

OVAC SOFTBALL FORMAT

Effective 2018 - 2019

SOFTBALL COMMISSIONER/DIRECTOR:

Tom Bechtel
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Wheeling, WV 26003

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2019 CHAMPIONSHIP DATE:

Friday, April 26, 2019

Saturday, April 27, 2019

I-470 Ball Fields
Wheeling, WV 26003

FUTURE DATES:

May 1/2, 2020
April 30/May 1, 2021

MANDATORY MEETING:

There will be a mandatory meeting for all softball coaches on **SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2019**, at the Linsly library starting at 1:00PM.

Coaches are required to bring FIVE (5) copies of their 2019 schedule for the OVAC committee.

SCHEDULES MUST INCLUDE BOTH THE PROM DATE AND GRADUATION DATE.

1. The regular season ends on Saturday, April 20, 2019

2. There will also be an OVAC tournament, with the winning team in each class receiving a championship trophy, and the runner-up receiving a plaque.

3. All games that are **PLAYED BEFORE** the cutoff date will count in the standings, including invitationals, against all opponents. Only the first two games played against an opponent will count in the standings.

Scrimmage games in Ohio may be played during the regular season. **[NOTE: Coaches need to check their state regulations regarding this.]** However, it must be by mutual agreement of both coaches and so indicated on both schedules when submitted on the **Sunday, March 10, 2019**. **[NOTE: West Virginia schools cannot scrimmage once you play your first game.]**

4. NOTE: Teams are eligible to participate in OVAC playoffs as prescribed by the respective sport by scheduling at least eight games against OVAC opponents or playing at least six against OVAC opponents. In the event that a team schedules fewer than eight games against OVAC opponents, a minimum of six games must be played against OVAC opponents; if eight or more are scheduled against OVAC opponents, a minimum of four must be played. **All Conference games scheduled and played must be done prior to the cutoff date listed for that sport (April 20, 2019).**

5. No schedule changes or additions **AFTER WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019**, will count in the standings or count as games played.

Only regular season games scheduled **PRIOR TO** the cutoff date will count in the standings.

Only those games scheduled prior to the cutoff date may be moved forward to an [earlier] **OPEN DATE** by mutual agreement of the two schools.

Any problem during the final week, other than poor weather conditions, must be reported to the softball director within twenty-four (24) hours. A ruling will be made by the softball committee, the softball commissioner, and the Executive Director. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into account.

***Nonvalid reasons for changing/canceling a scheduled game:**

-Track meet/sporting event

-Field trips

-Tests (ACT/SAT) It is recommended that schools change their starting times to accommodate the test.

-Banquets

-Plays

-Concerts

-Proms/After-Proms

[Rainouts may be rescheduled and count in the standings as game(s) played.]

6. The OVAC regular season will end on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Remember that the two tournament games (semi-championship and championship) will count toward regular season totals as allowed by your state.

WEST VIRGINIA: Maximum Team Contests - A softball team will be permitted to play no more than 32 games exclusive of Sectional, Regional, and State contests.

OHIO: An individual may play in a reserve game and a varsity game in the same day. Participation in both counts as two games in contest limitation of 27 contests on 27 playing dates.

NOTICE:

Schools who cannot compete in the tournament to its completion due to over-scheduling the State limits of their respective state will not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

In this case, each team will move up and the next team in order of finish will be elevated to fill the vacant spot.

In the event that a school should schedule a game between the semi-final game and the championship that should put them over the State limit, they will not be permitted to compete in the playoffs and will be ineligible for competition in that sport the following year.

Executive Board order
May 28, 2003

7. Semi-finals will be played at The Chambers I-470 Fields in Wheeling, WV. Game dates are **Monday, April 22, 2019, Tuesday, April 23, 2019, and Wednesday, April 24, 2019.** Times TBA.

A rain date has been set for Thursday, April 25, 2019, and Friday, April 26, 2019.

Additional information and regulations will be determined by the softball commissioner as needed.

SCHEDULE:

Monday, April 22, 2019+

1A, 2A

Tuesday, April 23, 2019+

3A, 4A

Wednesday, April 24, 2019+

5A

+Rain date first available date

The semi-finals will pit the teams according to their finish (#1 v #4, #2 v #3). This shall be completed in each of the five (5) designated classes. The higher-seeded team will be the home team.

8. The tournament championships will be played at The Chambers Fields at Wheeling, WV, on Friday, April 26, 2019 and Saturday, April 27, 2019. Approximate times of each contest are:*

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

5:30PM

7:30PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

11:00AM

12:30PM

2:00PM

***These are subject to change at the discretion of the softball commissioner.**

TICKET PRICES FOR ALL PLAYOFF GAMES

Adults: \$6.00
Students: \$4.00

OVAC passes are good for all championship play-off games.

9. All tournament games shall be played using the OVAC’s run rule and pitching rule.

Run rule: 10 runs after five innings

Pitching rule: 14 innings allowed

Tie: The international tie-breaker WILL NOT be in effect.

Suspended game: In the event of inclement weather, the game will resume at the earliest possible date and be played as a suspended game.

10. It is the HOME team’s responsibility to cancel the contest. Any deviation from this must be reported to the softball commissioner immediately or it will result in the penalty listed in #5.

I-470 FIELD HOTLINE
Save gas;
call before you leave!
304.234.6477

TWITTER:
I470BALLPARK

FUTURE SOFTBALL DATES

2018-2019

Schedule Changes Due: March 13, 2019
Cutoff Date: April 20, 2019
Semifinals: April 22, April 23, April 24, 2019
Semifinals Rain Date: April 25, April 26, 2019
Championships: April 26, 2019
April 27, 2019
Media Night: May 28, 2019
All-Star Game: June 3, 2019
All-Star Game Rain Date: June 4, 2019

2019-2020

Schedule Changes Due: March 18, 2020
Cutoff Date: April 25, 2020
Semifinals: April 27, April 28, April 29, 2020
Semifinals Rain Date: April 30, May 1, 2020
Championships: May 1, 2020
May 2, 2020
Media Night: May 26, 2020
All-Star Game: June 8, 2020
All-Star Game Rain Date: June 9, 2020

NOTE: DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD STATE ASSOCIATIONS ALTER THEIR CALENDARS.

UPDATED: 06.13.18

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

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SOFTBALL COMMITTEE:

Tom Bechtel, Softball Commissioner
Ed Cihy, Assistant Director
Tom Rataiczak, Executive Director
Rick DeLuca, Statistician

Bob Shepard, Cambridge
Jeff Harrison, Media
Melissa Lahna, Bellaire
Jillian Ongley, Shadyside
Ed West, John Marshall

A coach, or their appointed representative, is required to report the score of their game, **win or lose**, home or away, to the number listed below. **It is recommended that this be done immediately after each game.**

The responsibility for reporting scores belongs to **EVERY school, EVERY game.**

TEXT NUMBER**1.740.279.1999****SAMPLE TEXT MESSAGES**

Softball Wheeling Park 5 Morgantown 2
Softball Fort Frye-Frontier Cancelled

QUESTIONS CONCERNING STANDINGS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**RICK DeLUCA, statistician**

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