

## KHSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS Governing Fast Pitch Softball Tournaments

*(Adopted by the Board of Control)*

*(Case situations refer to rulings and interpretations used to administer these provisions which can be found in the next section of the Handbook)*

### I) Assignment of Schools to Districts, Regions, and Sections

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association shall sponsor postseason competition in softball for girls, provided that fifteen (15) percent of the member schools declare intentions to participate in said competition. Member schools desiring to participate in KHSAA sponsored postseason competition shall notify the Association office prior to March 1. The Commissioner shall divide the state into geographic sections with the approval of the Board of Control. The alignment shall begin with the 2005-2006 school year, and shall be reviewed upon the request of a member school with a request concerning that particular school on a biennial basis (every two years). The entire alignment shall be reviewed with changes to be in effect for the 2009-2010 school year and every four years thereafter. In the interim, newly added or deleted programs will be handled on a case by case basis by the Commissioner's office

As of August 1, 2009, the alignment for girls' fast pitch softball is as follows:

#### REGION 1

District 1 - Carlisle County, Fulton City, Fulton County, Hickman County

District 2 - Heath, Lone Oak, Paducah Tilghman, Reidland

District 3 - Ballard Memorial, Graves County, Mayfield, St. Mary

District 4 - Calloway County, Christian Fellowship, Marshall County, Murray

#### REGION 2

District 5 - Crittenden County, Livingston Central, Lyon County, Trigg County

District 6 - Henderson County, Providence, Union County, Webster County

District 7 - Caldwell County, Dawson Springs, Hopkins County Central, Madisonville-North Hopkins

District 8 - Christian County, Fort Campbell, Hopkinsville, University Heights

#### REGION 3

District 9 - Apollo, Daviess County, Owensboro, Owensboro Catholic

District 10 - McLean County, Muhlenberg County, Ohio County

District 11 - Breckinridge County, Frederick Fraize, Hancock County, Meade County

District 12 - Butler County, Edmonson County, Grayson County, Trinity (Whitesville)

#### REGION 4

District 13 - Franklin-Simpson, Logan County, Russellville, Todd County Central

District 14 - Bowling Green, Greenwood, South Warren (beginning 2010-11), Warren Central, Warren East

District 15 - Allen County-Scottsville, Barren County, Glasgow, Monroe County

District 16 - Clinton County, Cumberland County, Metcalfe County, Russell County

#### REGION 5

District 17 - Central Hardin, Elizabethtown, Fort Knox, John Hardin, North Hardin

District 18 - Caverna, Green County, Hart County, LaRue County

District 19 - Bardstown, Bethlehem, Nelson County, Washington County

District 20 - Adair County, Campbellsville, Marion County, Taylor County

#### REGION 6

District 21 - Beth Haven, Holy Cross (Louisville), Pleasure Ridge Park, Valley, Western

District 22 - Doss, Evangel Christian, Iroquois

District 23 - Butler, Central, Portland Christian, Presentation, Shawnee

District 24 - Bullitt Central, Bullitt East, Fairdale, North Bullitt, Southern

#### REGION 7

District 25 - DuPont Manual, Louisville Collegiate, Male, Mercy

District 26 - Assumption, Atherton, Fern Creek, Moore, Whitefield Academy

District 27 - Ballard, Sacred Heart, Seneca, Waggener

District 28 - Christian Academy-Louisville, Eastern, Jeffersontown, Kentucky Country Day

#### REGION 8

District 29 - North Oldham, Oldham County, South Oldham, Trimble County

District 30 - Anderson County, Collins (beginning 2010-11), Eminence, Shelby County, Spencer County

