



SPORT GUIDELINES

SOFTBALL

Acalanes, Alhambra, Benicia, Berean Christian, Campolindo, Clayton Valley Charter, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, Ygnacio Valley

Approved: April 13, 2023

1. SEASON

- 1.1 Practice may begin on the date designated in the NCS 3-year calendar
- 1.2 Maximum number of contests: Varsity 24, JV 24
- 1.3 Number of scrimmages: Varsity 2, JV 2
- 1.4 Definition of scrimmage:
 - 1.4.1 Uniforms are optional,
 - 1.4.2 Controlled by coaches,
 - 1.4.3 Game officials are optional,
 - 1.4.4 No official score is kept.
- 1.5 Each tournament game counts as one against maximum number of games

2. CONTEST INFORMATION

- 2.1 Starting Time: 4:30 PM
 - 2.1.1 Games may begin earlier if necessary at public fields as agreed upon by both coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals.
- 2.2 Days of Games: Tuesdays and Thursdays, as scheduled.
- 2.3 Location: Varsity and JV play at opposite sites, unless agreed upon by both coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals.
- 2.4 League games take precedence over any non-league competition.
- 2.5 No league games will be played when school is not in session, unless agreed upon by both coaches, Athletic Directors, and Principals.

3. PREVAILING RULES

- 3.1 Games shall be conducted according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association, to be superseded by the CIF, NCS and/or DAL guidelines.
- 3.2 Minimum eligibility standards shall be determined by rules predetermined by each district in the league.
- 3.3 Participation of players:
 - 3.3.1 Coaches have the option of moving eligible players up or down on a game-by-game basis.
 - 3.3.2 Seniors may compete on a JV team as long as it is agreed upon by Athletic Directors and Principals.
 - 3.3.3 If a player is written down on the roster for a game, it counts as a participation regardless whether they got into the game or not.
- 3.4 Warm up Procedures:
 - 3.4.1 Bus and traffic delays are beyond the control of the traveling team and they should not be penalized for such delays. Time will be allowed for the visiting team to warm-up after they arrive. Game will begin 20 minutes after the team arrives at the field.
 - 3.4.2 Each team will get a suitable and equal time to access the full infield and outfield to warm up. The home team will get access first.
 - 3.4.3 Participating teams will not be allowed to take batting practice, use pitching machines or batting cages at the game site within two hours of the scheduled game time. The use of regulation, whiffle, or other low flight balls may be used for hitting warm-up drills (provided it is allowed by the host facility), with the following exception: regulation balls may not be used for front toss. Only whiffle or other low flight balls may be used for front toss. PENALTY FOR VIOLATION: The game shall be forfeited by the offending team.
- 3.5 Canceled games must be made up on the next available date, in the order they were canceled, if possible.
 - 3.5.1 Tied or suspended games will be completed as follows: If the game to be completed occurs in the first round, the game will be completed at the site of the second round game prior to the start of the second round game. If the game to be completed occurs in the second round, the game will be completed on the first available date at the site of the home team if the game has league championship or play-off implications.

- 3.6 Regular scheduled league games will have priority over tournament games.
- 3.7 No make-up games will be scheduled on the Monday following spring break.
- 3.8 In the event of an injury or concussion, the school's athletic trainer or the opponent's athletic trainer, if he/she is the only athletic trainer at the contest, has the authority to determine if a player may continue to play or practice.
- 3.9 Coaches will submit league stats to Max Preps for All-League selection.
- 3.10 Coaches will have 24 hours to review and agree on the game stats. If there are disputes teams have the option to refer the matter to their AD's and ultimately the commissioner for a decision.
- 3.11 If the home team's field is not playable, the game will be scheduled at the visitor's site with mutual agreement.

4. EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

- 4.1 Uniforms shall meet National Federal requirements.
- 4.2 League approved ball will be any ball listed in the National Federation Rule book.
- 4.3 Coaches coaching in the coaching boxes must be in uniform according to CIF rules.
- 4.4 All persons coaching must wear a NOCSAE approved helmet while outside the dugout during a live ball.

5. OFFICIALS

- 5.1 Officials under contract to the league shall officiate at all scheduled league games.
- 5.2 Varsity games shall have two officials.
- 5.3 JV games shall have one official.
- 5.4 By mutual agreement, varsity games may be started with one official.

6. DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE OR DIVISION CHAMPIONS

- 6.1 League or Division Champion:
 - 6.1.2 The League or Division Champion will be the team with the best overall record over the course of the league or division schedule.
 - 6.1.3 If there is a tie for first place, the tied teams will be Co-Champions.
 - 6.1.4 Ties, for the purposes of NCS qualification and DAL Tournament Seeding (If Applicable), will be resolved using the tie-breaking criteria. (See 6.2)

6.2 Criteria used to break ties:

1. **Head to Head.**
2. **Ladder Finish. Which is defined as comparing each team's record against the other teams in the league based on the league schedule, starting with the highest ranked team and continuing down the ladder until the tie is broken.**
3. **In a 3 way tie (or more) once the initial tie is broken, it will revert back to the 1st tiebreaker with the remaining schools.**
4. **Lottery. If the coach or designee is not present at the pre-season coaches meeting, that school will receive the last number. If there are more than one coach or designee absent, the commissioner will draw numbers for the absentees after the initial lottery.**

7. NCS QUALIFYING AND AT LARGE REPRESENTATION

- 7.1 The automatic representative to NCS will be the League/Division Champion or the winner of the tiebreaker.
Only the foothill and valley division champions receive an automatic representative to NCS.
- 7.2 Any other qualified team may apply for an NCS At-Large Berth.

8. ALL LEAGUE SELECTION

- 8.1 Coaches will elect a Most Valuable Player.
- 8.2 Coaches will elect a Most Valuable Pitcher.
- 8.3 First Team: 12 players. These are meant to be the best 12 players in the league.
- 8.4 Second Team: 12 players. In the event of a tie, a 13th player may be added.
- 8.5 Honorable Mention: Unlimited number of players
- 8.6 Nomination Procedure
 - 8.6.1 Coaches may nominate or delete any number of players prior to each round of voting.
 - 8.6.2 Coaches will first nominate those players that they feel deserve to be on the First Team.
 - 8.6.3 Coaches may speak briefly about their players.
 - 8.6.4 Honesty is important. Be realistic as to how your players match up to the other nominated players.
- 8.7 Voting Procedure
 - 8.7.1 Coaches may not vote for their own players.
 - 8.7.2 Voting is done by secret ballot.
 - 8.7.3 There will be 4 rounds of voting for 6 players at a time. The first two rounds of voting will comprise the First Team. The third and fourth round of voting will comprise the Second Team. Any remaining individuals will be Honorable Mention.
 - 8.7.4 In each round of voting, coaches will award 6 points to the person they believe is the best player on the

board, 5 points to the second best player, and so on through 1 point to the 6th best player. Votes are then tallied and the top six players with the most points are awarded 1st Team.

8.7.5 After each round of voting, all of the points are erased and the process begins again.

8.8 Any athlete who is deemed academically or behaviorally ineligible at their school will not be eligible for all-league consideration. Athletes who are ejected twice during the season under the NCS ejection policy will not be eligible for all-league consideration.

9. AWARDS

9.1 All League certificates will be awarded to players selected for All League teams.

10. DAL EJECTION POLICY

10.1 The NCS ejection policy will be endorsed and enforced by the DAL.

10.2 All ejections must be reported to the Commissioner of the DAL.

10.3 There is a DAL appeals process for the ejection policy in the Bylaws.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 It is recommended that all players wearing braces should wear a mouthpiece.