Any remaining bye will be placed in the opposite bracket after the team with the fifth best record has made its choice. If the tournament chairman is notified after the district tournament bracket has been established that one or more of the teams will not participate and this would cause a bye in the second round, a new bracket should be drawn. Otherwise, the bracket is to remain as originally drawn.



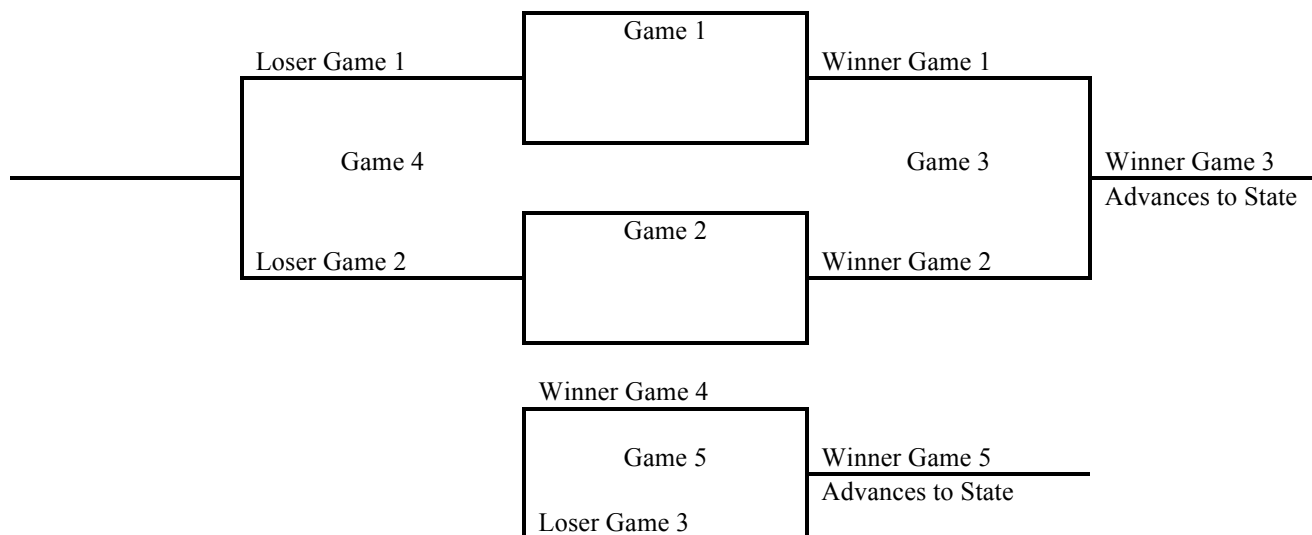
- C. A copy of each district tournament bracket and records of all teams should be mailed or faxed to the OSSAA. The chairman should supply teams with brackets. **NOTE:** The OSSAA FAX number is (405) 840-9559.

XIII. REGIONAL PLAY-OFF STRUCTURE FOR CLASSES 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A AND A

- Each respective class will have four double elimination regional tournaments. The winner and the runner-up of each regional tournament will advance to the state tournament.
- Four teams will be assigned to each of the four regional tournaments. The district in which a team has played will not determine the regional tournament to which it will be assigned.
- The four teams assigned to each of the four double elimination regional tournaments will be seeded one through four. On the tournament bracket, the number one seeded team will play the number four seeded team, and the number two seeded team will play the number three seeded team.
- In regional play, the site and the bracket shall be set by the OSSAA. The host school shall furnish the balls and umpires after recommendations are made from competing schools on such umpires. **NOTE:** An assigned site may be changed by unanimous vote of all the schools assigned to the tournament and with OSSAA approval. When determining playing sites for OSSAA assigned play-off tournaments, fields that have scraped (dirt) infields will be given first priority, if possible. Please notify the OSSAA of any changes.

- E. Regional tournament assignments will be released April 23, 2018 to the OSSAA website by 4:00 p.m. All information regarding regional tournaments will be posted to www.ossaa.com. There will be nothing sent to the school by regular mail. The regional tournament shall be played on April 25, 2019.

