



Oregon School Activities Association

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2026 BASEBALL PLAN BOOK

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SEASON DATES

(3A-1A) Rule of Eight – Pitchers / Catchers (Executive Board Policies, Practice Limitation Rule, Q&A #36-40)	February 16
First Practice Date	March 2
First Contest / Jamboree Date	March 16
Cutoff – Contests vs. Teams More than one Classification Away (Executive Board Policies, State Championships – Rankings)	April 8
Cutoff – Contests Added After a Certain Date (Executive Board Policies, State Championships – Rankings)	April 15
6A, 3A, 2A/1A Freeze Date	10pm, May 21
6A, 3A, 2A/1A Cutoff Date	May 21
5A, 4A Freeze Date	10pm, May 23
5A, 4A Cutoff Date	May 23
6A, 3A, 2A/1A First Round	May 25
5A, 4A First Round	May 26
6A, 3A, 2A/1A Second Round	May 27
All Quarterfinals	May 29
All Semifinals	June 2
All State Championships	June 6

Reporting Schedules and Scores – Find Account Instructions on our Help Page at <http://www.osaa.org/help>

2026 NFHS BASEBALL RULES

Order a NFHS Baseball Rules Book from the [OSAA Corner Store](#) or contact the OSAA (503.682.6722) for information.

For more information about NFHS Baseball Rules, visit <http://www.nfhs.org/activities-sports/baseball/>.

2026 NFHS RULES CHANGES

1-2-9, 2-5-1h, 2-16-1h, 8-2-1, 8-2-2(a)1-7, 8-2-7, 8-4-1g(1) – Modified that the double first base will be mandatory effective January 1, 2027 and associated rule changes.

1-4-4 – Clarified what is allowed on a school's official baseball uniform.

1-6-3 – Clarified what is not allowed to be worn by a player to record or transmit audio or video feeds.

2-10-3 – Clarified the definition of a player-to-player defensive meeting.

3-4-6 – Clarified the difference from a player-to-player meeting and a charged conference.

2026 NFHS POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Discipline

- Any unsportsmanlike conduct, arguing or disrespect directed toward umpires will result in disciplinary action, which may include warnings, restriction to the bench or ejection from the game (3-3-1 to 3-3-4 and 10-2-3).
- These penalties are not punitive in nature – they are protective of the values that define high school sports: respect, integrity and personal responsibility.
- Respect for officials is a reflection of the maturity, leadership and character we hope to instill in all participants through educational athletics.

Sportsmanship (Bench Jockeying & Props)

- Bench jockeying can be considered as negative verbal comments, taunting or attempts to distract, intimidate or embarrass opponents or officials from the dugout – violates the standards of conduct expected in interscholastic competition.
- By rule, bench jockeying is prohibited and will result in warnings, restrictions or ejections as deemed appropriate by the umpire.
- Enforcement of this rule is not about silencing enthusiasm – it is about upholding the spirit of fair play and modeling appropriate conduct for students, schools and communities.
- There is no logical purpose to have props at an education-based athletic event.
- The dugout should be a place of encouragement and unity, not derision and distraction.
- Let the game be decided by skill, preparation and respect – not by unnecessary noise and antics.

Proper Pitching Positions

- Pitchers are required to use one of two positions: the wind-up or the set.
- It is important that umpires, coaches and players know what position the pitcher is using so they know which part of Rule 6 is in play.
- The position of the pivot foot determines which of the pitching positions is being used.
- In the wind-up position, the pitcher's pivot foot is in contact with the pitcher's plate and is not parallel to it.
- In the set position, the pivot foot is in contact with or directly in front of and parallel to the pitcher's plate.

Running Lane Awareness

- Enforcing the running lane rule (8-4-1g) is vital for player safety, fairness and the educational goals of high school baseball.
- The batter-runner must use the designated lane in foul territory during a play at first base.

1. Safety – The lane prevents collisions and protects both the runner and the fielder.

2. Fair Play – Staying in the lane avoids unfair interference with defensive plays.

3. Consistency – Regular enforcement promotes accountability and discourages rule violations.

4. Education – Teaching proper lane use reinforces respect for the rules of the game.

- Violations result in interference, with the batter-runner out and runners returned to their previous base.

2026 NFHS RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Requests for rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the OSAA. The NFHS will assist in answering rules questions from the state associations whenever called upon.

