

# NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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The 2009 Nebraska School Activities Association Baseball Manual is prepared for school administrators and coaches. All coaches and athletic directors are urged to study this document. Every eligibility rule is not covered in this Manual. The schools are responsible for knowing rules about domicile, scholastic eligibility, age, etc., which are covered in the NSAA Yearbook. Jim Angele is the NSAA staff member who coordinates baseball.

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## AUTHORITY

Baseball exists as an activity via authority of paragraph 3.11.2.1 in the Nebraska School Activities Association Athletic Bylaws, which states:

*Baseball shall be conducted during the spring sports season. The season shall begin with the first day of practice as permitted by NSAA rules and shall end with the state tournament.*

## NSAA INTERNET INFORMATION

The Nebraska School Activities Association maintains a home page on the Internet at the following address: <http://www.nsaahome.org>.

There are several sections within this home page, including a sub-page for each of the NSAA's sponsored activities. The internet offers another means of communication among the state office, the member schools, coaches, and patrons. The NSAA office and its staff members all can be reached via the internet at this e-mail address: [nsaa@nsaahome.org](mailto:nsaa@nsaahome.org).

You are encouraged to check the NSAA home page where your activity is involved. Here are some of the topics for baseball:

District Assignments	District Pairings/Results	
State Tournament Brackets	State Tournament Results	Wild Card Standings
Past State Champions	State Tournament History	

## IMPORTANT DATES

The season starts the first day of practice. The first date for a practice is Monday of Week 35 of the Standardized Calendar. The first date for interscholastic contests is Thursday of Week 37 of the Standardized Calendar. Districts will be conducted on Friday and Saturday of Week 44 and Monday and Tuesday of Week 45. The season ends with the state tournament, which is scheduled to begin the Saturday of Week 45.

<b>Year</b>	<b>First Practice Date</b>	<b>First Contest Date</b>	<b>District Dates</b>	<b>State Tournament Dates</b>
2008-09	March 2	March 19	May 8-9-11-12	May 16-18-19-20-21
2009-10	March 1	March 18	May 7-8-10-11	May 15-17-18-19-20
2010-11	Feb. 28	March 17	May 6-7-9-10	May 14-16-17-18-19
2011-12	Feb. 27	March 15	May 4-5-7-8	May 12-14-15-16-17
2012-13	Feb. 25	March 14	May 3-4-6-7	May 11-13-14-15-16

## NSAA RULES MEETING

The NSAA presents rules meetings across the state in order to inform and educate coaches and officials about NFHS playing rules and rules changes, NSAA guidelines and approved rulings, and to discuss health and safety issues related to activities participation. Head coaches are required to attend one of the NSAA-sponsored baseball rules meetings. Failure to attend will result in sanctions against the coach and/or the school.

## **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 2.12.2.2**

*All head coaches are required to attend an NSAA Rules Meeting annually before the season begins. Failure to do so will result in possible suspension penalties. From time to time, there may be extreme situations that require a head coach to miss a required NSAA Rules Meeting. Head coaches should contact the NSAA in advance of the rules meetings to seek possible approval to be excused from such attendance.*

*Absence from the required rules meeting will result in the following sanctions:*

### **First Offense in Three-Year Period**

*The head coach will be suspended from coaching in any competition in that sport until*

- (1) the head coach attends a make-up rules meeting, if available; or*
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials of that sport (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.*

*During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.*

### **Second and Subsequent Offenses in Three-Year Period**

*The head coach will be suspended from coaching in all NSAA end-of-season play (subdistricts, districts, playoffs, and state competition).*

*The head coach will be suspended from coaching in regular season competition in that sport until*

- (1) the head coach attends a make-up rules meeting, if available; or*
- (2) the head coach successfully completes the open book test for officials of that sport (70% or higher); and the school's administration verifies that the coach has read all the supporting NSAA, National Federation, and safety information.*

*During this regular season suspension period, the head coach may continue to coach the team at practices.*

## **FEDERATION RULES**

All contests shall be conducted under the official baseball rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), or those approved by that organization with modifications approved by the Nebraska School Activities Association. Each school is provided one NFHS Baseball Rules Book.

The National Federation Rules Book contains several references to rules, which may be altered "by state association adoption." The NSAA Board of Control, which makes such adoptions for the Association, has approved the 10-run rule, suspended game policy, and speed-up rules for courtesy runners. These rules are in effect for all games, regular season and district play.

## **STEROID POLICY**

*The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), strongly oppose the abuse of anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances by high school student-athletes. Such use violates legal, ethical and competitive equity standards, and imposes unreasonable long-term health risks. The NSAA and the NFHS support prohibitions by educational institutions, amateur and professional organizations, and governmental regulators on the use of anabolic steroids and other controlled substances, except as specifically prescribed by physicians for therapeutic purposes.*

## UNIFORM POLICY

Participants must keep their uniforms on while in the competition area. Coaches who are in the live-ball area to perform coaching duties must wear uniform pants, with a school-issued jersey, sweatshirt, jacket, pull over, etc. The coach's top must be in school colors.

## UMPIRES

Schools make their own arrangements for hiring umpires for interscholastic competition. The Nebraska School Activities Association has registration requirements concerning baseball umpires. The NSAA will provide a list of registered umpires to each high school and local assignor to ensure only registered officials are used for varsity competition.

## SUPERVISION

The superintendent, principal or an authorized representative of the faculty shall accompany and supervise the team for its competition. This bylaw pertains to all competition during the season, as well as throughout the entire district/state tournament series.

## PARTICIPATION

Any student who participates on any baseball team other than a team representing his/her school during the baseball season becomes ineligible to represent the school in baseball during the remainder of that school year. The baseball season starts with the first day of practice, March 2, 2009.

- A student of either sex may participate in baseball.
- Students on high school baseball teams cannot physically participate in baseball clinics from March 2 through the end of the baseball season.
- A team's competition can come only from teams sponsored by another high school.
- There is no NSAA season/per day limit on games for teams or individuals, except that pitchers are under a 12-inning pitching limitation in a three-day period.
- In order to participate in a district or state contest in baseball, a student is required to have been a member of a school's team for at least 20 school days prior to the first day of the district or state competition and meet the requirements under NSAA Bylaws 3.3.7 and 3.5.1

## PLAYING RULES

**Suspended Game Policy.** A game called for any reason where a winner cannot be determined, or any game called at anytime for mechanical failure (i.e. artificial light, water systems, etc.) may be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. Both schools involved in the game must agree to the suspension. Any game tied but not completed will be treated as a no-game, from a team won-lost standpoint.