XIV. BRACKET FOR REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS FOR CLASSES 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A AND A



XV. STATE TOURNAMENT FOR CLASSES 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A AND A

- A. The OSSAA will draw the bracket and select the sites for the state championship tournament. The state championships are single elimination and will be played in a one day format on May 2, 2019 for Classes A, 2A, and 3A and May 1, 2019 for Classes 4A, 5A and 6A.
- B. Assignment criteria
1. The two highest seeded winners bracket teams shall be cross bracketed with the two lowest seeded losers bracket teams. **NOTE:** Teams that advance out of the same regional tournament competition will not play each other in the first round of the state tournament.
 2. The two second highest seeded winners bracket teams will be cross bracketed with the two second lowest seeded losers bracket teams. **NOTE:** Teams that advance out of the same regional tournament competition will not play each other in the first round of the state tournament.
 3. On the state tournament bracket the regional winners seeded one and four will be placed on one half of the bracket and the regional winners seeded two and three will be placed on the other half of the bracket.
 4. If the criteria in 1 and 2 is not feasible, the tournament teams will be seeded one through eight. The two highest seeded teams shall be cross bracketed with the two lowest seeded teams and the two second highest seeded teams will be cross bracketed with the two second lowest seeded teams. **NOTE:** The seeding and bracketing for Classes 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A state tournaments will be done by the OSSAA.
 5. All seeds will be based on each team's won-lost percentage and ratings from the OSSAA rankings program (See XIV - Assignments and Seeding of Play-off Tournaments).

XVI. ASSIGNMENTS AND SEEDING OF PLAY-OFF TOURNAMENTS

- A. In determining the strengths of teams within each class of Girls Slow-Pitch Softball, the OSSAA will work closely with the coaches ranking (top 15 teams) from [www.OSSAA rankings program](http://www.OSSAArankingsprogram). Information received from these rankings will be used to aid in assigning and seeding teams within the play-off structure.
- B. The OSSAA will make the final decision on all play-off assignments and seeding.
1. Assignment criteria for Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A district tournaments will be as follows:
 - a) Geographical location of each team will be the primary factor.
 - b) If possible, stronger teams within a geographical area will be separated.
 - c) If possible, teams that have had sportsmanship problems with each other will be separated.
 2. When assigning Classes 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and A regional tournaments, geographics will continue to be of consideration, but additional travel will be considered in an attempt to balance strengths of each regional tournament.

