

2009 Softball Policy

I. LEAGUE / REGION TOURNAMENTS

1. 1A Southern and Northern Leagues

The top four (4) teams in the Southern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the league championship / state qualifying tournament.

The top four (4) teams in the Northern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the league championship / state qualifying tournament.

Both league tournaments will feature double-elimination brackets.

2. 2A Southern and Northern Leagues

The top four (4) teams in the Southern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the league championship / state qualifying tournament.

The top four (4) teams in the Northern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the league championship / state qualifying tournament.

Both league tournaments will feature double-elimination brackets.

3. 3A Northern and Southern Leagues

The top four (4) teams in the Southern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the double-elimination league championship / state qualifying tournament.

The top four (4) teams in the Northern League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the best-of-three league championship / state qualifying series playoffs.

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4. ***4A Sunrise, Sunset and Northern Regions***

The top four (4) teams from the Northeast League and the top four (4) teams from the Southeast League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the eight-team Sunrise Region championship / state qualifying tournament.

The top four (4) teams from the Northwest League and the top four (4) teams from the Southwest League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the eight-team Sunset Region championship / state qualifying tournament.

The top four (4) teams from the Sierra League and the top four (4) teams from the High Desert League, based on regular-season standings, qualify for the eight-team Northern Region championship / state qualifying tournament.

All three region tournaments will feature eight-team, double-elimination brackets.

II. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. ***Class 1A***

The top two (2) teams from the Southern League championship tournament and the top two (2) teams from the Northern League championship tournament qualify for the state championship. The tournament will be a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

2. ***Class 2A***

The top two (2) teams from the Southern League championship tournament and the top two (2) teams from the Northern League championship tournament qualify for the state championship. The tournament will be a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

3. ***Class 3A***

The Class 3A softball format will be based on a 2-2, 3-1 rotation.

In 2009, the top two (2) teams from the Southern League championship tournament and the two (2) winning teams from the Northern League series playoffs qualify for the state championship.

Each league will have two (2-2) representatives in the state semifinals when the state tournament is set to be played in the South (odd years).

The tournament will feature a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

In 2010, the three (3) series winners from the Northern League championship playoffs and the top (1) team (champion) from the Southern League championship tournament qualify for the state championship.

The Northern League will have three (3) representatives and the Southern League will have one (1) representative in the semifinals when the state tournament is set to be played in North (even years).

NOTE: The state bracket (semifinals) will rotate in even years with regards to the Northern League's No. 2 and No. 3 seeds. Please refer to the future brackets at the back of this book and those contained in this section.

4. *Class 4A*

The Class 4A softball format will be based on a 3-1, 2-2 rotation.

In 2009, the top (1) team (champion) from the Sunrise Region championship tournament, the top (1) team (champion) from the Sunset Region championship tournament and the top (1) team (champion) from the Northern Region championship tournament automatically qualify for the state championship.

One team from each region will automatically qualify and the fourth team (from Southern Nevada) will be determined by a playoff game between the #2 Sunrise and #2 Sunset teams when the state tournament is set to be played in the South (odd years).

The tournament will feature a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

If #2 Sunrise wins – #1 Sunrise vs. #1 Northern and #1 Sunset vs. #2 Sunrise in the state semifinals.

If #2 Sunset wins – #1 Sunset vs. #1 Northern and #1 Sunrise vs. #2 Sunset in the state semifinals.

In 2010, the top two (2) teams from the Northern Region championship tournament, the top (1) team (champion) from the Sunset Region championship tournament and the top (1) team (champion) from the Sunrise Region championship tournament qualify for the state championship.

The Northern Region will have two representatives and the Sunrise and Sunset regions will have one representative each in the semifinals when the state tournament is set to be played in North (even years).

2010 – #1 Northern vs. #1 Sunset and #1 Sunrise vs. #2 Northern in the state semifinals.

2008 – #1 Northern vs. #1 Sunrise and #1 Sunset vs. #2 Northern in the state semifinals.

2006 – #1 Northern vs. #1 Sunset and #1 Sunrise vs. #2 Northern in the state semifinals.

2004 – #1 Northern vs. #1 Sunrise and #1 Sunset vs. #2 Northern in the state semifinals.

If a region is to have two entries into the state championship bracket, both teams participating in the region championship game advance to the state tournament.

If the region is to have one team advancing, only the region champion will qualify for the state tournament.

III. UNIVERSAL TIE-BREAKER

1. The win-loss records of the teams in league/region play shall determine seeding into the league/region tournament. The league's administrators will determine win-loss records based on previously approved schedules. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken using the following procedures:
2. Tie between two (2) teams
 - A. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.
 - B. If the tie remains after head-to-head, each tied team shall receive one (1) point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points receives the higher seed.
 - C. If the tie remains, the team that won the last/final league game scheduled between the two teams will be the higher seed.

EXCEPTION: This step is only to be used for seeding. A team shall not be eliminated from league or region competition by the use of step 'C.' If the tie is not broken in step 'A' and/or 'B' and a team will be eliminated, a playoff game will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for this contest.

3. Tie between three (3) or more teams
 - A. In all cases of ties involving more than two teams, as each team is removed from the tie, all other tied teams revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.

B. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.

Example of multiple team ties:

- i. Games
 - Team A defeated Team B twice and split with Team C
 - Team B lost to Team A twice but defeated Team C twice
 - Team C lost to Team B twice and split with Team A
- ii. Mini Standings
 - Team A is 3-1
 - Team B is 2-2
 - Team C is 1-3
- iii. Results
 - Team A is awarded highest seed
 - Team B is awarded second highest seed because of its head-to-head record against Team C

C. Seven (7) run system

If the tie remains, all tied teams will compare their margin of victory with each other in league play. Each team will total their margin of runs against the other tied teams with marginal runs being the difference in the scores of a game. Winning teams will add the margin of runs while losing teams will subtract the margin of runs. No more than seven (7) runs will be added or subtracted in any league game. The team with the highest number of marginal runs will receive the highest seed. If there is a tie for highest marginal runs, then those tied teams shall revert back to the respective tie-breaking procedure based on the number of teams remaining in the tie. Once a team is eliminated, the remaining teams will always refer back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining.

Example of point system:

- i. Games
 - Team A defeated Team B, 8-0
 - Team B defeated Team C, 11-6
 - Team C defeated Team A, 4-3
- ii. Mini Standings
 - Marginal points for Team A is +6
 - Marginal points for Team B is -2
 - Marginal points for Team C is -4

- iii. Results
 - Team A is awarded highest seed
 - Team B is awarded second highest seed because of its head-to-head record against Team C

- D. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.

- E. If a tie still exists and all tied teams, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region tournament, are guaranteed entrance into the tournament, then a coin toss will be used to determine seeding. The winner of any coin toss will receive the highest seed. Remaining teams would revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.

- F. If a tie still exists and one or more of the tied teams must, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region tournament, be eliminated, playoff game(s) will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for the event.

NOTE: In the event of a multiple team tie as outlined in step 'F,' the tied teams will draw numbers. The team drawing #1 will have a bye and will play the winner of the first playoff game. All games will be scheduled as soon as possible. Seeding will be established by the results of this playoff.

IV. HOME TEAM

“In all post-season softball brackets, the higher seed will be the home team with the exception that the undefeated team, regardless of seed, will be the home team in the championship final (in the case of a double-elimination bracket). The home-visitor roles will be switched, however, in the case of a championship ‘if game’.

“In the case that similar seeds, with equal records within the tournament, meet in a region/state championship tournament, the home team will be determined by a coin flip.”

All League/Region/State Games: The home team will always have choice of dugout.