

# 2011-2012 WPIAL BASEBALL SCHEDULE

May 17, 2011

First Practice Date ~ March 5, 2012  
First Scrimmage Date ~ March 10, 2012  
First Play Date ~ March 23, 2012

Maximum Contests ~ 20  
Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2

The WPIAL baseball *section competition* begins on **April 2, 2012**. Please check your schedule carefully and notify the League Office of any errors at 412-921-7181 or 800-297-9553. **A copy of this document must be given to your coach.**

**Coaches are advised that the PIAA By-Laws Article XIV, Section 3 requires that the head coach attend a minimum of one PIAA mandatory rules interpretation prior to each season. Mandatory rules meeting dates and times are available on the PIAA website. [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)**

## PLEASE NOTE:

**SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 9, 2012.** All teams (qualifying playoffs teams or non-qualifying teams) that complete their section schedule by the prescribed date may play exhibition games providing they do not exceed their limit of competitions. Teams who have definitely qualified for the WPIAL playoffs cannot play a game after **MAY 11, 2012**, but may scrimmage as often as they want to as long as the team they scrimmage has qualified and remains alive as well. **Diamond D-1-NFHS baseball is the official ball of the WPIAL and will be used in all playoff games.**

1. **The top three (3) teams in each section will enter the WPIAL Tournament.** All playoff entries will be determined by section record only and will be determined by best section won - loss record. Teams that tie for first place will not have the tie broken and **ALL** of the tied teams will be declared section champions, will receive a section winner's plaque, and will be entered into the WPIAL tournament. If three or more teams tie for first place, only those teams will qualify for the playoffs.

In the event of a multiple tie (two or more teams) for a playoff position, head-to-head competition will be the first determinant. If head-to-head does not break the tie, the following tie-breaking system will be used. If three or more teams are tied for second place and the tie breaking system identifies one team as the second place team, the remaining teams will be then tied for third place and the process begins all over with head-to-head competition being the first determinant for establishing the third place team. If a tie cannot be broken all tied teams will enter the playoffs.

## **TIE-BREAKER SYSTEM**

- a. Section won-lost records of the tied teams will be compiled.
- b. The team(s) with the best numerical head-to-head section record among the tied teams will enter post-season play.
- c. If the tie cannot clearly be broken, all tied teams will enter post-season play.

## **EXAMPLES:**

- a) Team A is clearly first, Team B is clearly second, Teams C, D, and E have identical section won-loss records and are tied for third. In this situation Team C is 3-1 against D and E. Team D is 2-2, and Team E is 1-3. Team C is entered as the third place team.
- b) Team A is first. Teams B, C, and D are tied for second place with identical section records. Team B is 3-1, Team C is 2-2, and Team D is 1-3. Team B is now second and Teams C and D are now tied for third. To break this tie we go back to head-to-head. If these two teams split they both go into the playoffs as the third place team.
- c) Keeping in mind that **ONLY** the top three teams qualify for the playoffs, unless ties for a playoff spot cannot be broken. If Team A finishes first and Teams B and C tie for second, then Teams A, B, and C are the only qualifiers and the second place tie does not need to be broken.

2. The three (3) WPIAL finalists in Class A-AA-AAA will represent the WPIAL in PIAA inter-district play. In Quad A, two (2) teams will enter the PIAA tournament. The third place team from the Class A-AA-AAA will be determined on the field between the two non finalists.
3. All WPIAL games must be played according to the National Federation Rule Book. There are differences between Federation Rules, Major League Baseball, and other baseball organizations. You should know them.
4. The home team will furnish four new balls at the start of each contest. Game balls must be provided as deemed necessary by the umpires.
5. Only PIAA baseball officials may officiate. The WPIAL recommends at least the use of two PIAA officials for each baseball game.
6. Please make sure that both teams and the umpires know the correct starting time. This should be established by the home team and made known to the visitors in plenty of time. It is recommended that no afternoon contests start **before 3:30 PM** unless the competing school principals agree.
7. **Postponed games must be played in order of postponement and scheduled on the first common open date. Make up section games must have preference over exhibition games, JV games, and Junior High games EVEN IF A CANCELLATION OF A NON-SECTION GAME IS REQUIRED TO MEET THIS DIRECTIVE.**