XVII. ADDITIONAL PLAY-OFF INFORMATION

- A. For the OSSAA play-off tournaments, no more than 22 players will be permitted to participate or be in uniform.
- B. All play-off games will be regulation seven inning games unless the run rule is in effect. The run rule will be 15 runs after 3 innings, 12 runs after 4 innings, or 10 runs after 5 innings in effect throughout the play-off series.
- C. Speed-up rules may be used in the play-off series and regular season.
- D. The OSSAA has adopted the extra player as in Rule 3-1-1 of the National Federation Softball Rule Book.
- E. Plaques will be awarded to the champions of each district and regional tournaments and the regional runners-up in Classes A-5A. Trophies will be awarded to champions and runners-up of the state tournament. Also, medals will be awarded to 22 team members of the championship and runner-up teams along with a coach's achievement plaque to the head coach at the state tournament. **NOTE:** Plaques, trophies, and medals will be furnished by the OSSAA.
- F. Practice or competition in athletics will not be allowed on a site after the site has been announced in any play-off activity except for a regularly scheduled contest or the host school may practice at the site if that is the team's regular practice site.
- G. In Classes 5A-4A-3A-2A-A district tournament play, the OSSAA will reimburse the host school 50% of losses considering only the expenses of umpires and balls, if gate receipts are not sufficient to defray such expenses. In Classes 6A-1-6A-2-5A-4A-3A-2A-A regional play, the OSSAA will reimburse the host school 75% of losses considering only the expenses of umpires and balls, if gate receipts are not sufficient to defray such expenses.
- H. In Classes 5A-4A-3A-2A-A district tournament play, the host school will use their own tickets and should charge an admission to defray expenses. The OSSAA recommends \$5.00 for adults and students. A record of tournament tickets sold and expenses should be kept. A financial report will be required by the OSSAA if a deficit is reported concerning umpires and ball expenses.
- I. In Classes 6A-5A-4A-3A-2A-A regional tournament play, the OSSAA will send tickets to the host schools. Admission prices will be \$5.00 for adults and for students.
- J. The host district and regional tournament sites will pay the umpires from tournament gate receipts.
- K. The OSSAA will assign and pay the umpires for the state championship tournament.
- L. Graduations, proms, banquets, etc., should not be scheduled to conflict with the play-offs. All state tournament qualifiers should send the OSSAA office an end of school calendar detailing proms, banquets, graduations, senior trips, etc. All conflicts may not be avoided, but every effort will be made to accommodate as many schools as possible when the state tournament is delayed because of inclement weather.
- M. Schools participating in the State Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament will be reimbursed at a rate set by the OSSAA Board of Directors at their annual June meeting.
- N. The Wilson WTALL 124NB (.44 COR) optic yellow leather softball will be used exclusively throughout the playoffs.
- O. Suspended game: If weather, darkness, or other circumstances interfere with play so that a play-off tournament game is called (ended) by the umpire, it is a regulation game provided: (a) five full innings have been played; or if the home team has scored a greater number of runs in four or four and a fraction turns at bat than the visiting team has scored in five turns; or (b) play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat. The score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning; unless the home team, in its half of the incomplete inning scores a run (or runs) which exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. Otherwise, it will be a suspended game. A suspended game shall continue from the point of suspension on the earliest possible day, with the line-up and batting order for each team the same as it was at the time of suspension. State tournament games will be completed.
- P. Teams may be added to a district due to late entries or a school deciding not to participate. If teams withdrawing from playoff tournaments create byes in the second round of the tournament, the tournament shall be re-drawn.
- Q. Designated Media Area - National Federation Softball Rules require the home team or game management to designate a lined area for the media. This area shall be considered a dead ball area. This rule also prohibits media from being in a live ball area. (Rules 1-1-7)
- R. A student's current scholastic eligibility status would not change if an OSSAA play-off contest was delayed into the next week due to inclement weather or other extreme circumstance.

XVIII. PLAYING RULES

- A. The rules of play will be those of the 2019 National Federation Softball Rule Book. **NOTE:** It is the responsibility of each participating coach to be familiar with these rules.
- B. All classes will use a 12" white or optic yellow softball and the coefficient of restitution (COR) shall not exceed .44 during the regular season.
- C. Safety of players is the most important part of any activity. The National Federation Softball Rule Book is very clear about the following:
 - 1. By rule, batting helmets bearing the NOCSAE stamp and exterior warning label is mandatory for each batter, on deck batter, player/students in the coaches' boxes and runners. These helmets should have extended ear flaps which cover both ears and temples.

2. The catcher shall wear a head protector and protective mask with a throat protector that is part of or attached to the mask. The catcher's helmet and mask combination shall meet the NOCSAE standard and have full ear protection (dual ear flaps). A throat protector that is part of the mask shall extend far enough to adequately protect the throat. An attached throat protector shall be commercially manufactured, properly attached, unaltered, and worn properly. This would also include any non-adult warming up a pitcher at any time or location within the confines of the field. A catcher shall also wear a body protector and baseball/softball protective shin guards.
- D. Please see the Athletic Director or Principal for precautionary recommendations regarding AIDS and Hepatitis B.
- E. The pitching distance shall be 50 feet.