**Last Date for Playing Regular Season Games.** All scheduled and postponed regular season varsity contests must be played prior to the start of district competition. Once district competition begins, no regular season varsity contests shall be permitted.

**Protests.** Only protests based upon eligibility of players will be honored by the NSAA. Protests based upon play situations and those that involve judgment on the part of umpires will not be accepted. Schools mutually agree in advance on the umpires to be used. After the contest has begun, the decisions of the officials are final.

### **Speed-Up Rules Approved For Use.**

1. The team at bat may use courtesy runners for the pitcher and/or the catcher as soon as they get on base. The same runner may not be used for both positions. Neither the pitcher nor the catcher will be required to leave the game under such circumstances.
2. Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity are ineligible to serve as courtesy runners.
3. 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.

**Note:** The rulebook's speed-up rules on handling the ball after a putout with no runners on base were not adopted and are not required.

**Pitching Limit.** During the entire high school season, an athlete may pitch a maximum of 12 innings in a three-day period. This rule applies to regular season play, district and state tournament competition.

- If an athlete pitched two innings on Monday and four innings on Tuesday, he would be eligible to pitch only six innings on Wednesday.
- If he pitched six innings on Wednesday and then did not pitch on Thursday, he would be limited to six innings on Friday. The number of innings pitched the two previous days must be taken into account in figuring the number of innings eligible to be pitched on the third day.
- The time of the day has no bearing on this rule. Two innings pitched on Monday in the morning would have the same effect on the example listed above as two innings pitched in the afternoon, no matter when the game on Wednesday was played.

**Smokeless Tobacco Ban.** During regular season, district or state competition, the use of smokeless tobacco by any participant is prohibited. If a participant or substitute is detected using smokeless tobacco during competition, that individual shall be disqualified from further participation in that contest.

## **NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES AND EJECTIONS**

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include the following: fighting, verbal abuse or dissent toward an official or opponent, racial or ethnic slurs, inappropriate comments or actions that may be construed as sexual harassment, profanity, obscene gestures, flagrant and violent fouls, taunting, trash talk, baiting, cheating, throwing or abusing equipment, inappropriate posters, physical intimidation or abuse of an official or opponent, and unauthorized leaving of a team bench area.
2. As a part of the NSAA Sportsmanship regulations (Bylaws 2.11.2 through 2.11.6), any participant ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. Likewise, any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct is subject to those same sit-out rules.
3. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.
4. The expectation for enforcement of these regulations falls on the school administration. If a coach or athlete is ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike reasons, it is the school's responsibility to assure that the coach or athlete not participate in the following contest at that level, or any other contest at any other level during the interim.
5. Officials will be required to file reports with the NSAA when ejections occur.
6. School administrators are required to promptly notify the NSAA, as well, when high school athletes or coaches are ejected from contests, regardless of the level of play. The NSAA will actively monitor ejections and enforcement of the sit-out rules, but it is necessary for schools to take the prominent role in assuring that the sportsmanship rules are followed and enforced.

7. Athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate in the “sit-out” contest, but schools have the local prerogative of determining whether such disqualified athletes should ride the team bus to the contest and sit on the bench in street clothes.
8. Coaches who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not participate in any coaching activities during any of the contests during the “sit-out” period, nor may they be present at the contest site or facility for contests during the time of their “sit-out” suspension.
9. If the ejection takes place in the final game of the season, the suspension will not carry over to the following season; however, schools may wish to enact other local penalties of their choosing.
10. The NSAA Executive Director shall reserve the right to consider the length of suspensions when some levels of competition are scheduled on an irregular basis.

## NSAA BYLAWS & APPROVED RULINGS

### 2.11 PENALTIES

- 2.11.1 **School Violations.** For violation by a member school of any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or rules adopted by the Representative Assembly or approved by the member schools or the Board of Control, the Board of Control or Executive Director may impose, but not be limited to, one or more of the following penalties:
  - 2.11.1.2 Issue a private or public reprimand to the school.
  - 2.11.1.3 Recommend that the responsible school official receive a private or public reprimand.
  - 2.11.1.4 Enforce the forfeiture of one or more contests in team or individual sports.
  - 2.11.1.5 Enforce the forfeiture of points scored by students in individual competition.
  - 2.11.1.6.1 A student or staff member may be reprimanded, placed on probation or suspended from participation for one or more contests.
  - 2.11.1.7 Recommend that the school declare the guilty student ineligible for up to ninety school days or the remainder of the school year.
  - 2.11.1.8 Place the school on probation for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
  - 2.11.1.9 Suspend a school for part or all of the season of an activity.
  - 2.11.1.10 Expel the school from Association membership for a period not to exceed one calendar year.
- 2.11.2 **Student Violations.** If a student violates any of the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings during the course of an Association-sponsored district contest, playoff, or state contest, the Board of Control or Executive Director may suspend the student from further competition for any portion or all of the remainder of the subdistrict, district, playoff, or state contests.
- 2.11.3 **Participant Ejections from Athletic Contests.** Any participant ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 2.11.3

#### Reference:

2.11.3 Any participant ejected a second or third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess.

2.11.4 **Coach Ejections from Athletic Contests.** Any coach ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible to coach the next athletic contest at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to the other penalties the NSAA or the school may assess.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS For 2.11.4

#### Reference:

- 2.11.4 1. Coaches who are ejected will be required to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamental of Coaching on-line course within 10 days of the ejection at the coaches' expense. (2008-09 cost is \$60.)
2. Failure by an ejected coach to successfully complete the NFHS Fundamental of Coaching on-line course within 10 days of the ejection will result in the coach being suspended from coaching in any further competition in that activity for the remainder of the season, including all NSAA end-of-season play (subdistricts, districts, playoffs, and state competition.)