OSAA ADOPTED BASEBALL RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

The 2026 NFHS Baseball Rules Book will be used with the following clarifications:

- 1. OSAA BASEBALL RULES BOOK OPTIONS:** Athletic directors and baseball coaches are reminded that Oregon treats the various options provided in the 2026 NFHS Baseball Rules Book as follows:

1-2-9	Schools may use the double first base during the 2026 season.
1-4-4	To allow for special occasions, commemorative or memorial patches, that will be uniformly placed, not to exceed four square inches, to be worn on jerseys in an appropriate and dignified manner without compromising the integrity of the uniform. Schools must have OSAA approval.
2-33-1	Optional speed-up rules. (See below.)
4-2-2	<u>Score Differential Procedures</u> (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Summer 2020)
4-2-4	Contests shall be continued from the point of interruption per OSAA Executive Board Policy – <u>Interrupted Contests</u> . However, an athletic district may adopt a rule that the game will not be continued.
4-3	No ties permitted.
4-4-1a	State associations are authorized to specify the time frame and/or circumstances before a forfeit shall be declared for a late arrival by one of the teams.

4-5	Protests based on application of playing rules or on judgment of game officials will not be heard.
10-1-9	Umpires shall wear gray slacks, and navy-blue pullover shirt or state association-adopted shirt.

NOTE: Umpires are expected to enforce the rules as printed with the above options.

2. OPTIONAL SPEED-UP RULES *(may be adopted by an athletic district (league) but will be in effect for state playoffs and state championship games.):*

A. Courtesy Runners

- 1) At any time, the team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher. When a player enters as a courtesy runner, it counts as an inning played for that individual.
- 2) The same individual runner may not be used for both positions (pitcher and catcher) during the game.
- 3) Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
- 4) Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
- 5) A player may not run as a courtesy runner for the pitcher or the catcher and then be used as a substitute for another player in that half inning. If an injury, illness or ejection occurs and no other runners are available, the courtesy runner may be used as a substitute.
- 6) The umpire-in-chief shall record courtesy runner participation and also announce it to the scorer.
- 7) A player who violates the courtesy runner rule is considered to be an illegal substitute. Should an injury, illness or ejection occur to the courtesy runner, another courtesy runner for the pitcher or catcher may run.

B. After Putouts

- 1) After a putout in the outfield and with no runners on base, the ball shall be thrown to a cutoff man and, if desired, to one additional infielder before being returned to the pitcher for delivery to the next batter.
- 2) After a putout in the infield and with no runners on base, the ball shall be returned directly to the pitcher.
- 3) Following the final out in any inning, the ball shall be given to the nearest umpire. The plate umpire shall give the ball to the catcher. The base umpire shall place the ball on the pitcher's plate.

3. PACE OF PLAY: There is continued concern with the length of contests, especially at the sub-varsity level, the state is declining in the number of participants and umpires. The OACA Baseball Coaches committee and the OAOA Baseball umpires committee have agreed to help with this decline, at the sub-varsity level there will be no new inning after 2 hours and 15 minutes. The umpires will be working this year to enforce the 20 seconds between pitches and the 60 seconds between innings. If there is a defensive violation of the 20 second for the pitch or 60 second between innings, a ball will be awarded to the batter. After a putout, the defensive team return the ball to the pitcher without delay and limited time for congregating with the pitcher around the mound. The batter should leave one foot in the box (unless there is a play at the plate or the pitched ball enters the batter's box area), and they should be ready and looking at the pitcher within the 10 seconds rule, if there is an offensive violation and the batter is not ready, a strike shall be called on the batter.

4. GAME BALLS: Schools are reminded that per NFHS Baseball Rules, the NFHS Authenticating Mark is required on all baseballs used for high school competition. This includes all levels of play (Varsity, JV, JV2, Frosh). For the regular season, any brand of baseball is legal provided it has the NFHS Authenticating Mark. At no time are baseballs required to have an OSAA stamp. During the OSAA state playoffs, teams are required to use the Wilson A1010-Pro. Also, remember that a minimum of three legal baseballs are required to start a game. Given our typical spring weather, it's a good idea to have more than that available.

5. VERBAL VERIFICATION FROM COACHES: The umpire-in-chief shall receive verbal verification from both head coaches that all participants are properly uniformed and equipped with bats that are unaltered from the original manufacturer's design and production and helmets that meet NFHS and NOCSAE standards are free of cracks or damage. There have been past reports of coaches responding with "I hope so" or "As far as I know." An answer along these lines is unacceptable. The appropriate answer is "Yes."

6. MULTIPLE BATTERS WARMING UP DURING DEAD BALL TIME: The batter and one on-deck batter are the only players that should be in live ball territory warming up during infield warm-ups, the pre-game plate meeting, just prior to the first pitch of the game, in between innings or during a stoppage of play, including during a pitching change. This is first and foremost a safety issue as we've all seen incidents occur with overthrows, wild pitches, etc. Any other players wanting to warm up need to be in a dead ball area protected from live ball play (i.e., behind the dugout or batting cages, etc.).