XIX. CONDUCT OF COACHES AND PLAYERS

- A. When an official banishes a coach or sponsor from the vicinity of the contest and there is no other designated assistant or faculty member present to assume full responsibility of the team or organization, the game or contest must be forfeited. Any school in violation of this paragraph shall forfeit the game, meet, or contest to the offended school, and the school or team in violation shall be placed on warning.
Any coach who is ejected from an interscholastic game, meet, or contest shall be suspended from coaching the next regularly scheduled game, meet or contest (same team and level) in which the team participates. This includes all OSSAA sponsored and play-off activities. In addition any coach who has been ejected from an OSSAA contest will be required to complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course. This course must be completed within seven (7) days after being ejected. The coach can be reinstated after verification of his/her completion of the course and any sit-out time that is required by OSSAA rules. A coach who has been suspended from coaching may attend the contest, but he or she must be seated in the spectator area and may not give instructions to the players or the individual who has been assigned to coach the team anytime during the contest. The coach may not coach directly or indirectly in any capacity. The coach may not enter the dressing room at half time, nor will he or she be allowed to be on the court, field, etc., before or during the contest. Any coach who is ejected from a contest a second time during the same activity season shall be suspended from coaching until reinstated by the OSSAA Board of Directors.
- B. **Fighting:** A student who is disqualified during a game or contest because of a flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible. The student shall remain ineligible for at least one contest before he/she is reinstated by the principal. A student whose flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct consists of fighting, cursing or using foul language toward a game official will be automatically suspended from participating in a minimum of the next two regularly scheduled games or contests on the same level of competition that his/her team plays. Fighting is defined, but is not limited to, any player or non-player (bench personnel) striking an opponent with arm(s), leg(s), foot(feet), or other object(s), regardless if there is contact with an opponent, biting an opponent, or instigating a fight by committing an act(s) that causes an opponent to retaliate by fighting related to an OSSAA sponsored activity in which the players and non-players are participating. A player or non-player who retaliates by fighting is in violation of the fighting rule. The fighting rule will apply to pre-contest and post-contest sponsored activities. It is mandatory that all head coaches remind his/her team that fighting during the post game hand shaking ceremonies or conducting themselves in an unsportsmanlike manner after the game will be severely penalized.
The head coach and team will be subject to additional suspension penalties beyond the normal penalties imposed on fighting and unsportsmanlike acts that occur during the contest. Injuries have occurred because of fans climbing over walls and fences, being trampled, or partaking in dog-pile celebrations, etc. at the conclusion of a contest. The celebration by fans, players, or coaches acting in an unsportsmanlike manner (example: pouring water on the coach) after a contest will result in possible penalties imposed against the school. School administrators should be aware that if their student body and fans come onto the playing area after a contest, penalties may be imposed. Any substitute or team member who leaves the team bench (football player leaving the team box, baseball or softball player leaving the dugout, basketball player or wrestler leaving the team bench, etc.) and enters the playing area during a fight or any other serious unsportsmanlike act, shall be ejected. Those players or team members identified by game officials, school administrators, or video tape will be suspended a minimum of one game if they were not involved in the altercation and a minimum of two games (exception: soccer) if they were involved in the altercation. This rule applies to both regular season and play-off games. The suspension applies to individuals/teams on the same level of competition; i.e., varsity to a varsity game, junior varsity to a junior varsity game, etc. Any additional penalties by the National Federation Rule Book and the OSSAA Rules and Regulations Handbook would also apply. The rule would apply to all OSSAA sponsored activities. Any student involved directly or indirectly for fighting or any other serious unsportsmanlike act a second time during the season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- C. **Public Criticism Policy:**
Any school representative who publicly criticizes a contest official, and any contest official who publicly criticizes a school representative in connection with a contest, meet, or tournament is subject to sanctions. The member school represented by an individual who publicly criticizes a contest official may also be subject to sanctions if the school

fails to take appropriate action in response to the school representative's public criticism of the contest official. The sanctions could include warning or suspension.

Public criticism includes, but is not limited to, comments made to the media or during a broadcasted event, and comments made in a public forum.

XX. HAZING

Hazing incidents have no place in the activity programs of our member schools. The OSSAA encourages each member school to develop procedures to inform their students that this type of behavior is not acceptable and should not be tolerated.

XXI. TAUNTING

Any form of taunting which is intended or designed to anger, bait, embarrass, ridicule, or demean others is subject to penalty.

XXII. EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Any time a member school is hosting a planned activity at a school facility there must be an Emergency Action Plan in place. The plan must be shared with any visiting school. An Emergency Action Plan, or EAP, is a formal written plan, developed by the host site, that identifies potential emergency conditions at the event site and prescribes the procedures to be followed to minimize or prevent loss of life and property.

XXIII. OFF SEASON TRY-OUTS

Only students in grades 8-11 attending school in the district for which the try-out is held may be permitted to participate in a try-out. Try-outs should only be conducted for the purpose of the selection of a school team and may not be used for practice time. Each day of the try-out may be up to 2 hours in length. No off-season try-out will be approved for more than three days, and all sessions of the try-out must conclude by 9 p.m. A record of all try-outs should be kept on file at the member school. The OSSAA reserves the right to request try-out forms from a member school. Exception: Cheerleading is exempt from the try-out Policy.

