

- (1) Existing byes will be awarded to the highest seeds possible.
- (2) The higher seed is the home team unless otherwise determined by the NCHSAA.

4.1.20 Reporting Playoff Advancement:

- (a) After schools have qualified for the playoffs, it is their responsibility to report advancement by the appropriate method and deadline as designated by the NCHSAA.
- (b) Failure to report a playoff advancement will result in a \$400 fine to the school. Teams must report advancement no later than 6 a.m. the day following each win.
- (c) Postponements should also be reported.

4.1.21 Unpaid Fines: Schools that have unpaid fines to the NCHSAA are not eligible to compete in the playoffs for that sport (i.e. baseball fine would be specific to baseball playoffs) unless the fine is paid two (2) days prior to the reporting date for that sport. Any fine not paid at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) will carry over to the following school year making all teams at said school ineligible for the playoffs until the fine is paid in full.

4.1.22 Health and Safety Guidelines: Follow all applicable Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3), which includes:

- (a) Heat Illness Prevention and Management (2.3.2)
- (b) Heat Acclimatization (2.3.3)
- (c) Prevention of Heat Illness (2.3.4)
 - (1) WBGT and Heat Index Charts on page 39
- (d) Recognition of Heat Illness (2.3.5)
- (e) Management of Heat Illness (2.3.6)
- (f) Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness Act (2.3.7)
 - (1) Education, Plan, and Emergency Action Plan (2.3.7.c)
- (g) Cardiac Safety Program (2.3.9)
- (h) NFHS Guidelines for Handling Practices and Contests During Lightning or Thunder Disturbances (2.3.10)
- (i) Tobacco Products, Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances (2.3.11)
- (j) Performance Enhancing Substances (2.3.12)
- (k) Infectious Disease Policy (2.3.13)
- (l) Catastrophic Insurance (2.3.14)
- (m) Student Accident Insurance and Athletic Coverage (2.3.15)
- (n) Hazing (2.3.16)

4.1.23 Body Paint: No face/body paint is allowed during regular season or playoffs.

4.1.24 Noisemakers: Any noise-making objects are prohibited at indoor contests (cheerleaders may use non-electronic hand megaphones).

4.1.25 Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Filming, videotaping or video streaming of a contest or scrimmage by nonparticipating schools, in any sport, is considered unsportsmanlike conduct, subject to a \$400 fine, unless agreed upon by competing teams.

- (a) Filming, videotaping or video streaming for baseball and softball may not be done beyond either first base or third base.

4.1.26 Clinic Dates: For 2021-2022 NCHSAA Rules Clinic information, see NCHSAA website.

4.2 BASEBALL

4.2.1 General

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: February 14.
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game: February 28.
- (e) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all information.
- (f) Number of Regular Season Contests: Total 22 games (including any games played in invitational tournaments).
 - (1) No more than four per week, provided fourth single game is on a non-school day for both.
 - (2) Four games in three days is still permissible without using a non-school day (e.g. doubleheader on a school day).
 - (3) Teams may participate in one tournament with up to three games, counting that tournament as a single contest relative to the season limitation of 22 games. Any games above and beyond the allowable three games in a single tournament must be counted toward the season limitation.
 - (4) It is permissible for an athlete to participate in a junior varsity and varsity game in the same day; however, any athlete is still subject to the weekly and seasonal limitations (four games a week, not to exceed three days, total of 22).

