



2020

# Baseball

## Information



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# 2020 Baseball Tournament

## MIAA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

### CLASSIFICATION BY SECTION

Schools have been assigned by divisions based upon a 4-year alignment (2018-2021). North and South will be divided into four divisions. Central and West will be divided into three divisions (I, III & IV).

Please refer to the MIAA website for alignment information ([www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net))

### GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

#### A. OFFICIALS

Umpires are assigned by the Sectional Officials Assigners. Recommended officials will become part of a pool of umpires that will receive consideration for tournament play. Sectional Tournament Directors will make the final decision with regard to assigning of umpires. The MIAA Baseball Committee has recommended that tournament officials in baseball have 3 years experience and 45 games of high school varsity experience. The following number of umpires will be assigned for:

Sectional Quarter-final – two umpires

Sectional Semi-final and Sectional Final – three umpires

State Semi-final and Final - three umpires

\*\* Please note - umpire fees for preliminary and Quarter-Final games are to be paid by the home team.

#### Selection of Umpires for State Semi-Final and State Final Games

State Semi-Final Games:

- For Central/West games: Even years - 1 plate umpire from the West region and 2 umpires from the Central region  
Odd years - 2 umpires from the West region and 1 plate umpire from the Central region
- For South/North games: Even years - 1 plate umpire from the North region and 2 umpires from the South region  
Odd years - 2 umpires from the North region and 1 plate umpire from the South region

State Finals: All three umpires will be selected from a region not playing in the game. Selection and/or rotation of the three-man crew will be at the discretion of the MIAA Liaison to Baseball in consultation with the Sectional Tournament Directors and Sectional Officials Assigners.

#### Division 1A

1<sup>st</sup> Round – Two Umpires; fees to be paid by home team

Beginning in 2<sup>nd</sup> Round – Three umpires; fees to be paid by MIAA (neutral sites)

#### Selection of Umpires for all 1A games:

Umpires will be selected by the 1A Director in consultation with Sectional Officials Assigners. The 1A Director will work to apply “neutrality” for the assignment of umpires when necessary.

\*\* Given the 1A Tournament is double elimination, the “State Final” may be one or two games.

Postponement of game, On-Site (All Divisions): After the teams arrive at the field, the plate umpire will decide if the game is to be postponed because of weather. The plate umpire will notify the Official’s Assigner of the appropriate section if the decision is not to play.



## 2020 Baseball Tournament

### B. SEEDING

The position of teams is determined by win-loss percentage.

#### Tie Breaking Procedure

1. Head to Head Competition
2. Winning Percentage Against Common Opponents
3. League Champion
4. Coin Flip

In a tie breaker for tournament seeding every game played including exclusion games, but excluding endowment games, are counted.

If a tie involves multiple teams (more than 2) and a team is eliminated, the procedure starts over at step one with the remaining teams.

In the West and Central, the Walker and Modified-Walker System will be used for seeding purposes.

#### Division 1A Selection/Seeding Procedure

The IA Tournament will consist of Eight MIAA baseball teams regardless of pre-season divisional classifications or geography. The eight teams will be selected by the Division 1A Selection Committee. The location of the seeding meeting will be the MIAA offices in Franklin. The eight teams selected will be considered the strongest teams in the state. Division IA teams will be power seeded. Each of the baseball teams selected must participate only in the Division IA Tournament. All games for this tournament will be 7-innings.

Games that have been excluded by schools that do NOT count for MIAA seeding won loss percentage records will be considered by the Division 1A selection committee.

The following Baseball Committee voting representatives will constitute the Division IA Selection Committee:

1. MIAA Baseball Committee Chairman or Designee
2. One (1) North District Baseball Committee Representative
3. One (1) South District Baseball Committee Representative
4. One (1) Central District Baseball Committee Representative
5. One (1) West District Baseball Committee Representative
6. MBCA Baseball Committee Representative or Designee
7. One (1) At-Large Member of the Ice Hockey Committee
8. \*\*The Division 1A Director will sit at the selection/seeding committee meeting without a vote to serve as a resource to previously submitted 1A nominations.

