



# 2021 AIA State Softball

## TOURNAMENT GUIDE

### Schedule, Rules, Regulations, Instructions

**AIA Softball COVID Modifications are to be observed by all participating schools. It is the school administration's responsibility to ensure that spectators, and all associated with the softball program follow these modifications, including physical distancing where possible, and face coverings at all times.**

**HEAD COACHES ARE TO EXCHANGE AIA COVID FORM BEFORE CONTEST**

### AIA State Tournament Coordinator

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[www.aiaonline.org](http://www.aiaonline.org)

## **General Information**

### **AIA Member schools competing in Softball**

Please go to the following links (teams are sorted by conference level and region):

- 1A: <https://www.azpreps365.com/teams/softball/1a>
- 2A: <https://www.azpreps365.com/teams/softball/2a>
- 3A: <https://www.azpreps365.com/teams/softball/3a>
- 4A: <https://www.azpreps365.com/teams/softball/4a>
- 5A: <https://www.azpreps365.com/teams/softball/5a>
- 6A: <https://www.azpreps365.com/teams/softball/6a>

### **State Tournament Qualifying**

4A/5A/6A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of 10 games. Teams ranked No. 1 through No. 16 will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to overall ranking of the teams. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 4A/5A/6A: Teams ranked Nos. 1-16

3A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have scheduled a minimum of 10 games. Based on region standings, the top team in each region will earn an automatic bid to the state tournament bracket. The remaining 10 at-large bids will be determined by, and the state tournament bracket will be seeded by, 3A Conference leadership (criteria to include region finish, strength of region, AIA and MaxPreps rankings, comparable games and strength of schedule). The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 3A: Six (6) region champions and 10 at-large qualifiers

2A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have played a minimum of eight (8) games. Based on region standings, the top two teams in each region will earn an automatic bid at minimum to the conference play-in tournament. The conference play-in tournament will match up team's ranked No. 9 through No. 24. Teams ranked No. 1 through No. 8, along with the eight winning teams from the conference play-in tournament, will make up the 16-team state tournament. The state tournament bracket will be seeded according to overall ranking of the 16 teams. The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 2A: Teams ranked Nos. 1-8, and eight (8) conference play-in winners

1A (16-team bracket): In order to qualify, a school must have scheduled a minimum of eight (8) games and played each regional opponent. The top three (3) teams in each of the four (4) regions will receive an automatic bid to the state tournament. The remaining four (4) at-large bids will be determined by, and the state tournament bracket will be seeded by, 1A Conference leadership (criteria to include region finish, strength of region, AIA and MaxPreps rankings, comparable games and strength of schedule). The state tournament will consist of four rounds and be single elimination.

- 1A: Top three (3) teams in each region and four (4) at-large qualifiers

## **STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION:**

For information regarding the following AIA State Softball Tournament information, go to the link provided below:

- Neutral Site Locations
- State Tournament Schedules
- Admission Fees
- AIA365.com Live Streaming of games

<https://www.azpreps365.com/championships/softball>

Brackets:

For up to date conference bracket information, click on the following link:

<https://www.azpreps365.com/brackets/softball>

## **GAME RULES:**

Rules shall be those of the current National Federation Softball Rule Book, the AIA Constitution and Bylaws and these tournament instructions.

## **TEN RUN RULE**

A softball game shall end any time after five (5) innings, or after four and one-half (4 ½) innings when a team is ten (10) or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

Refer to AIA Constitution and Bylaws Article 27. (Section 27.1.4, Page 89)

## **COACHING ATTIRE**

**The National Federation rule on coaching attire** shall be applied to all coaches. Any time a coach is in live-ball area to confer with players or an umpire, or to occupy a coach's box, the coach shall be attired in school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with coaching shorts/slacks or warm-up suits (including fleece worm ups) in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. Cut offs or any type of jeans are prohibited. Jackets are not considered part of the coach's uniform. See National Federation Softball Rules, 3- 5- 3.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

### **ROSE MOFFORD SOFTBALL COMPLEX – ARRIVAL OF TEAMS**

Teams arriving in buses or vans need to drop-off players and coaches at the NORTH entrance gate. Drivers and/or coaches need to proceed to the western most area of the parking lot to be directed to their parking area. Teams arriving at any other gate will be directed to the North entrance gate. Please park buses at the west end of the parking lot. The parking lot will fill up therefore have your bus park as close to the curb as possible. If the bus parking space is filled you will be directed across 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Mountain View Street.



