



2023-24 NJSIAA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times, and locations for all NJSIAA State tournaments. Member schools will not be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Tournaments if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, or Procedures. Any student-athlete who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for this tournament (Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. 5).

Schools entering the tournament will not be granted a change of date/time due to any conflicts with school trips, proms, banquets, SATs, unless agreed upon by both schools. The NJSIAA will make every effort to accommodate schools that have a conflict with their graduation.

Schools that are disqualified from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded but prior to the bracket being final, then the bracket will be reseeded and the next ranked school who entered the tournament will be included. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition after the tournament has been seeded and after the bracket is final, then the bracket will not be reseeded, and no additional school will be included. If a school is disqualified from state tournament competition during the state tournament, then the school will be removed from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place.

Schools participating in any NJSIAA tournament are responsible for the actions and behaviors of their spectators. Schools are required to provide adequate staff security to ensure there is proper oversight of their spectators. In addition, schools are financially responsible for any damages to the property or premises caused by their student-athletes, staff, or spectators (spectators include, but are not limited to, cheerleaders, marching band participants, students, and other fans).

NJSIAA requires Certified Athletic Trainers at all its tournament events. The ATC must document all injuries on an injury report form. This form must be available to the NJSIAA upon request.

Member schools not willing or able to comply with these tournament regulations and any relevant procedures found in the Operating Procedures Handbook should not enter the tournament. Member schools are encouraged to review these tournament regulations with the school administration. Coaches must have a copy of these regulations as well as a copy of the Rule Modifications (if any) for this tournament available at all contests. Copies of these documents are available on the NJSIAA website.

New for This Year's State Tournament

1. Softball will be using the same game ending procedure as baseball, which means a game can end in a tie because of darkness or weather conditions.
2. The PowerPoint system is set up for possible ties for softball.
3. Safety base (double first base) is permitted at all levels.
4. For the state finals, the team with the higher PowerPoints will be the home team and use the first base dugout.

NJSIAA Softball Tournament Staff

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Softball Important Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Dates</u>	
Pitchers & Catchers:	March 11, 2024	
First Practice:	March 14, 2024	
First Scrimmage:	March 21, 2024	
Opening Day:	April 1, 2024	
Entry Form Opens:	May 1, 2024	
Entry Form Closes:	May 12, 2024	
Conflict of Interest Form:	May 12, 2024	
Cutoff:	May 18, 2024	
PowerPoints Close (12:00pm):	May 19, 2024	
Seeding:	May 20, 2024	
Regular Season Competition Ends:	June 9, 2024	
Post-Season Committee Meeting:	June 20, 2024	
<u>Public Tournament</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
Round 1:	May 22, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 2:	May 28, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 3:	May 30, 2024	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	June 1, 2024	Higher Seed
State Semifinals:	June 4, 2024	North I & Central
State Finals:	June 7, 2024	Ivy Hill Park
<u>Non-Public Tournament</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>
Round 1:	May 23, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 2:	May 29, 2024	Higher Seed
Round 3:	May 31, 2024	Higher Seed
Sectional Finals:	June 3, 2024	Higher Seed
State Finals:	June 6, 2024	Kean University

State Finals Schedule

Non-Public B	June 6, 2024	4:00pm	Kean University
Non-Public A	June 6, 2024	6:00pm	Kean University
Group 3	June 7, 2024	1:00pm	Ivy Hill Park
Group 4	June 7, 2024	3:00pm	Ivy Hill Park
Group 1	June 7, 2024	5:00pm	Ivy Hill Park
Group 2	June 7, 2024	7:00pm	Ivy Hill Park

For the state finals, the team with the higher PowerPoints will be the home team and use the first base dugout.

To Qualify for the Tournament

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis and sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
2. The NJSIAA power point system will be used to qualify all teams for the tournament. Only NJSIAA full or federated member school games will count toward PowerPoints.
3. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the PowerPoint calculation even if they were started before the cutoff date.
4. The top 16 teams from each section and each group will qualify for this tournament using the PowerPoint system.
5. PowerPoint calculation for Softball will be using the **16 best** power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
6. Residual points earned from opponents will be calculated using the opponent's **first 16** games played.
7. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.
8. Teams that play less than 16 games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff.
9. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
10. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.

Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online during the time period listed above.
2. The Officials Conflict of Interest form must be completed by the date listed above.
3. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in njschoolsports.com by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program.
4. All varsity scores must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com as soon as possible after each contest. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com.
5. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the njschoolsports.com website on the date listed above at noon. The seeding committee will use this information to seed the tournament. Coaches are reminded that all team information must be totally up to date and checked for accuracy.

Entry Fee

- \$90.00 Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Softball Tournament).
- Forward all entry fees to the NJSIAA, 1161 Route 130 North, Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be seeded using the NJSIAA power point system.
2. Teams will be seeded based on their power point totals.
3. If there is a tie in power points for seeding, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure.
4. **The media may post brackets following the completion of the seeding meeting, however, seedings and brackets do not become official until 12:00pm on the day after seeding.**

Tournament Rules & Information

1. All current NFHS softball rules along with any NJSIAA softball rule modifications will govern all tournament games.
2. All game times for all rounds up to and including the state semifinals will be designated by the higher seeded (home) team. The recommended start time for school days is 4:00pm. For non-school days, times will be established by the home team.
3. All game times are pending the official's availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently through all rounds of the tournament regarding start times and field locations.
4. The NJSIAA may need to determine the start times if there is any disagreement between schools.
5. Game times for all state group championship games will be established by the NJSIAA.

