

800 Softball

801 GOVERNING BODY

National Federation Rule book is the governing authority in softball. The State CIF, NCS or the MCAL may make some modifications.

802 GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Softball is a spring sport.
2. League play shall be a double round robin schedule.
3. Games will be played on Mondays and Thursday for softball. League softball games shall begin at 4:00pm unless playing at San Marin game time will be at 6:30. During DST games will begin at 4:30. If a double header is played at San Marin, the first game begins at 4:00 and the second game immediately following.
4. Games shall be limited to seven innings except for ties. In the event of a suspended game, the game will continue from the point of suspension.
5. Cancelled, called or suspended games must be made up by the next available date and in the order they are cancelled. When a game is suspended and the game is a first round contest, it shall be finished prior to the second round contest. When a suspended contest is in the second round, it shall be made up on the next available date. * It is not necessary to make up non-varsity games after the season has officially ended (i.e. last varsity game date) unless they have a bearing on the league championship.
6. Inclement weather: Home teams will be responsible for canceling games due to inclement weather. Games must be canceled by 1:00pm.
7. **Only** the athletic director or a site administrator may cancel or reschedule a game.

***Definition of the next available date:** The next available date is the next available day when both teams are without a contest. This means that if a game is canceled, called or suspended on Tuesday, it should be made up on Wednesday. If it can not be made up on Wednesday, it should be scheduled for Thursday. A day in which both teams are not playing should not be skipped unless officials can not be present. The next available date is the actual next day when neither team is playing **NOT** the next convenient date.

If teams by- pass the next available date the Commissioner may rule the contest a loss for both teams.

803 OFFICIALS

The North Coast Officials Association, Inc. is the organization contracted by the league to assign officials for baseball.

804 ADMISSION

Admission may be charged at any MCAL contest although it is not customary to charge for softball games. See general rules for admission price guidelines.

805 LEAGUE RULES & GUIDELINES

1. Prior to any game there shall be no batting practice for either team, even if the schools are not in session that day, but there may be a short infield practice. “Soft toss”, T-Ball, “pepper” are permissible with the requirement that if a whiffle ball is not used, then a “golf net” must be utilized to prevent fence damage. If guilty of breaking the above rule, the game should be played under protest and reported to the league office within 24 hours following the complaint form protocol.
2. There may be an infield practice. If any school disregards the above rule, the game will be forfeited.
3. Coaches are permitted to coach at first and/or third base.
4. In a softball contest including play-off competition after five (5) innings have been completed and a team is ahead by ten (10) runs, the game will be terminated.
5. A game is a legal regulation game once it has reached five full innings, or four and a half innings if the home team is ahead. After five innings, if a game is called before a full inning is completed, the score reverts back to the last full inning. (refer to pg. 34 of the rule book)
6. Varsity games will have two umpires but may and SHOULD be played if only one official arrives.
7. A standard ball (Dudley, CFP Y12 2001 Optic yellow/green soft core, or comparable) will be used in League play.
8. The MCAL has adopted the National Federation Softball Rulebook Courtesy Runner Rule.
9. The MCAL has adopted the International tie-breaking rule after the ninth inning beginning with the tenth inning.
10. A double first base is recommended.
11. Called or Suspended games: It is the umpire’s decision when to call a game due to inclement weather, darkness or the ten run rule..
 - A. After 5 innings
A game is a legal regulation game once it has reached five full innings or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead. After 5 innings, if a game is called before a full inning is completed, the score reverts back to the last full innings.
 - B. Before 5 innings
A game called by the umpire before 5 full innings or 4 ½ if the home team is ahead shall be ruled a **NO GAME** and be replayed in its entirety.
 - C. Ties after 5 innings
A game which is tied after 5 full innings or tied after reverting back to the last full inning will be suspended and resume from the top of that inning.
 - D. Restarting a called or suspended game
The players in the score book (same line up) must be on the field at the restart.
12. For play-off competition, teams should not enter the playing site until one hour prior to game time unless they are playing the second game of a double header.
13. Teams will be given an 8-minute warm-up time on the field with the visiting teams taking the infield first.
14. During play-offs, if a double header is scheduled, teams may warm up at a site designated by the site director.
15. The highest seeded team in a play-off contest will occupy the 3rd base dugout.
16. The winner of the play-offs is the automatic qualifier to NCS championships.

806 PLAY-OFFS

4 schools are in the play-offs
#1 seed is the best league record
#2 seed is the second best league record
#3 seed is the third best league record, etc.
In case of a tie, tie-breaking criteria will be used.
Finals are held at San Marin High School in Novato.

