

2021 - 2022 WPIAL BASEBALL SCHEDULE

April 28, 2021

First Practice Date ~ March 7, 2022
First Scrimmage Date ~ March 12, 2022
First Play Date ~ March 25, 2022

Maximum Contests ~ 20
Maximum Scrimmages ~ 2

The WPIAL baseball *section competition* begins on **March 28, 2022**. Please check your schedule carefully and notify the League Office of any errors at 412-921-7181. **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 MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 12, 2022. 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 14, 2022 but may scrimmage **BEGINNING ON May 9, 2022** as often as they want to as long as the team they scrimmage has qualified and remains alive as well.**

1. **The top four (4) 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** the tied teams will be declared section champions, will receive a section winner's plaque, and will be entered into the WPIAL tournament.

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

2021 – 2022 WPIAL BASEBALL SCHEDULE – PAGE 2

2. The top three (3) WPIAL teams in Class 4, 3 & 1 A, the top four (4) teams in 5 & 2 A along with the top two (2) teams in 6A will represent the WPIAL in PIAA inter-district play. In all classifications qualifying the top three (3) WPIAL teams third place will be determined by playing a consolation final game.
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 three new balls at the start of each contest. Game balls must be provided as deemed necessary by the umpires. Game balls shall meet the current NOCSAE standard for baseballs at the time of manufacture and is required on balls that will be used in high school competition (Effective January 1, 2020). The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all balls that meet the NOCSAE standard that will be used in high school competition.
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 or as outlined below. 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.**

The schedule has been designed to require teams to play each other twice in the given calendar week. Every effort should be made to adhere to that request. For example, you have section games scheduled on Monday and Tuesday if Monday's game gets postponed then it should be rescheduled for Wednesday. If Tuesday's section game also gets postponed then it should be rescheduled for Thursday. If Wednesday's game gets postponed again, then it should be rescheduled for Friday. If Thursday's game gets postponed again, then it should be rescheduled for Saturday. Double Headers should be considered, if possible, to complete the two games in the specified calendar week. Non-Section games should be cancelled for Section games. And if the HOME teams' field is not playable, but the VISITING team's field IS playable, consideration should be given to move the game to the VISITING team's field with the HOME team remaining the designated "HOME Team".

In the event games are unable to be played at all during the given calendar week, the postponement should go to the immediately following Friday and Saturday to allow for teams to complete the section games previously scheduled in the next calendar week. This process should be used for the entire season.

Principals and Athletic Directors must make every effort and necessary steps to ensure these directives are followed for all baseball playing schools. 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.

2021 – 2022 WPIAL BASEBALL SCHEDULE – PAGE 3

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 throw no more than 200 pitches in one calendar week and may not appear in more than two consecutive days of competition.**

PIAA BASEBALL PITCHING RESTRICTION (6-2-6)

Total Number of Pitches Thrown	Required Days of Rest
1 – 25 pitches	no rest is required
26-50 pitches require	1 calendar day of rest
51-75 pitches require	2 calendar days of rest
76-100 requires	3 calendar days of rest

If a pitcher reaches the maximum pitch count permitted in a calendar day during an at bat, that pitcher will be permitted to continue to pitch to that batter, or any substitute batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first base or until a third out has been made prior to the end of that at bat. If a pitcher is permitted to throw more than 100 pitches to complete an at bat, that pitcher will be credited with 100 pitches for the appearance.

A representative of each school MUST record pitch counts for their players in MAXPREPS no later than 9:00 AM THE DAY NEXT DAY!

If a pitcher violates the PIAA pitch count the penalty is a forfeiture due to using an ineligible player.

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, the top seeded team will be designated as the home team.**
16. **WPIAL Championship play is scheduled to begin the week of May 16, 2022. The finals will be divided between two dates, Tuesday, May 31 and Wednesday June 1, 2022. The site will be Wild Things Field in Washington PA. The WPIAL reserves the right to adjust play dates during the tournament, as it deems necessary.**

17. REPORTING SCORES:

The home team is obliged to phone in scores to:

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

Tribune Review - PGH (1-888-748-8742) ptrsports@tribweb.com

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

Other appropriate local papers should be notified as well.