

2017 Softball Format



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2016 – 2017 Softball Committee Members

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Dist. E	Mr. Mike Rubin, Principal Uxbridge High School	MASC Rep	Ms. Nancy Farrell West Springfield
	Mr. Mark Miville, A.D. Quabbin Regional High School	Officials' Rep	Mr. Gus Chester
		MASS Rep	Mr. John McCarthy
		Coaches Rep	Ms. Sally Gamache Somerset Berkley

MIAA Staff Liaison
Ms. Rachel Moo
Assistant Director

2017 Softball Tournament				
Entry Requirements & Information	Date	Tournament Rotation	Tournament Director	
Schedules Committed on or before:	April 15, 2017	State Semi-Finals Division II South at North Endicott College Div I and III North at South Taunton HS Division I & III Central at West UMass Division II Central at West Hudson HS	Tournament Director contact information is available in the "Members Only" section of the MIAA website	
Tournament Entry Due on or before:	Wednesday, May 24, 2017			
Cut-Off Date: (Matches played after this date will not count for tournament qualification)	*Monday, May 29, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.		North Tim Alberts South Annette DiMascio Central Louis Macedo West Mike Kuchieski State Annette DiMascio	
Seeding:	Tuesday, May 30, 2017 North/South at 10:00 am at the MIAA Office Central: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 5:00 pm @ TBD West: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 5:00 pm @ Northampton HS			
Section Rounds begin:	June 1, 2017			
State Semi-Finals:	June 13-15, 2017			
Breakfast of Champions	June 16, 2017 Location: Worcester State College			
State Finals:	Saturday, June 17, 2017 at Rockwood Park, Worcester State College			
Rain Date:	Sunday, June 18, 2017			

The following must be completed by the indicated deadline:

	Deadline
Schedules Committed	April 15, 2017
Scores Entered Tournament Entry / Official Tournament Roster submitted • Changes allowed up to the 1 st game	May 24, 2017 – 7:00 pm
Team Sportsmanship Nomination Form	May 24, 2017

2017 MIAA Softball Tournament

1. Sectional Tournament – Qualifying Criteria

Refer to General Tournament Information for team qualification standards.

- A. A school must schedule and compete in a minimum of ten (10) qualifying games to be eligible for tournament play.
- B. Only the first three games between two schools will count toward qualification.
- C. In the Central and West, the modified Walker System will be used for seeding purposes.

2. Pairings Announcements

- A. Pairings and Tournament Information will be available on MIAA website, <http://www.miaa.net> throughout the tournament.
- B. Tournament game results should be called in to the Tournament Director by the **winning team, as soon as possible, from the game site.**

3. Umpires

- A. **Rated and enrolled** MIAA Softball Officials will be assigned to all tournament games.
- B. **Umpires must have officiated a minimum of nine (9) MIAA high school games during the regular season.**
- C. **Three umpires will be assigned to each game beginning at the Sectional Final games.**

4. Site Information

- A. Sectional - Preliminary / First Round and Quarter Finals
 - 1) All games prior to the semi-final round will be played on the home field of the team having the better record unless the tournament director determines this field is unsuitable for tournament play. In this case, the home team should find an acceptable alternate site.
 - 2) If the issue cannot be resolved within the timetable identified by the tournament director, the tournament director will assign a game field which could be the opponent's site.

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- 3) In games prior to the semi-final round, the team whose field is used will pay all umpires, and see that the field is properly readied per rule book (bases secured, pitching rubber secured, home plate secured, pitching circle lined) for tournament play.

B. Sectional and State Semi-Finals and Final Events

Division I, II, III sectional and state semi-final and final games will be played at sites to be determined by the MIAA Executive Liaison and the Tournament Director. The tournament director will assign teams to fields; assume the responsibility for preparing fields for play, pay umpires and supply Worth Red Dot softballs.

5. **Medical** - A licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner will be available at all contests. This coverage will be provided / compensated by the Host School in tournament rounds at the site of the higher seeded team. The MIAA will compensate for this coverage at MIAA designated neutral sites.

6. **Game Management**

A. Team Size and Bench

- 1) Only twenty (20) players, two (2) managers, three (3) coaches and one (1) scorer are permitted on the bench.
- 2) Any team not able to field a nine (9) player team will forfeit the game. Forfeiting any game means disqualification from the tournament.

B. Start Time

Tournament games on school days shall be scheduled to start no earlier than 3:15 p.m. or no later than 7:00 p.m. (unless mutually agreed by administration of both teams). There will be a fifteen (15) minute grace period.