2.11.5 **Investigation.** Prior to the assessment of any penalty, the Executive Director will gather data in order to establish intent, fault, and the effect an ineligible participant had on any interschool contest. These factors shall be weighed in determining the severity of the penalty assessed. The Executive Director's decision may be appealed to the Board of Control.

2.11.6 **Institution Control.** If the said violation is brought to the attention of the Board of Control as a result of self-policing by the offending school, the Board of Control shall issue the highest of commendations to the administration of the school for its efforts in enforcing the Constitution.

## 3.2 Out of Season Programs

- 3.2.3 **Organized Practice.** No organized practice in any sport shall be held during the "school-year, out-of-season" period. An organized practice shall be defined as follows:
- (a) Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Volleyball, and Wrestling. An organized practice shall mean more than four students under the direct supervision of a sponsor. If more than one group is practicing at the same time, it shall be called an organized practice.

### APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.3

#### Applicable to Coaches During the School Year:

#### Reference:

3.2.3 Any individual who served as a school's head coach, assistant coach, coach's aide, or volunteer coach shall not coach athletes from that member school in non-high school competition if the number of athletes from the school which the individual served exceeds the number permitted for an organized practice in the sport involved.

3.2.6 **Clinic Definition.** A clinic includes planned activities of instruction or demonstration directly related to the teaching of individual skill. There shall be no competition between athletes who are in attendance.

**3.2.6.1 “School-Year, Out-of-Season” Clinics.** Athletes and coaches may attend professional or commercial sports clinics sponsored by non-member high schools. During the “school-year, out-of-season” period, the organized practice rule for the sport in which instruction is being given shall apply. No more than the limit permitted for organized practice may attend and receive instruction. Attendance to “school-year, out-of-season” clinics shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend a clinic as a condition for membership on the high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

*APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.6 and 3.2.6.1*

*Applicable to Students During The School Year.*

*Reference:*

*3.2.6 and 3.2.6.1 The purpose of specialized sports clinics is to give individual athletes an opportunity to improve his/her skills in a particular activity. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses, or support for individuals participating in clinics. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer league or camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer league/camps must participate in the fundraising activity. The school may provide transportation for individuals participating in clinics with prior approval from the district’s Board of Education.*

**3.2.7 Camp Definition.** Camps include planned physical participation that are of a competitive nature where actual games are played or simulated by camp attendees. Participation shall mean physically taking part in the sport activity in which instruction is offered in the camp or school.

**3.2.7.1 “School-Year, Out-of-Season” Camps.** Athletes and coaches may attend commercial sports camps sponsored by non-member high schools. If the school’s coach, assistant coach, or other adult team representatives are in attendance at such “school-year, out-of-season” camps, the organized practice rule for the sport in which instruction is being given shall apply. No more than the limit permitted for organized practice may attend and actively participate in the camp. Attendance at “school-year, out-of-season” camps shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend camps as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

*APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.7*

*Applicable to Students During The School Year.*

*Reference:*

*3.2.7 The purpose of a specialized sports camp is to give individual athletes an opportunity to improve his/her skills in a particular activity. The athlete and/or his/her parents shall pay the fees and expenses for attendance to such camps or schools. The school, booster clubs, individuals and/or other organizations shall not provide expenses, or support for individuals participating in such camps or schools. Team fundraisers may be used to finance summer league and camp activities. The AD/coach can hold money collected from fundraising in a school account until the money is needed to pay for summer league or camp activities. Any athlete receiving money for summer league/camps must participate in the fundraising activity. The school may provide transportation for individuals participating in camps with prior approval from the district’s Board of Education.*

**3.2.8 Summer Activities.** From the Tuesday following Memorial Day to July 31, a member school may not sponsor a team or individual, provide uniforms, individual player equipment (except football, baseball, and softball protective equipment for commercial camps), or otherwise be responsible for a student in summer competition. Attendance at summer activities shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication direct a student to attend summer activities as a condition for membership on a high school team or restrict the level of team participation within the high school program.

*APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.8*

*Applicable to Coaches During The Summer.*

*Reference:*

*3.2.8 The school year, out-of-season period begins on the date of the official start of fall practices. Summer activities are regulated between the Tuesday following Memorial Day and July 31. Between the end of the summer activities period and the start of the school year, out-of-season period (August 1 through the official start of fall practices), the following shall apply: (1) The organized practice rule shall be in effect; (2) Conditioning programs may be held; (3) Attendance at commercial camps and clinics is permissible, but the organized practice rules shall be in effect for such camps and clinics; and (4) No school-sponsored clinics or camps may be held.*

**3.2.8.6 Summertime Regulations for Athletes and Coaches.** From the Tuesday following Memorial Day or final day of school (whichever is later) until July 31, there shall be no restrictions on the contact between students and high school coaches, provided no support is received from the school district.

*APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.2.8.6*

*Applicable to Athletes and Coaches During the Summer.*

*Reference:*

*3.2.8.6 The organized practice rule shall be in effect during the school year until Memorial Day, except in the case of organized teams (e.g., Legion baseball, etc.). If a high school coach or other adult associated with the school program is also the coach of an organized non-school team, practice and competition involving the coach and athletes of that non-school team may begin at the conclusion of the state tournament of that activity or during Week 47 of the standardized calendar, whichever date is later.*

**3.5.2 Individual Instruction.** During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take instruction from a person other than the high school coach at times other than scheduled high school practice sessions, but such instructions shall not interfere with, nor be substituted for the high school coaching, practice sessions, or contests.

*APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.2*

*Reference:*

*3.5.2 During a season of a sport, a student is permitted to take instruction from a person other than the high school coach. Group instruction, practices with outside teams, and tryouts for outside teams other than as part of a college or university recruiting visit, however, are not permitted.*

**DISTRICT & STATE ELIGIBILITY**

*APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.3.7*

*1. In all athletic activities, teams wishing to enter a subdistrict, district, or state contest shall have participated in a minimum of five interschool varsity contests prior to the subdistrict, district, or state contest.*

*(a) Exceptions to the requirements for a team that has not participated in at least five interschool varsity contests would be considered if the team was unable to participate if weather*

*conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests. Other extenuating circumstances would be considered by the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis.*

2. *In order to participate in a district or state tournament, a student is required to have been a member of the school's team for at least twenty school days prior to the first day of the subdistrict, district, or state tournament.*
  - (a) *Exceptions to the requirements for a student who is not a member of the school team for twenty school days would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, or transfer from another high school. School, team, or game suspensions, regardless of the underlying cause, shall not be considered as exceptions to this participation rule.*
3. *In all athletic activities, students wishing to enter a subdistrict, district, or state contest shall have been available to participate in at least 30% of the school's varsity interschool contests prior to the subdistrict, district, or state contest.*
  - (a) *Exceptions to the requirements for a student who has not been available to participate in at least 30% of the school's varsity interschool contests would be considered if an individual was unable to participate because of illness, injury, transfer from another high school, or if weather conditions forced a cancellation of scheduled contests. School, team, or game suspensions, regardless of the underlying cause, shall not be considered as exceptions to this participation rule.*
  - (b) *When determining whether a student has been available for 30% of the school's varsity interschool contests, one would divide the number of varsity interschool contests for which the student was available by the school's total number of varsity interschool contests; all decimals .1 or above would be rounded up to the next higher whole number.*
  - (c) *The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team, eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport, not suspended from participation in activities for violation of school, team, or NSAA rules, and not involved in outside participation activities (exception: Olympic Development Program or national team activities as approved by the NSAA.)*
4. *For situations pertaining to eligibility to participate in district or state contests that are not specifically addressed by these guidelines, the Executive Director shall have the authority to waive membership and participation requirements on a case-by-case basis.*

#### **APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 3.5.1**

1. *Eligibility for District/State Competition. To be eligible to participate in a district and/or state contest a student shall have been a member of the school's team and shall have been available to participate in at least eighty percent (80%) of the school's scheduled interschool contests and not have missed more than twenty percent (20%) of the school's scheduled contests because of participating in non-high school competition.*
  - (a) *The term "available to participate" means that the student was a bona fide member of the team, eligible to participate for the school at some level of competition in the sport, and not involved in outside participation activities (exception: Olympic Development Program or national team activities as approved by the NSAA.)*
  - (b) *The term, "school's scheduled interschool contests," is defined as those contests which appear on the school's varsity schedule at the beginning of the season. An exception to this requirement will be considered if a student was unable to participate because of injury, illness, or had transferred from another high school.*

## NSAA TOURNAMENT PLAY

**Classification of Schools.** Baseball has two classes of competition. The 26 largest schools registered for baseball will be Class A. The remaining schools will be Class B.

**District Assignments.** All Class A schools in baseball are to be placed into six districts. All six of the districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild-card point system within two weeks prior to the first district tournament.

Class B schools in baseball are to be placed into four districts. All four of the districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild-card point system within two weeks prior to the first district tournament.

*All games played through Tuesday, April 28, 2009 (in-state and contiguous out-of-state) will be used to calculate wild-card points for district seeding. The district seeding date shall be Wednesday, April 29, 2009. The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Thursday, April 30.*

District tournament directors have the responsibility to plan and run their single-elimination tournament according to NSAA and National Federation baseball rules. The NSAA will contract and assign all umpires.

### **Bands & Artificial Noisemakers.**

1. Bands are permitted during district and state contests.
2. Members **MUST** pay regular admission for district and state contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. (Examples: thunder sticks, air horns, whistles, bells, etc.) Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the game, at intermissions and time-outs.

### **Cheerleaders & Drill Teams.**

1. Due to potential liability in case of injury, mounts and pyramids by cheerleaders and drill teams during the district and state tournaments are prohibited. A mount is defined as any stunt where one individual is supported above the level of the ground by another individual or individuals. The height of the mount or pyramid, or the number of people involved, has no bearing on the type of stunt performed.
2. Cheerleaders and drill team members **MUST** pay regular admission to district and state events.

### **Radio, Television & Internet.**

1. Telecasting or video web-casting of a district tournament, on a live basis, is prohibited.
2. Radio or audio web broadcasts of district games shall be permitted, provided ample space is available for the broadcast crew(s).
3. It is the decision of the teams in the tournament whether a broadcast fee is to be charged. The practice of charging a broadcast fee is discouraged; however, if a fee is charged, the competing schools shall set the amount of the fee, not to exceed \$50 per tournament.
4. Videotaping for delayed telecasting is permitted if the host school approves and the media outlet agrees to follow the NSAA delayed telecast policy.
5. Broadcasting, recording, photographing, videotaping, or televising of NSAA-sponsored events shall not be permitted for commercial purposes, or for other than personal use, except with the expressed permission of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

## DISTRICT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

**District Tournaments.** The district tournaments will be single-elimination with the winner qualifying for the state tournament.

**District Dates.** District tournaments will be held May 8, 9, 11, and 12.

**District Entry Deadline.** NSAA Entry Forms are now accessed and submitted on-line. The Athletic/Activities director will give the certified coach the login to this activity. Go to the NSAA web site ([www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org)) and click on “Login” and enter your login code/password. On the subsequent page, click on “District Entry Form” and complete your roster form (detailed instructions can also be obtained from the web site). You will need to print this form for your files and e-mail a copy to the district director. You do **NOT** need to e-mail or fax the form to the NSAA office. Once the form has been completed and submitted by the school, the NSAA office will automatically receive an electronic version of this form. Schools may make changes to this form up until the due date, which is April 27. After that, you will need to contact the NSAA.

**District Assignments.** All Class A schools in baseball are to be placed into six districts. Six of the districts shall be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild-card point system within two weeks prior to the first district. Games through April 28 will be counted for Class A district assignments and seeding. *The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Thursday, April 30.*

### **Class A District Assignments & Seeding**

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	11	10	9	8	7
13	14	15	16	17	18
24	23	22	21	20	19
25	26				

Class B schools in baseball are to be placed into four districts. The districts shall be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild-card point system within two weeks prior to the first district. Games through April 28 will be counted for Class A district assignments and seeding. *The top seed in each district will be offered a contract to host the district tournament. If the higher seed is unable to host the district tournament, the subsequent seed shall be offered a contract until a location is secured. District tournament seeding and brackets shall be posted on Thursday, April 30.*

### **Class B District Assignments & Seeding**

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13
17	18		

**District Pairings.** District pairings will be made for five-team districts in the following manner: Seed 4 vs. Seed 5, with winner playing Seed 1; Seed 2 vs. Seed 3. In four-team districts, the seeding will be: Seed 1 vs. Seed 4 and Seed 2 vs. 3. (Should there be a tie in wild-card points for district seeding, the wild-card tie-breaking procedure shall be used.) The highest seeded team will be the home team for first-round games. Teams receiving first-round byes shall be the home team for their first tournament game. The remaining home teams will be determined by a coin flip.

