

Softball Guidelines
Bay Valley Athletic League

Season

- A. Softball is a spring sport as defined by the NCS.
- B. Games will be conducted under National Federation rules.
- C. Maximum number of games is 24 and the maximum number of scrimmages is two.
- D. The league season shall consist of a double round robin. The junior varsity shall play the same schedule.
- E. Tournament games shall count at a one to one ratio.
- F. The league season will consist of a double round robin. Games will be scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday.
- G. Sunday practice or team meetings are expressly prohibited.
- H. Prior to April 1 the starting time shall be 3:30 pm; after April 1 the starting time shall be 4:00 pm.
- I. A team arriving late because of transportation issues will be granted a 25 minute warm-up with 15 minutes of infield practice.
- J. Any batting practice prior to a game is governed by NCS rules and restrictions.
- K. Three copies of the ground rules shall be provided by the home team – one going to the umpires, one to the opposing team, and the third posted in the home dugout.
- L. There shall be a two-hour limit for junior varsity games. No new innings may star after the 2 hour time limit.
- M. After five completed innings the ten run rule shall apply.
- N. On any game site that is not part of the high school an administrator or designee is encouraged.
- O. Alumni games do not count as one of the 24 contests or scrimmages.
- P. All scores must be reported by the home team to MaxPreps in accordance with NCS Rules.

Participation of Players

- A. Junior varsity player may move up to the varsity anytime, but he/she cannot return to the junior varsity team in the same calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This rule applies to movement from freshmen to junior varsity teams.
- B. If a player suits up for a game he is considered to have participated.
- C. Seniors shall not play at the junior varsity level.
- D. Freshmen shall not participate in freshmen and junior varsity games on the same day.
- E. Varsity coaches must be in uniform to coach from the field. If a coach is not in uniform that coach is restricted to the confines of the dugout.

- F. At the freshman and junior varsity levels only, a player who has been moved from the freshman level to junior varsity level may move back down during the same calendar week only under the following two circumstances:
 - a. An illness and/or injury to players that would leave the roster short of the number of participants to start the game two plus two for substitutions.
 - b. The school whose players are moved will be responsible for notifying other league schools as soon as it is practical to do so.

Equipment

- A. All equipment including balls must comply with National Federation and NCS rules.
- B. All players must wear a batting helmet while on base.
- C. All coaches must wear a helmet while in the field of play.
- D. Teams shall have two sets of jerseys. The home team will wear white or the lighter colored jersey with numbers on the back. The visitors will wear the darker colored jerseys with numbers on the back.
- E. If there is a conflict in jersey color, the home team shall change jerseys.
- F. The home team shall provide game balls.

Officials

- A. There shall be two certified umpires for each varsity and junior varsity contest.
- B. If only one umpire shows, the game shall be played. In the event no umpire shows, the game shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible mutually agreed upon date.

League Champion/NCS Qualifier Determination

- A. The league champion shall be the team with the best record in the double round robin. In the event of a tie for first place the team that wins the second round game shall be declared the NCS qualifier.
- B. In the event of a three way tie for first place the team with the better second half record against its other opponents tied for first shall be declared the NCS qualifier.
- C. In the event that the above tie breakers do not produce an NCS qualifier the qualifier shall be determined by the number assigned to the school by a drawing of the coaches at the time of the pre-season meeting. The number 1 shall be assigned the highest priority followed by numbers 2-6 in sequential order. Thus, in a three way tie if the three schools tied held numbers 2 – 5 – 6, the school holding the number 2 would be declared the NCS qualifier. A school that does not have a representative at the pre-season meeting will receive a number of 6.
- D. All teams tied for first at the conclusion of the season shall be declared Co-champions and receive a championship banner.

All League Selection

- A. All league selections shall be made by the coaches or their representatives attending the end of season meeting.
- B. A school not represented shall not have players considered for first or second team consideration.
- C. The first and second team may consist of no more than two pitchers, one catcher, four infielders, four outfielders, and one utility player respectively.
- D. For a player to be named to the first team, he/she shall receive a minimum of four votes absent his/her coaches' vote. Those players not receiving first team votes will be placed on the second team if they have a minimum of three votes absent their coaches' vote. In case of a tie a revote shall be taken.
- E. There may be up to nine honorable mention players named regardless of position.
- F. One and only one Most Valuable Player shall be named. That player must receive five of six votes not excluding his/her coaches' vote.

Postponed Games, Suspended Games, or Site Changes

- A. In case of rain the home team must notify the visiting team no later than 1:30 PM of the day of the game that the game has been postponed. It shall also be the duty of the home team to notify the officials by the same time.
- B. A game postponed because of inclement weather must be played on the first available date following the postponement. No team shall exceed four games in a single calendar week. The home team shall determine the playability of the field.
- C. In the event of multiple postponements the games shall be rescheduled in sequential order
- D. Coaches may have the option of switching sites during the first round if both the schools principals and athletic directors agree. It shall be the responsibility of the original home team to notify the league office and the officials association of the change
- E. Suspended or called games
 - All games shall be played to their conclusions
 - Suspended games shall be completed prior to the next round's regularly scheduled game.

BVAL All Sportsmanship Team

- A. At the BVAL postseason meeting, the BVAL specific sport coaches will recognize those individuals that have demonstrated and serve as models for others in sportsmanship.
- B. Each sport will determine the number of selections for an All Sportsmanship team.
- C. Coaches may nominate any player from an opposing team who they observed as practicing good sportsmanship. Coaches may not self-nominate their own players.

- D. Coaches will then discuss and vote on those individuals to be given all-sportsmanship team recognition.
- E. Those individuals selected to the all-sportsmanship team will be given certificates by the league and publicized in the local press.

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