For the Central, North, South and West Committee representatives (4 total), members of the baseball committee will be contacted to seek their interest in being a member of the Division 1A Selection/Seeding Committee. Interested 1A Selection/Seeding Committee members will be selected by the MIAA Baseball Committee in advance of 1A Tournament Selection. Should an appointed 1A Selection/Seeding Committee member have a team under consideration or is not able to be present for the seeding meeting, alternates (from the MIAA Baseball Committee) will be appointed by the Chairman.



## 2020 Baseball Tournament

### Selection Committee Member responsibilities:

- Committee members will email Baseball Committee Chair a preliminary list of teams to consider by May 1st. Selection Committee Members will meet 2nd week in May to review teams and schedules to start observing teams that are under consideration.
- Committee members should discourage phone calls from coaches lobbying for schools.
- Committee members are to consider: strength of team, depth of talent, strength of schedule, strength of league, overall record and performance toward the end of the season. Input from all members of the Selection Committee is vital to the success of the process.

### Division 1A nominating procedure:

- All members of the Selection Committee will submit one list of nominees (no more than 10) to the Baseball Committee Chair by **Saturday, May 30, 2020**. Each of these teams will be discussed and reviewed at the meeting that will be held on the seeding day.
- Selection Committee members will:
  - (a) nominate top 8
  - (b) power seed the 8 teams selected.

### Nominations and voting:

- Any Selection Committee member may nominate a school for consideration.
- The school's nomination will be discussed and reviewed.
- A hand vote will be taken - no abstentions. A majority vote is needed in order to remain in consideration. Teams failing to receive a majority vote will not be reconsidered.
- This nomination procedure will continue until there are no more nominations.

### Selection of top eight teams:

- After all nominations are completed, the Selection Committee will vote to select the top eight teams.
- Teams that receive a unanimous vote will be automatically placed and selected as one of the eight. Rank order to be determined by power seeding stated below.
- After all unanimous vote teams are placed, teams that did not receive a unanimous vote will be considered for placement in the remaining top eight slots. Each voting member will vote for one of the remaining teams- no abstentions. A majority vote is required for placement in the top eight teams. Rank order to be determined by seeding procedure stated below. Any team failing to receive majority vote will be placed back in the pool for future consideration.
- This voting procedure will continue until eight teams are placed.

### Power Seeding:

- Teams will be power seeded starting with the # 1 seed and ending with the # 8 seed. The power seeding is as follows:
  - a) The # 1 seed position will be voted. Each Selection Committee member will vote for one team - no abstentions. A majority vote is required for placement.
  - b) This power seeding process will continue until all eight teams have been placed.

## **C. SITE SELECTION, HOME TEAM, PLAYING FIELD, SELECTION OF BENCH**

### **Preliminary and Quarter-final games**

- The higher seeded team will be the home team, have the option of playing at their home site and select bench. If the higher seeded team has an unacceptable home site, it may choose one alternate site if approved by the Tournament Director. If a suitable alternate site cannot be immediately procured, the game will be played at the site of the lower seed team, provided that site is approved by the Tournament Director. If that site is not acceptable, the Tournament Director shall select a neutral site for the game.



## 2020 Baseball Tournament

- For games prior to sectional semi-final games, schools who mutually agree to and have received the approval of the Tournament Director may schedule a night game.
- Games played during school days will start at 4:00 P.M. unless both schools and the Tournament Director mutually agree to an earlier or later starting time.

### **Sectional Semi-final and Sectional Final games**

- Tournament Directors will assign games at pre-determined sites. Higher seeded team has choice of being home team or selecting bench. These games must be scheduled at a neutral site if at all possible. Efforts will be made to schedule the same division on the same day if possible.
- Teams shall not take batting practice at game site on day of game.
- Teams designated as home team shall take infield first.
- Teams may be scheduled for a night game by the Tournament Director.

