

# **DISTRICT 25-5A**

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**2024-2026**

***Updated April 2024***

# **SOFTBALL**

## **OFFICIALS**

- A. Two officials shall be employed for each game, shall be contracted and paid by the home team, and shall belong to the Softball Officials Association. Austin, Greater Williamson County and the Lonestar Chapter are options.
- B. If only one official shows up, the JV game will be played; but the home team coach will be responsible for attempting to obtain the second official. A Varsity game will not be played without two umpires and must be made up on the next available playing date.
- C. The SOA will assign the umpires for each game. Each school will send its schedule to the SOA, which will assign the umpires.
- D. A scratch list must be maintained by all district coaches. It is the home teams responsibility to provide the list to the SOA for their designated chapter.
- E. Home team will provide an individual to run the scoreboard and keep the official book.

## **SCHEDULES**

District games will be scheduled on Tuesday and Friday with the exception of Spring Break and Good Friday. We will end games on Tuesday 4/15, if games get rained out or we need to play tie breaker games, we will play those on Thursday 4/17- Saturday 4/19 (if necessary). Make up games will be played on the first available playing date, including Saturdays. Make up games that must be played on Saturdays will be played at the agreed upon time in our district minutes.

## **CHANGES TO ORIGINAL SCHEDULE:**

Date changes of games cannot take place without DEC approval. Time changes can be made between participating schools with approval of the principals. Games postponed because of bad weather or wet fields will be rescheduled on the next available playing date.

## **GAME TIMES**

- A. The starting times will be 5:15 PM for JV and 7:00 PM for Varsity.
- B. The JV will play one hour and twenty-minute time limit, finish the inning, with 4 runs per half inning or 3 outs. JV games will not start a new inning after one hour and fifteen minutes. All JV games will drop dead at 6:45 PM if the game is still going in order to get the field ready for the Varsity games.
- C. JV Games can end in a tie, as there will be no extra innings for the JV game. Run rule will be in effect, unless both coaches agree to keep playing.
- D. In the case of a Varsity only game, the start time will be 6:00 PM.
- E. Spring Break: our Spring Break games will be played Monday and Wednesday with a 12:00 PM JV start time and a 2:00 PM Varsity start time.
- F. Game times for games played on non-school days (due to weather, holidays, etc.) will also follow the 12/2 standard, unless field conditions require games to be pushed later.
- G. If Prom is on the date of a rescheduled game, the game will be played at 10 AM for Varsity with JV following.

- H. If there is a transportation issue due to buses, coaches can mutually agree to change the times for the JV contest in order to ensure that all teams have an opportunity to play.

#### **ADOPTED RULES**

- A. Completed, Suspended, and Postponed:
  - a. Games “called” prior to the completion, as per NFHS rules, the game will be suspended and will be resumed at that point on the next available date and time. Suspended games will start from the exact point of suspension (score, pitch count, inning, outs, runners on bases, etc.) and will be played through 7 innings.
  - b. All games must be played as scheduled unless weather causes a cancellation. The game must be “made up” on the earliest available date, Saturdays are included.
  - c. A game can be scheduled prior to the original date, per coaches’ discretion and principal approval, if weather is predicted to be bad on the day of the game. Coaches can also flip the JV and Varsity game due to weather concerns if mutually agreed on. As a last resort, coaches can mutually agree to flip home/away for the first round of district if field conditions/weather are better at the other site.
  - d. JV games canceled due to weather will be made up at the discretion of both coaches and based on field conditions.
  - e. The adoption of the 10 runs after 5 innings and 15 runs after 3 innings is mandatory during varsity games and will be discussed and agreed upon by both coaches if the rule is in effect during JV games.
  - f. All varsity games will be played through completion. No international tiebreaker will be used. UIL guidelines/NFHS of no play after 12:00 am will be followed and the contest will resume from the point of play the next available date.
  - g. Forfeit: Game time is forfeit time unless there are extenuating circumstances (ie. Transportation) that can be verified.

#### **GAME BALL**

Home Team furnishes game balls; the preferred game ball is Dudley Thunder Heat, (yellow, red stitch) 47 core, 375 compression, NFHS stamped. Any school using another approved NFHS ball; must notify district teams prior to beginning of district play. If a ball other than Dudley is used by the home team, the opposing team may furnish and use the Dudley ball when on defense.