6. Rounds one (1), two (2) and three (3) games may be played earlier than the dates indicated if both schools agree. If schools cannot agree, the game must be played on the play by date. Regular season/tournament games scheduled for these dates must be rescheduled.
7. The public & non-public sectional finals, and the public semifinals are "play on" dates. Host schools must get approval from the NJSIAA to play these games on a different day.
8. If any circumstance causes postponement, the game must be played on the next day. If the home team cannot get their field ready the next day, the home team has to either find a neutral site or move to the opponent's field if playable. If the next day is a Sunday, the game may be played if both schools are permitted to play on Sundays, otherwise, the game must be played on Monday. Non-NJSIAA regular season or tournament games must be moved.
9. After a second consecutive postponement of a game because of field conditions, and the home team cannot get their field ready, the NJSIAA director of softball may designate an alternate site as the home field for the higher-seeded team which may include the opponent's field of the lower-seeded team.
10. Responsibility for postponing a game shall rest with the host school. It is recommended that the host school should notify their opponent before the departure of the visiting school's buses if possible.
11. The NJSIAA assignors must be notified of any postponement in a timely fashion.
12. A maximum of twenty-five (25) uniform players, four (4) uniformed coaches, three (3) support personnel, and a trainer will be permitted in the Dugout. Dugouts may be extended away from home plate if needed.
13. After twenty-five (25) uniform players, to be identified and designated on the line-up card, are presented to the umpire at the beginning of the game, no additions to the card will be permitted.
14. The winning school must notify njschoolsports.com immediately after each game, which must include the pitch count information.
15. Fields should be lined in accordance with the National Federation Rules.
16. Sites will not be declared unsuitable merely because recommended minimum fence distances are not available, or field conditions are less than perfect unless Leagues or Conferences have ruled such sites unsuitable for League or Conference play. However, NJSIAA staff reserves the right to move a game to another site if the field conditions are not considered to be suitable for competition.
17. The host school must provide an adequate amount of crowd control/security as needed based on the host school's facility.
18. The visiting school must provide at least one (1) staff member, not associated with the coaching staff, to be present at each tournament game to maintain control of visiting spectators.
19. Any member school withdrawing from competition after having officially entered the tournament may be fined or barred from participating in NJSIAA tournament the next school year unless truly extraordinary circumstances were present.
20. Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of said game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said SCHOOL will be disqualified from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place. Schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter tournament competition.
21. Only Optic Yellow softballs meeting NFHS & NOCSAE specifications may be used in the tournament. The home team will provide the game balls. At the State Finals, all game balls will be provided by the NJSIAA. The Wilson A9011 Optic Yellow softballs will be the official ball for the State Finals.

Extra Innings Procedure

1. This procedure applies to all state tournament games that are tied after seven (7) complete innings and any ensuing completed innings.
2. Starting with the top of the 10th inning, the offensive team shall begin its turn at-bat with a runner on second base.
3. The player who is scheduled to bat ninth (last) in that respective half inning will be placed at second base.
 - Example - If the number 5 batter is to lead off, the number 4 batter in the batting order would be placed on second base.
4. A substitute may be inserted for the runner.

Host School Assignment of Officials Procedure

1. Schools hosting the first three (3) rounds of the tournament are responsible for getting the officials using their local assignor.
2. The local assignor must be contacted ASAP as to the time and location of the game.
3. Schools are to treat these rounds like a regular-season game regarding the assignment of officials.
4. School/Coaches will not be permitted to request specific officials.
5. Any preferred or not preferred lists used during the regular season will not be used during the state tournament.
6. Only the conflict-of-interest form will be used to assign all tournament games. Assignors will be notified of this procedure.
7. Host schools for the first three (3) rounds must notify their assignors within a timely fashion prior to any change of game time and or site location.
8. If a game is postponed after teams and umpires have arrived and before the game has started, the umpires will receive a full game fee. Once a game begins and then is suspended, the umpires will receive a full game fee. Each umpire assigned to complete a suspended game will receive a full game fee.
9. If your local assignor will not be assigning the tournament games, please contact the regional or state assignor ASAP.

Officials Assignments

Rounds 1, 2 & 3

- 2 umpires assigned by the host school's local assignor.
- Higher seeded schools will pay both umpires at the area agreed-upon rate.

Sectional Finals

- NJSIAA state assignors will assign 3 umpires for this round.
- NJSIAA will pay for all 3 umpires.

State Semis-Finals (Public Only)

- NJSIAA state assignors will assign 3 umpires for this round.
- NJSIAA will pay for all 3 umpires.

State Finals

- NJSIAA state assignors will assign 3 umpires for this round.
- NJSIAA will pay for all 3 umpires.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to each Sectional Championship in each Group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to the State Champion in each Group.