



## PARTICIPATING SCHOOL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION 2023-24 MHSAA BASEBALL

### 1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

The MHSAA Baseball tournament is conducted in four equal Divisions as established by enrollment submitted by member schools in their enrollment declaration forms in the spring of the preceding school year. Schools are assigned to one of 128 Districts, 32 districts in each of the four divisions.

District winners advance to one of 64 Regional Semifinal events, 16 Regional Semifinals in each Division. Regional Semifinal winners advance to one of 16 Quarterfinal sites, 4 Quarterfinals in each Division. Quarterfinal winners advance to the MHSAA Semifinals/Finals. District pairings are determined by a draw conducted by local tournament managers. Host locations for all levels of the tournament and initial groupings are prepared by MHSAA staff and reviewed by the MHSAA site selection committee and posted on the MHSAA website.

#### Tournament Dates

District First Round (only in 5 or 6 team districts) – Tuesday, May 30

District Semifinals & Finals – Saturday, June 1

**Note: District First Round** games may be played on Thursday, May 23, Friday, May 24, or Saturday, May 25 **only** if participating teams (and host, if applicable) agree in writing to the tournament manager; otherwise, the games must be on Tuesday. **District Semifinal and finals** games may be played on Friday, May 31 **only** if all schools agree in writing to the tournament manager; otherwise, the games must be on Saturday. All District Semifinal and final games must be played on the same day.

Regional Semifinals – Wednesday, June 5

Regional Finals and Quarterfinals – Saturday, June 8

Semifinals – Thursday-Friday, June 13-14 @ Michigan State University

Championship games in all Divisions - Saturday, June 15 @ Michigan State University

#### Thurs., June 13 – SEMIFINALS

Division 3 – 9:00 a.m.

Division 3 – 11:30 a.m.

Division 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Division 1 – 5:00 p.m.

#### FRI., June 14 - SEMIFINALS

Division 4 – 9:00 a.m.

Division 4 – 11:30 a.m.

Division 2 – 2:30 p.m.

Division 2 – 5:00 p.m.

#### Sat., June 15 - FINALS

Division 3 – 9:00 a.m.

Division 1 – 11:30 a.m.

Division 4 – 2:30 p.m.

Division 2 – 5:00 p.m.

#### Pairings for Regional Semifinals and Regional Finals:

**Regional Semifinal pairings determined by numerical order**

**Regional Final pairings determined by the committee draw:**

Second Highest Regional Semifinal # vs Lowest Regional Semifinal #

Highest Regional Semifinal # vs Second Lowest Regional Semifinal #

(Note, e.g., 1=low, 4=high)

#### Semifinal pairings as determined by the committee draw:

**Division 1** - Quarterfinal #3 vs. Quarterfinal #4, Quarterfinal #2 vs. Quarterfinal #1

**Division 2** - Quarterfinal #6 vs. Quarterfinal #8, Quarterfinal #7 vs. Quarterfinal #5

**Division 3** - Quarterfinal #12 vs. Quarterfinal #10, Quarterfinal #11 vs. Quarterfinal #9

**Division 4** - Quarterfinal #15 vs. Quarterfinal #14, Quarterfinal #13 vs. Quarterfinal #16

## 2. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

**Home Team Designation** - The home team designation for all levels of MHSAA Baseball Tournament games will be completed by an on-site pregame coin toss administered by game officials and/or the tournament manager.

**Dugout assignments** – When host schools are participating, they will be allowed to occupy their traditional dugout. When host schools are not participating the following dugout assignments will apply for Districts, Regionals, Semifinals, and Finals: Top bracket line - 3rd base dugout; Bottom bracket line - 1st base dugout

**Game Balls** - The 2023 MHSAA tournament baseball is the Rawlings RMICHE1. The MHSAA and its official ball partners will supply baseballs to each District, Regional Semifinal, and Quarterfinal Manager.

**Warm-up periods** - At all MHSAA tournaments, there will be no batting practice on the infield of the game field diamond. Other diamonds may be used for batting practice if available to both teams. Each team is to have a maximum of ten minutes of fielding practice (on the game field) prior to each game. The home team takes infield first.