#### **VIDEO/BROADCAST**

- A. Videotaping/filming by schools:

It is a violation to film or videotape a non-conference or district athletic contest in which your school or team is not competing unless prior consent of the two schools involved has been obtained.
- B. A school does not have to obtain permission to film or tape a district contest in which it is competing. If streaming the contest, the stream must be removed within 24 hours.
- C. Films and videotapes become the property of the school doing the filming unless by district rule or by consent of the schools involved in the contest.
- D. Photographers: the home team will notify the visiting team of photographers. Photographers are allowed in the home team dugout but NOT on the field or visiting dugout.

## **PREGAME WARM UP**

Safety Zone (before the game/pre-game): Before the game, during pre-game warm-up, from second base into the outfield, no player will be allowed in this area.

## **NOISEMAKERS**

Noisemakers will be permitted in dugouts (ex. Drumsticks in dugout only) as long as there is no damage or beating of the opponent's dugout or property. Teams must provide a material for their own teams to use for drums, for example a bucket; no opposing team's equipment will be used. See General Section for more noisemaker information.

## **HOME & VISITOR SEATING**

Each school will be allowed one-half of the stands. The Home Team has a choice of dugout. Fans will sit on the same side of the field as their team's dugout.

## **TROPHIES:**

The DEC will provide the district champion a trophy.

## **DISTRICT MEETING**

The 5th place team will be in charge of the All-District Meeting on Wednesday night following the last district game. The site for the meeting will be the most central location possible for all district coaches.

## **ALL DISTRICT SELECTION**

### **A. SUPERLATIVES:**

- a. These five awards will be nominated by their coach and other coaches will vote by secret ballot.
  - i. Most Valuable Player
  - ii. Offensive Player of the Year
  - iii. Defensive Player of the Year
  - iv. Newcomer of the Year
  - v. Pitcher of the Year
  - vi. Catcher of the Year
  - vii. Utility Player of the Year
- b. Head coaches may not vote for your own player.
- c. All selections will be automatic 1st Team.
- d. There will be co-champions if the vote ends in a tie.
- e. Please provide your stats to each voting coach for the All-District Meeting. Only Player statistics from District Games are Official Statistics.

### **B. There shall be a first and second team selected according to the following procedure:**

- a. The first team will consist of 16 players of any position, not including superlative winners.
- b. Players will be nominated for first team according to the following criteria: Teams will receive their selections according to the order of finish in the final district standings. An athlete must be eligible the entire season in order to be eligible for all district selection.
- c. The second team will consist of up to 16 players with each school receiving 2 selections.

- d. Each school is responsible for naming its own honorable mention players (maximum of 3) and shall be responsible for announcing them to their local paper.
- e. Coaches may negotiate 1st and 2nd team selection of players if coaches mutually agree upon it. If a team does not have a deserving player of 1st or 2nd Team, its selection may be given to another school.
- f. 1st Team All District based on district finish:
  - i. 1st place team: 4 players
  - ii. 2nd place team: 3 players
  - iii. 3rd place team: 2 players
  - iv. 4th place team: 2 players
  - v. 5th place team: 2 player
  - vi. 6th place team: 1 player
  - vii. 7th place team: 1 player
  - viii. 8th place team: 1 player

#### **DETERMINATION OF PLAYOFF TEAMS/TIEBREAKERS/PLAYOFF SEEDING**

- A. Determining District Champion and Runner-Up:
  - a. The District Champion will be determined by playing a round robin schedule with the second round reversing sites of the first round.
  - b. The team with the best overall District 25-5A win/loss record will be the District Champions.
  - c. The teams with the next best win/loss records will be the 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams.
  - d. In the event of two or more teams tied for the District Championship, each team involved in the tie shall be declared co-champions.
- B. Two team tiebreaker: If two teams tie, the two teams involved may mutually choose a coin flip instead of playing a tie-breaking game. Winner of the flip is the higher seed.
  - a. If one team won both games, that team will be declared the higher seed.
  - b. If two teams split mutual games, there will be a one game playoff, unless mutually agree to flip for seeding the winner of which will be the higher seed. Coin flip will decide the location of the game, if not mutually agreed. The same process will be used for all places involved in a two way tie.
- C. Three-way tiebreaker procedure
  - a. If a team has defeated the two other teams with which it is tied twice (in head to head competition), that team shall be designated the first place team. The two remaining teams shall compare records in head to head competition, and if one team has defeated the other twice in district play that team shall be designated the second place team. If the remaining two teams have tied in district play, a one game playoff will be held at a site and date determined by the schools involved. The winner of the playoff will be second and the loser will be third. If no team has defeated the other two teams twice, a tournament will be held.
    - i. Straws are drawn or picked to decide the bye for Round 1 (if no head to head winner is present).