District 31 - Carroll County, Gallatin County, Henry County, Owen County

District 32 - Grant County, Simon Kenton, Walton-Verona, Williamstown

#### REGION 9

District 33 - Boone County, Conner, Cooper, Ryle

District 34 - Heritage, Dixie Heights, St. Henry, Villa Madonna

District 35 - Beechwood, Holmes, Holy Cross(Covington), Notre Dame

District 36- Bellevue, Dayton, Highlands, Newport, Newport Central Catholic

#### REGION 10

District 37 - Bishop Brossart, Campbell County, Scott

District 38 - Harrison County, Nicholas County, Pendleton County

District 39 - Bracken County, Mason County, St. Patrick

District 40 - Bourbon County, George Rogers Clark, Montgomery County, Paris

#### REGION 11

District 41 - Frankfort, Franklin County, Western Hills, Woodford County

District 42 - Bryan Station, Henry Clay, Sayre, Scott County

District 43 - Lafayette, Lexington Catholic, Lexington Christian, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Tates Creek

District 44 - Berea, Madison Central, Madison Southern, Model

#### REGION 12

District 45 - Boyle County, Danville, Garrard County, Lincoln County

District 46 - Burgin, East Jessamine, Mercer County, West Jessamine

District 47 - Casey County, Pulaski County, Rockcastle County, Somerset

District 48 - McCreary Central, Monticello, Southwestern, Wayne County

#### REGION 13

District 49 - Clay County, Jackson County, North Laurel, Oneida Baptist, Red Bird

District 50 - Corbin, South Laurel, Whitley County, Williamsburg

District 51 - Barbourville, Knox Central, Lynn Camp, Pineville

District 52 - Bell County, Cawood, Cumberland, Evarts, Harlan, Middlesboro

#### REGION 14

District 53 - Cordia, Jenkins, June Buchanan, Knott County Central, Letcher County Central

District 54 - Buckhorn, Hazard, Leslie County, Perry County Central

District 55 - Breathitt County, Jackson City, Riverside Christian, Wolfe County

District 56 - Estill County, Lee County, Owsley County, Powell County

#### REGION 15

District 57 - Johnson Central, Lawrence County, Magoffin County, Paintsville, Sheldon Clark

District 58 - Allen Central, Betsy Layne, Prestonsburg, South Floyd

District 59 - East Ridge, Pikeville, Shelby Valley

District 60 - Belfry, Phelps, Pike County Central

#### REGION 16

District 61 - Bath County, Fleming County, Menifee County, Rowan County

District 62 - East Carter, Elliott County, Morgan County, West Carter

District 63 - Greenup County, Lewis County, Raceland, Russell

District 64 - Ashland Blazer, Boyd County, Fairview, Rose Hill

### II) Dates and Sites for Tournaments

District tournament sites shall be selected by a site selection plan approved by a unanimous vote of the schools eligible to compete in each district tournament. If a district is unable to resolve conflict over the plan, the Board of Control shall establish a plan.

Only schools which are members of the Association prior to January 1 of the year in which the tournament is held shall be allowed to vote for the district tournament location or participate in the tournament

Criteria to be considered by the schools for the district tournament include but are not limited to- satisfactory capacity within the facility to safely accommodate past (five years) and expected attendance numbers; an officials dressing room; and adequate parking for projected attendance. In addition, all sites must meet the published site selection criteria for softball as posted on the KHSAA web site, provided such criteria adopted.

The Commissioner shall determine the regional tournament sites. Schools interested in hosting a regional tournament shall submit their request through the defined site selection process at prior year tournaments. The applicant shall supply information relating to seating and parking facilities and such other information as may be requested by the Commissioner. The Commissioner's office may use this site selection plan as a guide, but is not bound by this plan in determining the sites.

A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt any plan for recommending the regional tournament sites and voting shall include all schools within a region, not simply the schools playing in a particular year's event. Criteria to be considered by the schools include but are not limited to- satisfactory capacity within the facility to safely accommodate past (five years) and expected attendance numbers; an officials dressing room; and adequate parking for projected attendance.

In addition, the schools must agree on the amount of proceeds (if any) that is to be kept by the host school as well as limitations on expenses by the host school; determining the amount or percentages to be given to each school that participates; the fixed amount or percentages to be given to each team in the region not competing in the tournament; and the disbursement of any proceeds from commissions, parking, advertising and any other revenue related to the tournament but not directly related to ticket, program or novelty sales. Resolution as to disputes on any of these issues may be facilitated by the Commissioner's office and if agreement cannot be reached, may be considered by the Board of Control.

