

2011 - 2012 WPIAL SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

May 19, 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 softball *section competition* begins on **March 29, 2012**. Please check your schedule carefully and notify the League Office of any errors at 412-921-7181 or 1-800-297-9553. **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

PLEASE NOTE:

Sections should be completed by **May 8th, 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 10, 2012**, but may scrimmage as often as they want to as long as the team they scrimmage has qualified and remains alive as well. Be aware that during WPIAL tournament the Dudley SB12LNDYFP softball will be used exclusively.

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 the best section won/lost 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 team 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 – BREAKING SYSTEM

- a. Section won-lost records of the tied teams will be compiled.
- b. The team 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, Team B, C, and D are tied for second place with identical section won-loss 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 the Teams A, B, and C are the only qualifiers and the second place tie does not need to be broken.
2. The two (2) WPIAL finalists in Quad A will represent the WPIAL in PIAA inter-district play. In all other classes, three (3) teams will enter the PIAA tournament. The third place team from these classifications 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. **Be aware that beginning in the 2010 – 2011 school year the pitching distance will move from 40 to 43 feet. This is a mandated rule change.**
4. The head coach of each team is responsible for providing an up-to-date Banned Bat list to the umpires at the time they inspect the team's equipment.
5. The home team will furnish three new balls at the start of each contest. Balls should be allocated over the duration of the game.
6. Only PIAA softball officials may officiate. The WPIAL recommends at least the use of two PIAA officials for each softball game.
7. 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 all afternoon contests do not start **before 3:30 PM** unless the competing school principals agree.
8. All games must be played on scheduled days. By mutual agreement, schedule adjustments may be made to take maximum advantage of good weather and field conditions.
9. **POSTPONED GAMES MUST BE PLAYED IN ORDER OF POSTPONEMENT AND SCHEDULED ON THE FIRST COMMON AVAILABLE DATE. MAKE UP WPIAL SECTION GAMES MUST HAVE PREFERENCE OVER EXHIBITION GAMES, JV, AND JUNIOR HIGH GAMES.** 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. All league games must be completed.
10. Anytime 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 warm-ups) in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. Cut-offs or any type of jeans are prohibited. **NOTE:** Jackets are not considered part of the coach's uniform.
11. Softball coaches must be in the dugout or on the bench during a game with the following exceptions:
 - a. **Coaching in the coaching box when their team is at bat.**
 - b. **Executing a pitching or position change.**
 - c. **Attending to an injured player with the approval of the umpire.**
12. 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.
13. **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.**
14. 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.
15. The Ten Run/ Fifteen Run Rule will be in effect for all WPIAL softball games. It reads:

If a team is ahead by ten runs or more at the end of five innings the game shall be terminated. This also means if the home team is ahead by ten runs after four and one-half innings, the game will be terminated. Thereafter, if one team should go ahead by ten runs, the same rule must apply. If the visiting team should go ahead by ten runs after the game has become official, the home team will be permitted to bat in their half of the inning. The same procedure applies at the end of three innings if a team is ahead by fifteen runs or more.

16. In WPIAL tournament competition a coin toss at game time will determine the home team. The team that travels the greatest distance to site will call the coin toss.

17. **REPORTING SCORES:**

The home team is obliged to phone all scores:

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

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

Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) pschofield@tribweb.com or GRSB (1-800-690-8047)

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

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.

18. **WPIAL Championship play is scheduled to begin the week of May 14, 2012. The finals will be played Thursday, May 31, 2012 with a rain date of Friday, June 1, 2012. The site will be determined at a later date. The WPIAL reserves the right to make adjustments to play dates during the tournament, as it deems necessary.**

19. **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.**