Arizona Interscholastic Association: Established 1925  
7007 N. 18<sup>th</sup> St; Phoenix, AZ85020-5552; [www.aiaonline.org](http://www.aiaonline.org); 602-385-3810

## **TEAM ROSTER**

A team roster of no more than twenty - two (22) players shall constitute a team (AIA Policies/Procedure; Article 27.10.1.5).

## **ASSIGNING OF TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

- The Commissioner of Officials will assign tournament officials.

## **GAME INTERRUPTION**

- If a game is “called” after five (5) innings have been played, and a winner cannot be determined according the National Federation Softball rules, the game will be declared a “suspended game.”
- Suspended Game Protocol
  - 27.1.3.3.1 Games suspended in “mid-inning” revert back to the last completed inning, and the game is restarted from that point (IF TIED).
- AIA bylaw; article 27.1.4., 10-Run Rule
  - A Softball game shall end any time after five innings, or after four and one-half (4-1/2) innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its turn at bat.

## **UNIFORMS**

- All players and coaches on a team shall wear uniforms that shall conform to the National Federation Softball Rule Book, Rule 1-4. Also, see Rule 3-2-1.

## **DUGOUTS (At Neutral Sites)**

- Home team shall be on the side of third base. Visiting team shall be on the side of first base.
- Due to liability, non-varsity team members nor any children under high school age may not be on the field or in the dugout.

## **BATTING PRACTICE**

- There is no batting practice at Rose Mofford. Just prior to game time, warm-ups may take place on the outfield warning track of the assigned diamonds and shall be limited to whiffle-balls and soft toss into nets.

## **GAME TIMES**

- Games will start at the designated time, unless delayed by a prior game, in which case the tournament director will assign warm-up times.
- Please check the AIA Conference brackets for correct start times for all 2021 AIA State Softball Tournament games



## **WARM UPS (At Neutral Sites)**

- Each team shall have seven (7) minutes for warm-ups provided the games are running on time; the home team will be first. When the City of Phoenix staff are lining and dragging the field it is expected that the teams will honor the request to not throw or hit balls that may have the potential of hitting a city employee.

## **GAME BALLS**

- Official AIA softball is the Wilson Fast Pitch SST (A9011BSST) and must be used at all AIA State Tournament games.

## **OFFICIAL SCORE BOOK**

- The official score book will be that of the home team.

## **DRESSING FACILITIES**

- Dressing facilities will not be available at any sites away from high schools. It is recommended that schools in the tournament playoff contests must call the high seed host site or a local high school for permission to use their locker room facilities to dress.

## **ICE & DRINK**

- Each school is responsible for their own “injury treatment ice”, water cooler and cups at games played at high school sites.
- Coolers (for water and sport drink), cups will be provided at all neutral game sites.

## **State Tournament Score Reporting**

### **Post-Season Results- immediately at the conclusion of the game:**

Two hours prior to start of your state tournament game, an email will be sent to the visiting and host school athletic director, as well as the host high school venue (if a neutral site) with a score reporting link. **At the conclusion of the game, any of the three mentioned above may click on the score reporting link to be taken to the scores portion of their admin (upon logging into the system) to enter the game result. The goal is to have the result reported and posted immediately at the conclusion of the game.**

## **SITE ADMINISTRATOR HOST SITE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**The basic responsibility of the host school is to take every possible measure at any athletic or nonathletic activity to assure courteous, friendly, safe and fair treatment to visiting players, school representatives, fans and game officials per AIA bylaw; article 2.6.2.1.**



## EMERGENCY/MEDICAL HOST SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Every school must have an emergency action plan in place and submitted to the AIA in order to host a post season tournament. Please go to link for the [Anyone Can Save A Life - Emergency Action Plan](#) at:

<http://aiaonline.org/files/14196/tournaments-anyone-can-save-a-life-policy.pdf>

Per AIA Executive Board approved policy, AIA Member schools must engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) for all AIA State Softball games at high seed site locations.