The Board of Control shall determine the site of the state tournament after receiving the Commissioner's recommendation, and shall be guided by necessary hotel facilities, playing facilities, and community/area support.

All tournaments shall be held on or as near the dates indicated on the Memorandum Calendar as local conditions permit. Any exceptions shall be approved by the Commissioner.

### III) Tournament Managers

The principal of the host school shall designate an official of the school to serve as the manager for each district tournament. The Commissioner will appoint a manager for each of the regional tournaments, and shall serve as the manager for the state tournament. The Commissioner may appoint as many assistant managers as deemed necessary to manage the event. It is the duty of each district, and regional tournament manager to invite representatives of the participating teams in the tournament to a meeting held for the purpose of making tournament plans. It is an explicit duty of each tournament manager to inform the association IMMEDIATELY as to the bracket / pairings / entries / results when requested by KHSAA staff and according to the time deadlines provided including the actual site of the tournament if it is not held at the school. In addition, it shall be the duty of the manager of each contest in soccer, volleyball, football, basketball, baseball and softball to contact the KHSAA Scoreboard with the final results following each contest. This is in addition to fulfilling local media requests. The Board of Control has approved the policy that the receipts of a tournament can be assessed (a fine levied against the manager) for failure to comply with these provisions.

The representatives of the schools participating in each tournament, by majority vote, shall set the dates and times of the games and make all other arrangements necessary to conduct the tournament. The Commissioner will direct a drawing and all of the business necessary to conduct the state tournament.

### IV) District Tournament Seeding Regulations

A) For district tournaments with three teams, the district tournament shall be seeded in accordance with the following three-team

seeding regulations:

- 1) Each team in a three-team district is required to play the other two teams in the district in two contests each year, at mutually agreed sites. These games will produce a uniform means of ranking the teams by seed within these districts.
- 2) The team with the highest seed (one seed) receives a bye in the district tournament, and advances to the championship game.
- 3) The remaining two teams would play in the first round of the district tournament with the loser of that game being eliminated.
- 4) In the case of a two-way tie for the district winning position, the winner in the second game played between the tied district opponents would have the higher finishing position.
- 5) In the case of a three-way tie for the district winning position, the tie would be resolved in the following manner. If any of the tie-breakers results in one of the teams being ahead of the other two, the tie is broken. If any of the tie-breakers result in two teams remaining ahead of the third, then the two-way tie breaker shall be used to determine the winner between those two.
  - a) The tie-breaking mechanisms (in order) shall be:
    - i) If the tie remains between all three teams, the record in the second game played against all district opponents involved in the tie.
    - ii) If the tie remains between all three teams, the record in the first game played against all district opponents involved in the tie.
    - iii) If the tie remains between all three teams, then the total points allowed in all seeded games shall be the next tie-breaker.
    - iv) If the tie remains between all three teams, then the total points allowed in the second of each of the seeded games shall be the next tie-breaker.
    - v) If the tie is still unbreakable, then a blind draw among the three teams shall break the tie.
  - b) Additional tie-breaking mechanisms could be added, and would be uniform for all three-team districts.
- B) For district tournaments with four or more teams, the district tournament brackets may be drawn by random lot or placed into the bracket using a seeding system. A majority vote (recorded in writing) of the Principals, Athletic Directors or Designated Representatives of the schools in the district is required in order to make or change seeding decisions. In the absence of any documentation, minutes or other verification, the districts shall not be seeded. The regulations concerning the seeding of a district with four or more teams are as follows:
  - 1) The decision to seed and the method used in seeding (including all tie-breakers) shall be determined by majority vote of the participating teams in the district and the manager shall record this vote in writing and submit it to the Association. The representatives making the written declaration shall decide all issues related to seeding,
  - 2) Seeding methods shall be determined prior to the start of the regular season, recorded in writing with a copy provided to the KHSAA, and shall remain in place until a majority vote of the participating schools rescinds or changes the seeding decisions. Such changes to the district seeding plan may not be made for the current year once play has begun in the regular season.
  - 3) In the event of dispute, the current copy on file with the KHSAA shall prevail in determining resolution.
  - 4) Seeding plans may, at the discretion of the majority vote of the schools, stipulate a particular team to a particular seeded position.
  - 5) It shall be the district tournament manager's responsibility to update the Association with respect to any changes to the seeding decision or method being used and any relevant tiebreakers. In the absence of this documentation, consultation with, and written verification and documentation from, prior year tournament managers, will be utilized by staff to assist with interpretation and clarification.
  - 6) There is no statewide regulation on a seeding method once the determination has been made to seed. Some of the more common and recommended means of seeding is the record of games played within a district provided all teams have played