- (5) Team and individuals are limited to two games a day.
- (6) Junior varsity conference tournament games must count toward the 22-game limit.
- (7) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
- (g) Starting Time: During the regular season, a time no earlier than 5 p.m. is recommended unless facilities dictate otherwise, e.g. no lights.
- (h) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal limitations.
- (i) Equipment:
 - (1) Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark and the NOCSAE standard mark at the time of manufacture. NOTE: NCHSAA approved balls will be required for all playoff events. The NCHSAA strongly recommends their adoption for regular season play.
 - (2) The minus-three bat is the only allowable bat.
 - (i) The barrel of the minus-three bat is to be 2 5/8 inches.
 - (ii) All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be labeled with a silk screen or other permanent certification mark.
 - (iii) No BBCOR label, sticker, or decal will be accepted on any non-wood bat. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of one inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. To read: "BBCOR .50".
 - (3) Coaches must wear a skull cap style helmet or NOCSAE certified helmet when coaching in the Coaches Box during games.
- (j) Ten-Run Rule: The ten run rule has been adopted by the NCHSAA for baseball; if a team is ahead by 10 runs after five complete innings, the game is terminated.
- (k) Pitching Regulation:
 - (1) A player is allowed 105 pitches per day provided he or she has met the required days of rest.
 - (a) Pitch count applies only to pitches thrown during an at bat.
 - (2) A pitcher can finish an at bat if he or she reaches 105 pitches during an at bat.
 - (3) The required rest periods are based on the following pitch windows:
 - (a) If a pitcher throws 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days rest are required before pitching again.
 - (b) If a pitcher throws 61-75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest are required before pitching again.
 - (c) If a pitcher throws 46-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest are required before pitching again.
 - (d) If a pitcher throws 31-45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.
 - (e) If a pitcher throws 1-30 pitches in a day, zero (0) calendar days of rest are required before pitching again.
 - (f) Any pitcher appearing two (2) consecutive days, regardless of the number of pitches thrown, must rest one (1) calendar day.
 - (4) **State Championship Series Exception:** Pitchers may throw a maximum of 120 pitches during the State Championship Series. No rest periods apply to the State Championship Best-of-Three Series.
 - (5) Pitch count applies only to pitches during an at bat.
 - (6) Game Day Tracking Forms must be signed by opposing coaches, or designee, and kept on file. Counts must be updated on the team's MaxPreps page before 11:00 a.m. on the day following the contest.
 - (i) Head Coaches, or their designee, must communicate pitch counts between each inning. Failure to communicate between innings could result in a fine for unsporting behavior if discrepancies arise.
 - (ii) In cases where there is a discrepancy between the home and visiting teams, the home team book will be used for official tracking. Intentional discrepancies in pitch records will be deemed unsporting, evaluated on a per instance basis, and could result in penalties.
 - (7) Pitch count rule is in effect for all players (JV and Varsity)
 - (8) First Round Playoffs through Regionals: Pitch Count window and days of rest are required, including during the best-of-three series scheduled for Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.
- (l) Doubleheaders: Permitted when mutually agreed upon by teams involved.
 - (1) Doubleheaders are two back-to-back games, at the same level, with a reasonable (30 minutes) time between contests.
 - (2) Split doubleheaders are also permissible (two separate opponents).
 - (3) By mutual agreement, two member schools may agree to play two five (5) inning games in a

doubleheader.

- (m) Suspended Games: North Carolina has adopted the suspended game rule, mandatory in all regular season and state playoff games. A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game.
 - (1) If the game is to be completed it will be continued from the point of interruption, with the lineup and batting order of each team the same as the lineup and batting order at the point of interruption, subject to the rules of the game.
 - (2) If more than 4 1/2 innings have been played and a winner can be determined, the game is over (including playoff games).
 - (3) After 5 innings, if the visiting team scores a tying or go ahead run in their top half of the inning and the home team does not have an opportunity to bat or complete its time at bat, the game is treated as a suspended game.
 - (4) If a game is called prior to the completion of a full inning after the fifth inning, the game becomes a suspended game in the following situation: the visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or take the lead, and the home team has not tied the score or retaken the lead.
 - (i) **Example:** The sixth inning begins with score H-6, V-5. Visitors score two runs in their half of the inning. Game is called because of rain with (a) two outs in the bottom of the sixth and the score H-6, V-7; or (b) following the completion of the home team's turn at bat with the score H-6, V-7. In (a) the game is suspended and resumed on the next possible date at the point of interruption. In (b) the game is official, with the final score H-6, V-7.
 - (5) A suspended game does not count against the weekly limitations in the week in which it is completed.
- (n) Rained-Out Games: If any rained-out baseball game which would affect the winning of a conference title is to be played, it shall be rescheduled on the same field (exception: suspended games do not have to be rescheduled on the same field, unless changed by mutual agreement of the two schools).
- (o) Postponed Games: Postponed games must be made up in order of postponement on the next possible date (Excluding Sunday).
 - (1) In the regular season, Saturday will not be used as a make-up day unless mutually agreed upon by both teams.
 - (2) In the playoffs, Saturdays must be used. If one team will not play, the game is forfeited to the opponent.
- (p) Protest: Each conference is to establish a baseball protest committee. The committee's decision on any properly protested conference baseball game will be final.
- (q) Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by January 15.
- (r) Uniformed Police Officer: Reference 2.5.3.a.
- (s) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.25.