*For example, you have section games scheduled on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Monday's game gets postponed then it should be rescheduled for Tuesday. Tuesday's scheduled game also gets postponed then it should be reschedule for Thursday. Wednesday's original section date is played as scheduled. If Wednesday's game gets postponed, then it should be rescheduled on Saturday. This process should be used for the entire season.*

Principals and/or Athletic Directors must make every effort to enforce the rule. **ALL GAMES POSTPONED DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE SEASON MUST BE RESCHEDULED AND PLAYED PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND HALF if possible.** If a conflict results because of abuse of this rule, the WPIAL will resolve it. Forfeits may result from abuse of this rule. All league games must be completed.

8. **Coaches who elect to handle base line coaching duties or to confer with players or/and umpire must be dressed in the complete uniform that is worn by the players.** No other attire is permitted if the coach wishes to handle this responsibility. Players in uniform may also act as base line coaches.
9. Baseball coaches must be in the dugout or on the bench during a game with the following exceptions:
  - a. **Coaching in the coaching box when his team is at bat.**
  - b. **Executing a pitching or position change.**
  - c. **Attending to an injured player with the approval of the umpire.**

A warning will be given on the first violation and ejection will result on the second violation. Only players who are on-deck and/or substitutes warming up prior to entering the game are permitted off the bench or out of the dugout while the game is in progress.

10. If rain or wet grounds prevent the playing of a game, the home team must notify the visiting team at least two hours before game time. **The home school principal must approve this postponement.** In this circumstance, use of the other team's field, if playable, is permissible and recommended.
11. **During all WPIAL section competition, any game that is interrupted by bad weather prior to becoming a legal game will be declared a suspended game and resumed at that point and concluded on the next available playing date.**

12. No protests based on play situations of official's decisions involving interpretation or judgement will be considered. In no case will a contest be replayed.
13. A player may pitch in a maximum of nine (9) innings in one (1) calendar day, but not more than fourteen (14) innings in any calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). **Delivery of one (1) pitch constitutes having pitched in any inning. If an inning is played in part on two (2) calendar days, delivery of one (1) pitch in that inning in each of those calendar days constitutes having pitched in two (2) innings. If he pitches in three (3) innings or less in one (1) calendar day, no rest is required; however, no player may pitch more than three (3) consecutive three-inning days. If he pitches three (3) consecutive three-inning days, he must have one (1) calendar day of rest. If he pitches four (4) or five (5) innings in one (1) calendar day, he must have two (2) calendar days of rest. If he pitches in six (6) or more innings in one (1) calendar day, he must have three (3) calendar days of rest.**

**If a baseball player pitches more innings than are permitted under the "restriction", the school is using an ineligible player (pitcher) and shall forfeit the game.**

14. The Ten Run Rule, ending a game after 4 ½ or 5 innings, as listed in Rule 4, Section 2, Article 2 of the National Federation Rule Book will be in effect for all regular and post season play. Additionally, the fifteen run rule, ending a game after 3 innings, as listed in the PIAA Rules and Regulations will be in effect as well.
15. In WPIAL tournament competition, a coin toss at game time will determine the home team.
16. **WPIAL Championship play is scheduled to begin the week of May 14, 2012. The finals will be divided between two dates, Tuesday, May 29 and Wednesday May 30, 2012. The site will be Consol Energy Field in Washington PA. The WPIAL reserves the right to make adjustments to play dates during the tournament, as it deems necessary.**

17. **REPORTING SCORES:**

The home team is obliged to phone in scores to:

Don Rebel @ MSA Sports Network (412/539-0360) [drebel@nauticom.net](mailto:drebel@nauticom.net)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (412-263-1621 ~ 1-877-672-6224) [highschool@post-gazette.com](mailto:highschool@post-gazette.com)

Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) [pschofield@tribweb.com](mailto:pschofield@tribweb.com) OR GRSB (1-800-690-8047)

Washington Observer Reporter (1-800-222-6397) [orsports@observer-reporter.com](mailto:orsports@observer-reporter.com)

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.

18. **All Athletic Directors are responsible for reporting team standings to the appropriate section chairman (*noted above each section on the alignment page*) before the pairings meeting.**