**Artificial noisemakers are not permitted in the dugout or field of play. Music between half-innings and PA announcements of batters coming to bat and substitutions are permitted as long as they apply to both teams and are announced from a PA system off of the field and out of the dugout. WALK-UP MUSIC IS NOT PERMITTED IN MHSAA TOURNAMENT GAMES.**

**Note:**

## 3. OPT-OUT POLICIES, ELIGIBILITY LISTS, ROSTERS

Schools must see that tournament managers receive an accurate Eligibility List and Team Roster by the Opt-Out Due Date. These forms are available at mhsaa.com. Failure to fulfill the above obligations by the specified Opt-Out Due Date will result in MHSAA penalties as stipulated in the MHSAA Handbook. For baseball, the Opt-Out Due Date is **May 10, 2023**. Additions, changes or updates to the Master Eligibility list may be made prior to the first date of the MHSAA Tournament which is tentatively May 30. Schools must notify the tournament managers by the Opt-Out Due Date if they DO NOT intend to participate. Schools that withdraw after the Opt-Out date are subject to MHSAA penalty.

**Use of ineligible** - Individuals or teams defeated by an ineligible opponent or teams that allowed one or more ineligible students to participate do not advance in MHSAA tournaments. If placements in MHSAA tournaments are vacated as a result of an individual being ineligible or a team allowing one or more ineligible students to participate, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those places.

## 4. DRAW PROCEDURES

The tournament manager shall coordinate the draw involving all schools in the MHSAA District. Draws may be held no earlier than April 1, 2023. All schools shall be notified in advance of the draw. Host schools may draw the bye. A separate draw will be conducted for all Baseball District tournaments.

**REMINDER:** Regardless of the teams present, baseball District sites will participate in an open draw, which may result in the baseball and softball teams from the same school occupying different lines of the bracket. The two tournaments are considered separately in all aspects of classification, assignments, and draws. **NO COMMON DRAWS for baseball and softball are permitted.**

## 5. TIME SCHEDULE

Games at the District level shall not begin before 9:30 a.m. It is recommended that start times for Regional Semifinal games be after 3 p.m. and take into consideration participating team travel. It is recommended Regional Final games be scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., followed by the Quarterfinal game tentatively scheduled at 3:30 p.m. Local managers determine time schedules for all games except at least 25 minutes between games.

## 6. AWARDS

The winning school in each division in each District will receive a trophy. The winner of each Regional Final at the Regional Final/Quarterfinal Tournament will receive a trophy. Twenty-one medals will be awarded to winning schools of District,

Regional Final, and Final Tournaments. In addition, the same number of medals will be awarded to runner-up schools at the Final Tournament. Schools may purchase additional medals through the MHSAA using the extra medal form. The district winner trophy and medals will be awarded at the conclusion of the District Final. Regional Final winners trophies and medals will be awarded between the end of the second scheduled Regional Final game and the coin toss for determining the home and away teams for the Quarterfinal game, the exact time determined at the discretion of the host manager.

The extra medal form is below:

<https://www.mhsaa.com/sites/default/files/Administrators/medal%20form.pdf>

## **7. LIMITS OF COMPETITION**

Baseball teams and individuals may play a maximum of 38 games. A student shall participate in no more than two games per school day. All Baseball schools and students must follow all elements of the MHSAA Pitch Count rule.

**8. LOCKER ROOM PRIVACY POLICY:** Using devices of any kind to capture or transmit images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing areas, training rooms, weigh-in rooms, showers, restrooms or other areas where there is an expectation of privacy during MHSAA tournament events. Tournament managers or athletic directors who discover such use should move immediately to have the device removed and inform the head coach or athletic director of the identity and nature of the activity of the person involved.

## **9. ADMISSION**

Admission will be charged at District, Regional Semifinal, Quarterfinal (including Regional Finals), Semifinal, and Final games for all spectators except preschool children accompanied by an adult.

District tickets will be \$7 and Regional and Quarterfinal Tournaments tickets will be \$9. Semifinal and Final game tickets will be \$11 for all admissions. All tickets will be digital and sold via GoFan. A mobile device is required. All admissions will be good for all games scheduled at that location for that day of the tournament.

**Team expenses** – Participating teams assume all costs at the District, Regional Semifinal, and Quarterfinal (including Regional Finals) games. For Semifinal and Finals games, teams that travel more than 75 miles to the tournament site qualify for lodging, mileage, and meal reimbursement as per the approved MHSAA formula.

Tournament managers must file the Financial Report form by July 1 following their event. Host share is 10% of gross receipts or \$300, whichever is greater. Only officials' expenses will be reimbursed if a site cannot charge admission.

## **10. OFFICIALS, SELECTION, ASSIGNMENTS**

Each tournament manager will hire umpires for at the District level. The MHSAA will assign umpires for Regional Semifinal, Quarterfinal (including Regional Finals), Semifinal, and Final games.