all other teams. In that case, each district shall adopt tie-breaking procedures in the event that the primary method of seeding results in a tie or other situations arise which cause an alteration in the scheduled seeding method. Among the more common tie-breaking methods are 1) seeding by overall win-loss record; seeding by win-loss record in specific contests, 3) seeding by a rating/ranking from a statewide poll, 3) seeding by a majority vote, 4) seeding by a committee, and 5) seeding by a rating turned in by each school.

- 7) If win-loss records are used for seeding, the records used shall be the records as of the date of the pre-tournament meeting as published on the KHSAA memorandum calendar. Teams and school representatives may meet during the regular season to discuss tournament operations (i.e. dates, times, sites, tournament personnel needs, etc.). However if an organizational meeting is held prior to the published date on the calendar, no discussions may be held regarding the bracketing or pairings of specific teams unless all mandated seeded games have been played prior to the meeting. Games played after the published meeting date SHALL NOT factor into the seeded position.
- 8) Seeded games unable to be played for any reason (with the exception of verified forfeited contests) prior to the published date for the district tournament meetings will be recorded as a win and a loss for both teams in computing seeded position.
- 9) If a change in the alignment of teams moves a single new team into a previously seeded district during the current school year, the previous decision as to seeding shall prevail. If the new team enters the alignment following the completion of all game contracts and the new team is unable to schedule all required opponents, the new team shall be seeded in the last position for the current season, and shall be included in seeded game scheduling for the subsequent seasons. If a single change in the alignment occurs prior to the end of the previous school year, the district teams will conduct a new vote as to seeding.
- 10) If a change in the alignment of teams moves more than one team into a seeded district, the district teams shall conduct a new vote as to seeding. A tie vote will result in the seeding decision being not seeded.
- 11) If the Board of Control approves a total realignment of teams within a district, the teams in the district shall conduct a new vote as to seeding. A tie vote in this situation shall result in the district being not seeded.

#### **V) Tournament Meetings and Pairings**

- A) District (non-seeded). The district meetings shall be held in the school designated as the tournament host not later than the second Sunday (one week and one day) prior to the week of the tournament as specified on the KHSAA Memorandum Calendar. These meetings may be held earlier by mutual agreement of all teams. The principal or his/her representative shall conduct the drawing for each school. The pairings for the district tournament shall be made in accordance with the following procedure, with all byes being arranged to be in the first round:
  - 1) The number of places to be considered shall be four, eight, sixteen, thirty-two, etc. Of the above numbers, the one that is next greater than the number of teams in the drawing shall be considered in the drawing. The teams shall be placed in the proper position of the appropriate single elimination bracket.
  - 2) If the number of teams in the drawing is less than the number of places to be considered, the even number 2 shall be designated as the first bye; the largest even number as the second bye; number 4 as the third bye; the next largest even number as the fourth bye; and so on until the number of places not so designated equals the number of teams in the drawing. The places shall be determined by drawing by lot, the numbers assigned to the "byes" having been first taken from the numbers to be drawn.
  - 3) The teams which pair with "byes" shall have a rest period during the first round of the playing of games in the tournament.
  - 4) The winner of the No. 1 and No. 2 games shall play the winner of the No. 3 and No. 4 game. The winner of the No. 5 game and No. 6 game shall play the winner of No. 7 and No. 8 game. The two winners shall play for the championship. The same general procedure shall be used in the case of more than eight places or teams.
  - 5) The district champion and the runner-up of each tournament

shall advance to the regional tournament.

