

BIG 9 SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
REVISED 9-17-18. Proposed Revisions 11-5-18.

1. SCHEDULES- Fall League schedules will be approved by the Big 9 Athletic Directors.
No team shall play more than 20 regular season contests.
~~No practice shall take place prior to Labor Day?~~
Each team and player must meet the minimum practice requirement of ~~8~~ **10** days as stipulated by the ~~Big 9 Athletic Conference~~ **WIAA**.
 - A. VARSITY- one team per school. Teams will be competitive and consist of a doubleheader vs. each league opponent at each school. All games played out to entirety, unless shortened by mercy rules- see #5. **Game one of the DH will start at 4 PM (with lights) and 3:30 PM (without lights). Game two will start 10 minutes after the final out of game one.**
 - ~~B. JV COMPETITIVE* schools declare number of teams that will play these games which consist of a doubleheader vs. each league opponent at each school.~~
 - ~~C. JV RECREATIONAL* schools declare number of teams that will play these games and will be scheduled vs. opponents as available.~~
 - ~~D. *No inning will start after 60 minutes of play for sub-varsity competitive or recreational~~
2. POSTPONED OR CANCELED GAMES-
 - A. In the event that game(s) are postponed, canceled, or suspended, they will be made up. The game(s) will be made up on the first playing date both teams have available.
 - B. In the case of a suspended game, the game will resume from the point of suspension.
 - C. In the case where varsity games are completed before the non-varsity games on school nights, the non-varsity game may be called after 5 innings if mutually agreed upon by both head coaches.
3. LEAGUE- The league championship will be determined by the won-loss record in league play
4. UMPIRES- minimum one paid umpire for all games.
5. National Federation Rules will be used, including substitutions and uniforms.
 - A. TEN (10) RUN RULE- After five (5) completed innings of play, if either team is ahead by ten (10) runs, that team shall be the winner. This also includes a full six (6) innings.
 - B. FIFTEEN (15) RUN RULE- will be in effect after three (3) completed innings of play.
 - C. Each Defensive team may play with 10 uniformed players. An offensive team may hit with an EP.
6. TIE GAME- all tie games will be played out, using the NFHS tiebreaker procedure. The tiebreaker procedure will be implemented after eight (8) full innings have been played. Each subsequent half-inning begins by placing a runner on second base. That runner is the player in the batting order that precedes the leadoff batter in that inning. Then the game proceeds a full inning or until a winner is determined that inning.
7. PRE-GAME WARM-
 - A. Mandatory warm-up of 20 minutes, with home team taking first infield-outfield.
25 minutes before starting time - infield for home team (10 min)
15 minutes before starting time - infield for visiting team (10 min)

5 minutes before starting time – final field prep and or announcing (5 min)

Example of pre-game schedule approved.

Let's assume that a softball DH was scheduled to start at 4:00pm. This would be the pre-game schedule for that DH.

3:35 home team infield for 10 minutes
3:45 visiting team infield for 10 minutes
3:55 final prep of field and or announcing for 5 minutes
4:00 play ball!

8. CLEATS- **Metal cleats are legal**
9. BALLS- The official ball for varsity games will be the 12” State ball.
10. BATS- **Bats must be embossed as ASA approved and NOT BE LISTED on the “unapproved bat list.” List could change during the year, as bats must be tested 3 times, so coaches are encouraged to print the list weekly and carry with them to games.** Go to:
http://www.softball.org/about/certified_equipment.asp
11. PLAYING FIELD CONDITIONS
 - A. The home team will be responsible for providing a safe playing surface for all games.
 - B. There will be **NO** pitching rubber in front of the high school girls pitching rubber. The pitching rubber will be **46 feet**.
 - C. Bases shall be 60 feet.
 - D. There will be outfield foul lines.
 - E. Bases must be anchored
 - F. Outfield fence dimensions can be the same as fastpitch, with no limitations on home runs.
 - G. Ground rules should be discussed by the coaches and umpires prior to the game.
 - H. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT- Face mask, with throat protectors, shin guards and body protectors must be worn by the catcher. Helmets must be worn by catcher, batters, base-runners, on-deck batters and student coaches. Pitchers and infielders MAY wear protective masks.
12. SEASON ENDING TOURNAMENT FORMAT
 - A. The season culminating tournament format will be determined by the **Big 9** Athletic Directors, after the number of league teams have been declared.
13. LEAGUE TIES- In cases of ties, the procedure for determining places is as follows:

- A. For all ties that do not/would not eliminate a school from post season play, the following will be used: 1st – head to head record between tied teams; 2nd point system (same as football). If this does not settle the tie, then the established play-off procedures below will be used.
- B. Ties for any other places, which cannot be determined by head to head play, will be resolved by the league draw numbers for ~~spring~~ fall sports.

14. **SELECTIONS OF THE Big 9 SLOWPITCH ALL CONFERENCE TEAMS**

- A. The All Big 9 Team will consist of 15 total players. Just a 'first team' and not by positions. Coaches will be able to nominate the number of players based on their league finish. Should we have more teams join the league, additional nominations will be granted.

1st place team = 5 selections
2nd place team = 4 selections
3rd place team = 3 selections
4th place team = 2 selections
5th place team = 1 selection

- B. An outstanding offensive and defensive player will be selected to represent the **Big 9**. These awards are open to all Big Nine players.
- C. A coach of the year will be selected by his/her peers.
- D. A press release will be prepared at the time the **Big 9** All-League Teams are selected.