**District** - Two umpires will be used for each District Tournament baseball game. Three umpires shall be hired for District games with the District manager assigning two umpires to each game using the two-umpire system. Managers may enlist local assigners to assist in hiring officials, but the tournament manager is responsible for such hiring. It is recommended that managers make every effort to rotate District assignments to qualified officials so that various officials can work District games.

**Regional Semifinal** - The MHSAA will assign two umpires to each Regional Semifinal game. The two-umpire system shall be used for each Regional Semifinal game.

**Quarterfinal** – Four total umpires, assigned by the MHSAA, will be assigned to each Quarterfinal (including Regional Finals). The two Regional Finals games will be umpired using the two-umpire system, and the Quarterfinal game will be umpired using the four-umpire system.

**Semifinal and Final Games** – A four-umpire crew will be used for each Semifinal and Final baseball game.

## 11. PLAYING RULES/ADAPTATIONS

All National Federation playing rules will be followed for all tournament games. The MHSAA weather game suspension rule shall be applied when applicable (see weather policies). The MHSAA Baseball Pitch Count rule applies during tournament play. Violations of the pitch count rule constitute use of an ineligible player and will result in forfeiture.

**Score differential** - A game will be terminated if one team leads by 15 runs after 3 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings. If the visiting team reaches a 15- or 10-run lead in their top half of the inning, the home team will be allowed to bat in its bottom half of the inning to reduce the differential. If the home team reaches a 15- or 10-run lead in their bottom half of the inning, the game is over the moment the respective differential is reached.

## 12. MEDIA

All media credential requests at the District, Regional, and Quarterfinal levels are processed by local managers. The MHSAA will handle credential requests for Semifinal and Final games.

Videotaping- Competing schools may videotape games in which that school competes. The tape is not to be used to second-guess decisions made by umpires. The tape may not be sold, rented or loaned for commercial purposes. Schools wishing to videotape games at other sites may do so without securing advanced permission but must tape from the stands unless press box space is available.

Spectator Videotaping – Spectators may tape games from their normal seating area but are not to interfere with the view of other spectators or news media personnel covering the activity. A manager is not required to provide electrical hook-ups or tripod space and may arrange spectator videotaping from a designated location(s).

The following link contains all the media information.

<https://www.mhsaa.com/sites/default/files/Media/Media%20Info%20for%20Schools.pdf>

**Broadcasting/Webcasting Coverage** – Any media outlet wishing to broadcast an MHSAA Tournament game on radio or cable or over-the-air television, or over the Internet in the form of audio, video, and streaming statistics in real-time, must make an application with the MHSAA in advance of the game to be broadcast, and the Tournament Manager must receive approval from the MHSAA Office before letting the outlet into the venue. Outlets broadcasting contests are responsible for making their own telephone and Internet access arrangements, but tournament managers may choose to make such access available as a courtesy.

**Photographers (still and video)** – may be granted appropriate access to shoot (i.e. sidelines, baselines), if they are from an accredited media outlet, an MHSAA Licensed Photographer, or an individual identified by a school administrator to the tournament manager who is authorized to capture such content exclusively for the school's publication, promotional, educational or public relations uses. For outdoor team events (baseball, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball), a school may have a maximum of two authorized representatives to capture still images, one to capture moving images. For indoor team events (basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey, volleyball, team dual wrestling), a school may have a maximum of one authorized representative for still images, and one for moving images. Because of the large number of teams involved for individual events (bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, skiing, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, and individual wrestling), no passes and access will be authorized for schools. Otherwise uncredentialed commercial/freelance photographers covering the event for the sole purpose of selling those images should never be granted appropriate access to shoot at MHSAA Tournaments.

## 13. SPORTSMANSHIP

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Previous Contest** – A coach or player that is ejected during a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be prohibited by his/her school from participating for at least the next day of competition. If the ejection occurs during a tournament contest, the coach or player shall be prohibited from participating for at least the next tournament day of competition for his/her team, and any intervening games as well. Furthermore, any coach or player ejected will remain

ineligible to participate in a game, indefinitely, until he/she has successfully completed the required online sportsmanship course and submitted a certificate of completion to his/her athletic director. See the MHSAA Disqualification Guide for further details.

When a coach is ejected, or while serving a suspension, he/she shall not be on site, or within sight, sound or communication of his/her team. This is true even if the coach is a parent of a participating player. When a player is ejected, or while serving a suspension, the school may allow the student to sit on the bench (including in uniform) as long as he/she does not create further disturbance. Otherwise, he/she should be escorted away from the site by an adult. A suspended player is treated as ineligible, meaning the student shall not participate.

