

## Pre-season Softball Memo #1

May 3, 2019

May means softball season in Iowa! Please take a few minutes to review the following information in preparation for the upcoming season.

### By the Numbers

**First practice:** Monday, May 6

**First game:** Monday, May 20

**First tournament:** Friday, May 23

**Playing dates:** 40 games

**Scrimmages:** 3

### Regional Tournament Dates:

**Class 1A and 2A:** July 8, 10, 12, 15

**Class 3A:** July 10, 12, 15

**Class 4A and 5A:** July 11, 13, 16

**State Tournament:** July 22-26 in Fort Dodge for all classes

**Official tournament ball:** Dudley SB 12L RF Y FP — Red stitch (.47 COR)

**QuikStats reporting dates:** Every Tuesday during the regular season

**Maximums:** 65 games per individual; only 3 games per day regardless of level

### Individual and Team Limitations

A team is permitted to play no more than three games in any single day. Tournaments may include no more than 16 teams. No more than four games per team may be played in any tournament. A school may play in only one tournament at a time and play no more than three games on a calendar day. No junior varsity teams are allowed in varsity tournaments except in emergency situations (must be approved by the IGHS AU).

Eighth grade students are eligible to practice (including scrimmages) with the high school team on May 6 and compete on May 20. Eighth graders may compete on the junior high team, high school team or both. If competing in junior high and high school, they may play in only three games on a calendar day.

### Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility resumes at 12:01 a.m. on June 19.

### Tentative Softball Classifications

Please review your school's softball classification and report any errors as soon as possible. FINAL classifications will be posted after the first week of practice.

Here is the link to the tentative classifications:

<https://ighsau.org/upl/downloads/content-blocks/tentative-softball-classification.pdf>

## 2019 Prospectus

There is a preseason prospectus that we would like coaches to fill out. This document helps us prepare for the season and learn a little about your team. You can download the prospectus by going to the Coaches and Administrators section of the website and clicking on "softball," where you will find the prospectus in the documents section.

## 2019 Clinics

The final two 2019 softball umpire clinics are May 8 in Storm Lake and May 11 at Cedar Rapids Jefferson. Teams participating in the clinics do not have to count this event in the three permissible scrimmages.

## Scrimmage Policy

Scrimmages between member schools shall be permitted between the date of first legal practice and the final day of State Tournament play. Teams may travel up to and including 100 miles from the home high school base for scrimmages, providing such is affected without loss of school time. On a non-school day, a team may exceed this 100-mile limit with local school administration approval. Iowa teams may scrimmage a high school team from another contiguous state (plus Kansas), provided that the school is a member institution of that state's activity association and that it falls within the 100-mile scrimmage radius.

If a school is scrimmaging at an out-of-state school, the scrimmage rules of that state shall apply. Iowa scrimmage rules will apply for scrimmages held in Iowa. A scrimmage shall be defined as that which takes place between member schools at one site on one calendar day, as well as established definition relating to the mandatory absence of scorekeeping, stats compilation and spectator charge. In order for a player to be charged with a scrimmage, she must have participated in the scrimmage.

## Mailings

Lineup cards are being mailed to athletic directors. The IGHSAU also has score sheets if you would like to order. Teams are not required to utilize these cards and may use another lineup card for your contests. Rule books and additional lineup cards are available for purchase. Contact Monte Wilson at (515) 401-1837 to order.

## QuikStats

QuikStats is now open for coaches to enter schedules and update rosters. There is a new format change for entering schedules. **Schools are to enter their home games only into QuikStats/Varsity Bound.** You will **not** have to enter visiting team statistics into QuikStats/Varsity Bound. If you have any questions or problems entering schedules or updating rosters, please email Jason Eslinger at [jasoneslinger@ighsau.org](mailto:jasoneslinger@ighsau.org).

## On Line Rules Meeting

The 2019 softball rules meeting is available on the IGHSAU website:

<http://www.brainshark.com/arbitersports/vu?pi=zHLznMGoezDIEVz0&nodesktopflash=1>

All coaches are strongly encouraged to view the meeting. Head varsity coaches are **REQUIRED** to complete the viewing of the rules by midnight, Friday, May 10. Your email address and school affiliation must be entered prior to the beginning of the rules meeting. You will receive via email a certificate of completion within an hour of completing the meeting.

### **Licensure and Concussion Training**

All coaches working for your junior high and high school softball staff (paid and volunteer) must be properly licensed and have completed the annual concussion training. Individuals are not allowed to "coach" in any capacity either during practice or competition. Steve Mitchell at the Iowa Board of Education Examiners may be contacted for further information. His phone is (515) 281-6896 or email him at [steve.mitchell@iowa.gov](mailto:steve.mitchell@iowa.gov). The online concussion course is available on the IGHSAU website at: <https://ighsau.org/coaches-administrators/athlete-health-safety/>

### **Double First Base Rule**

NFHS Softball Rule 8-10 regarding the double first base is being followed, just as it was in 2018.