XIV. NOT HONORING A PROTEST

OSSAA will not consider requests to overturn the determinations of game/contest officials in interpreting or enforcing rules at games or contests. In agreeing to participate in a game or contest, a member school, and the individual participants and the coaches or sponsors representing that member school, accept the risk that game/contest officials may make errors in interpreting or enforcing rules at games or contests. Any errors by game/contest officials should be raised with those officials, in a respectful manner, and in accordance with the rules established for that particular activity. The decisions of the game/contest officials are accepted as final.

An exception to this Policy may be granted if in the case of an ejection of a participant from a contest, the game/contest official misidentifies the individual who should have been ejected. The request to review the misidentified player must be submitted to the OSSAA in writing.

XXV. APPROVAL OF TOURNAMENTS, MEETS, AND CONTESTS

- A. Invitational tournament games and festivals played on school days cannot start earlier than 10:00 a.m.
- B. No member school shall compete in athletics in any interstate tournament or meet in which three or more schools participate unless such event has been sanctioned by all interested state associations including the National Federation, if required.
- C. All athletic events where three or more schools participate in grades 7 through 12 related directly or indirectly to any activity in which the OSSAA sponsors a play-off series leading to a state championship should be sanctioned. The responsibility lies with the participating schools as well as the host member school, non-public school host, or any non-school individual host. When more than two schools or teams participate, the students may not be covered by catastrophic insurance unless the event is sanctioned. All entries for out-of-state tournaments and meets shall be forwarded to the OSSAA for endorsement and approval.
- D. All entries for out-of-state tournaments and meets shall be forwarded to the Association office for approval.

XXVI. OFFICIALS AND PROTESTS

- A. The regulations of the OSSAA provide that all officials used in regular season basketball and football competition and OSSAA sanctioned tournaments where participants are 7th-12th grades must be enrolled with the OSSAA and passed Part I of the National Federation rules examination for that sport.
 1. These regulations also apply to regular season competition in baseball, soccer, **softball**, volleyball, and wrestling where participants are 9th-12th grades. It is strongly recommended that certified officials be used in all competition where participants are 7th-12th grades.

2. ATTENTION: In all OSSAA sanctioned tournaments, certified officials should be used.
- B. One of the calculated risks that coaches must accept is that he/she, his/her players, or the officials may make mistakes during the course of the game or contest. The OSSAA Board of Directors has established a policy of not honoring a protest based upon a rule situation, nor a situation which involves judgment on the part of the game officials.

XXVII. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- A. The twenty-two (22) players or the lesser number suited up for Classes 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and A district tournaments and Class 6A regional tournaments may apply for the following OSSAA academic achievement awards. Grades are based on the first semester GPA. (Non-traditional semester: An approximate 18-week grading period used to divide the school year in half.)
- B. Awards will be given for each class based on 4.0 grading system and computed to the nearest thousandth percentile. If you have a weighted grading system, you must still use the 4.0 system for computing qualifications for this award.
 1. Academic Achievement Certificate - Teams must have a minimum of a 3.25 GPA and rank in the upper 1/3 of their classification to qualify.
 2. Distinguished Academic Plaque - Teams must have a minimum of a 3.5 GPA. and rank in the upper 10% of their classification.
 3. State Slow-Pitch Softball Academic Champion Trophy - The team with the highest qualifying GPA will be declared the state academic champion for their respective class.
- C. Awards presentations will be as follows:
 1. Certificates and plaques will be mailed to the winning schools following the state championship tournament.
 2. The state championship trophy for each class will be presented to the winning teams at the girls slow-pitch state championship tournament.
- D. It is your responsibility to complete the academic achievement application and return it to the OSSAA postmarked no later than April 23, 2019 or faxed no later than April 24 (**form found on the Slow-Pitch Softball link at www.ossaa.com**).
- E. Schools may submit an academic application for **both** fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball.