If a school fails to enforce the suspension penalties with respect to its coach or one of its students, the tournament manager, any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA immediately for further action, which shall include (but not limited to) forfeiture of the contest. If this failure to comply with the suspension penalty occurs during the tournament, the team shall be eliminated from the remainder of the tournament.

**Tournament Ineligibility** – Any coach who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct two or more times during a season, any player who is disqualified for unsportsmanlike conduct three or more times during a season and any coach or player who is ejected for spitting at, hitting, slapping, kicking, pushing or intentionally and aggressively physically contacting an official at any time during that season, is not eligible to participate in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. If the tournament disqualifying ejection for that individual occurs during the MHSAA tournament, that player or coach is ineligible for the remainder of that tournament.

The school of the disqualified coach or player must prohibit that person from being present on the property of the tournament venue for the remainder of the tournament series. If that school fails to enforce this, the tournament manager, any registered official or representative of a member school who becomes aware of the violation shall report it to the MHSAA immediately for further action, which shall include (but not limited to) forfeiture of the contest and elimination from the remainder of the tournament.

#### **14. WEATHER POLICIES, POSTPONEMENTS, REGULATION/SUSPENDED GAMES**

When teams are delayed in arriving at tournament sites because of inclement weather, management is encouraged to consider delaying competition for a few hours and/or playing games in brackets of teams that are present and prepared to participate. If, after a reasonable delay, fewer than 60% of the scheduled teams have not arrived, the tournament must be rescheduled. If 60% or more of the scheduled teams are present, the tournament is to be conducted on the day scheduled.

**Postponed games** - If inclement weather causes a postponed game on Friday or Saturday, the remaining games shall be played in the order they are scheduled. However, the times of the games may be altered. If the tournament is canceled on Saturday, games will continue on the next playable day.

See Thunder & Lightning Policy in the MHSAA Handbook for information when a game start should be delayed, or when a game should be stopped, due to thunder and/or lightning.

##### **I. Regulation Game**

- A. A regulation game where a winner cannot be determined, shall be counted as  $\frac{1}{2}$  game won and  $\frac{1}{2}$  game lost for each team. (MHSAA allowed – requires league adoption)
- B. A regulation game consists of seven innings, unless:
  1. It is extended because the score is tied; or
  2. It is shortened because the home team does not need all, or only a portion, of its half of the seventh inning (or extra inning); or
  3. It is shortened because the score differential rules take effect; or
  4. It is shortened because the umpire calls the game; or
  5. It is predetermined that each game of a double-header will only consist of five or six innings (does not apply to MHSAA Tournament contests). If utilized, any rules pertaining to the seventh inning will apply to the fifth or sixth inning, as the case may be.
- C. If a game is called, it has become a regulation game if:
  1. Five full innings have been completed; or
  2. Four and a half innings have been completed, if the home team is ahead; or

3. The home team scores one or more runs to tie the game in their half of the fifth inning.

## II. Suspended Games

- A. A game shall become suspended if it is called any time prior to becoming a regulation game unless, by mutual agreement of the opposing schools, it is declared a "no game".
- B. A regulation game that is called when the score is tied shall be suspended unless, by mutual agreement of the opposing schools, any remaining play is shortened, or the game is terminated.
  1. If a game that has reached regulation reverts back to the score of the previous completed inning and would make the score tied, it shall be suspended from the point the game was called.
- C. For MHSAA Tournament games only, a game shall become suspended if it is called after becoming regulation and when the visiting team has scored one or more runs to take the lead in their half of the inning in which the game is called, and the home team has not scored enough runs to retake the lead in their half of the same inning.
- D. A suspended game shall be resumed from the exact point of suspension:
  1. On a make-up date to be determined, if mutually agreed upon by both coaches; otherwise
  2. Immediately preceding the next single game between the two teams; or
  3. Immediately preceding the next double-header between the two teams, if no single game remains.

**NOTE:** Suspended MHSAA Tournament games will be resumed at the earliest date and time, to be determined by the tournament host manager and the MHSAA.

- E. The completion of a suspended game is a continuation of the original game. Both teams' lineup and batting order shall be exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension, subject to the rules governing substitution. The score, number of outs, visits to the pitcher, any ejections that occurred and any runners on base or batter up to bat (or due up to bat) from the moment of suspension of the original game shall be in effect. A game resumed from the exact point of suspension shall not count as an additional game on the schedule. Pitching limitations regarding days of rest remain in effect.
- F. If a suspended game that has not yet reached regulation cannot be completed on a later date, it shall become a "no game".
- G. If a suspended game that has reached regulation is tied and cannot be completed on a later date, it shall be decided under I.A. above.
- H. Games played in the Semifinal and Final level of the MHSAA postseason tournament shall be suspended at any point in which a game must be called prior to its completion.