- ii. Teams without the bye play 1 game on Thursday. Winner will face bye on Friday (game 2).
- iii. If bye wins game 2, they are 1st. Winner of game 1 is the 2nd place team.
- iv. If bye loses game 2, winner of game 1 is 1st and bye plays loser of game 1 for 2nd on Saturday (game 3). If games cannot be played because of weather, the following plan should be followed:
  - 1. Try to secure another site
  - 2. Call and get extension from UIL, if possible
  - 3. Coin flip ( last resort)
- v. Note:
  - 1. In the event of prom, games will begin at 10:00 AM
  - 2. In the event of SAT, games will not begin until after 2:00 PM

D. Four-Way Tiebreaker Playoff Procedure

- a. If your teams tie for first place, teams will draw and be seeded from a playoff tournament. The two winners will play each other for 1st and 2nd, and the two losers will play each other for 3rd.
  - i. Head to head competition has no bearing on 4-way tie
  - ii. Winners play winners for 1st and 2nd playoff position
  - iii. Losers play losers for 3rd and 4th playoff position
  - iv. Note:
    - 1. In the event of SAT, games will not begin until after 2:00 PM
    - 2. In the event of Prom, games will begin at 10:00 AM

District 25-5A Schedule							
Game 1: Feb 25			Scores (enter visitor first)	Game 8: March 25			Scores (enter visitor first)
Visitor		Home		Visitor		Home	
Lockhart	@	Lehman		Lehman	@	Lockhart	
Cedar Park	@	Hays		Hays	@	Cedar Park	
Rouse	@	Glenn		Glenn	@	Rouse	
Leander	@	Liberty Hill		Liberty Hill	@	Leander	
Game 2: March 4				Game 9: March 28			
Visitor		Home		Visitor		Home	
Lehman	@	Cedar Park		Cedar Park	@	Lehman	
Glenn	@	Lockhart		Lockhart	@	Glenn	
Hays	@	Leander		Leander	@	Hays	
Liberty Hill	@	Rouse		Rouse	@	Liberty Hill	
Game 3: March 7				Game 10: April 1			
Visitor		Home		Visitor		Home	
Lehman	@	Glenn		Glenn	@	Lehman	
Leander	@	Cedar Park		Cedar Park	@	Leander	
Lockhart	@	Liberty Hill		Liberty Hill	@	Lockhart	
Rouse	@	Hays		Hays	@	Rouse	
Game 4: March 11				Game 11: April 4			
Visitor		Home		Visitor		Home	
Lehman	@	Lehman		Lehman	@	Lehman	
Glenn	@	Glenn		Glenn	@	Glenn	
Cedar Park	@	Rouse		Rouse	@	Cedar Park	
Lockhart	@	Lockhart		Lockhart	@	Lockhart	
Game 5: March 14				Game 12: April 8			
Visitor		Home		Visitor		Home	
Lehman	@	Liberty Hill		Liberty Hill	@	Lehman	

Rouse	@	Leander		Leander	@	Rouse	
Hays	@	Hays		Hays	@	Hays	
Lockhart	@	Cedar Park		Cedar Park	@	Lockhart	
<b>Game 6: March 17</b>				<b>Game 13: April 11</b>			
<b>Visitor</b>		<b>Home</b>		<b>Visitor</b>	@	<b>Home</b>	
Rouse	@	Lehman		Lehman	@	Rouse	
Hays	@	Liberty Hill		Liberty Hill	@	Hays	
Leander	@	Lockhart		Lockhart	@	Leander	
Cedar Park	@	Glenn		Glenn	@	Cedar Park	
<b>Game 7: March 19</b>				<b>Game 14: April 15</b>			
<b>Visitor</b>		<b>Home</b>		<b>Visitor</b>		<b>Home</b>	
Lehman	@	Hays		Hays	@	Lehman	
Lockhart	@	Rouse		Rouse	@	Lockhart	
Liberty Hill	@	Cedar Park		Cedar Park	@	Liberty Hill	
Glenn	@	Leander		Leander	@	Glenn	