



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

TO: Member Schools' Athletic Administrators and Head Coaches for Baseball and Softball

To help with your scheduling for the 2025 baseball and softball seasons and with our baseball and softball tournaments expanding to seven divisions beginning next spring, listed below are the [expected] dates for the start of coaching/tryouts; the dates for the start of regular season contests, and the dates for the start of the OHSAA tournament. The 2025 Baseball State Tournament will remain at Canal Park in Akron, with several of the divisional semifinals taking place at venues in the nearby northeast Ohio area. The 2025 Softball State Tournament will remain at Firestone Stadium in Akron, with several of the divisional semifinals taking place at venues in the nearby northeast Ohio area. Additional information will be shared at a later time, once the 2025 State Baseball and State Softball Tournament formats have been officially determined.

BASEBALL | DIVISIONS III – VII

Coaching Begins	Season Begins	1 st & 2 nd Rounds of Tournament	Tournament Draw
February 24	March 28/29*	May 19 – 24	May 11

BASEBALL | DIVISIONS I & II

Coaching Begins	Season Begins	1 st & 2 nd Rounds of Tournament	Tournament Draw
February 24	March 28/29*	May 26 – 31**	May 11

**Date dependent on OHSBCA proposal to begin the future baseball seasons on Friday, instead of Saturday*

*** Indicates a few teams may play a preliminary game May 23/24, although the majority of teams will begin tournament play the week of May 26*

SOFTBALL | DIVISIONS III – VII

Coaching Begins	Season Begins	1 st & 2 nd Rounds of Tournament	Tournament Draw
February 17	March 22	May 12 – 17	May 4

SOFTBALL | DIVISIONS I & II

Coaching Begins	Season Begins	1 st & 2 nd Rounds of Tournament	Tournament Draw
February 17	March 22	May 19 – 24*	May 4

**Indicates a few teams may play a preliminary game May 16/17, although the majority of teams will begin tournament play the week of May 19*

2025 SEASON START DATES

There has been some confusion with the 2025 and 2026 season start dates for softball and baseball. The 2025 Softball and Baseball Regulations have been published since the summer of 2022. The Softball Regulations have stated that the 2025 season start date would begin on March 22, 2025. The Baseball Regulations have stated that the 2025 season start date would begin on March 29, 2025. In previous years, the softball and baseball seasons have typically started on the same week. We realize this is a change; however, these dates have been published since 2022.

We understand that there may have been previous conversations that indicated the season begin date(s) *might* change from what was posted in the Sport Regulations; however, there have been internal and external meetings with the respective Coaches Associations, that have determined the following preliminary plan. This information is not official until the June Board of Directors Meeting.

BASEBALL	2025	2026
Season Begins	March 28/29*	March 27/28*
State Tournament	June 13 -15	June 12 – 14
Season Ends	June 21	June 20

**current proposal submitted by the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association to begin on Friday, March 28, 2025 and Friday, March 27, 2026 (instead of Saturday, March 29, 2025 and Saturday, March 28, 2026) to be reviewed and voted on at the June BOD Meeting. If not approved, the 2025 season will begin on Saturday, March 29 and 2026 on Saturday, March 28.*

SOFTBALL	2025	2026
Season Begins	March 22	March 21
State Tournament	June 5 – 7*	June 4 – 6
Season Ends	June 14	June 13

**current proposal to move the 2025 State Tournament to June 7 – 9, instead of the currently listed May 29 – 31, 2025 due to the increase in number of divisions. The tournament dates would match what is outlined above. This will be reviewed and voted on at the June BOD Meeting.*

As indicated by asterisks above, these date(s) could potentially change based on the June Board of Directors Meeting.

2025 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIVISIONS & REPRESENTATION

The OHSAA Board of Directors are on schedule to approve the new divisions and tournament representation at the August Board of Directors Meeting. As announced in February, baseball and softball will expand to seven divisions beginning this upcoming spring season (2025). The largest 64 schools are placed in Division I, the next 64 largest schools are placed in Division II, and the remaining schools are divided as equally as possible into the other divisions.

Once the divisional assignments and regional tournament representation are voted on at the August Board Meeting, the information that will be shared shortly after will be considered preliminary, as OHSAA member schools may opt to move up to Division I if Referendum Issue 1B passes this spring. Results of the referendum voting will be announced May 16. Any changes to divisional assignments or tournament representation as a result of schools opting up to Division I will be announced by the OHSAA at a later date.