

2023 NIAA Softball Reference *(Handbook information is on pages 7-9)*

League/Region Playoff Qualifying

Class 1A — Northern Region and Southern League

The top four (4) teams in the Northern League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the Northern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament.

The top four (4) teams in the Southern League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the Southern League championship (state qualifying) tournament.

Both tournaments will have a double-elimination bracket.

Class 2A — Northern League and Southern League

The top four (4) teams from the Northern League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the championship (state qualifying) tournament.

The top four (4) teams from the Southern League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the championship (state qualifying) tournament.

Both tournaments will have a double-elimination bracket.

Class 3A — Northern Region and Southern Region

The top team (1, champion) from the East League and the top team (1, champion) from the West League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify automatically for the six (6)-team Northern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament. Four other teams, regardless of league affiliation and based on final regular-season points, also advance to the region tournament. The No. 1 seed from each league will get first-round byes with the No. 1 seed that earns more regular-season points becoming the overall No. 1 seed for the tournament.

The Northern Region's first-round match-ups (from top to bottom on the bracket):

The East League's No. 1 will be the top seed on the 2022 bracket by a draw.

a) Overall No. 1 seed – bye; b) No. 4 vs. No. 5; c) No. 2 seed – bye; d) No. 3 vs. No. 6

Winners' Semifinals: No. 1 seed vs. b winner; other league champion vs. d winner.

The top two (2) teams (champion & runner-up) from the Desert League and the top two (2) teams (champion & runner-up) from the Mountain League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify automatically for the eight (8)-team Southern Region championship playoffs. Four other teams, regardless of league affiliation and/but based on final regular-season “points”, also advance to the region playoffs.

Quarterfinals: a) No. 1 Mountain vs. No. 8 seed; b) No. 2 Desert vs. No. 5 seed;
c) No. 1 Desert vs. No. 7 seed; d) No. 2 Mountain vs. No. 6 seed.

Winners’ Semifinals: a winner vs. b winner; c winner vs. d winner.

Both tournaments will have a double-elimination bracket.

Class 4A — Southern Region/State

The top six (6) teams from the Desert League and the top six (6) teams from the Mountain League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the 12-team championship tournament. The tournament will have a double-elimination bracket. The No. 1 and No. 2 seeds from each league will receive a first-round bye.

The first-round match-ups will be:

a) No. 1 Desert – bye;	b) No. 4 Mountain vs. No. 5 Desert;
c) No. 2 Mountain – bye;	d) No. 3 Desert vs. No. 6 Mountain;
e) No. 1 Mountain – bye;	f) No. 4 Desert vs. No. 5 Mountain;
g) No. 2 Desert – bye;	h) No. 3 Mountain vs. No. 6 Desert

Winners’ Quarterfinals: No. 1 Desert vs. b winner; No. 2 Mountain vs. d winner
No. 1 Mountain vs. f winner; No. 2 Desert vs. h winner

Class — 5A Northern League and Southern Region

The top eight (8) teams in the Northern League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the championship tournament.

The top four (4) teams from the Desert League and the top four (4) teams from the Mountain League, based on final regular-season standings, qualify for the eight (8)-team Southern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament.

Quarterfinals: a) No. 1 Mountain vs. No. 4 Desert; b) No. 2 Desert vs No. 3 Mountain;
c) No. 1 Desert vs. No. 4 Mountain; d) No. 2 Mountain vs. No. 3 Desert

Winners’ Semifinals: a winner vs. b winner; c winner vs. d winner

Both championship (state qualifying) tournaments will be double-elimination brackets.

State Championships

Class 1A —

The top two (2) teams from the Northern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament and the top two (2) teams from the Southern League championship (state qualifying) tournament advance to the state championship.

The tournament will have a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

Class 2A —

The top two (2) teams from the Northern League championship (state qualifying) tournament and the top two (2) teams from the Southern League championship (state qualifying) tournament advance to the state championship.

The tournament will have a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

Class 3A —

The top two (2) teams from the Northern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament and the top two (2) teams from the Southern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament advance to the state championship.

The tournament will have a four-team, double-elimination bracket.

Class 4A —

Please refer to the League / Region Information section on page 2.

Class 5A —

The top two (2) teams from the Northern League championship (state qualifying) tournament and the top two (2) teams from the Southern Region championship (state qualifying) tournament advance to the state championship.

The tournament will have a four-team, double elimination bracket.