4.2.2 Playoffs:

- (a) Representatives and Ties in Standings: Reference 4.1.12.
- (b) Qualifiers: See 4.1.18 (Playoff Berths/Qualification) for selection criteria.
- (c) Reporting Playoff Qualifiers: For reporting potential qualifiers to state playoffs, conference presidents are required to submit the appropriate information on the NCHSAA website immediately upon conclusion of the regular season.
 - (1) The information includes overall won-loss record and winning percentage for all conference schools. This must be submitted prior to appropriate deadlines. The overall winning percentage and finish in conference standings will be considered when determining which schools qualify for wild-card berths in playoffs.
 - (2) Upon conclusion of the conference tournament, the conference president will immediately submit the adjusted overall records of all teams. These are the records that will be listed on the brackets themselves when playoff qualifiers are posted.
 - (3) Failure to comply with the initial reporting procedure will result in a \$400 fine to the conference.
 - (4) Check NCHSAA website for additional information.
- (d) Seeding: See 4.1.19
- (e) Playoff Brackets: Will be posted on the NCHSAA Website once seeding is complete.
- (f) Schedule:

Reporting Deadline:	May 7, (11:59 p.m.)	Third Round	May 17
Seeding	May 9	Fourth Round	May 20
First Round	May 10	Regional	May 24 - 28
Second Round	May 13	State	June 3 - 4

 - (1) All games are single elimination, with the exception of the regional and state championship

- series, which are the best two out of three games.
- (2) Competing teams should contact each other to work out details for their contest.
- (3) Deadlines are set for completion of each round, but competing schools may play on an earlier date by mutual consent.
- (g) Game Ball: The Wilson A1010 BPRO-NCHS (WTA1010BHS1SST or WTA1010BPRONCHS or WTA1010BPROSST) with Association logo and NFHS-authenticating ball mark is the official ball for the state championship series.
- (h) Officials:
 - (1) For the first two rounds of state playoffs, umpires are to be assigned by the local officials association of the higher seeded team.
 - (2) After the first two rounds, umpires must come from a neutral association or from association mutually agreed upon.
 - (3) Four (4) umpires will be used in all Regional Series games.
 - (4) Assignments for regional and state championship games will be made by the NCHSAA office.
- (i) Game Times: On fields with lights, game time will be 7:00 p.m., unless mutually agreed upon to play at 6:00 p.m.
 - (1) Any other exceptions, such as field with no lights, must be approved by the NCHSAA.
 - (2) Where the distance is more than 100 miles for the visiting team, game time will be 6:00 p.m.
 - (3) Saturday: Teams may play at any time if mutually agreed upon.
 - (i) If teams cannot mutually agree, the higher seeded team may choose a starting time between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
 - (a) Between 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. if the visiting team is over 100 miles one-way.
- (j) Admission: \$7.00 for all (site must be conducive to charging admission) in first, second, third and fourth round games; \$7.00 for all at each game of regional series. See appropriate forms on the NCHSAA website for financial reporting.
- (k) Protest Committee: The competing teams are required to coordinate a protest committee that includes a minimum of three school administrators prior to playing the first game of the series. The committee will act on any protest at the time it may occur and its decision is final.
Note: Parents are not allowed to serve on this committee.
- (l) Postponed Games: Must be rescheduled on the next day (except on Sunday). Both schools and the NCHSAA must be involved in the decision to postpone any playoff contest.
- (m) Team Expenses and Financial Arrangements: The NCHSAA receives 0% of the gross gate from the first round; 15% of the gross gate from second, third and fourth round games; and receives 25% of the gross gate from each game in the regional playoff series. In all rounds prior to the state championship, participating schools will divide the remainder equally after applying the following expense formula:
 - (1) Where the distance between the competing schools is 100 miles or less, the visiting school will pay its own transportation and meals and the host school will provide the playing facility, ticket takers, security and balls at no charge. The umpires are to be paid from gate receipts.
 - (2) Where the distance is more than 100 miles, the same plan should be followed except that the umpires are paid by the host school, rather than from gate receipts.
 - (3) All concession rights belong to the host school.
 - (4) Participating schools are responsible for dividing any deficit or net.
 - (5) The principal of the host school, or appointed game manager, must forward the financial report and ticket accountability form to the NCHSAA within 10 days after the contest.
- (n) Ticket Accountability and Financial Forms: All forms can be found on the NCHSAA website.
- (o) Regional Awards: Team plaques will be presented to the regional champion and regional runner-up.