C. Adverse Conditions or Postponements

- 1) In case of postponement due to weather, field conditions or when a game needs to be replayed, the tournament director will determine a new game date (which will be the following day if possible).
- 2) The decision to call a game due to weather shall be made 3 hours prior to game time if possible on game day.
- 3) The following criteria will be used when considering the postponement of a game.
 - a. Health and welfare of the student-athletes
 - b. Comfort and safety of the fans
 - c. Travel conditions for participants and fans
 - d. Alternative scheduling options
 - e. Financial implications to the Association
- 4) In all games prior to the semi-final round this responsibility rests with the athletic director whose field is being used for play, in consultation with the tournament director.
- 5) Beginning with the sectional semi-final round, the tournament director assumes this responsibility.
- 6) If, due to unforeseen circumstances such as a sudden rain after the call-off time, the plate umpire will decide, in the presence of both teams, if the game is to be postponed.
- 7) Once a game is started, the plate umpire will be in charge of calling the game.
- 8) ***If there is doubt as to whether the game will be played, principal or athletic director of the teams involved should call their respective sectional tournament director.***

D. Uniforms / Equipment

- 1) All players must wear identical uniforms.
- 2) When hats are worn they must be school issued and identical.
- 3) All high school catchers must wear a baseball/softball type shin guard.
- 4) No colored "war paint" or temporary tattoos is to be worn. Black sun glare worn under the eyes is permitted.
- 5) Metal Cleats and toe plates WILL be allowed as of the Spring 2014 season

E. Game Ball

- 1) Approved NFHS balls must be supplied by the higher seeded schools from preliminary rounds through quarter finals.
- 2) For all semi-final and final games, balls will be supplied by the tournament director. In 2016-2019, the official tournament ball supplied will be the *Rawlings or Worth- Red Dot Fastpitch 12" - Item #PX2RYLAH*

F. Team Rosters

Each team must bring to each tournament site fifty (50) copies of their team roster for distribution to spectators and press.

7. Game Rules

A. Rules

- 1) The tournament will be conducted in accordance with the 2015 – 2017 MIAA Handbook and the 2017 National Federation Rules and Regulations with the following exception:
 - a. The tie breaker rule will not be used. Games will be played until a winner is determined.
 - b. The distance between the nearer edge of the pitcher's plate and the apex of home plate shall be 43 feet.
- 2) The tournament is single elimination.

B. Home Team

- 1) Sectional - During sectional play the higher seeded team is the home team for the game and has the choice of batting first or last as well as choice of bench area.
- 2) State - For the state semi-final and final round games the team with a better record is the home team for the game and has the choice of batting first or last as well as choice of bench area. If tied, a coin flip by the tournament director, on game day, will be used to determine the home team and the bench area.

C. Batting Practice

- 1) Batting practice will be allowed but not on the game infield.
- 2) Each team will be allowed 10 minutes of fielding practice that includes use of the mound.

D. Scorer

- 1) The home team for the game will be the official scorer.
- 2) A neutral scorer may be provided by the tournament director when deemed advisable.

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- 3) Line-ups must be presented ten (10) minutes before game time to the official scorer and to the plate umpire.
 - 4) The plate umpire will check both scorebooks after each half inning.
- E. Protest - Protests must be settled on the playing field according to the rules of Softball.
- F. Game Length / Suspended Game
- 1) Games prior to the sectional semi-final game:
 - a) A regulation game shall consist of seven (7) innings with extra innings being played if necessary.
 - b) A game called by the umpire shall be regulation if five (5) or more complete innings have been played or if the team second at bat is leading at the conclusion of four and one half (4 1/2) innings.
 - 2) In the sectional and state semi-final rounds, all games must be seven (7) completed innings, with extra innings being played, if necessary.
 - 3) All suspended games are to be played from the point of suspension (not replayed from the beginning).
- G. Mercy Rule - The 12 run rule applies in tournament play, prior to sectional semi-final rounds. Complete innings must be played unless the home team scores the run ahead limit while at bat. When the visiting team reaches the limit in the top half of the inning, the home team must have their opportunity to bat in the bottom half of the inning.
- H. Sportsmanship / Disqualifications
- 1) Coaches
 - a) Coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner.
 - b) Coaches ejected from the game ***must leave the premises or a game forfeit results.***
 - c) When a coach is ejected from the game there must be responsible adult representation in control of participants at all times. Such adult representation must be an employee or designated representative of the school district. Failure to have the proper adult representation will result in a game forfeiture.
 - 2) Suspension Forms
 - a) The athletic director or site manager in charge of the game is responsible for having the official suspension forms available for game officials.
 - b) The official(s) shall complete the form(s) before leaving the site of the game.
- I. Warm-ups
- 1) Any person warming up a pitcher **AT ANY LOCATION** shall wear a mask with a throat protector.
 - 2) Only team personnel may be involved in warming up players.

8. SAT/SAT Subject Tests:

1) Tournament events are scheduled for the same date of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests. Please tell all coaches & student-athletes now so alternative plans may be made. A listing of all dates and sports that may take place on schedule College Board exam dates can be found on the MIAA website.

a) 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:

2) The conflicting event must be unexpected. Regularly scheduled sporting events 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.

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.

9. Media

Allowed in live ball area as long as they control their equipment (subject to the direction of the Tournament Director).

10. 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 area.



Softball Team Sportsmanship Award

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 softball team for consideration by the MIAA Softball Committee for recognition at the MIAA Softball 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 Softball 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: Softball Committee
33 Forge Parkway
Franklin, MA 02038

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY May 26, 2017