SOFTBALL TIEBREAKER (qualifying for the postseason)

1. The win-loss records of the teams in league/region play shall determine seeding into the league/region tournament. The league's administrators will determine win-loss records based on previously approved schedules. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken using the following procedures:
2. Tie between two (2) teams
 - A. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.
 - B. If the tie remains after head-to-head, each tied team shall receive one (1) point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with more points receives the higher seed.
 - C. If the tie remains, the team which allowed the fewer runs in the two league contests between the tied teams becomes the higher seed.

NOTE: All forfeits will result in a +7 run margin of victory for the non-forfeiting / winning team.

- D. If the tie remains, the team that won the last/final league game scheduled between the two teams will be the higher seed.

EXCEPTION: Steps 'C' and 'D' are only to be used for seeding. A team shall not be eliminated from league or region competition by the use of steps 'C' and/or 'D'. If the tie is not broken in steps 'A' and/or 'B' and a team will be eliminated, a playoff game will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for this contest.

3. Tie between three (3) or more teams
 - A. In all cases of ties involving more than two teams, as each team is removed from the tie, all other tied teams revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.
 - B. Head-to-head competition in league play among tied teams.
 Example of multiple team ties:
 Team A defeated Team B twice and split with Team C
 Team B lost to Team A twice but defeated Team C twice
 Team C lost to Team B twice and split with Team A

Team A is 3-1; Team B is 2-2; Team C is 1-3

Team A is awarded the highest seed among the tied teams. Team B is awarded second highest seed because of its head-to-head record against Team C

C. Seven (7) run system

If the tie remains, all tied teams will compare their margin of victory with each other in league play. Each team will total their margin of runs against the other tied teams with marginal runs being the difference in the scores of a game. Winning teams will add the margin of runs while losing teams will subtract the margin of runs. No more than seven (7) runs will be added or subtracted in any league game. The team with the highest number of marginal runs will receive the highest seed. If there is a tie for highest marginal runs, then those tied teams shall revert back to the respective tie-breaking procedure based on the number of teams remaining in the tie. Once a team is eliminated, the remaining teams will always refer back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining.

Example of point system:

Team A defeated Team B, 8-0

Team B defeated Team C, 11-6

Team C defeated Team A, 4-3

Marginal points for Team A is +6; Marginal points for Team B is -2

Marginal points for Team C is -4

Team A is awarded the highest seed among the tied teams. Team B is awarded second highest seed because of its head-to-head record against Team C

NOTE: All forfeits will result in a 7-run margin of victory for the winning team and a -7 run differential for the forfeiting/losing team.

- D. If the tie remains, each tied team shall receive one point for each game won in league play by their defeated opponents. The team with the most points will receive the highest seed.
- E. If a tie still exists and all tied teams, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region tournament, are guaranteed entrance into the tournament, then a coin toss will be used to determine seeding. The winner of any coin toss will receive the highest seed. Remaining teams would revert back to head-to-head competition based on the number of teams remaining in the tie.
- F. If a tie still exists and one or more of the tied teams must, by virtue of the number of teams accepted into the league/region tournament, be eliminated, playoff game(s) will be played following the end of the regular season. The NIAA Executive Director will select a neutral site for the event.

NOTE: In the event of a multiple team tie as outlined in step 'F,' the tied teams will draw numbers. The team drawing #1 will have a bye and will play the winner of the first playoff game. All games will be scheduled as soon as possible. Seeding will be established by the results of this playoff.

Home Team

“In all post-season softball brackets, the higher seed will be the home team with the exception that the undefeated team, regardless of seed, will be the home team in the championship final (in the case of a double-elimination bracket). The home-visitor roles will be switched, however, in the case of a championship ‘if game’.

All League/Region/State Games: The home team will always have a choice of dugout.

CONTACT LIMIT IS 21 GAMES PLUS TWO (2) TOURNAMENTS.

NIAA HANDBOOK – SOFTBALL REGULATIONS

NAC 385B.470 Softball: Date for beginning practice; end of season. (NRS 385B.060)

The Board shall establish the date upon which a school may begin practicing for a softball season at least 2 years before the beginning of the season. Each season ends upon completion of the state tournament for softball.

NAC 385B.472 Softball: Interschool scrimmages. (NRS 385B.060)

1. A team that participates in softball as a sanctioned sport may, before participating in the first regularly scheduled softball game of a season, participate in not more than two interschool softball scrimmages. The team shall not participate in a scrimmage after it participates in the first softball game of the season.
2. As used in this section, “scrimmage” means a practice softball game in which:
 - (a) The score is not kept;
 - (b) Unpaid sports officials are used;
 - (c) A coach may substitute a player in the game for another player in the game; and
 - (d) A coach may temporarily stop the game to correct an error committed by a player in the game for whom he is a coach.

(Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass’n by R20603, eff. 1122004)

NAC 385B.474 Softball: Protest of game. (NRS 385B.060)

1. A coach of a team that participates in a softball game as a sanctioned sport may protest the game by notifying an umpire for the game of that fact. The protest must be submitted to the umpire:
 - (a) At the time the play that is the subject of the protest is completed, but before the next pitch after that play; or
 - (b) If the play that is the subject of the protest is the final play of the game, before the umpire leaves the field of play.
2. An umpire who is notified of a protest pursuant to subsection 1 shall, if he is not the umpire-in-chief for the game, bring the protest to the attention of the umpire-in-chief. If a protest is brought to the attention of the umpire-in-chief pursuant to this subsection, the umpire-in-chief shall immediately inform the coach of the opposing team and the official scorekeeper of the game that the game is played under protest.
3. If a coach protests a game pursuant to subsection 1, the coach or the school for which he coaches shall, within 48 hours after completion of the game, submit the protest in writing to the Commissioner. Each written protest submitted pursuant to this subsection must:
 - (a) Describe clearly each play for which the written protest is submitted; and

- (b) Include a statement setting forth any adverse or unusual circumstances under which the play was conducted.
 - 4. As soon as practicable after receiving a written protest pursuant to subsection 3, the Commissioner shall confer with the Executive Director concerning the protest. As soon as practicable after conferring with the Executive Director, the Commissioner shall provide a written report to each school that participated in the game for which the protest was submitted. The written report must include the determination of the Commissioner relating to the protest.
 - 5. If the Commissioner upholds a protest pursuant to subsection 4 and determines that the game must be replayed, each team that participated in the game shall replay the game in accordance with the provisions of NAC 385B.476
- (Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R20603, eff. 1122004)**

NAC 385B.476 Softball: Replay of suspended game. (NRS 385B.060)

- 1. Each team that participates in a suspended softball game shall, if the suspended game is replayed:
 - (a) Begin the game from the point at which the game was suspended; and
 - (b) Subject to the rules of the game, use the same lineup and batting order of players that were used by those teams during the suspended game.
 - 2. If a team is not located in Carson City, Fallon, Henderson, Las Vegas, Minden, Reno or Sparks, Nevada, or South Lake Tahoe, California, the suspended game must be replayed:
 - (a) Before the beginning of the first game that is conducted after the suspended game, if the teams that participated in the suspended game are scheduled to play each other again during the season in which the suspended game was played; or
 - (b) At a location that is agreed upon by each team that participated in the suspended game, if those teams are not scheduled to play each other again during the season in which the suspended game was played.
 - 3. If a team is located in Carson City, Fallon, Henderson, Las Vegas, Minden, Reno or Sparks, Nevada, or South Lake Tahoe, California, the suspended game must be replayed on the next date that is available on the schedule of games for each team that participates in the replayed game.
 - 4. As used in this section, "suspended game" means a softball game:
 - (a) That is stopped for any reason, including, without limitation, the failure of any artificial lights or water system used for the playing field; and
 - (b) For which a (b) winner is not determined.
- (Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R20603, eff. 1122004)**

NAC 385B.478 Softball: Determination of championship team. (NRS 385B.060)

The championship team for softball for each class established pursuant to NAC 386.667 must be determined in the manner specified by the Board.

(Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R20603, eff. 1122004)

NAC 385B.482 Softball: Procedure when tournament is cancelled or not completed because of unforeseeable and uncontrollable cause. (NRS 385B.060)

1. If a league, regional or state tournament for softball is cancelled or not completed because of weather or any natural disaster, or other unforeseeable and uncontrollable cause, the director of the tournament shall:
 - (a) If arrangements for travel and weather permit, reschedule the tournament for completion on the next date that is available for each team that participates in the tournament; or
 - (b) If arrangements for travel and weather do not permit, declare the team with the fewest losses for the tournament to be the championship team of the tournament. If no games have been conducted for the tournament or each team has an equal number of winning games for the tournament, the director of the tournament shall declare each team to be co-champions of the tournament. If the director of a tournament declares co-champions for a tournament pursuant to this paragraph and if that declaration affects the placement of a team in a bracket for a state tournament, the director of the tournament shall toss a coin to determine the bracket placement for the team for the state tournament.
2. The director of a league, regional or state tournament for softball shall not schedule a game pursuant to this section for completion on a Sunday.

(Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R20603, eff. 1122004)

NAC 385B.484 Softball: Minimum length of official game. (NRS 385B.060)

A softball game is official for the purposes of this chapter, inclusive, if, upon the expiration of:

1. Four and one-half innings, the game is stopped for any reason and the home team is ahead in the score at the time the game is stopped; or
2. Five innings, the game is stopped for any reason and the visiting team is ahead in the score at the time the game is stopped.

(Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R20603, eff. 1122004)

NAC 385B.486 Softball: Use of coaching boxes. (NRS 385B.060)

1. A coach of a team that participates in a softball game as a sanctioned sport may coach from the first or third base coaching box during that game if the team for which he is a coach is at bat.
2. A coach may allow a pupil to coach from the first or third base coaching box for the game if:
 - (a) The pupil is in uniform and wears a protective batting helmet during any period in which he is in the first or third base coaching box;
 - (b) The pupil is a registered member of the team; and
 - (c) The team of which he is a registered member is at bat.

(Added to NAC by Nev. Interscholastic Activities Ass'n by R20603, eff. 1122004)

SOFTBALL alignment

Class 5A (Northern and Southern, 22 teams)

Class 5A Northern (one league, nine teams)

Bishop Manogue Miners
 Carson Senators
 Damonte Ranch Mustangs
 Douglas Tigers
 Galena Grizzlies
 McQueen Lancers
 Reed Raiders
 Reno Huskies
 Spanish Springs Cougars

Class 5A Southern (two leagues, 13 teams)

Desert League (seven teams)

Basic Wolves
 Centennial Bulldogs
 Coronado Cougars
 Desert Oasis Diamondbacks
 Faith Lutheran Crusaders
 Green Valley Gators
 Rancho Rams

Mountain League (six teams)

Arbor View Aggies
 Foothill Falcons
 Liberty Patriots
 Palo Verde Panthers
 Shadow Ridge Mustangs
 Sierra Vista Mountain Lions

Class 4A (Southern only, 16 teams)

Class 4A Desert (eight teams)

Chaparral Cowboys
 Cimarron-Memorial Spartans
 Del Sol Dragons
 Doral Red Rock Dragons
 Eldorado Sundevis
 Mojave Rattlers
 Silverado Skyhawks
 Spring Valley Grizzlies

Class 4A Mountain (eight teams)

Bishop Gorman Gaels
 Bonanza Bengals
 Cheyenne Desert Shields
 Durango Trailblazers
 Las Vegas Wildcats
 Legacy Longhorns
 SECTA Roadrunners
 Western Warriors

Class 3A (Northern and Southern, 22 teams)

Class 3A Northern (two leagues, 12 teams)

East League (six teams)

Churchill County Greenwave
Dayton Dust Devils
Elko Indians
Fernley Vaqueros
Lowry Buckaroos
Spring Creek Spartans

West League (six teams)

Hug Hawks
North Valleys Panthers
South Tahoe Vikings
Sparks Railroaders
Truckee Wolverines
Wooster Colts

Class 3A Southern (two leagues, 10 teams)

Mountain League (five teams)

Boulder City Eagles
Desert Pines Jaguars
Pahrump Valley Trojans
SLAM Nevada Bulls
Valley Vikings

Desert League (five teams)

Canyon Springs Pioneers
Clark Chargers
Moapa Valley Pirates
Sunrise Mountain Miners
Virgin Valley Bulldogs

Class 2A (Northern and Southern, 16 teams)

Class 2A Northern (eight teams)

Battle Mountain Longhorns
Coral Academy-Reno Falcons
Incline Highlanders
North Tahoe Lakers
Pershing County Mustangs
Silver Stage Nighthawks
West Wendover Wolverines
Yerington Lions

Class 2A Southern (eight teams)

Calvary Chapel Lions
Democracy Prep Blue Knights
Lake Mead Eagles
Laughlin Cougars
Lincoln County Lynx
The Meadows Mustangs
Needles Mustangs
White Pine Bobcats

Class 1A (Northern and Southern, 18 teams)

Class 1A Northern (11 teams)

Carlin Railroaders
Coleville Wolves
Eureka Vandals
Mineral County Serpents
Oasis Academy Bighorns
Pyramid Lake Lakers
Rite of Passage Rams
Smith Valley Bulldogs
Wells Leopards
Whittell Warriors
Virginia City Muckers

Class 1A Southern (seven teams)

Beaver Dam Diamondbacks
Indian Springs Thunderbirds
Mountain View Saints
Pahranagat Valley Panthers
Round Mountain Knights
Sandy Valley Sidewinders
Tonopah Muckers