

OVAC RATING SYSTEM

Softball

1. Each team is assigned a rating based on their classification:

- Class 1A: 30 points (1-172)*
- Class 2A: 40 points (173-228)
- Class 3A: 50 points (229-364)
- Class 4A: 60 points (365-494)
- Class 5A: 70 points (495 +)

*NOTE: Enrollment of non-Conference schools (**which must be members of their state association**) is to be based on total number of males and females in grades 10, 11, and 12 for that school year.

2. Non-Conference schools (**which must be members of their state association**) will be assigned first level point values based on enrollment figures corresponding with the above OVAC classifications.

3. All schools scheduled for that season will count for First Level Points.

4. **BONUS POINTS:** TWO (2) Bonus Points will be awarded for all wins by defeated OVAC opponents. NO BONUS POINTS will be awarded for any wins by defeated non-Conference schools.

5. 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.**

6. Once the first and second level points are determined, the total points accumulated by the school will be divided by the games played. The four (4) teams with the highest average at the cutoff date will advance for tournament play.

7. If any team plays an opponent on its regular season schedule more than two (2) times, only the first two games played will count in the OVAC standings or toward minimum OVAC game requirements.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The last date for schedule changes shall be determined by the earliest start date of either State association for that sport.

Any exceptions to this must be submitted in writing to the Executive Secretary. A decision will be made by the Executive Secretary, the Commissioner, and Executive Board, if deemed necessary. That decision will be final. (An example of this might be the flooding experienced during the '05 season).

Any change prior to the earliest start date must be given to the Commissioner, IN WRITING, or it will not count in the standings.

REGULAR SEASON CHAMPION

A regular season champion by class will be awarded in each sport to the team that has the highest average at their cutoff date. That team must be eligible for playoffs to be named regular season champion.

Article 4.1.4 of the OVAC By-Laws - Any scheduled regular season contest which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances as determined by the Executive Board (such as failure of a team to arrive, strike, school closing) shall not be included in won-lost statistics. The parties affected by this event will have their accumulative points divided by one less game. Questions and appeals regarding this can be sent to the Executive Board for their review.

SOFTBALL:

Ties shall be regarded as no contest but will count in the number of games played toward the minimum number of Conference opponents required. [NOTE: All contests must meet the official game standard.]

TIEBREAKER

A tiebreaker will be used in breaking ties for the top four (4) positions only. The decision of the committee with regard to the final tiebreaker determination will be final. The tiebreaker will be based on the final standings at the cutoff date.

In the event of a tie for the final season standings, the following tie-breakers will be used:

- head-to-head meetings;
- best record against common opponents.
- best point average against common opponents.
- total bonus points earned
- flip of the coin. This will be done by the committee, and, if possible, with both head coaches present. First alphabetically listed school is heads; second school is tails.

Should three or more teams tie for one of the top four spots, the above tiebreakers will be used. Once a school is eliminated, then we will begin again with the first tiebreaker.

TOURNAMENTS

At the cutoff date determined by each sport, the four teams in each class with the highest averages will compete in a championship tournament.

In the semi-final round, the #1 seed will play the #4 seed, while the #2 seed will play the #3 seed.

The winners of the semi-finals will then compete for the Conference championship.

Should the semi-finals not be able to be contested due to weather problems, strikes, closings, or any other reason by the date assigned, the #1 and #2 seeds will advance to the championship.*

Should the #3 and or #4 seed play and win their semi-final match, they will advance to the championship round.

Should the finals not be able to be contested due to weather problems, strikes, closings, or any other reason, the highest remaining seed will be named the champion.*

Schools **MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT** to see that these games are completed when scheduled. This includes changing their regular schedule, playing boys'/girls' doubleheaders, going to the other school's venue, locating a neutral playing site, etc.

***NOTE:** The tournament committee reserves the right to review the circumstances of the situation and determine which teams will advance to the championships or be named champion.

The committee will consist of the tournament director for that sport, the Executive Secretary, and the OVAC President. Should any of these three be affected by the decision, the OVAC Past President and/or Vice-President shall replace them.

ELIGIBILITY WAIVER: A waiver may be granted by the Conference for extenuating circumstances such as strikes, failure to fulfill a contract, non-availability of Conference opponents, etc. However, in order to receive a waiver, a school with an open date **must provide written documentation** to the commissioner and the Executive Board of their unsuccessful attempt to schedule an OVAC opponent with the same common date.

Waivers will only be granted should a school attempt to schedule ONE class above or below their classification.

Any request for a waiver **MUST BE PRESENTED** to the Executive Secretary prior to the first start date of either State association.

SCHEDULE ALTERATIONS: No schedule changes **after the earliest start date** will count in the standings or count as games played.

EXCEPTION: Only those games scheduled prior to the cutoff date may be moved **BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT** of the two schools to another date prior to the cutoff date. Schools cannot cancel a scheduled game to accommodate this change.

PENALTY: The team in violation of this rule will have its points awarded to the opposing team. Both teams' won-loss record will remain the same, but both teams will have their total points divided by one more game than their record indicates.

PENALTY: Should this violation occur during the week prior to the cutoff date, the offending school(s) will be ineligible for OVAC playoffs BOTH the current season and the following season.

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