### **State Semi-final and State Final games**

- Tournament Directors will assist in assigning and managing games at pre-determined sites.
- Starting times will be decided by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will notify schools and the media of starting times.
- A coin flip will decide the higher seeded team. The team that travels the furthest calls the flip. The winner of the flip has the choice of home/away or which dugout their team will have. The other coach makes his call accordingly.
- Teams may be scheduled for a night game by the Tournament Director.
- Teams shall not take batting practice at game site on day of game.

### **Division 1A**

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Round

- The higher seeded team will be the home team, have the option of playing at their home site and select bench. (other information consistent with full tournament format)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Round – 6<sup>th</sup> Round

- Tournament Director will assign playing sites. These games will be scheduled at a neutral site. Higher seeded team has choice of being home team or selecting bench.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Round (if necessary)

- The visiting team from Round 6 has the choice of home/away or which dugout their team will have. The other coach makes his call accordingly.

### **D. BASEBALLS**

- The only baseballs that can be used for Tournament games, prior to the Sectional Semi-final games, are those approved by individual MIAA member leagues.
- The home team shall provide the game balls for each game through the sectional Quarter-final.
- From the Sectional Semi-finals on, the approved baseball for 2020 is the Spalding Pro NFHS Baseball (41-100HS)

### **Division 1A**

1<sup>st</sup> Round – Approved league baseball's supplied by home team

Beginning in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round - the approved baseball for 2020 is Spalding Pro NFHS Baseball (41-100HS)

### **E. ELIGIBLE TOURNAMENT PLAYERS** (Baseball Form Roster, ref. members only)

The Baseball Committee has established a 20 player limit for tournament eligible teams. In the event a team that qualifies for the tournament has 21-25 bona fide players on its roster who dressed and practiced with the team from the start of the season, that team may exceed the 20 player limit only with the approval of their tournament director.



## 2020 Baseball Tournament

### F. POSTPONEMENT BECAUSE OF WEATHER

- For all games prior to Sectional Semi-finals, the home team will decide, three hours before game time, if the game is to be postponed to the following day. If a game cannot be rescheduled to the following day the Tournament Director reserves the right to select location, time and/or date of the game.
- From the Sectional Semi-final on, the Site Director will notify the teams involved, newspapers, and the Official's Assigner, three hours before game time, if the game is postponed. Postponed games are to be played the following day.
- A postponed game can be played on a Sunday.
- Once the teams arrive at the field the plate umpire will make all postponement decisions. If a game is postponed on-site, the Site Director will notify the Official's Assigner, the Tournament Director and newspapers.

#### Division 1A

- For all games in Round 1, the home team will decide, three hours before game time, if the game is to be postponed to the following day.
- Beginning in Round 2, the Tournament Director will notify the teams involved, newspapers, and the Official's Assigner, three hours before game time, if the game is postponed. Postponed games are to be played the following day.
- A postponed game can be played on a Sunday.
- Once the teams arrive at the field the plate umpire will make all postponement decisions. If a game is postponed on-site, the Site Director will notify the Official's Assigner, the Tournament Director and newspapers.

### G. TIES, SUSPENDED AND/OR REGULATION GAMES

1. For all games played prior to Sectional Finals
  - a. All games played that are regulation games (games played through 4 1/2 or 5 innings) which are stopped by the umpire-in-chief, are completed games, if not tied. If tied, or if the home team trailing with an unequal amount of at-bats, the game will be resumed at the point of stoppage.
  - b. All games played that are not regulation games which are stopped by the umpire-in-chief are suspended games and will be resumed at the point of stoppage.
2. Game played from Sectional Finals through State Finals
  - a. All games played which are stopped by the umpire-in-chief, regardless of innings played or score, will be resumed at the point of stoppage. These games must complete 6 1/2 or 7 innings.