**Handicapped Accessibility.** Facilities used as a district site must provide reasonable accommodations to people with special needs.

**District Admissions.** An admission shall be charged and proceeds used by the director to offset expenses of the tournament. The NSAA share of the district receipts will cover the cost for the catastrophic injury insurance premium. District admission prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students.

**Eligible Players.** Players listed on the District Entry Form will be eligible to play in district and state tournament games. Substitutions to this list can be made, but no more than twenty players may suit up for district or state tournament games. If substitutions are made, inform the tournament director as soon as possible. Anyone substituted must be eligible according to all NSAA rules.

**Suspension of Play.** Play during district and state tournament contests may be suspended when the umpires consider the weather or ground conditions unfit to play. Tournament officials and umpires will determine when play is to resume. Once play has been resumed, the game will continue from the point of suspension with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment play was suspended.

**Umpires.** Assigned by the NSAA at \$40 per game, with possible mileage. Umpires are encouraged to carpool whenever possible. An umpire who is not hired as part of a crew or set of officials/judges and who is required to drive his/her own vehicle will be paid mileage using the following formula: (Using the NSAA mileage chart) one-way miles (to the site of the host city) x number of trips made x 1.00¢.

Umpires living in the host city will not be paid mileage.

When hired as a crew or set of umpires, the umpire who lives farthest away from the host city (among that crew or set of officials/judges) and who drives his/her own vehicle will be paid mileage using the following formula: (Using the NSAA mileage chart) one-way miles (to the site of the host city) x number of trips made x 1.00¢.

The crew or set of officials/judges may split this mileage fee between/among themselves in any manner they determine.

**Baseline Coaches.** Only players and coaches in uniform may serve as baseline coaches at the district and/or state tournament.

**Awards.** The winner and runner-up of each district tournament will receive plaques. Wild-card qualifiers to the state tournament will receive plaques.

**State Qualifiers.** Each district tournament champion qualifies for the state tournament. In Class A, the six district champions, plus the two remaining non-district champions with the highest wild-card point average shall qualify for the state tournament. In Class B, the four district champions, plus the four remaining non-district champions with the highest wild-card point average shall qualify for the state tournament.

**Wild-Card Criteria.** The results of only those games played against varsity teams of schools in Nebraska and of varsity teams in states contiguous to Nebraska will be used to:

- Calculate point averages.
- To determine the win and loss record for designating a team as a first, second, third or fourth division team.

1. Six teams in Class A will qualify for the state tournament by winning the championship of their respective district tournaments. Four teams in Class B will qualify for the state tournament by winning the championship of their respective district tournaments.
2. Two additional teams in Class A and four additional teams in Class B, which fail to qualify through district tournament competition, will be chosen to complete the eight-team tournament field.
3. These teams will be selected in the following manner:
  - a. Only the contests between varsity Nebraska teams and varsity teams from states contiguous with Nebraska will be considered when calculating the point totals.
  - b. The results of all such contests played through the district tournaments shall be used.
  - c. This includes regularly scheduled contests, tournament contests, and district contests.
4. **FORFEITS:** Teams shall receive wild-card points for forfeited losses if the forfeit was due to extenuating circumstances (such as weather) between the two schools. No wild-card points shall be awarded for losses when the forfeit is imposed by the Executive Director or Board of Control; an appeal to the Executive Director would be heard if the infraction leading to the NSAA imposed forfeiture was self-reported by the school.
5. **FORFEITS: When a school's varsity team is unable to complete the season, those remaining teams on that school's regular season schedule shall receive forfeit wins for those scheduled contests and shall be awarded wild-card points for those forfeit wins. Wild-card points will be determined by the forfeiting team's record at the time of seeding for postseason competition.**
6. Varsity teams of schools located in contiguous states will be converted to a Nebraska classification using enrollment figures obtained from that state's activities association.
7. The following point evaluation scale will be used to determine a team's total points:

	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Division</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Division</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Division</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Division</b>
	<b>Team</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Team</b>
<b>Victory Over</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Loss To</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>

- a. A first division team is a team, which has won at least 75% of its matches played. Examples: 20-0, 19-1, 18-2, 16-4, 15-5.
- b. A second division team is a team, which has won at least 50% but less than 75% of its matches played. Examples: 14-6, 13-7, 12-8, 11-9, 10-10.
- c. A third division team is a team, which has won at least 25% but less than 50% of its matches played. Examples: 9-11, 8-12, 7-13, 6-14, 5-15.
- d. A fourth division team is a team, which has won less than 25% of its matches played. Examples: 4-16, 3-17, 2-18, 1-19, 0-20.
8. No points are deducted for playing teams that are classified below your classification.
9. In competition with schools one classification above yours, 2 bonus points will be awarded.
10. A team's point average will be determined by dividing the total number of points by the number of contests played.
11. The teams failing to qualify through district competition in their class, but having the highest point average based on the year's record after the completion of all the district tournaments will be selected as the wild-card qualifiers.
12. If a tie exists for one or more of the qualifying spots, the following procedure will be used to select the team or teams.
  - a. If only two teams have identical point averages and are tied for one of the qualifying spots and the teams have played each other, the team that won the contest or the majority of contests between the two teams in question will qualify for the state tournament.
  - b. If the two teams have not played each other or if more than two teams are tied, step C will be used to determine which team qualifies for the state tournament.