Format:

Day One @ highest seed	Day Two @ San Marin
Tuesday	Thursday or Friday
<u>Game One</u> #1 vs #4	<u>Game Three</u> winner Game #1
<u>Game Two</u> #2 vs #3	vs winner Game #2
Game time 4:30	Game time 6:30

- Administrators need to check in at the main gate 15 minutes prior to the game. The game may not start without an administrator from each school being present.
- Administrators from each school are asked to deal with supervision of their fans.

807 TIE-BREAKING INFORMATION

Basic format used in the order that it appears:

1. **Head to head competition (Winning percentage)**
2. **Record above the tie (Winning percentage)**
3. **If a tie still exists between any two places. ...use numbers drawn for place***

If two teams are tied for a play-off position EXCEPT for 4th place, the above criteria is used.

If more than two teams are tied for a play-off position EXCEPT for the 4th place, the above criteria will be used to seed a team. Once a team is seeded, the above criteria will start over between the remaining tied teams.

For the final play-off spot if two teams are tied:

There will be a play in game to the play-offs if there is no head to head (2-0) advantage except in single round sports, where the one head to head will be used unless three teams are tied for the 3rd & 4th place spots.

If the tie cannot be broken using the above criteria, the numbers will be used to place a team in the 3rd seed.

The remaining 2 teams will have a play in contest using the criteria below:

- a. **host is the highest draw number**
- b. **admission would be charged as it is a play-off contest**

If more than two teams are tied for the last positions, 1 & 2 above will be used to break the three way tie to qualify the first play in game team. If the tie is not broken between the three teams using 1 & 2 above, then the draw numbers will be used to place the first team into the play in game.

The criteria will start OVER to determine the second play in team.

For the sports of soccer & field hockey, all ties will be broken using points—3 for a win & 1 for a tie.

For the 4th play off position, if points values are the same within the tie and there is no 2 head to head wins by one team, then a play in contest would be held using information denoted below

In the case of more than three way tie for more than one spot which includes the 4th position. The criteria will be used to break the tie seeding one team. The criteria will start OVER again to complete the tournament using the criteria as stated previously.

- **Numbers are drawn each spring for each school for each season of sport. It has been determined that a low number (1,2,3...) would be the top. The top number has priority!**

808 AWARDS & PENNANTS

After completion of the regular season play, the team with the best record will receive a pennant. If the winner of the play-offs is a different team than the round robin winner, a pennant will be awarded to that winner also.

809 ALL LEAGUE

Coaches via their athletic directors are required to submit nominations for softball all league including any nominations they may have from their team for player or pitcher of the year.

1. Each coach is to arrive at the meeting with a preliminary list of twenty (20) nominees of opponents.
 2. The first vote will be for Player of the Year* & Pitcher of the Year*. This is to be a vote for the athlete who had the best season. Coaches may vote for their own player in the Player-Pitcher of the Year vote.
- Note: For Player and Pitcher of the Year---if there are more than 4 nominees, a pre-vote will be done where all coaches would rank the players nominated and the top 2 will be eligible for the honor.
3. Coaches will speak for one minute about their own players.
 4. Coaches will then make a final list of all opponents in rank order---best player first and next best second and so on ranking the top twenty players (not including their own.)
 5. Commissioner or the Commissioner's representative tallies and lists the number of vote points in rank order. (First player on a list will receive 20 points, the second 19 points and so on.)
 6. After the votes are calculated, the scores will be listed in rank order highest to lowest.
 7. There will be a maximum of nine all league first team members. (This does not include the player/pitcher of the year). They will be the top nine players listed.
 8. There will be a maximum of nine all league second team members. They will be the next 9 players listed.
 9. The next nine (9) players listed receive Honorable Mention.
 10. If a school has no one on 1st, 2nd, or HM, the coach may submit a name for Honorable Mention.
 11. Coaches must send a substitute or email nominees to the commissioner if he/she cannot attend.
 12. Athletes are not to be penalized or omitted from consideration on All-League teams because the coach is not present at the meeting.
 13. The voting is by ballot. Coaches must sign their ballots.
 14. All-League athletes will receive certificates.
 15. *Player of the Year---Pitcher of the Year: If you feel you have a player who is qualified to be considered for top honors:
 - Coaches nominate their own player
 - Nominations are due to the All League meeting by the date announced at the pre season meeting..
 16. All league lists will be released by the Commissioner via the MCAL website.