XXVIII. COACHES' ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

- A. Exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership.
- B. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athlete.
- C. Abide by the rules of the game in letter and in spirit, regardless of the consequences.
- D. Respect the integrity and judgment of sports officials, never baiting or taunting officials in any way, or seeking out an official during half-time or at the conclusion of a contest.
- E. Demonstrate a mastery of and continuing interest in, coaching principles and techniques through professional improvement.
- F. Encourage and respect all athletes and their values.
- G. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- H. Promote ethical relations among coaches.
- I. Fulfill responsibilities to provide emergency health procedures and ensure an environment free of obvious safety hazards.
- J. Encourage the highest standards of conduct and scholastic achievement among all athletes.
- K. Seek to inculcate good health habits, including the establishment of sound training rules.
- L. Strive to develop in each athlete the qualities of leadership, initiative and good judgment.
- M. Achieve a thorough understanding and acceptance of the rules of the game and the standards of eligibility.

EFFECTIVE SUMMER 2019**SUMMERTIME DEAD PERIOD**

The dead period will occur during the week in July that includes the 4th of July each year. The dead period will be nine (9) days in length and begin the weekend preceding or including the 4th of July and the weekend following the 4th of July.

School athletic facilities may not be used by enrolled or pre-enrolled students during the dead period in connection with any athletic activity governed by the OSSAA. Contact between coaches, assistant coaches and sponsors in any athletic activity governed by the OSSAA for the purpose of coaching, training, or instructing and any secondary-level students is prohibited by this Policy.

Summertime policies, including beginning and end of season restrictions, can be found in OSSAA Board Policy XI in the Administrator's Handbook.

Violations of the summertime dead period policy will result in the coach or sponsor being suspended from the first half of the regular season in that athletic activity. School personnel not designated as a coach or sponsor in violation of the summertime dead period policy will result in the head coach being suspended from the first half of the regular season in that activity.

XXIX. HISTORY OF SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

	<u>6A</u>	<u>5A</u>	<u>4A</u>	<u>3A</u>	<u>2A</u>	<u>A</u>
2018						
2017						
2016	Southmoore	Chandler	Dale	Wister	Davenport	Red Oak
2015	Broken Arrow	Valliant	Washington	Tushka	Davenport	Arnett
2014	Southmoore	Bethel	Washington	Hinton	Rock Creek	Shattuck
2013	Union	Cache	Tushka	Rattan	Barnsdall	Leedey
2012	Westmoore	Sequoyah (T)	Dale	Rattan	Ft. Cobb- Broxton	Red Oak
2011	Jenks	Purcell	Washington	Rattan	Binger-Oney	Leedey
2010	Union	Bethel	Konawa	Dewar	Sentinel	Moss
2009	Muskogee	Bethel	Washington	Wilson	Ft. Cobb- Broxton	Moss
2008	Moore	Lexington	Okemah	Preston	Davenport	Leedey
2007	Westmoore	Prague	Pocola	Cameron	Keota	Leedey
2006	Tahlequah	Blanchard	Washington	Rock Creek	Davenport	Tupelo
2005	Moore	Bethel	Washington	Wayne	Davenport	Moss
2004	Tahlequah	Valliant	Washington	Rock Creek	Davenport	Geronimo
2003	Westmoore	Bethel	Konawa	Wilson	Davenport	Leedey
2002	Westmoore	Bethel	Washington	Cameron	Davenport	Leedey
2001	Westmoore	Bethel	Washington	Clayton	Davenport	Leedey
2000	Muskogee	Lindsay	Washington	Wayne	Davenport	Braggs
1999	Ft. Gibson	Lindsay	Washington	Preston	Cheyenne	Bokoshe
1998	Muskogee	Hilldale	Hennessey	Davenport	Ft. Cobb- Broxton	Taloga
1997		Westmoore	Seminole	Heritage Hall	Ft. Cobb- Broxton	Moss
1996		Westmoore	Seminole	Cameron	Davenport	Taloga
1995		Westmoore	Seminole	Washington	Leedey	
1994		Moore	Pocola	Davenport	Moss	
1993		Moore	Preston	Taloga		
1992		Westmoore	Wilson	Red Oak		
1991		Westmoore	Wister	Moss		
1990		Moore	Wilson	Taloga		
1989		Muldrow	Haskell	Taloga		
1988		Bethel	Little Axe	Braggs		

ONE CLASS

1987	Moore
1986	Moore
1985	Moore
1984	Moore
1983	Muskogee