- c. If two or more teams have identical point averages and are tied for one or both of the remaining qualifying spots, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams will be selected. If only two teams remain after this step and the two teams tied have played each other, step A will be used to determine the qualifier for the state tournament.
- d. If a tie still exists, the team's opponents' wins and losses will be totaled and the winning percentages calculated. The team whose opponents have the highest percentage based on this calculation will be chosen.
- e. If a tie still exists, the representative will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

#### **Classification of Out-of-State Schools for Wild Card Consideration**

When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wild-card purposes, if the school's three-grade enrollment is less than the lowest enrollment in a particular class, the out-of-state school shall be classified in the immediate lower class. The enrollment of Nebraska schools opting up to play in a higher class will not be considered when comparing out-of-state schools for classification purposes.

#### **Classification of Out-of-State Schools for Wild Card Consideration When Enrollment is Identical to Schools in Two Different Classes**

In determining classifications for NSAA activities, if two or more schools are tied for the final place in a particular class, the tie is broken by using the schools' three-year average enrollment for the most recent three years. When determining the classification of an out-of-state school for wild-card purposes, if the out-of-state school's three-grade enrollment is identical to the enrollments shared by schools in two different classes, the out-of-state school shall be placed in the higher class.

**Reporting Scores.** Wild-card points and standings will be available on the NSAA internet home page. Game results should be reported to all media and the NSAA office. The Omaha World-Herald (800-284-6397) and Lincoln Journal Star (800-742-7315) will be the day-to-day source for scores used to calculate wild-card points. Schools may send their results each day they play to: [jangele@nsaahome.org](mailto:jangele@nsaahome.org).

## STATE TOURNAMENT SPECIFICS

**Dates.** The eight-team double-elimination state tournament will be held May 16-18-19-20-21, in Lincoln.

**Seeding.** Teams in the state tournament will be seeded according to the wild-card point average and the first-round pairings will match the following seeded teams: 1 vs. 8, 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6, 4 vs. 5. If teams are tied via the point average, the wild-card tie-breaker will be used to break the tie.

**Schedule.** The 2009 State Baseball Tournament will be hosted by the City of Lincoln with Hawks Field at Haymarket Park, Sherman Field and Den Hartog Field used as the playing facilities.

- Day One - May 16 (Saturday) – Class A first-round games at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sherman Field; Class B first-round games at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Den Hartog Field.
- Day Two - May 18 (Monday) – Class A championship quarterfinals at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Hawks Field at Haymarket Park; Class A first-round losers' bracket games at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sherman Field; Class B championship quarterfinals at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Hawks Field at Haymarket Park; Class B first-round loser's bracket games at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Den Hartog Field.
- Day Three - May 19 (Tuesday) – Class A championship semifinal at 7 p.m., Hawks Field at Haymarket Park; Class A second-round losers' bracket games at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sherman Field; Class B championship semifinal at 4 p.m., Hawks Field at Haymarket Park; Class B second-round losers' bracket games at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Den Hartog Field.
- Day Four - May 20 (Wednesday) – Class A third-round and final losers' bracket games at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Sherman Field; Class B third-round and final losers' bracket games at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Den Hartog Field.
- Day Five - May 21 (Thursday) – Class A championship final at 4 p.m. (game 15, if necessary, is 20 min. after game 14), Hawks Field at Haymarket Park; Class B championship final at 10 a.m. (game 15, if necessary, is 20 min. after game 14), Hawks Field at Haymarket Park.

### Postponement Plans.

Schools qualifying for the state tournament must be prepared for time changes the NSAA may have to make because of weather conditions:

- 1) If the weather prevents first-round play on May 16, the first-round schedule will be reset for May 18. The rest of the tournament will follow accordingly with the championship finals scheduled for May 22.
- 2) If some first-round games are not played on May 16, Session 1 will be completed on May 18.
  - On May 19-Games 5, 6, 7 and 8 will be played.
  - On May 20-Games 9, 10 and 11 will be played.
  - On May 21-Games 12 and 13 will be played.
  - On May 22-Game 14, the championship final(s) will be played.
- 3) If all four games (games 5, 6, 7 and 8) are not played or completed on May 18, they will be completed on May 19. The rest of the tournament schedule shall be determined by the NSAA and announced.
- 4) If games cannot be completed on May 19, games 9, 10 and 11 will be played on May 20. The rest of the tournament will follow accordingly with championship final(s) scheduled for May 22.
- 5) If games 12 and 13 are not played on May 20, they will be rescheduled on May 21, with the championship final(s) scheduled for May 22.

Adjustments in the tournament schedule may be made for two school functions--baccalaureate and commencement. No other conflicts can be considered. Schools with baccalaureates or commencements scheduled on May 16-18-19-20-21 should inform the NSAA office prior to the start of the tournament.

**Dugout Assignments.** The higher-seeded team shall occupy the third base dugout for all contests. The lower-seeded team shall occupy the first base dugout for all contests.

**Home Team.** The home team for first-round games (Games 1, 2, 3 and 4) will be the highest-seeded team. Home team for all other games and finals will be decided by a coin flip, except game 15. The home team in game 15 (if necessary) will be the visiting team of game 14.

**Addition to Game Rules.** At the state tournament, the Association has permission from the National Federation to extend the suspended game rule so all games not terminated by the 10-run rule will play a full seven innings or more if necessary to determine a winner. This means a team could build a 4-3 lead in the state tournament and be up to bat in the bottom of the fifth inning with the score still at 4-3 when weather forces the game to be stopped. The game would be suspended and resumed when weather permits. Prior to the state tournament, this game would be terminated and the final score set at 4-3 because play went beyond 4-1/2 innings and one team was ahead.

**Reimbursement.** Mileage reimbursements will be based on the number of participants (qualifiers, number on roster) and one coach. (Note: Student Managers will not be included.) A school's mileage reimbursement will be figured using the following formula: [(#miles one way x # trips) – 50 miles] x appropriate amount listed below:

Amount per mile	Number of participants/coaches
\$0.85	1-6
\$1.70	7-12
\$2.55	13-18
\$3.40	19-24

**Lodging.** If lodging is used, \$15 per participant and one coach will be paid based on the following criteria: (Note: **Times listed are scheduled competition start times.**)

Night before competing—

    Before 10 a.m., 76 + miles away

    Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., 150+ miles away

    At or after 3 p.m., 250+ miles away

Night of (still competing in State Tournament)—

    76+ miles away

Final Night (Day eliminated) —

    5 p.m. or later, 200+ miles away

**Admission Prices.** State tournament admission prices will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students ages five through high school for each session.

