

## SOFTBALL Policies & Pairings

### State Tournament Pairings Format

State Tournament pairings are determined by a schools RPI Ranking within that schools classification. Throughout the tournament, the team with the higher seed will be the designated home team.

### Adhere to UHSAA & NFHS Rules

The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) provides the rules for high school softball. Coaches, athletes and officials must adhere to the NFHS rules and the rules outlined in the UHSAA Handbook. To review the NFHS softball rule changes for this year, go to the UHSAA Softball page at [www.uhsaa.org](http://www.uhsaa.org) or the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) (click on the “Athletic and Fine Arts Activities” tab then softball). Both sites provide valuable updates and resources for softball coaches and officials.

### Official Optic Yellow Game Ball

Wilson A9011 will be the official ball for the state tournaments. The color “white” was removed from the list of permissible colors for softballs. All softballs used for competition must now be optic yellow (NFHS Softball Rules).

### UHSAA Requires Double First Base

For safety reasons, the UHSAA requires a double first base in all scheduled games and tournaments.

### Time Limits for Sub-Varsity Games Only

A 1 1/2 hour time limit will be in effect for all (2A-6A) sub-varsity games. Time limits will NOT apply to varsity level games (2A-6A). Occasionally, member schools will play softball on city or county park properties that may impose a specific time limit. If a facility restriction is in place, a 1 and 1/2 hour time limit may be used. There will be no time limit for playoffs and championship games in any classification.

### Adhere to UHSAA Suspended Game Procedure

Schools should adhere to the suspended game rule as stated in the UHSAA Handbook and UHSAA Official’s Guidebook. The NFHS suspended game rule (NFHS Rule 4-2-3) will NOT be in effect.

### Ten Run Rule & Fifteen Run Rule

A ten run rule is in effect after five innings of play. A game will end anytime after 4 1/2 innings or 5 innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat. A fifteen run rule will be used after three innings of play.

**This rule is in effect for all non-region, region and post-season games.**

### International Tie-Breaker

After 7 innings of play or at the beginning of the first full inning after the time limit expires, the international tie-breaker will be implemented. At the start of the 8th inning before the first batter begins her turn at bat; the last batter who hit in that team’s half of the last inning will assume a position at 2nd base. This means that the first batter in the top of the 8th will bat with a runner on 2nd base and no one out. The same procedure will continue in each half inning until a winner is determined.

### State Softball Tournaments

Go to the UHSAA online calendar link ([uhsaa.org](http://uhsaa.org)) for the dates and locations of the state softball tournaments. Review the state softball pairings listed on the next page. Regions should email in their final region results to [jwhittaker@uhsaa.org](mailto:jwhittaker@uhsaa.org) as soon as they become available.