



SPORT GUIDELINES

SOFTBALL

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

Approved: March 23, 2017

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: 4:00 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shall be conducted according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Association, to be superseded by the CIF, NCS and/or DAL guidelines.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 Infield/outfield warm-up time should not exceed 15 minutes.
 - 3.4.3 On the day of a game NO teams will be allowed to take batting practice within two (2) hours of the scheduled game time. Pepper is allowed. The use of wiffle balls for soft toss is acceptable. Any team having live or machine batting practice within two (2) hours of the game will forfeit one day of practice for each occurrence.
- 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 CHAMPIONS

- 6.1 League Champion:
 - 6.1.1 The regular league season is defined as a double round robin.
 - 6.1.2 The league champion will be the winner of the regular league season double round robin.
 - 6.1.3 If there is a tie for first place, the tied teams will be co-champions of the league.
 - 6.1.4 Ties, for purposes of NCS will be resolved using the tie-breaking criteria. (See 6.2)
- 6.2 Criteria used to break ties:
 - 6.2.1 Head to head competition
 - 6.2.2 If two teams are tied and split the regular season contests, they will participate in a 1 game League Playoff to determine the NCS Automatic Berth. The game will be played no later than the Saturday prior to NCS seeding. The winner of the second game during the regular season will host. Coin flip determines Home team.
 - 6.2.2.1 In the event that the League Playoff is rained out, then the team that gave up the fewest runs during the two games between those two teams the winner of the tiebreaker. If the teams are still tied then the team that gave up the fewest number of runs during the regular league season is the winner of the tie breaker. If the teams are still tied then the team that won the second game is the winner of the tie breaker.
 - 6.2.3 In the case of a three way tie:
 - 6.2.3.1 Once the tie is broken the criteria reverts back to head to head competition.
 - 6.2.3.2 The total number of runs given up in regular season games amongst the three teams involved in the tie will be used to break the tie. The team with the fewest runs allowed will win the tiebreaker.
 - 6.2.3.3 If the teams are still tied then the team that gave up the fewest number of runs during the regular league season is the winner of the tie breaker.
 - 6.2.3.4 If the teams are still tied then a random drawing will be used to determine the winner of the tie breaker.

7. NCS QUALIFYING AND AT LARGE REPRESENTATION

- 7.1 The automatic representative to the NCS will be the league champion or the winner of the 1 game League Playoff.
- 7.2 Any team may apply to be an at-large entrant into the NCS championships.

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.