



2026

Baseball

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2026 Baseball Tournament

MIAA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

1. ANTICIPATED TOURNAMENT DATES*:

- a. Cut-off Date: Monday, May 25, 2026
- b. Bracket Release: Wednesday May 27, 2026
- c. Preliminary: Friday May 29, 2026 (*Note: If both ADs agree, preliminary games may be played on Thursday, May 28, 2026*)
- d. Round of 32: Sunday May 31, 2026 or Monday June 1, 2026
- e. Round of 16: Wednesday June 3, 2026 or Thursday June 4, 2026
- f. Round of 8: Saturday June 6, 2026 or Sunday June 7, 2026
- g. Semi-Finals: Tuesday June 9, 2026 or Wednesday June 10, 2026
- h. State Finals: Friday June 12, 2026 and Saturday June 13, 2026

**Dates subject to change*

2. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- a. A school must schedule and compete in a minimum of 50% of the season competition limits per Handbook Rule 34 (10 contests) to be eligible for tournament play. Only the first three (3) games played between two (2) schools count towards qualification. League play-off games count.
- b. All team sports will qualify the top 32 teams by division
- c. Teams not power seeded in the top 32 but meeting 50% qualifying criteria will be eligible for the tournament
- d. All team sports will be seeded by power ranking system
- e. Top 4 seeded teams placed in four brackets (1,2,3,4)
- f. The rest of bracket positions filled with remaining teams by power ranking system. After the top 32 teams are power seeded, the remaining teams with 50 % or better record will be seeded from the bottom of each bracket
- g. All games will be at home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Play in games, Round of 32, Round of 16 and Round of 8.

3. FORFEITED CONTESTS

- a. When a forfeit win is awarded to a school due to the termination of their opponent's baseball program or failure to fulfill their contractual obligation, for power ranking purposes, the score will be entered as 5-0.

4. SEEDING/ PAIRING ANNOUNCEMENT

- a. Seeding is to be done by a Seasonal Seeding Committee. Members of the Seasonal Seeding Committee will include one chairperson (or designee) from each sport of current season, and 4 Tournament Management Committee members. Tournament Directors and Executive Liaisons will be present but are non-voting members. All decisions made by the Seasonal Seeding Committee are final. No appeals regarding seeding decisions will be allowed.
- b. Seeding will be done by a power rating system:
 - i. Team's average margin of victory + average of opponents' ratings = overall rating
- c. Tie Breaking Procedure (Seeding)
 - i. Head-to-head Competition
 - ii. The higher average of each team's opponents' rating, based on the power rating formula.
 - iii. League Champion
 - iv. Coin flip
 1. Only 2 teams tied – use coin flip
 2. More than 2 teams, all team names will be put into a hat. Once team name will be drawn – that team wins the tiebreaker. All other remaining teams will return to step 1.

In a tie breaker for tournament seeding every match played including exclusion games are counted.

Note: 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.



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- d. Pairings and Tournament Information will be available on [MIAA website](#) throughout the tournament.
- e. Tournament match results should be called in to the Tournament Administrator by the winning team, as soon as possible, from the game site.

5. SITE INFORMATION

- a. All matches will be at home site of higher seed for the Preliminary Round, Round of 32, Round of 16 & Round of 8.
- b. If home team site is not acceptable the following will apply:
 - i. Home school AD finds an acceptable site
 - ii. Lower seed will host the match
 - iii. If both sites are not acceptable, Tournament Administrator will place match at an acceptable site within MIAA site policy.
- c. The MIAA will provide sites for State Semi Finals (round of 4) and State Finals as defined by TMC Site policy.
- d. Home field venues must meet the following standards from the MIAA handbook:
 - 1. Condition of playing surface
 - 2. Crowd Control
 - 3. Seating capacity
 - 4. Ticket sales control

6. PLAYING RULES

- a. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules will be followed with the following state association adoptions:
 - i. Strike Two Rule - MIAA Handbook Rule 65.4
 - ii. Pitch Counts - MIAA Handbook Rule 65.5

7. OFFICIALS

- a. To be eligible to be assigned to a MIAA tournament game, an official must have a background check approved by the MIAA. All officials must be assigned by the host school assigner or approved state assigner.
- b. Two (2) officials will be assigned for all games through the Round of 32. Three (3) officials will be assigned for the Round of 16, Round of 8, State Semifinals and State Finals.

8. TIES, SUSPENDED AND/OR REGULATION GAMES IN TOURNAMENT PLAY

- a. All games that are stopped by the umpire-in-chief, regardless of innings played or score, will be resumed at the point of stoppage. All games must complete 6 1/2 or 7 innings unless both schools mutually agree to end the contest after a regulation game has been declared. A regulation game is declared as 4 ½ or 5 innings.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF GAMES

- a. Only the Tournament administrator may decide to postpone a game. Postponed games are to be played the following day on the same field, if possible.

10. GAME BALLS

- a. The home team shall provide the game balls for each game through the Round of 8.
- b. The MIAA will provide baseball for the State Semifinals & State Finals. The approved baseball for 2025 is the Wilson WTA1010PRO.

11. TOURNAMENT ROSTERS

- a. The Baseball Committee has established a 25 player, game day roster limit for tournament eligible teams. In addition, only (1) manager, four (4) coaches and one (1) scorer are permitted on the bench.

12. PROTEST OF A MISAPPLIED RULE

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



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13. MEDICAL COVERAGE

- a. A licensed athletic trainer, physician, physician's assistant, certified EMT, or nurse practitioner will be available at all contests.
- b. This coverage will be provided and paid for by the host school for Preliminary Play-in games, the Round of 32, the Round of 16 & the Round of 8
- c. The MIAA will provide coverage for State Semifinals and Finals contest.

14. MIAA DRONE POLICY

- a. Prohibiting the Use of Drones (Unmanned Aircraft Systems or UAS's).
- b. 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.

15. SAT/SAT SUBJECT TESTS:

- a. Baseball Tournament Games may be scheduled for June 6, 2026, 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.
- b. The College Board offers a SATR 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:"
 - i. *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.*
- c. 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;