**15. MEDICAL EMERGENCY POLICY** - Host school tournament managers should follow all local school district policies regarding medical emergencies for participating athletes, coaches, students, and adult spectators for competitions conducted in school facilities. It is advised that AED devices be readily available during tournament competitions. In addition:

- Trainers are an allowed expense and encouraged but not required.
- All MHSAA concussion protocols will be followed (see attached form).
- MHSAA tornado watches and warnings shall be followed.

**When MHSAA tournament contests are conducted at non-school facilities, plans should be developed for the following needs and/or circumstances:**

- Student, coach and spectator shelter for outdoor events
- Host facility emergency equipment such as AED's, fire escape, etc.
- Emergency communications, i.e., phone numbers, school administration contact
- Coordination with facility management regarding evacuation, first aid, on-site responsibilities
- Medical transport or first responder contact procedures
- Proximity/directions of nearest medical facility

## 16. INJUNCTION, RESTRAINING ORDER, PROTESTS

If an injunction or restraining order is served or presented at an MHSAA tournament site and such purports to require the eligibility of or participation by a student or team which a school and/or the MHSAA has ruled to be ineligible under MHSAA regulations, the on-site tournament manager is to suspend the entire competition (team competition) or events in which that student is intending to participate (individual competition). If the meet has begun, it shall be completed. There are no protests in MHSAA Tournament games. All disputes must be decided at the site before the game proceeds. The umpires will make the final decision regarding game events. The tournament manager will resolve all next game concerns.

## 17. TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Use of alcohol or tobacco, including e-cigarettes or other smoking devices, is prohibited at MHSAA tournament events by players, coaches, and spectators. Managers should stress in coaches' meetings that they are not to use tobacco at the tournament venue.

**Tobacco:** Unless specified in the sport playing rules, it is not intended that a tobacco policy violation should lead to a coach's immediate ejection. He or she should be reminded of the policy and reported to his or her school administration after the contest. Only if the coach is unwilling to comply promptly shall he or she be disqualified from coaching at the event. Officials should be reminded of the tobacco policy and reported in writing by the tournament manager to the MHSAA.

**Alcohol:** Historically, officials promptly disqualified coaches, and tournament managers immediately replaced officials who were under the influence of alcohol; and no change in such procedures is intended by these policies.

## 18. SPECTATOR POLICIES

The following general policies apply to all spectators at MHSAA Tournament events. Tournament managers may also have additional school, facility or institutional restrictions and/or policies.

**Sportsmanship/Taunting** - Spectators shall not engage in any inappropriate cheers that are offensive, nor direct any taunting toward players, coaches, and/or other fans.

**Banners** – Tournament managers may allow banners with appropriate language in support of teams.

**Noisemakers** – Whistles and air horns are not allowed. Other noisemakers may be allowed by the tournament manager's discretion as long as they are not intended to distract players or officials or cause problems with other spectators. Tournament managers are the sole judge for allowing such use.

**Smoking** – The use of tobacco is not allowed in the facility by spectators at MHSAA Tournament events.

**Service Animals** - The policies of the local host site shall prevail with respect to pets/animals. In the absence of local host policy, animals or pets shall not be permitted to enter MHSAA tournament venues, including spectator and team areas. However, properly marked or documented service animals that are leashed or harnessed at all times may accompany spectators paying admission or attending with other approved team or school personnel. Individuals who bring service animals are asked to bring their own waste disposal bags and request special seating before the event if needed.

## 19. UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE (DRONE) POLICY

The use of unmanned aerial vehicles ("UAV"), also known as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at MHSAA tournament venues. Tournament management shall refuse admission or entry to anyone attempting to use a UAV; and if necessary, tournament management shall remove anyone attempting to use a UAV and/or confiscate the UAV until the event has been completed. For purposes of this policy, a UAV is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device. An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for MHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of UAVs for broadcast purposes under the control of the MHSAA.

**20. YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY:** During MHSAA Tournament events, the MHSAA expects all designated managers, volunteer or paid staff assisting in the event, officials, or any other personnel to follow local school district policy and state statute regarding the mandatory reporting of child abuse, bullying, hazing, and sexual harassment. A report of such activity shall be made to legal authorities and to the MHSAA Executive Director or his designee.

## 21. RETURN TO ACTIVITY & POST-CONCUSSION CONSENT FORM

<https://www.mhsaa.com/sites/default/files/2022-07/returntoplay.pdf>