At all AIA managed State Softball games at neutral site locations, the AIA has the responsibility to engage a qualified medical professional (QMP) or Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at the neutral site.

### IF THERE IS NO QMP OR EMT AT THE GAME, THE GAME WILL NOT BE PLAYED.

QMP means:

- ATC - Certified Athletic Trainer
- MD - Medical Doctor
- DO - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
- NP - Licensed Nurse Practitioner
- PA - Licensed Physician's Assistant

*(QMP as defined by Arizona Revised Statute 15-341)*

- If a school does not have a QMP or EMT and the opposing school does, in order for the game to proceed, the QMP or EMT agrees to cover the opposing school as well as their own school.

Method of Payment for QMP/EMT:

- Refer to <http://aiaonline.org/about/procedures-manual> QMP/EMT Coverage/Protocol instructions.
- *NOTE: If ONLY an EMT is at the game, any player removed due to suspected head injury or concussion will not be allowed to enter or re-enter the game based on an EMT evaluation. Return to play or practice can only be based on evaluation by a QMP (Arizona Revised State Statute 15-341).*
- Required 72 hours' Notice:
  - If you are unable to provide for a Qualified Medical Professional (MD, DO, and Physician's Assistant, Nurse Practitioner or Certified Athletic Trainer) or an EMT to be at your game, please contact AIA Office Assistant Jessica Garcia (602-385-3810 X206) ([jegarcia@aiaonline.org](mailto:jegarcia@aiaonline.org)) for assistance.

**Site Director Responsibility:**  
**Enforcing the AIA Media Credential Policy**

**Postseason Broadcasting**

All schools have the opportunity to broadcast postseason events. However, schools that utilize the Pixelate automated camera system and/or produce broadcasts as part of the NFHS Network Student Broadcast Program (SBP) will have exclusivity. First rights belong to the home/host schools on the NFHS Network. Second rights belong to visiting schools or third parties that broadcast onto the NFHS Network when the home/host school is not on the Network. Third rights belong to non-Network entities that broadcast onto a platform other than the NFHS Network.

Schools will be allowed to broadcast the first two postseason rounds in any bracketed sport, and anything that is not the state championship in individual sports. Additionally, schools may broadcast any declined events by the NFHS Network. For any school broadcasts that will not be on the NFHS Network, please fill out the [Media Rights Agreement](#) and send it in prior to the deadline date listed on it. Rights fees will apply. Please wait until after postseason pairings have been announced before sending the form in.

- The NFHS Network will directly broadcast all state semifinal and championship games, and the track & field championship finals.
- Home/host athletic directors must not allow broadcasts to take place at their facilities without an executed Media Rights Agreement sent to them ahead of time.
- Radio/audio only broadcasts will be free and allowed throughout all rounds of the postseason. A Media Rights Agreement must be filled out for this type of broadcast as well.

**2020-21 Softball Media Recommendations**

- Media will be required to stay outside the fenced areas of the field. Media should be allowed on the field for interviews after the conclusion of the event.
- The dugout and press box will be off limits to all non-team personnel. Media should keep stats themselves to the best of their abilities. If stats are needed after an event, one member of the home team should be identified as the person to provide that information. This meeting should take place either outside the press box or on the field following the conclusion of the event. An area just outside each team's dugout would be ideal to conduct interviews. Host administrators have the right to keep media off the field at all times and allow interviews to be conducted outside the fenced areas. Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches nearby for a few minutes allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- Broadcasts of the event are recommended to be placed outside the press box, at a safe distance from other broadcasts, working media and fans, and have access to power.
- Media looking to cover an event must contact the home/host athletic director and athletic secretary notifying that outlet is wanting to cover the event.

Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.

Once again, please remember to download the AIA Approved Media and AIA School Media lists to use at the gates for signing in the media and school media.