- B) District (seeded). The district meetings shall be held in the school designated as the tournament host not later than the second Sunday (one week and one day) prior to the week of the tournament as specified on the KHSAA Memorandum Calendar. These meetings may be held earlier by mutual agreement of all teams, but not prior to the completion of all seeded district games.
  - 1) After seeding positions have been determined, the seeded bracket pairings shall be observed. The teams shall be placed in the proper position of the appropriate single elimination bracket. The brackets (from top down) are as follows:
    - a) 3 Teams – Seed 2 plays 3, Seed 1 plays winner of Seed 2 vs. Seed 3 for championship.
    - b) 4 Teams - Seed 1 plays 4, 2 plays 3, winners meet for championship.
    - c) 5 Teams - Seed 5 plays 4, 1 plays winner of 5 vs. 4, 2 plays 3, remaining winners meet for championship.
    - d) 6 Teams - Seed 4 plays 5, 3 plays 6, 1 plays winner of 4 vs. 5, 2 plays winner of 3 vs. 6, remaining winners meet for championship.
    - e) 7 Teams - Seed 4 plays 5, 2 plays 7, 3 plays 6, 1 plays winner of 4 vs. 5, 2 vs. 7 winner plays 3 vs. 6 winner, remaining winners meet for championship.
    - f) 8 Teams - Seed 1 plays 8, 4 plays 5, 2 plays 7, 3 plays 6, 1 vs. 8 winner plays 4 vs. 5 winner, 2 vs. 7 winner plays 3 vs. 6 winner, remaining winners meet for championship.
  - 2) The district champion and the runner-up of each single elimination tournament shall advance to the regional tournament.
- C) Region.
  - 1) The Regional meeting shall be held on Sunday afternoon immediately following the district tournaments not prior to 2:00 p.m. in the school designated as the host. These meetings may be held earlier by mutual agreement of all teams, but not prior to the completion of all district tournament games.
  - 2) The pairings for the regional tournament shall be made in accordance to the following procedure.
    - a) In a regional tournament with participants from four districts, the district winners will draw for positions 1, 3, 5 and 7 in a standard eight-team bracket. Each corresponding runner-up team will draw for a position in the opposite bracket.
    - b) In a regional tournament with participants from three districts, the draw shall be conducted as follows. The format will follow a standard eight-team bracket with two byes, those falling into positions 2 and 7. The district winners shall draw for positions 1 and 8 in the bracket. The district winner not drawing a bye shall draw for a position in slots 3 through 6. The district runner-up to the district champion drawing for position in slots 3 through 6 will draw into one of the two remaining slots in the bracket opposite the district winner, and the remaining two runner-up teams will be placed opposite their corresponding district winners in the remaining two slots in the bracket.
    - c) In a regional tournament with participants from two districts, the draw shall be conducted as follows. The district winners will draw for positions 1 and 3 in a standard four-team bracket. Each corresponding runner-up team will be placed in the position in the opposite bracket from the district winner.
  - 3) The winner of each regional tournament shall advance to the state tournament.
- D) State. The Commissioner shall conduct a blind draw to determine the pairings for the state tournament. The winner of the each regional tournament shall advance to the state tournament.

#### **VI) Eligibility to Enter Tournament Play**

To be eligible to compete in the district, region or state tournament, a member school team shall have competed in at least ten fast-pitch games during the regular season.

#### **VII) Contestants**

Each school shall submit a properly identified team photograph in compliance with published deadlines and directives. A school shall enter an unlimited number of contestants on an electronic roster via the KHSAA web site and online participation tracking system. This roster may be revised throughout the regular season and shall serve as the preliminary list as referred in these regulations. On the first day of postseason play, these rosters shall be locked so that

no additional players may be added, deleted or revised following this date, thereby creating the final eligibility list for tournament play. After this time, the only revision allowed will be to correct a documented clerical error as referred to in Bylaw 14.

A school may enter a team composed of twenty-one (21) players in each post-season tournament game that shall be players who appeared on the eligibility list submitted online. The twenty one (21) players shall be designated each game, and no other players may be in uniform.