#### Division 1A

##### **All games will be 7 innings in length**

1. Games in Rounds 1-3
  - a. All games played that are regulation games (games played through 4 1/2 or 5 innings) which are stopped by the umpire-in-chief, are completed games, if not tied. If tied, or if the home team trailing with an unequal amount of at-bats, the game will be resumed at the point of stoppage.
  - b. All games played that are not regulation games which are stopped by the umpire-in-chief are suspended games and will be resumed at the point of stoppage.
2. Beginning in Round 4
  - a. All games played which are stopped by the umpire-in-chief, regardless of innings played or score, will be resumed at the point of stoppage. These games must complete 6 1/2 or 7 innings.

### H. PLAYING RULES

- RULES will be those of the latest Official Rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) with the following additions:



## 2020 Baseball Tournament

1. The "Strike Two" Rule will be included for Tournament Play. (MIAA Handbook Rule 65.4)
2. Pitch Counts, MIAA Handbook Rule 65.5, will be enforced during tournament play.

### I. **PROTEST OF A MISAPPLIED RULE**

Protests must be settled on the playing field by the crew of officials.

### J. **MEDICAL COVERAGE**

A licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner will be available at all contests. This coverage will be provided and paid for by the Host School in tournament rounds which are usually at the site of the higher seeded team. The MIAA will provide for this coverage at MIAA designated neutral sites.

### K. **SAT/SAT SUBJECT TESTS AND ACT:**

1. Baseball Tournament Games may be scheduled for June 6, the same date of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests. Baseball Tournament Games may also be scheduled for June 13, the same date of the ACT. Please inform all coaches & student-athletes well in advance of the June 2020 timeframe so alternative plans may be made. A listing of all dates and sports that may take place on scheduled College Board and ACT exam dates can be found on the MIAA website.
2. The College Board offers a SAT Program Alternate Test Date Policy. As stated in their published material: "The SAT Program will consider granting an alternate test date when the following criteria are met:"
  - a. The conflicting event must be unexpected. Regularly scheduled sporting events or previously scheduled school activities, such as a prom, are not considered unexpected. An event such as an academic or athletic competition, in which students have advanced through the competition or into post-regular season competition, can be considered an unexpected event.
3. SAT School Day: Allows high schools to administer the SAT to students during the school day, thus avoiding weekend athletic conflicts. To date, the MA school districts that participate are Plymouth, Springfield, Revere, and most recently Fitchburg. SAT School Day is contracted through the College Board with participating districts.  
Contact Info: **Alan Bernstein, Senior District Director**, K-12 Services, New England Regional Office, The College Board, 1601 Trapelo Road, Suite 12, Waltham, MA 02451;

### L. **MIAA DRONE POLICY** - Prohibiting the Use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's).

Unless granted special permission by the MIAA Executive Director, the use of drones (UAS), for any purpose, is not permitted at any MIAA tournament event. This prohibition applies to all fields of play, courts, arena, mats, gym floor or pool, and covers a ban on the entire facility being used as part of the MIAA event, including the spectator stands and parking areas.

## Baseball Team Sportsmanship Award



# 2020 Baseball Tournament

The MIAA Tournament Management Committee has approved an Annual Sportsmanship Award to be presented to one school in every sport. The MIAA Team Sportsmanship Award will be presented at the State Championships.

We would like to encourage you to nominate a baseball team for consideration by the MIAA Baseball Committee for recognition at the MIAA Baseball Championships. Nominated teams do not have to be tournament teams but should exemplify the tenets of good sportsmanship to the highest degree. Criteria to include: Teamwork, Fair play/respect for opponents, Ethics and Citizenship. Self-nominations are acceptable.

### I would like to nominate the following team for consideration of the MIAA Team Baseball Sportsmanship Award:

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director: \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Captain(s) names: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Games Played \_\_\_\_\_

*Please provide a brief statement with regard to the reasons for this nomination below!*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Position** \_\_\_\_\_ **School** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: MIAA, Attn: Baseball Committee  
33 Forge Parkway  
Franklin, MA 02038  
Fax: 508-541-9815

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 1, 2020**

MIAA does not discriminate in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, color, nationality or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, religion or religious creed, disability or handicap, sex or gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state or local law. Retaliation is also prohibited.