7. **APPROPRIATE EQUIPMENT FOR SHAGGERS/PROTECTORS/WARM-UP CATCHERS:** In order to continue low incident rates, we must be ever vigilant to identify potential risk areas and address them immediately. One area of concern is the “shagger” or “protector” — the non-player who is allowed on the field to keep foul balls from striking players warming up in the bullpens. Remember that in Oregon, that person is required to have a glove and wear a legal batting helmet that meets the NOCSAE standard. It’s also important that the shagger/protector be facing the plate and paying attention to the action taking place. A second area of concern is protective gear worn by non-adult catchers warming up pitchers. These players should be wearing a hockey-style mask and a protective cup when squatting to warm up a pitcher while the regular catcher is putting on gear. This same protective gear should also be worn by non-adult catchers warming up pitchers in the bullpen.

OSAA BASEBALL POLICIES

Effective outside Association Year.

1. **SUMMER POLICY**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “SUMMER POLICY” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2017.

Effective during Association Year, outside the designated OSAA sport season.

2. **PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A, 5A, 4A)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (6A, 5A, 4A)” in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2025.

3. **PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (3A, 2A, 1A)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PRACTICE LIMITATION RULE (3A, 2A, 1A)” in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2022.

Effective First Practice Date through End of HS Season.

1. **PRACTICE MODEL**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PRACTICE MODEL” in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2021.

2. **PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2023.

3. **OFFICIALS – CERTIFIED REQUIREMENT**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “OFFICIALS – CERTIFIED REQUIREMENTS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2023.

4. **INTERRUPTED CONTESTS**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “INTERRUPTED CONTESTS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2015.

5. **SCORE DIFFERENTIAL PROCEDURES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “SCORE DIFFERENTIAL PROCEDURES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2020.

6. **ENDOWMENT GAMES**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ENDOWMENT GAMES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised September 2022.

(Endowment Game Application)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

1. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTING TIMELINES:**

- A. **Athletic Directors, Coaches and Spectators:** Detailed information regarding the Baseball State Championships will be posted on the OSAA website (<http://www.osaa.org/activities/bbl>) by May 15. It is essential that participating teams and individuals access this information prior to the state championships. Included will be information regarding ticket prices, parking, maps, how to submit souvenir program information, souvenir merchandise, etc.
- B. **Event Management Information:** Schools that host state championship games must download Event Management Information from the OSAA website (<http://www.osaa.org/activities/bbl>). Included will be information regarding expenses, admission policies, game management and ticket report, ticket booth signs, PA script, etc.

2. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATIONS AND TIMES:**

- A. **First Round – Semifinals:** Refer to brackets for locations and home team designation.

B. **Finals:** All classification finals will be held on Saturday, June 6. OSAA will determine times for all finals.

C. **Sites:** TBD.

3. **PLAYOFF QUALIFICATIONS:**

A. **6A:** 32-team OSAA bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** Twenty-one teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 32-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Thursday, May 21**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

PIL – 3; Metro – 3; Pacific – 3; Mt. Hood – 3; Three Rivers – 3; Central Valley – 3; Southwest – 3

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze **at the conclusion of all contests** on **Thursday, May 21**.

- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers:** Eleven additional teams qualify for the OSAA's 32-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the eleven highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.

- 4) **Rankings:** Once the 32 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

B. **5A:** 16-team OSAA bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** Fourteen teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Saturday, May 23**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Northwest Oregon – 4; Midwestern – 3; Mid-Willamette – 4; Intermountain – 3

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at 10pm on **Saturday, May 23**.

- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – Two additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the two highest ranked teams not already an automatic league qualifier will qualify as At-Large teams.

- 4) **Rankings:** Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

C. **4A:** 16-team OSAA bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Twelve teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Saturday, May 23**. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Cowapa – 2; Tri-Valley – 2; Oregon West – 2; Sky Em – 2; Skyline – 2; Greater Oregon – 2

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on **Saturday, May 23**.

- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers** – **Four additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 16-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the four highest ranked third place teams from the leagues will qualify as At-Large teams.**

- 4) **Rankings:** Once the 16 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

D. **3A** – 20-Team OSAA Bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers** – Fifteen teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 20-team bracket based on regular season and/or district tournament play on or before **Thursday, May 21**. Each Special District determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Mountain Valley – 2; Far West – 2; Southern Oregon Conference -- 2 Special District 1 – 3;
Special District 2 – 3; Special District 3 – 3

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at **the conclusion of all contests** on **Thursday, May 21**.

- 3) **At-Large Qualifier** – Five additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 20-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the next five highest ranked teams not already an automatic qualifier from any league/special district will qualify as one of the At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings:** Once the 20 qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

D. **2A/1A:** 22-team OSAA bracket

- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** **TBD** teams automatically qualify for the OSAA's 22-team bracket based on regular season and/or Special District tournament play on or before **Thursday, May 21**. Each special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.