**Site Director:**

- For postseason rounds of AIA state championships, the host school/site should cooperate with news media representatives in providing them access to a work area following an AIA state championship contest to aid in filing reports on the contest.
- Schools/host sites are required to allow entry to any properly credentialed media entity for a postseason contest.
- **The AIA operates under a closed locker room policy at all AIA events. At no time will media representatives be granted this access. Team boxes, team benches, team huddles and dugouts are considered extensions of locker/dressing rooms.**



## **State Championship Game Protocols**

The AIA Staff understands the importance and excitement throughout a school community when involved in a State Championship Game. With this in mind, and the top priorities of safety and sportsmanship, below are Championship Game Protocols:

- **Pre-game Meeting** – This will be a short “safety and protocols” meeting 60 - 75 minutes before the scheduled first pitch. Required to attend: Participating Schools Admin, Head Coach, Umpire Crew Chief, AIA Site Admin, Security and/or PD at Site.
- All uniformed players, School Board approved Assistant Coaches, and the Head Coach will be announced pre-game, before the National Anthem.
- Special pre-game or “between innings” awards or recognitions may be given by the AIA (example - Sportsmanship Award or Anniversary Teams).
- The State Runner-up Trophy and then the State Championship Trophy will be awarded immediately after the game. Only after the trophy presentation may the teams go to the designated area to celebrate and/or have their team meeting. The AIA and the venue management require that all dugouts, sidelines and locker rooms be cleaned by participating schools in an effort to show respect for next teams and the facility!
- No spectators will be allowed onto the field at any time. Spectators can meet their teams in designated areas on the concourse after the games.

## **PARTICIPATING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **CONTROL OF SPECTATOR BEHAVIOR**

During all post season and/or play-off competition held at a neutral site an administrator or administrator's designee from each participating school shall be in attendance per AIA bylaw; article 2.6.2.2.

**Note: Please check in with the AIA Site Director at the game location upon arrival.**

The National Federation of High School Associations disapproves of any form of taunting which is intended to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances. (National Federation Rule 12, Section 1).

AIA Bylaw; Article 16.3.4 stipulates that student spectators, parents, or other non-school personnel that initiate or use profanity in cheers or cheers having the intent of sounding profane, single out opposing players personally and/or heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements or chants at them, use racist remarks or direct offensive cheers /chants at opposing individuals, teams or fans are in violation of the AIA sportsmanship rules. At all contests, including state tournament contests, participating school's administrators have the responsibility to control their fan behaviors, either student or adult.

Any spectator conduct that becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the game will result in the suspension of the game until offending spectator(s) are removed from the game site. No artificial noise makers are permitted at state playoff venues. If these items are brought into a game site, the items will be confiscated. In addition, the playing of music/sound effects shall only be permitted during pre-game, time-outs, intermission and post-game and will be under the control of the site game announcer. (National Federation Rule 12, Section 3). Any signs brought into an AIA playoff facility must be approved by the site director at entry.





## 2021 AIA State Softball Tournament Guide

### **Softball Sports Advisory Committee:**

#### **Athletic Director**

1A	Lee Haws	Ft. Thomas
2A	Jordan Scott	North Pointe Prep
3A	Kevin Standerfer	Snowflake
4A	Phil Gruensfelder	Salpointe Catholic
5A	<b>OPEN</b>	
6A	Marques Reischel	Basha

#### **Coach**

1A	Bill Moten	Academy of Tucson
2A	Mark Steiner	Arizona Lutheran
3A	Curtis Johnson	Payson
4A	Jackie Garcia	Youngker
5A	Kara Holtorf	Liberty
6A	Rich Hamilton	Red Mountain

<b>At Large</b>	Amanda Amann	River Valley
<b>At Large</b>	Bart Underwood	Cactus
<b>At Large</b>	Melissa Hobson	SDO
<b>At Large</b>	Ed McQuade	Boulder Creek

### **ADA COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

#### **ADA NOTICE:**

It is the policy of the Arizona Interscholastic Association not to discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities, or in its hiring and employment practices.

Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as sign language interpreter, by making a request to the office staff. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

#### **AIA ADA COMPLIANCE OFFICER:**

Questions, concerns, complaints, or requests for additional information may be forwarded to the AIA ADA Compliance officer:

Joe Paddock – Assistant Executive Director  
Arizona Interscholastic Association, Inc.  
7007 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, Arizona, 85020  
602-385-3811  
[jpaddock@aiaonline.org](mailto:jpaddock@aiaonline.org)