#### **VIII) Umpires (Regular and Postseason)**

For regular season play, fast-pitch softball umpires are to be paid \$41.00 per game per official for a two person crew, \$36.00 each additional contest. If additional officials are assigned, the fee may be reduced by \$5. The local regional policy board may approve a supplement for incidental expenses such as travel and mileage. The total amount paid to baseball umpires in a given local regional policy board area shall be no greater than \$5.00 more than the amount paid to fast-pitch softball umpires.

Umpires for all KHSAA sponsored championship competition shall be assigned by the Commission. Only KHSAA Level 2 or Level 3 officials, who are licensed by June 30 of the licensing year, shall be used in the regional or state tournaments. Exceptions may be approved by the Commission.

Local associations may submit recommendations for postseason assignments to district, region and state tournament contests. The final selection shall be made by the Commission.

The Board of Control has established fees for postseason play. In all tournament levels, one member of the crew of officials is to be paid a mileage allowance based on the mileage submitted to the manager by the association staff member in charge of the sport or his/her designee. Additional postseason allowances shall be at the discretion of the tournament manager and shall be approved by the Commissioner.

District tournament officials shall be paid a fee of \$46.00 per game if working in a two-person system, and a fee of \$41.00 per game if working in a three-person system. It is strongly recommended that three officials be used in each district tournament game. In the case where an official is required to travel outside of the local assigning area by virtue of the assignments, the fee shall be increased by \$5 per person, per game.

Regional tournament officials shall be paid a fee of \$51.00 per game if working a two-person system, and a fee of \$46.00 per game if working a three-person system. It is strongly recommended that three officials be used in each regional tournament game. In the case where an official is required to travel outside of the local assigning area by virtue of the assignments, the fee shall be increased by \$5 per person, per game.

State tournament officials shall be paid \$56.00 per game if working a two-person system and \$51.00 per game if working a three-person system.

#### **IX) Champion**

The champion of each district and regional tournament will be the team undefeated in a single elimination tournament. The champion of the state tournament will be the winning team in a double elimination tournament.

#### **X) Trophies and Awards**

##### **A) District and Region**

- 1) Trophies will be given to each district and regional tournament winner and runner-up.
- 2) The trophies at the district and region shall be paid from the gate receipts of that tournament.

##### **B) State**

- 1) The state tournament champion, runner-up, third and fourth place teams shall receive a trophy.
- 2) The state tournament champion, runner-up, third and fourth place teams shall receive twenty-four (24) individual medals.
- 3) An All-Tournament team will be selected at the state tournament along with a Most Valuable Player.
- 4) The Association will bear the costs of all trophies at the semi-state and state tournaments.

#### **XI) Finances**

##### **A) District and Region**

The participating schools may adopt by majority vote, any plan that they desire for the distribution of receipts. If no plan can be

agreed upon, the following shall prevail:

- 1) A mileage fee of \$1.00 per team per mile for each necessary trip should be allowed for travel expense. An allowance for one meal at \$5.00 per team member per trip to the tournament should be allowed.
- 2) The host school shall be allowed fifteen (15) percent of the gross ticket receipts derived from the district or regional tournament for rental of the gymnasium and other services rendered to include setup and clean-up charges and for paying documented incidental bills related to the tournament that are approved by the participating teams.
- 3) Prior to any additional distribution, the gross receipts, less the host designated share outlined in subsection (2), shall be reduced by team travel expenses and the amounts paid for game officials and trophies.
- 4) The remainder of the profit shall be divided among the schools participating in the tournament and the non-participating schools in accordance with previously approved plans.
- 5) The host school should be allowed the profits made on programs, concessions, parking, etc.