4.2.3 State Championship Series:

- (a) Dates: June 3-4, 2022.
- (b) Required Information: Teams qualifying for the state championships must submit their roster and team information (see website) no later than Monday at noon prior to the state championship series.
- (c) Series: The state finals shall be a best two out of three game series. Game times and sites will be established by the NCHSAA. The higher seeded team will be designated as the home team for games 1 and 3. If equal seeds meet, the NCHSAA will draw to determine the home team.
- (d) Admission: \$20.00 all-session pass, \$8.00 for each session 1, \$12.00 for session 2 & 3 combined, and \$8.00 for session 3. May be amended due to weather. Each team will receive 8 complimentary tickets/passes (5 VIP and 3 School Administrator).
- (e) Protest Committee: See 4.2.2.k.
- (f) Officials: Will be assigned by the Supervisor of Officials.
- (g) Radio and TV Fee: Reference 2.2.18.

- (h) Gate Receipts: The net balance will be divided as follows: 20% to each of the competing teams and 60% to the NCHSAA.
- (i) Team Expenses: Travel and expenses for 18 players plus a coach and manager, shall be allowed at the rate designated by the NCHSAA (see basketball section Reference 4.3.3.c).
- (j) Awards: Plaques will be presented to the championship and runner-up team in all classes. Members of the championship and runner-up teams will receive individual awards (a total of 25).

4.3 BASKETBALL

4.3.1 General

- (a) Information on Mailings, Classifications, Payment of Officials, Eligibility Sheets, Ejections, Playoff Declaration, Unpaid Fines, NCHSAA Clinic Dates, Body Paint and Noisemakers are found under General Requirements for Interscholastic Activities (4.1).
- (b) Date of First Practice: November 1 (October 25 for non-football playing schools).
- (c) Preseason Scrimmages: Reference 4.1.5
- (d) Date of First Game: November 15 (November 8 for non-football playing schools).
- (e) Number of Regular Season Contests: No more than three per week. During any two weeks of the regular season, four games may be played, provided the fourth game is on a non-school day.
 - (1) Total, 22 games. An individual player is limited to one game a day. Junior varsity tournament games are part of the 22-game limit.
 - (2) Varsity conference tournament games are considered part of the state playoffs.
 - (3) Teams may participate in one tournament with up to three games, counting that tournament as a single contest relative to the season limitation of 22 games. Any games above and beyond the allowable three games in a single tournament must be counted toward the season limitation.
 - (4) Special Note for non-football playing schools: Six additional basketball games may be played, for a total of 28. These games must be completed prior to the first playing date for football-playing schools. Those six games will not count for seeding purposes.
- (f) Tournaments: Tournaments are governed by daily, weekly and seasonal game limitations.
- (g) Health and Safety Guidelines: Reference General Requirements for Interscholastic Athletic Activities for a listing of Guidelines (4.1.22) and Health and Safety Guidelines (2.3) for all the information.
- (h) Required Equipment: Red lights behind the backboard synchronized with the time clock buzzer are required. Balls must have the authenticating NFHS ball mark. NOTE: NCHSAA Approved balls are required for all playoff events. The NCHSAA strongly recommends their adoption for regular season play. If Precision Time System is available, it can be used.
- (i) Pep Bands: Organized music by a pep band at a basketball game is permissible only under the direct supervision of a school music director or other school personnel. The band may play only during dead-ball situations.
- (j) Cheerleaders: Cheerleaders must remain seated while the ball is in play, which includes after the free throw shooter is handed the ball. Cheerleaders may not come onto the floor during 30-second timeouts. The use of signage is allowed during timeouts.
 - (1) If on floor level (floor or first row of bleachers), cheerleaders must remain seated while the ball is in play, which includes after the free throw shooter is handed the ball.
 - (2) If on the second row of bleachers or higher, cheerleaders may stand to cheer while the ball is in play.
- (k) Net Removal: Nets may not be cut down or removed following a game at any time. See penalty code 3.3.2.d.3.
- (l) Postponed Games: Must be rescheduled on the next possible date (excluding Sunday). Both schools and the NCHSAA must be involved in the decision to postpone any playoff contest.
- (m) Suspended Games: The NCHSAA plays by the suspended game rule in all sports (see 2.2.7.c).
- (n) Mercy Rule: Once the score reaches a 40 point differential at halftime or thereafter, the game will resort to a running clock, including the administration of free throws or all other dead ball situations, except for timeouts called by a coach or official; the game can be terminated by mutual agreement.
- (o) Schedules: Schools are required to submit varsity and junior varsity schedules to their appropriate regional supervisor by September 30.
- (p) Uniformed Police Officer: Reference 2.5.3.a.
- (q) Filming, Videotaping or Video Streaming: Reference 4.1.25.
- (r) Required Tournament Information: Fact sheet, roster forms for tournament play, requests for photo and other information forms can be found on the NCHSAA website. Note deadlines for submission of material. This is mandatory for playoff qualifiers. Check NCHSAA website.