**Participant Pass Gate.** Coaches and players listed on the state tournament entry form shall be allowed admittance through the designated team pass gate.

**Awards.** The winner and runner-up in the state tournament will receive trophies. Members of the state championship team will receive gold medals and the championship team coach will receive a plaque. Members of the state runner-up team will receive silver medals.

**Tournament Information.** Schools qualifying for the state tournament will receive an e-mailed letter of instructions.

**Statistics.** Teams qualifying for the state tournament must update and submit their district entry form with an accurate roster, complete with statistics, via the NSAA website for the state tournament program. Information will be sent to all schools outlining the details of this process.

## NSAA GUIDELINES FOR FAN / SPECTATOR SUPPORT ITEMS

In the chart below, ONLY those items marked “Yes” will be allowed as fan/spectator support items at all NSAA Sub-District, District, State Playoffs, and State Championships.

Sportsmanlike vocal cheering and support from the team bench area are encouraged. The items indicated on this page are for use by all fans/spectators.

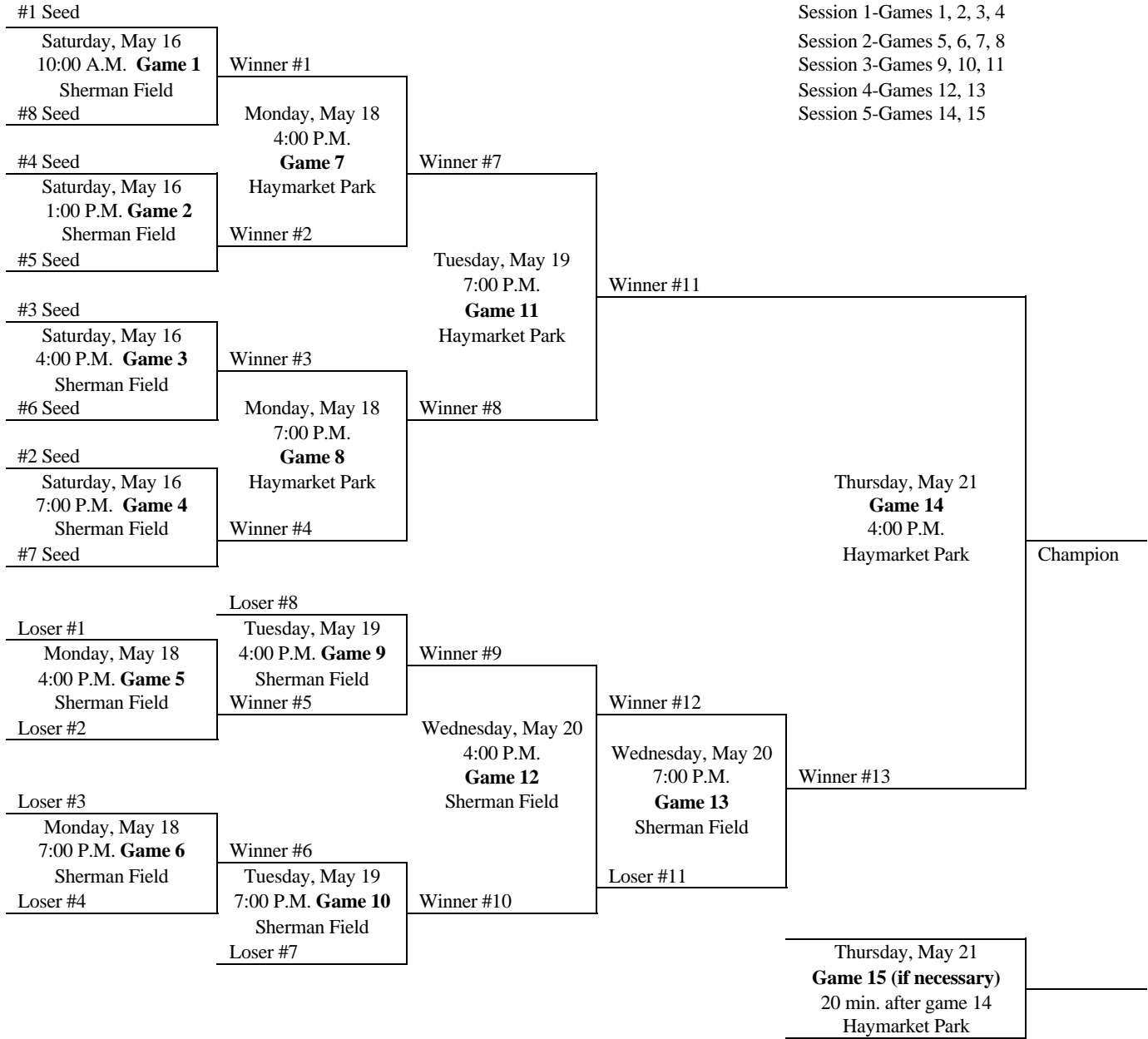
**LEGEND:** BA-Baseball BB-Basketball CC-Cross Country  
 FB-Football GO-Golf SO-Soccer SB-Softball  
 SW-Swimming & Diving TE-Tennis TR-Track & Field  
 VB-Volleyball WR-Wrestling NA-Not apply

SPORT	BA	BB	CC	FB	GO	SO	SB	SW	TE	TR	VB	WR
Balloons	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Banners on wall except welcome or corporate sponsor	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Confetti/shredded paper	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Hand held signs of any size	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laser light/pointer	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Miniature sports balls, objects or candy thrown into crowd	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Megaphones (elected cheerleaders)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Artificial noise makers, (horns, cow bells, bells, buzzers, clickers, thunder sticks, rattles, instruments not part of a band)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Whistles	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Shirts on fans (required)	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Paper banners for team to run through	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pompoms, shakers, spirit towels	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recorded music over PA system by approval only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
School bands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes
Air horns/sirens	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Cannons/muskets/guns	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Carried school flags (cannot run with)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Live animal mascots	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Practice at State venue	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

