

2008 Softball

Format

Sport Specific Information



2007 – 2008 Softball Committee Members

Dist. A	Mr. Ed Harrison, A.D. Wilmington High School	Dist. F	Ms. Donna Woodcock, Asst. Principal Greenfield High School
Dist. B	Mr. Michael Harvey, Principal Belmont High School		Mr. Mike Kuchieski, A.D. Greenfield High School
	Mr. Ed Gillis, A.D. Burlington High School	Dist. G	Ms. Amy Meehan, Principal Drury High School
Dist. C	Mr. Wes Paul, Principal Oliver Ames High School		Mr. Matthew Chrzanowski, Asst., A.D. Mt. Everett Regional High School
	Mr. Thom Holdgate, A.D. Duxbury High School	Dist. H	Mr. Mike Gerrish, A.D. Cardinal Spellman High School
Dist. D	Mr. Michael Murphy, Asst. Principal Greater New Bedford RVTHS		MASS Representative TBD
	Mr. Mark Ottavianelli, A.D. Taunton High School		Coaches Representative TBD
Dist. E	Ms. Sheila Harrity, Principal Worcester Technical HS		Officials Representative Mr. Gus Chester
	Mr. David Reid, A.D. Montachusett Regional High School		

MIAA Staff Liaison

Ms. Sherry Bryant
Assistant Director

2008 Softball Tournament			
Entry Requirements & Information	Date	Tournament Rotation	Tournament Director
Season Schedule & Commitment Form Due:	Received on or before: April 15, 2008 Subject to \$200 fine for late forms	<p style="text-align: center;">State Semi-Finals June 10, 2008</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Division II North at South <i>Taunton HS</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Div I and III South At North <i>Martin Field, Lowell</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Division I, II & III West at Central <i>Worcester State</i></p>	<p>Tournament Director contact information is available in the "Members Only" section of the MIAA website</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">North (co-directors) Mark Kulakowski Lou Pearlstein</p> <p style="text-align: center;">South Ms. Annette DiMascio</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Central & State Mr. Rich Lewis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">West Cathy Meader</p>
Tournament Entry Form Due:	Received on or before: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Subject to \$300 fine for late filing.		
Cut-Off Date: (Matches played after this date will not count for tournament qualification)	*Monday, May 26, 2008 at 10:00 p.m. Scores not reported by this time will count as a loss		
Seeding:	Tuesday, May 27, 2008 North/South at 9:00 am at the MIAA Office Central at 10:00 am at the MIAA Office West: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 West Springfield High School at 10:00 a.m.		
Section Rounds begin:	**May 29, 2008		
State Semi-Finals:	Tuesday, June 10 2008		
Rain Date:	Wednesday, June 11, 2008		
State Finals: Rain Date:	Saturday, June 14, 2008 at Worcester State College at 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 15, 2008		

* Scores of games played on and before Monday, May 26, 2008 must be forwarded to the appropriate tournament director by 10:00 p.m. or it will count as a loss for seeding purposes.

Scores may be phoned to the director or the electronic tournament entry form may be updated and resubmitted.

**Upon mutual written agreement of competing schools and upon the determined need of the Sectional Director, the Tournament may begin May 29, 2008.

The following forms must be received by your sectional Tournament director by the indicated deadline:

Form	Deadline
Season Schedule and Commitment Form	April 15, 2008
Tournament Entry Form	May 21, 2008
Facility / Administrative Requirements Form	May 21, 2008
Recommendation of Officials	May 21, 2008
Official Tournament Roster	May 21, 2008
Tournament Code of Conduct	May 21, 2008
Team Sportsmanship Nomination Form	June 1, 2008

2008 MIAA Softball Tournament

1. Sectional Tournament – Qualifying Criteria

Refer to General Tournament Information for team qualification standards. In the West, a modified Walker system will be used for seeding purposes.

- 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 West, the modified Walker System will be used for seeding purposes.

2. Pairings Announcements

- A. Principal/Athletic Director will be contacted by a Tournament Director as soon as possible on May 27, 2008. Please try to have your phone lines open at this time. **DO NOT CALL THE MIAA OFFICE.**
- B. Principal/Athletic director will continue to be contacted throughout the tournament to be provided with information on next date of game and site.
- C. 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 eight (8) 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 Spalding 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 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" is to be worn. Black sun glare worn under the eyes is permitted.

E. Game Ball

- 1) For all semi-final and final games, balls will be supplied by the tournament director. In 2008, the official tournament ball supplied will be the **Spalding Dudley Leather Thunder Heat WT-12YFP (Optic Yellow)**
- 2) Approved balls must be supplied by the higher seeded schools from preliminary rounds through quarter finals.

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 2007 – 2009 MIAA Handbook and the 2008 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.
 - c. Metal cleats and metal toe plates will NOT be allowed in the Spring 2008 season.
- 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
 - a. For the state semi-final and final round games a coin flip by the tournament director, on game day, will be used to determine the home team and the bench area.
 - b. The team traveling the farthest distance will call the toss. The winner of the toss will make both of the above mentioned choices.

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.
- 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.

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- 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 15 run rule applies in tournament play, prior to sectional semi-final rounds.
 - 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) It is recommended by the MIAA Softball Committee that only team personnel be involved in warming up players.

8. Media

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

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 at Worcester State College on June 16th.

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 JUNE 1, 2008