##### **B) State**

- 1) The Association will finance the state tournament. The following allowances will apply if the receipts from the tournament make them justifiable, otherwise, the Board of Control will determine the allowance.
- 2) Expenses will be paid for meals, lodging and travel for each team through breakfast on the day following elimination from the tournament for each team.
- 3) The state tournament squad for purposes of reimbursement shall be limited to twenty-four (24) persons, including the principal, coaches, team members and other personnel.
- 4) Schools failing to stay in the motel assigned by the Association shall forfeit the lodging allowance. Commuting teams shall be paid an allowance in accordance with pre-tournament instructions.
- 5) The rate to be reimbursed for state championship play is \$1 per mile (round trip), \$5 per meal per person, and a maximum of \$13 per person per night for lodging as approved.
- 6) After all expenses have been paid, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association shall retain profits from each state tournament.

#### **XII) Withdrawal from Tournament**

No school which enters a district, regional, or state tournament (draws for place) shall withdraw from the tournament or forfeit any of its games, but shall play its entire tournament schedule. If a school withdraws from a district, regional, or state tournament at any time following the draw for district tournament positions or after the pairings have been determined in a seeded district, that school may be suspended from the Association for a period of twelve (12) months and shall be eliminated from postseason play for two years unless the Board of Control rules that sufficient grounds for withdrawal are submitted.

#### **XIII) Special Tournament and Regular Season Rules**

- A) All ties shall be played to completion.
- B) The twelve (12) inch softball shall be utilized in all regular season and postseason contests.
- C) The National Federation softball rules shall be the official rules used in all contests.
- D) There shall be no time limit on regular or postseason varsity softball contests.
- E) Speed-Up Rules  
All softball contests shall utilize the optional speed-up rules allowed by the National Federation such as courtesy runners for the pitcher and catcher upon reaching base and any other speed-up rules mandated by the National Federation including a "run rule" where run differential determines the end of the contest.
- F) Specifications of Fields and Game Balls  
The specifications for recommended and required standards for fields to be used in tournament play may be developed by Association staff and Advisory Committees and approved by the Board of Control. The Association may enter into a contract to restrict the use of a ball in tournament play to a specific brand or model.
- G) Additional Rules for Contests

Additional rules, governed by State Association adoption provisions in the National Federation Playing Rules or otherwise developed by the Association may be implemented in contests played in Kentucky and will be distributed to the membership when relevant.

H) Complete Game

- 1) In regular season, and postseason, a complete game of 6 1/2 or 7 innings shall be played unless other National Federation rules or rules adopted by state association and permitted by National Federation playing rules (as detail in item 4 below) apply to the situation.
- 2) All seeded district games in a seeded district shall be played to completion.
- 3) Except for seeded district games, one or both games of a double header may be shortened to five innings by mutual agreement of the two coaches prior to the game.
- 4) For all games, regular season and post season, a fifteen (15) run differential between teams after three or more complete innings (including after the top half if the home team is ahead) shall constitute a complete game.
- 5) For all games, regular season and post season, a fifteen (10) run differential between teams after five or more complete innings (including after the top half if the home team is ahead) shall constitute a complete game.

I) Interrupted Games

If a game is interrupted in tournament play or in regular season play, and is subsequently to be completed, it will be reset at the same point, same inning, same out or outs, same balls and strikes, same batter or number of batter in the batting order.

J) International Tie-Breaker

The international tie-breaker (ITB) system shall be used in all regular season games if the game is still tied after nine complete innings. By mutual agreement of the two competing coaches, the ITB may be used in the 8th and 9th innings if the score is tied after seven complete innings.

The provisions of the ITB are:

- 1) If a game is tied after nine complete innings of play (or innings 8 and 9 by mutual agreement), the game shall continue in the 10th inning using the International Tie-Breaker (ITB) system.
- 2) At the start of each half-inning beginning in the top of the 10th (or 8th and 9th by mutual agreement), the offensive team will begin its turn at bat with the player scheduled to bat ninth in that half inning being placed on second base. If the Pitcher or Catcher is that ninth batter, then a courtesy runner may be used. A substitute may also be legally inserted for the runner.

**XIV) School Personnel to Accompany Team**

In accordance with Bylaw 20, each school having participants in a KHSAA event shall send a school designee to accompany the team. This person should be designated in writing by the Principal and approved by the local Board of Education.

*(Case situations related to this sport appear following the Tournament Rules section)*