

# OVAC SOFTBALL FORMAT

## Effective 2017 - 2018

### SOFTBALL COMMISSIONER/DIRECTOR:

Tom Bechtel  
Wheeling Recreation Department  
Wheeling, WV 26003

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### 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP DATE:

Friday, April 27, 2018  
Class 2A, Class 3A  
Saturday, April 28, 2018  
Class 4A, Class 5A, Class 1A  
I-470 Ball Fields  
Wheeling, WV 26003

### FUTURE DATES:

April 26, 27, 2019

### MANDATORY MEETING:

There will be a mandatory meeting for all softball coaches on **SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2018**, at the Linsly library starting at 1:00PM.

**Coaches are required to bring FIVE (5) copies of their 2018 schedule for the OVAC committee.**

1. There will be an OVAC regular season divisional winner in each of the five (5) classes: 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, and 5A. Each regular-season champion will receive a plaque which will be decided when **the regular season ends on Saturday, April 21, 2018**. The champion will be determined by the OVAC power rating system.

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. BEGINNING IN 2010, 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 11, 2018**. **[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 21, 2018).**

5. No schedule changes or additions **AFTER WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018**, 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 Secretary. 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 21, 2018, and regular season champions will be named. 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 overscheduling 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 23, 2018, Tuesday, April 24, 2018, and Wednesday, April 25, 2018.** Times TBA.

A rain date has been set for Thursday, April 26, 2018, and Friday, April 27, 2018.

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

**SCHEDULE:**

Monday, April 23, 2018+

1A, 2A

Tuesday, April 24, 2018+

3A, 4A

Wednesday, April 25, 2018+

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 27, 2018 and Saturday, April 28, 2018. Approximate times of each contest are:\*

Class	Starting Time	Field
<u>FRIDAY, APRIL 27</u>		
2A	5:30PM	4
3A	7:30PM	4
<u>SATURDAY, APRIL 28</u>		
4A	11:00AM	3
5A	12:30PM	4
1A	2:00PM	3

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

**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**

**2017-2018**

Schedule Changes Due: March 14, 2018  
Cutoff Date: April 21, 2018  
Semifinals: April 24, April 25, 2018  
Semifinals Rain Date: April 26, April 27, 2018  
Championships: April 27, 2018  
Class 2A, 3A  
April 28, 2018  
Class 4A, 5A, 1A  
Media Night: May 29, 2018  
All-Star Game: May 31, 2018  
All-Star Game Rain Date: June 1, 2018

**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  
Class 3A, 4A  
April 27, 2019  
Class 5A, 1A, 2A  
Media Night: May 28, 2019  
All-Star Game: June 5, 2019  
All-Star Game Rain Date: June 6, 2019

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

UPDATED: 06.11.18

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:**

Ed Cihy  
Wheeling Central Catholic High School  
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Wheeling, WV 26003-7716  
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Cell: 304.281.0754  
e-mail: edcihy@frontier.com

**SOFTBALL COMMITTEE:**

Tom Bechtel, Softball Commissioner  
Tom Rataiczak, Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
Rick DeLuca, Statistician

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

Due to the increased number of schools failing to report scores to the Conference statisticians, the following procedure will be implemented starting with the 2014-2015 school year.

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 Shadyside 5 River 2  
Softball Paden City Cameron Cancelled

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING STANDINGS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

**RICK DeLUCA, statistician**  
5042 County Highway 15  
Rayland, OH 43943  
FAX: 740.264.9898  
Home: 740.859.6335      Cell: 740.632.8808  
e-mail: RADELUCA70@Yahoo.com