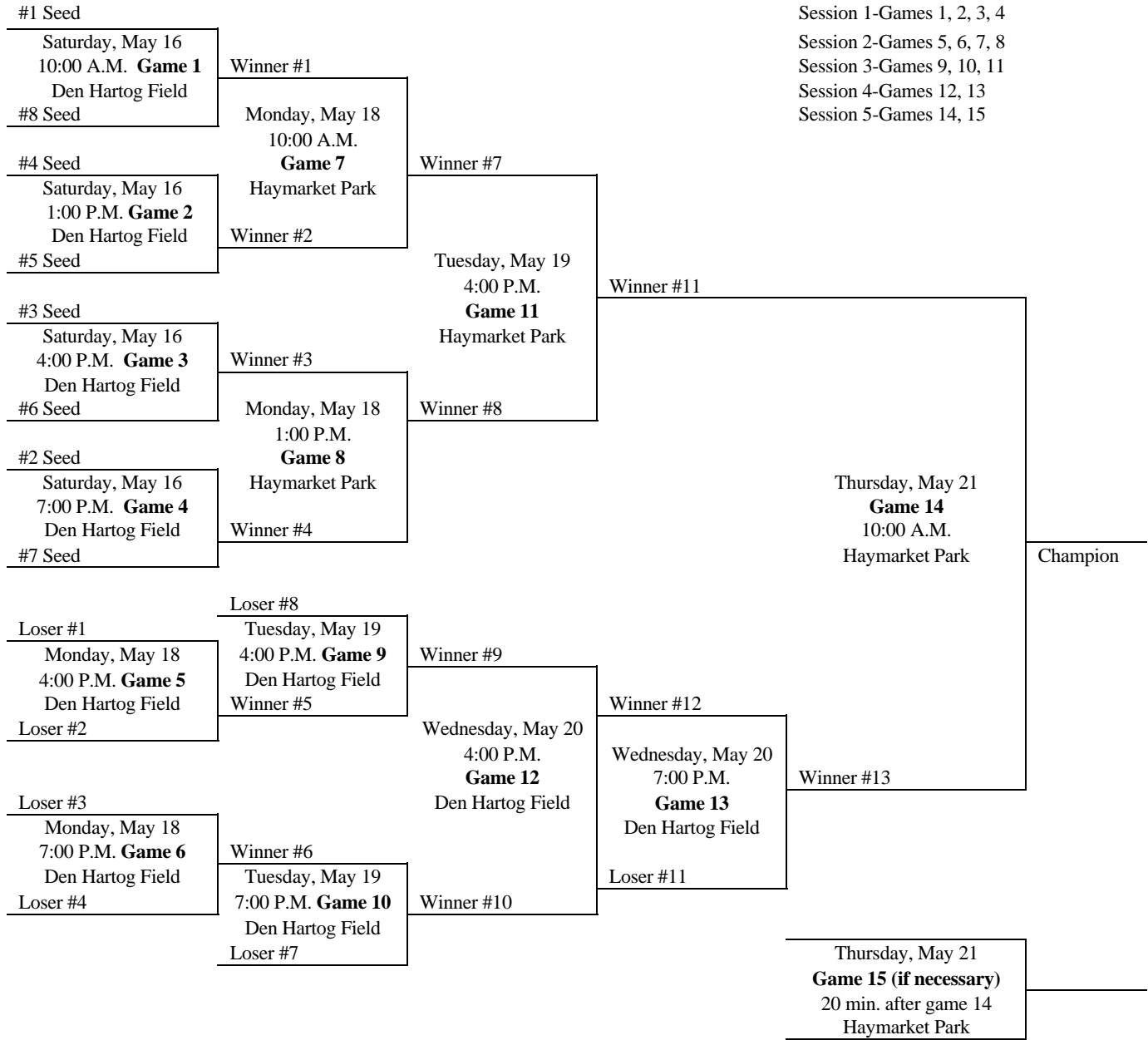


## 2009 CLASS A STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

Session 1-Games 1, 2, 3, 4  
 Session 2-Games 5, 6, 7, 8  
 Session 3-Games 9, 10, 11  
 Session 4-Games 12, 13  
 Session 5-Games 14, 15



## 2009 CLASS B STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET



## 2009 NSAA Baseball Classifications

### Class A

No.	School	2008-09	Coop1	Coop 2	Total
1	Grand Island+Northwest+GI Central Cath.	1559	528	131	2218
2	Omaha Central	1989			1989
3	Millard North	1857			1857
4	Omaha Creighton Prep	1636			1636
5	Millard West	1595			1595
6	Omaha Burke	1568			1568
7	Millard South	1555			1555
8	Omaha Westside	1491			1491
9	Omaha North	1482			1482
10	Lincoln Southwest	1391			1391
11	Omaha South	1386			1386
12	Omaha Bryan	1352			1352
13	Columbus+Lakeview+Scotus	893	253	160	1306
14	Lincoln North Star	1283			1283
15	Lincoln Southeast	1250			1250
16	Lincoln High	1234			1234
17	Bellevue West	1215			1215
18	Omaha Northwest	1205			1205
19	Bellevue East	1182			1182
20	Papillion-La Vista South	1167			1167
21	Omaha Benson	1126			1126
22	Lincoln East	1112			1112
23	Fremont+Archbishop Bergan	1026	79		1105
24	Papillion-La Vista	1082			1082
25	Lincoln Northeast	1074			1074
26	Norfolk	955			955

### Class B

No.	School	2008-09	Coop1	Coop 2	Total
1	Elkhorn	906			906
2	South Sioux City	818			818
3	Ralston	804			804
4	Lincoln Pius X	777			777
5	Blair	562			562
6	Beatrice	553			553
7	Nebraska City+Lourdes+Johnson-Brock	321	108	91	520
8	Omaha Skutt Catholic	518			518
9	Gretna	516			516
10	Norris	443			443
11	Wahoo+Raymond Central+Prague	226	153	29	408
12	Crete	382			382
13	Waverly	382			382
14	Seward	366			366
15	Omaha Gross Catholic	349			349
16	Omaha Roncalli Catholic+Brownell-Talbot	242	95		337
17	Yutan+Mead	122	62		184
18	Douglas County West	138			138