Special District 1 – **TBD**; Special District 2 – **TBD**; Special District 3 – **TBD**; Special District 4 – **TBD**; Special District 5 – **TBD**; Special District 6 – **TBD**; Special District 7 – **TBD**

(Determined at OSAA Executive Board meeting 02/02/26)

- 2) **Rankings Freeze Date:** The rankings will freeze at the conclusion of all contests on **Thursday, May 21**.
- 3) **At-Large Qualifiers:** **TBD** additional teams will qualify for the OSAA's 22-team bracket based on the OSAA rankings. Once the rankings are frozen, the next four highest ranked teams not already an automatic Special District qualifier from any Special District will qualify as the At-Large teams.
- 4) **Rankings:** Once the **TBD** qualifying teams are determined, they will be placed on the OSAA bracket according to OSAA Executive Board Policy "[State Championships – Rankings.](#)"

4. **[STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS - HOME TEAM DESIGNATION](#)** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2018)

During all rounds of each OSAA State Championship bracket, the team with the better Adjusted Playoff Ranking (APR) shall be the designated home team.

5. **[STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – TEAM SIZE](#)** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Revised Fall 2024)

- A. The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for team sport State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE:** Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.
- B. **Penalties for excessive team size:** Suiting up, warming up, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
 - 1) **Baseball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent rounds. Maximum in uniform: 6A - 20; All other classifications – 18.

6. **[STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – RANKINGS](#)**

See OSAA Executive Board Policy "STATE CHAMPIONSHIP -- RANKINGS" in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2025.

7. **[STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ADOPTED BALL](#)** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Fall 2010)

The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.

A. **State Championship Contests at Home Sites.**

- 1) **Team sports (other than football).**
 - a) **Procedure.** Officials shall confirm that the game balls provided by the home team are the officially adopted balls (**Wilson A1010-Pro or Wilson A1010HS1**). If the home team does not have the officially adopted ball, officials shall inquire if the visiting team has the officially adopted ball, and use them if they are available. If neither team has the officially adopted ball, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the violation by the host school to the OSAA.
 - b) **Penalty.** If no officially adopted balls are available for use at an OSAA state championship contest, the host school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

- B. **State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls (**Wilson A1010-Pro**) shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests.

OSAA GENERAL POLICIES

RULES

Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control

See RULES - Athletic, Cheerleading and Dance/Drill “Rule 3-Contests-Sportsmanship-Crowd Control” in the OSAA Handbook.

Rule 7 – Out-of-Season and Non-School Activities

See RULES - Athletic, Cheerleading and Dance/Drill “Rule 7-Out of Season and Non-School Activities” in the OSAA Handbook.

EXECUTIVE BOARD POLICIES

1. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS / AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS/AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2020.

2. AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised February 2024.

3. ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION / EXHIBITION

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION/EXHIBITION” in the OSAA Handbook, revised August 2012.

4. CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CERTIFICATION-ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2024.

5. CHARITABLE CAUSES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CHARITABLE CAUSES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2012.

6. CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2020.

[\(Medical Release – Return to Participation Following a Concussion\)](#) [\(Medical Release – Return to Learn Following a Concussion\)](#)

7. EJECTION POLICIES – EJECTED PLAYER OR COACH

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “EJECTION POLICIES – EJECTED PLAYER OR COACH” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2025.

[\(Ejection Report\)](#)

8. EJECTION POLICIES – FINES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “EJECTION POLICIES -- FINES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2024.

9. EJECTION POLICIES – MULTIPLE EJECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “EJECTION POLICIES – MULTIPLE EJECTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2012.

10. HAIR DEVICE / ADORNMENT

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “HAIR DEVICE/ADORNMENT” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2022.

11. HEAT INDEX

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “HEAT INDEX” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2014.

[\(Heat Index Calculator\)](#) [\(Heat Index Record\)](#)

12. LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2018.

[NFHS Position Statements & Guidelines](#)

13. MORATORIUM WEEK

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “MORATORIUM WEEK” in the OSAA Handbook, revised May 2014.

14. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY” in the OSAA Handbook, revised July 2019.

[\(Complaint Form\)](#)

15. [OFFICIALS – HOST SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “OFFICIALS – HOST SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Winter 2014.

16. [REPORTING SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND RESULTS](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “REPORTING SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND RESULTS” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Summer 2024.

17. [SHARED FACILITIES](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “SHARED FACILITIES” in the OSAA Handbook, revised Fall 2015.

[\(Shared Facility Request\)](#)

18. [WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION](#)

See OSAA Executive Board Policy “WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION” in the OSAA Handbook.