### **Equipment Safety Check**

Umpires will no longer be responsible for checking equipment prior to the start of games. School administrators and coaches are now responsible for ensuring that all softball equipment meets NFHS rules and safety standards. Rules 7-4-2 and 10-2-3I provide the authority to umpires to penalize for equipment violations.

### **Bat Certification**

Softball bats must bear the 2004 ASA certification mark AND NOT be listed on the USA Softball non-approved bat list with the ASA certification marks. The 2020 USA bat certification mark has been released and is shown below. You may see bats with this mark as pre-production models are available. The IGHSAU has approved the immediate use of the new USA Softball Certification Mark for all bats. To be clear, for a bat to be approved for use in IGHSAU competition, it must bear the ASA Certified 2004 mark or the 2020 USA Softball Certified mark AND NOT be listed on the USA softball non-approved bat list. For example, there is an Easton Ghost Bat with gray barrel, gold lettering that is not on the non-approved bat list. The reason for this is that there is no ASA mark on the bat. If there is no mark, it is ILLEGAL. If a bat has a mark, please make sure it is also NOT on the illegal list.

More complete bat information is available on line at:

<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Softball/~link.aspx?id=015F4358A30B44368FC142350D112FFF&z=z>

A listing of NON-APPROVED bats:

<https://ighsau.org/upl/downloads/content-blocks/2019-non-approved-bat-list-2.pdf>

### **2020 USA Softball Certification Mark**



### **2019 NFHS Rule Changes**

Here is the link to the 2019 NFHS softball rule changes:

<https://ighsau.org/upl/downloads/content-blocks/2019-nfhs-softball-rule-changes.pdf>

### **2019 IGHSAU Adaptations**

Here is the link to the 2019 rule adaptations for Iowa.

[http://ighsau.arbitersports.com/Groups/107730/Library/files/2019 IGHSAU adaptations.pdf](http://ighsau.arbitersports.com/Groups/107730/Library/files/2019%20IGHSAU%20adaptations.pdf)

### **Wristband Change Reminder**

NFHS rules regarding wristbands were changed in 2018 under Rule **3-2-7c**. Language was added to address the use and placement of the wristband playbook/play card and defines this item as a piece of equipment. It no longer has to match the color of the uniform, but does need to be a single solid color and not optic yellow. In addition, if utilized as a play card it must be worn on the non-pitching arm

### **Face Protection**

NFHS rules do not mandate facemasks for softball players. It is permissible by NFHS rules and schools are encouraged to work with players and parents on use of facemasks by infielders. Please note that if facemasks are worn, the eye cover may NOT be tinted. This facemask is ILLEGAL for that reason.



## **Ejection Policy**

If a coach/player is ejected from a game/match, he/she does not coach/play for the remainder of that game/match. He/She may coach/play in other competition later on that same day. Any sanction issued by the school or State Office will be served on a subsequent date after review of the filed reports.

When a coach is serving a suspension, he/she may not coach and must be out of sight and sound of the contest venue. He/She is not permitted to watch the contest(s) as a spectator unless he/she has a daughter playing in the contest(s). If a player is serving a suspension, she may not be in uniform or participate in the contest(s) or pre-game warm-up, but may be in street clothes on the bench, dugout, etc.

IGHSAU Procedures for ejections are listed on line at:

<https://ighsau.org/upl/downloads/library/ejection-report.pdf>

## **Home Game Administrator**

The IGHSAU strongly recommends that all schools have an administrator in place for each home game. Host managers should identify themselves to the umpires and arrange for escorts on and off the field. Please notify the officials where the administrator will be located during the games so officials can contact when necessary. Coaches should not serve as site administrators during home games.

## **Contact Information**

Softball Administrator: Jean Berger 515-401-1832

[jeanberger@ighsau.org](mailto:jeanberger@ighsau.org)

Officials/Rules: Cathy Creighton 563-940-0164

[cathy@ighsau.org](mailto:cathy@ighsau.org)

Eligibility: Gary Ross 515-401-1842

[gross@ighsau.org](mailto:gross@ighsau.org)

QuikStats: Jason Eslinger 515-401-1836

[jasoneslinger@ighsau.org](mailto:jasoneslinger@ighsau.org)

Rule Books/Scorecards: Monte Wilson 515-401-1837

[monte@ighsau.org](mailto:monte@ighsau.org)

Arbiter: Sherry Tegtmeier 515-401-1839

[sherry@ighsau.org](mailto:sherry@ighsau.org)

IGHSAU Toll Free Number: 888-985-6547

